

New Delhi Conference

The second Conference of UNCTAD will meet in early 1968 at New Delhi. The emphasis there will be on how to negotiate and implement the recommendations of the first Conference. There has been general disappointment that the efforts of UNCTAD have not so far resulted in significant achievement. The second Conference presents an opportunity for the MDCs to assume a more positive point of view, including especially:

1. A genuine attempt to concentrate on positive, practical steps which can be taken by the developed countries. Granted that a more favorable environment for private investment is urgently necessary, and granted that this should be a matter of acknowledged priority for the capital-courting countries, the effort should be concentrated on what the MDCs can do to contribute to development. A massive program of stimulants to private investment in the LDCs is both a precondition for success and also the demonstration of the political will in the MDCs. It is highly desirable in this round that the MDCs, and particularly the United States, present a positive program of action rather than react defensively to proposals and pressures of the LDCs.
2. The encouragement of a more united and planned program among the developed countries. It goes without saying that the molding of various MDC initiatives into a consistent positive program is essential to overcome separate and frequently competitive inconsistent approaches by them individually. At the same time, a coordinated program which appears as a fait accompli which the LDCs have no alternative but to accept or reject or which basically recites merely the general responsibilities of the LDCs would have a decidedly negative effect. What is needed is for the industrial nations to come to the second UNCTAD Conference with a program which is designed to improve the character of genuine discussion and the prospect for agreed measures backed by the commitment of developed and less-developed countries alike.

The Plight of the LDCs-- Insufficient Impulse for Production

The less-developed countries have 70 percent of the world's population, but receive 14 percent of the world's income. The "rich", developed nations, with only 30 percent of the total population, account for 86 percent of the total income.