

The reviews in Internationales Asienforum try to give a brief evaluation of recent German publications.

GERHARD LEMINSKY, BERND OTTO in collaboration with GERHARD BREIDENSTEIN (eds.): *Gewerkschaften und Entwicklungspolitik*. Köln: Bund Verlag, 1975, 496 pages, 64. - DM.

The policies and programmes of West German trade unions stand in direct relation to development policy. The chairman of the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund (German Trade Union Federation), Oskar Vetter, cites two reasons for this:

- Poverty and hunger in the world have been a concern of unions from time immemorial. The unequal distribution of opportunities and position in life are to be improved by the solidary alliance of unions.
- Economic interdependence in the world in conjunction with a strong orientation towards export trade means that the development of the so-called "Third World" countries is of great importance to job security in the Federal Republic.

The editors of the reader, Leminsky and Otto, have already established themselves with several publications about unions in West Germany. They base the relevancy of this book on the fact that until the beginning of the 1970s, unions by and large remained aloof from discussions on development policy. Thus, the book has been conceived as a documentation of programmatic statements, which aims to depict the degree of importance of development policy in internal union discussions.

With reason, the editors found it necessary to first outline the development policy of the state as the leading agency in order to explain the framework which the state allocates the unions. This goal is thoroughly realized in the first three contributions. Consequently, the role and tasks of unions within the framework of development policy are discussed in various contributions afterwards. Not only the numerical weight - of 40 contributions altogether, only three are reproduced on this topic - but also the contents of the contributions show, nevertheless, that development policy has become a new field of union activity which still requires a comprehensive and self-contained conception.

The following contributions, which are mostly very informative and committed, deal with the position of unions in African, Asian and South American countries. This inventory implies the problem that their topicality is, in part, rapidly being lost. Following this are analyses of the most important development problems, as seen by the unions. Some of those mentioned are unemployment and underemployment, growth and distribution policy and educational

policy. Finally, the position and behaviour of multinational enterprises are also examined. In this regard, the aim is to "work out their ambivalent positive as well as negative significance and reach conclusions germane to union strategy". With respect to the first point, this aim was achieved in a remarkable fashion.

The editors have intentionally dispensed with a summation. They indirectly provide a reason for this in the introduction by pointing out that the contributions contained in the book have only just opened the discussion about a union concept of development policy and that up to now, a summation has in no way been fitting. The trade unions' dilemma becomes very clear in this book. Development policy has a set place in the unions' understanding of themselves; until now, however, it has been a marginal political area and this will not change in the foreseeable future. This realization is expressed clearly in the confession of the editors: We stand helpless before the challenge which the underdeveloped world has issued us.

Michael v. Hauff

PETER SCHIER and MANOLA SCHIER-OUM in collaboration with WALDRAUT JARKE: Prince Sihanouk of Cambodia. Interviews and talks with Prince Norodom Sihanouk. (A publication of the Institute of Asian Affairs. No. 110). Hamburg: 1980, 105 pages.

A small booklet of high value for the reading of the contemporary history of Cambodia and Indochina. It contains ten well-conducted interviews with Prince Sihanouk recorded in July and August 1979, focussing on the fateful last ten years of Cambodian history: from the coup in 1970 that deprived Prince Sihanouk of power in Cambodia, through the last stages of the Second Indochinese War, the years of the Pol Pot terror in Cambodia, the occupation of Cambodia by Vietnam, and current efforts to search for a solution to the conflict. Attached to the interviews are twelve documents reflecting Prince Sihanouk's current positions, including the texts of three letters sent in October 1979 to the Prime Minister of Vietnam, Pham Van Dong.

Prince Sihanouk is one of the most colourful personalities of the Indochina scene - intelligent, flexible, independent but also mercurial, and therefore, perhaps, often misunderstood. Yet he has a deep understanding of Asian and