

KLAUS GLAUBITT/WILFRIED LÜTKENHORST, unter Mitarbeit von
GEORG BIEN und HANS HERBERT BORMANN: Elemente einer
neuen Wirtschaftsordnung - Verhandlungsstand zu UNCTAD V
(Materialien zur Entwicklungsforschung und Entwicklungspolitik,
Bd. 12).
Tübingen: Erdmann, 1979, 240 pages, DM 25. -

In the year of the fifth UNCTAD conference in Manila, the authors have come out with a book which aims to inform the specialist as well as the general reader on all important current aspects of the North-South Dialogue, especially raw material policy, public transfer of resources, monetary policy, the new international division of labour, technology transfer and possibilities for co-operation between developing countries. The authors have placed their emphasis on the themes of raw material policy and the international division of labour, which nowadays are at the centre of attention. The discussion of these topics makes up about one-half of the approximately 250 pages of text.

Glaubitt especially discusses alternate courses of action within an integrated raw material programme. In addition to describing the current state of negotiations, as well as the technical and organizational problems of this programme, the author poses the question as to whether the common fund sought by the developing countries can achieve the goal of stabilising raw material prices or profits. According to him, both goals often cannot be realized jointly. Glaubitt presents us with the problems of a statist raw material market and, along with the majority of authors on development theory, seems to be of the opinion that a stabilisation policy in the area of raw materials which is directed against the long-term forces of the market cannot be successful. Buffer stocks, which are only supposed to cushion short-term and in part extremely wide fluctuations, are judged more positively.

Furthermore, Glaubitt presents different systems to stabilize export profits such as ex post compensation payments which correspond to the Lomé agreement, or a worldwide programme to stabilize the prices of raw materials and place an import duty on imported raw materials, the profits of which could be transferred to the developing countries. Finally, he describes the worldwide system proposed by the Federal Republic of Germany to stabilize profits from raw materials; its special feature consists primarily of the possibility of offsetting profit developments up and down within individual resources. All these development proposals are presented succinctly and clearly and are examined as to possible distribution and allocation effects.

The chapter by Winfried Lütkenhorst (p. 102-165) on the international division of labour forms a further focal point. The goal of a new economic

order consists particularly of forcing a substitutive trade of goods as opposed to the traditional, colonial complementary trade (industrial products for raw materials). Descriptions of trade policy goals, and, in particular, industrial policy goals of developing countries are attached to an empirical, broad description of industrial goods imported from developing countries. Special attention is given to the effects of a liberalisation of trade in industrial products from low-wage countries on the employment situation in industrialized countries. In this context the most important results of several empirical studies of this aspect, as well as consequences for economic policy in industrialised countries, are portrayed.

According to Lütkenhorst, a future-oriented structure and employment policy which anticipates increasingly industrial imports from developing countries, is necessary. Several attempts already undertaken by industrialized countries in this direction are broadly described here. Finally, international moves, such as the demand for a conversion fund and a revision of GATT's restrictive clauses, are discussed. Lütkenhorst warns against overestimating development policy prospects of an increased export of industrial goods by developing countries. The demand for export-oriented development strategy, which in recent years has virtually reached the status of dogma, essentially consists of the experiences of several rather small southeast Asian countries and is not applicable to the whole Third World.

The remaining chapters of the book, which have already been referred to, essentially present brief summaries of available literature. In this context, a series of new, previously unpublished or inaccessible documents were collaborated on. This is true of the essay by Georg Bien and Hans Herbert Bormann on aspects of technology transfer.

All in all, the book provides a valuable opportunity to quickly and comprehensively become informed on all current aspects of present-day development policy.

Hans-Bernd Schäfer