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BOOKS NOTED

BEYOND DEPENDENCY: THE DEVELOPING WORLD SPEAKS OUT. By Guy F. Erb and Valeriana Kallab (eds.). Overseas Development Council (1975). Pp. 238.

A recent concern in the United States and other developed Northern Hemisphere nations has been the feasibility of coupling independence from sources of foreign energy with the pursuit of international interdependence. Meanwhile, developing nations in the Southern Hemisphere are attempting to break away from dependence on industrial nations for technology, investment capital, and domestic economic development. Whether these goals are compatible or mutually exclusive is difficult to say. Many feel that developed nations should reassess their previously sympathetic relationship with the developing nations in light of such occurrences as the Arab oil embargo and bloc voting in the United Nations. They fear that the loss of dominance in international economic decision-making would result in a lower standard of living in developed nations. On the other hand, there are others who believe that a compromise can be reached, resulting in an equitable and mutually beneficial distribution of resources and power.

The editors take the position that the goals are compatible, but realize that cooperative accomplishment necessitates communication and mutual understanding. This book, a companion volume to the Overseas Development Council's *Agenda for Action* series, was compiled to ensure that the positions of developing nations would be heard in the United States. Realizing that today many people feel the demands of developing nations are unreasonable, the editors are hopeful of an eventual acceptance analogous to the early reaction and later acceptance of the populist and labor movements in America.

The authors of this four-part anthology, with one exception, are citizens of developing nations. Part one, *Self-Reliance and Interdependence*, concerns the development of a meaningful and effective interdependence. Part two, *Critical Problem Areas*, discusses such issues as the influence of multinational corporations in developing nations, foreign investment, population control, and the law of the sea conferences. Part three, *Toward A North-South Bargain*, analyzes the traditional views of the developing nations and suggests solutions to the various issues raised. Part four, which is composed of two annexes: Annex A, *Non-governmental Statements*, and Annex B, *Official Declarations*, enumerates major declarations of developing countries and proposes solutions to conflicts which may arise.

The essays reveal the resentment of the developing nations toward the developed countries which is probably a reaction to traditional colonial attitudes. The common theme is that the relationship between the developing and developed nations consistently works to benefit the latter. They view the developed nations as being concerned only with the marketability of their products rather than with the welfare of the developing country from which many of the components were ob-

tained. They assert that the general populations of developing nations benefit little from the resources removed to industrial nations.

The authors view solidarity among developing nations as requisite for effective dealing. The OPEC cartel serves as an example of what cohesiveness can accomplish. Whether developing nations will be able to achieve and maintain solidarity will depend on their ability to minimize their differences in culture, language, and economic objectives.

The book is readable and enlightening. Its value lies in its presentation of viewpoints not generally expressed in the United States. The arguments made in support of their contentions, although not infallible, are formidable. They suggest the challenge by developing nations will not pass, but rather will dramatically change the system of international relations in the future. This book will aid in the dissemination of these positions in the United States so as to enhance the possibility of a co-operation to achieve mutual goals. Raymond Zenkert

CONTRACTS IN PLAIN ENGLISH. By Richard Wincor. New York, New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1976. Pp. xi, 135. \$9.95.

This book is designed to alert the contract draftsman who is unfamiliar with the use of English in a legal context to the dangers which he may encounter. The layman, the international lawyer to whom English is a second language, or the student may find this to be a valuable overview of the law of contracts.

Wincor briefly outlines the Anglo-American law of contracts, then discusses the role which language plays in contract negotiations and draftsmanship. He stresses the necessity for an awareness of the connotations of certain words when used in the negotiating process, to attain the desired contractual result.

The most useful portion of the book is the glossary of common words and phrases used in contracts. The author comments on their legal effect and suggests ways to improve the draftsman's legalistic style. Several examples of contracts are examined, from the perspective of the draftsman as well as the reader, to typify the proper use of English as a contract language.

While the treatment of the law of contracts is superficial, the value of the book lies in its identification of the common pitfalls which confront the unsophisticated draftsman. Linda K. Cliffl