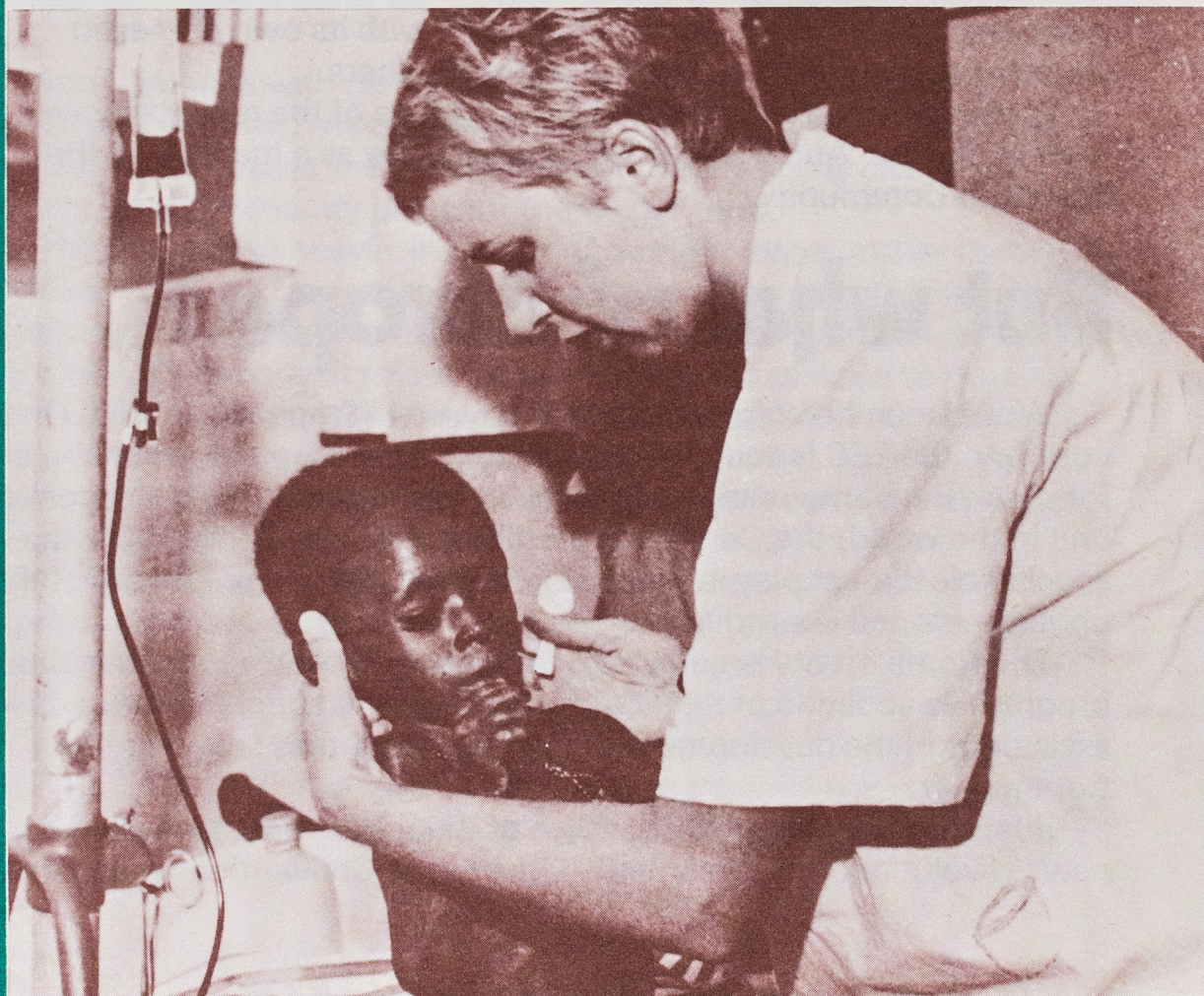




Europe helps the World



Inherited obligations

Britain owes a considerable debt to the developing world. So do France, Belgium, Holland . . . in fact the whole of Western Europe must remember the past, upon which our present and future are being built. Our colonial activities opened up large new areas in which we pursued our own interests. We must now face the inherited obligations that the past has imposed on us.

Britain alone, however, is no longer in a position to fulfill those obligations as it should. Declining trade, stagnating economy and isolation from the mainstream of European commerce would mean a weak and feeble Britain, too pre-occupied with its own domestic situation to consider the frightful plight of others.

A sound British economy is a pre-requisite of the generosity we wish to display. And that can be achieved only as a member of the European Community.

But what of Europe?

Would membership restrict us in any way? Emphatically NO! On the contrary, the EEC is acutely sensitive to those **same** obligations — and for much the **same** reasons. Moreover, as the second largest economic unit in the world, the Community is all the more concerned with the special role it must play in increasing the welfare and prosperity of the underdeveloped countries.

The Rome Treaty is quite explicit: it unequivocally demands the progressive abolition of restrictions upon international trade and direct assistance in the development of overseas countries linked to the Community.

Just recently, some 46 countries of the third world have signed a new "revolutionary" agreement — the Lome Convention — with the

Community. This new agreement is a considerable extension of the former Yaounde convention — itself making unparalleled provision for the old colonial territories. Those 46 signatories will enjoy a generous system of trade preferences and considerable direct aid, with no strings attached.

In particular, virtually all their agricultural produce will enter the Community free of tariffs — simultaneously giving the poor nations direct access to large markets and the European housewife cheaper food.

In addition the Community has agreed to help stabilise the foreign exchange earnings of these countries from twelve important primary commodities — including iron and copper. It has also agreed to guarantee their export earnings when they fall below a certain level (and is already spending some £200m per annum for this purpose).

The strategy for aid

In its dealings with the developing world, the Community is concerned with two essentials: stability and production. It wants to stabilise and increase the productivity of the aid that is given. As always, the Community plans for the longer term.

The EEC is also heavily in favour of outright loans, rather than tied political loans, and is continually acting as a pressure group upon members to try and prevent this neo-colonialism and unfair practice. It also plays an important role in integrating the aid policies of member countries, to prevent conflicts, overlapping and lack of co-ordination between donors, in a real attempt to ensure that aid is given upon a fair and co-ordinated basis to all developing countries simultaneously. Thus as early as 1958, the Community set up the European Development Fund and later the European Investment Bank, to channel aid to those areas that most need it. The size of this fund has quickly grown and now stands at an annual flow of £1,700m — very considerably better than either the USSR or the USA.

Even this is not perhaps enough — in which case Britain can better serve the interests of the third world as a member of the EEC arguing for an increase in the combined European budget rather than trying to "go-it-alone".

The Commonwealth

Within the Community itself the European Social Fund has given Britain £2.5m to assist non-member immigrants, mainly from the Commonwealth.

Other agreements have been made with India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Latin America. The Commonwealth now enjoys all the advantages with the WHOLE Community that, formerly, it had only with Britain. No wonder, they are most certainly **not** willing to revert to their pre-entry position with Britain.

Outside the Community, an impoverished Britain would have only a modest role to play in helping the third world. But as part of the Community's radical and progressive approach, we have a highly valuable part to play in ensuring the level of discrepancy between the rich and the poor is removed.

Let's use it — and stay in!

**We've got
to keep in-
to move on**