

doubt. It is now more than twenty years since the Van Eck Commission reported that South Africa "ranks with the limited number of countries in which the essential minerals for heavy industry are present in large quantities", in which "in many respects a natural basis exists for manufacturing industries", and which "possesses a considerable labour force suitable for industrial work provided proper training is made available".

It is the deliberate policy of this Government to waste and dissipate these resources by refusing to make "available" the "proper training" of the vast majority of our people — those with Black skins. The last thing Dr. Verwoerd and his Government are concerned about is the development of the matchless resources of our motherland by the joint efforts and for the joint benefit of White and Black alike. So long as the White — especially the "Afrikaner" in this regime's special exclusive meaning of the word — can remain "baas", and the Black an alien helot, that is all that matters.

United Nations' measures

Contrast this with the rest of Africa and with the civilized nations of Western Christendom in their attitude to its difficulties. The problem of poverty is a terrible one and is recognized as such throughout the Christian West, and in the councils of the United Nations.

That problem has been closely investigated and faced, and measures are being formulated to deal with it. Briefly it is that the *per capita* income of the backward countries of Africa and Asia is less than a tenth of that of the developed countries of the West. But this is only the beginning of the problem. In Africa, for instance, the population is growing at the rate of about 2% per annum. It has been calculated that a minimum of saving and investment of 3% of the annual national income is needed to raise such income by 1%. Hence at least 6% of the national income must be saved and invested annually to secure even the existing very low standard of living. But a poor country with a largely subsistence economy has great difficulty in achieving this. And if the standard of living is to be raised, obviously a considerably higher rate of investment must be achieved.

At present, some 4,000 million dollars represents the total of Western aid to and investment in backward countries. Mr. Paul Hoffman, director of the United Nations Special Fund for this purpose, estimates that a further 3,000 million is needed to increase the *per capita* income by two per cent. per annum. It is along these lines that civilization is proceeding. It will involve astronomical sums representing not only investment expenditure on which a return can be expected, but, to a greater extent still, outright aid, as a means to the survival of the majority of mankind.

South Africa's "manifest destiny"

What part is Dr. Verwoerd, with his colleagues in government, playing this great enterprise of humanity, world co-operation, and, ultimately, world peace? The answer, of course, is precisely **nothing**. Not only is he strangling the productive resources of our own country, but — and perhaps this is a concomitant — he is deliberately abstaining from committing our country to the fulfillment of its "manifest destiny": the raising up of the African continent and its integration into the civilization of the West. This would be to the great benefit of South Africa, both directly in terms of markets and new fields of investment, and, more important still, by way of contribution to the cause of "peace on earth and goodwill towards men".

Essentially Africa is, and must increasingly develop as, an economic unit. Dr. Verwoerd ill serves his own country when he seeks to draw contrasts — especially highly doubtful ones — between the local and the external standards of living. For it is a reality of economics no less than it is a reality of any civilized way of life, that we are indeed "members one of another". Here in Africa we are witnessing a continent in labour. A young giant, still half confined in the womb of history, is struggling to be born. Our own country is suited by every qualification — geographical, economic, ethnic — to serve as midwife at that birth.

But if we turn away from this historic task in pettiness and bitterness and fear, we shall indeed incur the wrath of the gods who have called us to so high a destiny. We shall find that in shrinking from participation in the splendid agony of birth, we shall have chosen for ourselves the agony of inglorious death.

INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY

THE Minister of Finance, Dr. Dönges, deprecates the granting of higher wages unless they are accompanied by an increase in productivity.

I should like to know if Members of Parliament, when they voted themselves an increase in salary (largely untaxable), were concerned about their increased productivity. Or do they consider that their higher salary was justified because the passing of such laws as the 90-day detainee fell under "increased productivity?"

And then there are the provincial councillors. They increase their salaries, but sit on fewer occasions each year. How does this square with increased productivity?

(From a letter in the "Rand Daily Mail")