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EEC: To live with the general

Intereconomics

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economy being ENI and IRI—which made it highly likely that such a mandatory quota would have an assured effect.

However, being eager to plan "big", the planners seem to have overlooked completely some crucial influences, which made subsequent experiences far from encouraging: for in order to enable planned development aid to reach Southern Italy at all, it is essential to make sure that the production plants needed to carry out the production orders that were planned, did, in fact, exist, and that those being in existence were able to operate at costs comparable to the average cost level, so as not to burden the State or the whole national economy with additional expenditure. Italian bureaucracy, which is usually the target of much criticism, might prove itself highly useful in this context, by producing informations and statistical data about the South Italian situation, and by publishing the plans worked out for placing production orders as early as possible. Up to the present day, this never happened, which has meant that Southern Italian businesses which are to be aided are prevented to draw up meaningful cost and price calculations, since they have not been furnished with the essential data about production assignments given to them by the State, whilst other concerns interested in making investments in Southern Italy will rather be repelled than abstracted by the nebulous picture offered by planning. rd.

Development Aid

An Admission of Guilt?

Young nations often blame their former colonial overlords for their own lack of political stability and for their economic weaknesses, whilst the former colonial powers deny strongly the justice of such reproaches. However, former colonial powers will certainly not simply get rid of their responsibilities by denying them. On the other hand, to look for reasons for the granting of development aid in the alleged admission of guilt by former colonialists, though highly popular nowadays as an expression of contemporary anti-colonialism, is of highly questionable logic.

Anti-colonialism, as it moulds present-day African, Asian, and Latin American nations' attitudes, is not a reaction against actual and present oppression. On the contrary, it embodies feelings and thoughts that serve as an umbrella protecting the construction of nation-states in the development areas, under whose cover Western influences of any and every kind can be prevented from infiltrating the new nations. By the same token, anti-colonialism also embodies the young nations' desire to become economically independent and, at the same time, to enjoy the material benefits of Western civilisations to the full. Theoretically, the spokesmen of the developing nations reject aid which is needed for this purpose as an attempt of the neo-colonialists to exert their influence, but in practice, such aid is avidly accepted as proof for the unquiet

conscience of former colonial powers, which thereby acknowledge their guilt. But this feeling of guilt, which only enabled developing nations to raise an inconsistent and mercenary anti-colonialism as their battle-cry, was brought about by an unhistorical way of judging events of the past by evaluating them according to moral and legal precepts of the present century—a popular practice which is inadmissible to any genuine historian. Politically, the much-repeated emphasis of the Western world's "guilt" may be highly expedient, but to draw from it justification for demanding development aid is self-contradictory and fallacious in the context of contemporary history. re.

EEC

To Live with the General

After President de Gaulle had held his press conference, the official representatives of France's partners in the EEC made another attempt to ignore the General's renewed refusal to consider the British application for membership in the Common Market. But after the Council of Ministers had sat at Brussels, such tactics became merely farcical. Even sterling devaluation was not sufficient to mellow the General's feelings. He remained as hard as before.

The President has thus trodden once more on the toes of his partners, and he rubbed salt in the wounds which he had caused by publicly praising his foreign minister for his methods of negotiating. The most violent reaction came from the Netherlands. Its representatives have announced that, until further notice they will absent themselves from all EEC talks. The Belgians do continue to take part but only in a purely formal sense, and also Italy is on the search for suitable methods of reprisal. Whereas the EEC has hitherto always been able to circumnavigate an open clash, conflict seems now actually to be in the offing. People believe that one of the most effective pressures capable of compelling the General to assume a more accommodating posture would be a refusal to finance the new agricultural measures of the French. However, it is highly disputable whether de Gaulle would renounce his views for the loss or gain of a few billion French Francs, especially as it would be open to him to retaliate by boycotting the common industrial market. To start economic warfare within the EEC, on the other hand, would do harm to everybody, so that no one in his senses will do anything to provoke its outbreak. The only possible alternative by which the General might be forced to change course could be seen in a true replacement of the EEC by a comprehensive European economic community, including the UK and, if necessary, excluding France. But even the youngest politicians lack the courage to embark on such a project. As long as all the five partners of France feel firmly bound by the Treaties of Rome, and as long as the UK itself accepts the EEC as the point of departure, de Gaulle will have the upper hand in every kind of negotiation. ke.