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## Energy for developing countries

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# Energy for Developing Countries

**T**he danger of stagnation of aid performances for developing countries might mean new and severe conflicts for the whole world. As so often in history, this is the hour of technical science. The two most serious material concerns of the world's growing population—adequate nutrition and energy supply—can surely be overcome by science and technical knowledge also in the future. As long as the possession of sources of food and primary energy spenders is used as a weapon in the economic and politico-military struggle for power, only the integration effect of material pressure of technical science can lead to a more rational and humane utilisation. For this, the energy economy (similar to the food economy) offers a striking example: political primacy is due not to finance, but to organisational tasks.

Regardless of the efforts towards ever stronger science-orientated parameters and growth models, there can be but one conclusion from the numerous prognostic attempts for the future meeting of the demand for primary energy sources and energy consumption: there is no foolproof forecast.

The times-entailed difficulties of the energy economy, stemming from politics, i.e. of the import of crude energy, the imbalances of commercial energy offering or technical developments, are all results of the still prevailing economic displacement competition. Instead, there should be an orderly international substitution competition. However, this is possible only on national bases for an orderly energy economy. Integration and charity in development begin at home.

The future energy supply of the industrial and developing countries calls for the utilisation of unrestrictedly all accessible and technically convertible sources of energy. As discussed at the Rome UN-Conference in August, 1961, on "new" energy sources, also wind energy, sun energy and geothermic tide energies belong in this category. Coal will retain its value within world measures. Mineral oil and natural gas as substitution competitors will increase their importance also in developing countries. As the strongest factor, the production of nuclear energy, untied as it largely is to the laws of location, has already a foothold in the path to the future. Applying the process of breeders it will be in the position economically rather advantageously to meet the industrial combined energy demand (heat and electricity). On considerations of energy economics the thermo-nuclear fusion is left standing aloof for the time being.

The contribution of the highly industrialised countries to the world energy economy is, among other tasks, the automatisisation of producing and distributing techniques, the abandonment of autarkic thinking in favour of an international interlocking of the energy production and energy transmission beyond the continents, the economic development of new and old sources of energy. Even in the case of large demand areas, such as the USA and the Soviet Union, an autarkic energy economy has become questionable. For the developing countries it is particularly important to avoid the wasting of primary energy sources.

The industrial countries will have to unfold troublefree scientific methods for realistic pre-assessments of energy requirements taking into account international coherence. Such methods are still amiss in the field of sociological (not only economic) evaluation of development projects as regards their overall economic profitability and their sociological and psychological influences on the social structure which are so hard to substantiate. Economic relations in the shape of the export of technical installations for the energy economy are a follow-up—not a pre-condition—of a purposeful energy policy.

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