

tina, to which perhaps Indonesia (with poor statistics but a population of 100 million) should be added. Though the beginnings of industry go back rather far in some of these countries, none of them has yet done sufficiently well in exporting manufactures to vindicate the overspill view.

The six countries just mentioned account for more than half of the total population of the less developed countries, but that still leaves a host of people and problems outside as well as inside. Close to 100 of the less developed countries have a population smaller than 15 million, and in two-thirds of them it is less than 5 million.

On the whole very poor, they are smaller still in size of market compared with most developed countries. More such countries are being born as Malta, Gambia, the Mauritius Islands, and the few other remaining European possessions move toward and achieve independence. This proliferation of small and minuscule nations is largely a product of the swift unraveling of colonialism after World War II, though in Central America it goes far back into the last century.

Uncertain Prospects for Regional Integration

In principle, one way of meeting this dilemma is by integration of these splinter economies into larger and more viable regional groupings following, at a great distance, the example of the European Common Market. There are excellent reasons favoring this course and commending it to outside support—even apart from any hope which harried officials in developed countries may hold of being thereby relieved in some measure of the problem of increasing imports from the less developed countries.

So far, efforts to combine into larger regional entities have brought little specific result. In some areas, the trend is rather the other way, as indicated by the strains and disruptions experienced in the West Indies, Malaysia, East Africa, and Nigeria. Little progress is evident in the Maghreb, which was supposed to embrace the Arab States of North Africa. The most promising of these regional endeavors, the Central American Common Market, illustrates the limitations more than the potentialities of such arrangements. It brings together a fairly homogeneous group of countries, compared with most others, and even so adds up to only 12 million people with a combined purchasing power less than that of any one of a number of European and American cities. Now a far larger, more difficult, and more distant objective has been set with the commitment by the heads of the Latin American States in April 1967 at Punta del Este, "Beginning in 1970, to establish progressively the Latin American Common Market, which should be substantially in operation within a period of no more than fifteen years."⁴ The length of the period set for achievement of the objective attests to the difficulties to be overcome.

In some regions political and social frictions may well be the major obstacle to regional integration. The economic difficulties include disparities in the levels of development attained by different countries of the same region, since laggard countries tend to fear competition by their more advanced neighbors. Even more awkward problems may be presented by disparities among countries in the levels and

⁴ From the "Declaration of the Presidents of America," Department of State Bulletin, May 8, 1967, pp. 712-721.