

four media selected for detailed treatment. But the theoretical pretensions made in addition are scarcely, if at all, fulfilled. The systems of communication are examined in isolation from each other and are not incorporated in a "broad social context" (p.21). Thus, censorship is variously interpreted (p.125, 383 ff., compared with 275 ff.), nor is it anywhere analysed with the categories of political science or sociology.

Moreover, the author repeatedly makes general demands that are seldom based on the thread of his argument, which creates the impression of arbitrariness. For example, it is said that "society must be shaken out of its 'opinionlessness' (p.127); in the radio "the feeling of unity must be emphasized" (p.331); or as regards "the objective of national development": 'Attention must be drawn to the necessity of development . . . , people must be encouraged . . . ' (p.112). Such statements are based on a naive understanding of "development" and of the role of the mass media (p.121 ff.), i.e. their social functions and the vested interests involved are scarcely discussed at all.

Wolfgang Karcher

HANS U. LUTHER: *Socialism in a Subsistence Economy: The Laotian Way. An Analysis of Development Patterns in Laos after 1975.* Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University Social Research Institute, 1983. 65 p.

The publication is a special print of a paper delivered at Chulalongkorn University's "Conference on Indochina" in 1981. Luther, an old "Southeast Asia hand", is here analyzing a country which has always been forgotten and still is very unknown even to those who regularly travel to Southeast Asia. Luther first gives a short "country profile" (pp.5-10) and then describes the "socialist transformation and development policies in post-war Laos" (pp.10-19), followed by his personal evaluation (p.20-26). After the attempt at socialist transformation immediately after the seizure of state power the government of Laos had to adjust its policies since 1979 to the backward economic conditions and the demands of its allies, Vietnam and the Soviet Union. In Luther's analysis the relative failure of "socialist transformation" is seen in the "surprising part of the Laotian agricultural policy that there has been no land reform yet" (p.24). However, except for the Vientiane region (p.13) there are no indications concerning land-ownership in Laos and eventual consequences of a land reform. This is not surprising since most of the data available on Laos refers to the formal sector of the economy - the widespread subsistence agriculture is not part of any statistics. It is doubtful whether land reform in a country with "large reserves on land" and a population of

"low density" (p. 29) could be a decisive key to development problems. The complaints of Kayson Phomvihane on "small production" confirm that conditions in Laos are not conducive to large scale socialist ownership. Luther selected two speeches of Phomvihane of 1982 as monitored by the BBC in the "Summaries of World Broadcasts" which are quite informative about the plans of the Laotian government; the most precise statistical figures refer more to targets in the future and unfortunately not to the present situation - but this is a structural problem of such political statements.

The fact that "there are very few solid data or reliable statistics" (p. 6) is to be stressed: research on Southeast Asia could be a little better if such sources as SWB and especially the "Daily Report, Asia and Pacific, Foreign Broadcast Information Service" were to be analysed regularly and systematically.

Walter Aschmoneit

ROLF HANISCH: Probleme und Perspektiven des Kleinbauernkredites im Reissektor der Philippinen. (Darstellungen zur internationalen Politik und Entwicklungspolitik, 10). Frankfurt am Main: Alfred Metzner-Verlag, 1982. 102 pages, DM 25.-

This study is to be highly recommended not only for those who share a particular interest in the Philippines. Also students of the general problems of small farmer credits will profit from this booklet. An English version would be highly appreciated so that especially Philippine scholars can participate in this discussion.

Hanisch has accomplished several things: he summarizes excellently a multitude of studies which are concerned among other things with credit needs, the role of credit and the political economy of the monetary sector in the rural economy. Needless to say, the studies presented, summarized and analysed vary considerably in scope and quality. Furthermore, the blank spots in the map of research may hopefully be accepted as a challenge by the experts concerned.

Hanisch rightly starts with the assumption (Chapter 1 "On the Political Economy of the Small Farming Sector") that "an expanding economy, based on the division of labour" is dependent on the "availability of credit". Right from the start he rejects the idea of returning to an economy based on a subsistence and non-monetary organisation. The (double-bind) character of international aid programmes is ever present throughout this study: whereas they may serve to satisfy the capital needs of peasants, they also act as a deterrent to rural political activists.

In Chapter 2 ("Credit Needs in the Agrarian Sector in the Philippines")