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Development spectrum

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DEVELOPMENT SPECTRUM

Deutsche Stiftung für Internationale Entwicklung (DSE): In 1973 DSE (German Foundation for International Development) will hold more than 50 interseminational conferences, naries and meetings. Besides many training and complementary training programmes will be carried through. A total of about 2,000 people from industrial and developing countries will attend these proceedings, whose costs are stated to be DM 20 mn. The programme is in line with the Federal Government's development policy concept. Priority subjects in the programme of DSE will be the struggle against unemployment and underemployment, the strengthening of planning and organisation capabilities in administration and economy, creation of educational systems orientated towards labour and environment conditions, infrastructure improvements in rural regions, expansion and diversification of trade and industry.

After the topical priorities of international development policy, aspects of world trade, environment control, regional development and social changes will be accentuated more strongly. The methodical approach will emphasise inter-discipline research. About 1,000 stipendiaries from almost 200 vocations will attend training and complementary training programmes. 500 German experts are also to be prepared for their work in developing countries.

Chile's Debt Consolidation:
An agreement based on arrangements made in April 1972 between different Western creditor countries and the Republic of Chile (the Paris Club) is to consolidate Chile's liabilities vis-àvis the Federal Republic. This Government Agreement comprises claims stemming from trade transactions guaranteed by the Federal Government,

which had been concluded until January 1, 1971, and provide for a loan period of more than 360 days. These claims must have become due between November 1, 1971, and December 31, 1972. The Chilean Government offers a so-called cash quota of 30 p.c. on the debts of about DM 81 mn included in the transfer respite. Repayment of the remaining 70 p.c. will be made in 13 equal semi-annual instalments beginning on January 1, 1975. Chile will pay an annual 6 p.c. consolidation interest rate for the period of transfer respite. On January 25, 1973, the funding of debts becoming due in 1973 was negotiated within the Paris Club. These negotiations have contiued in May 1973.

Promotion of Brazil Exports: Together with the Brazilian Government the Federal Republic's Government plans a speexport promotion programme for Brazil, whose costs will be halved between them. In order to carry through this project in close accord with the market the business quarters are directly responsible for the formulation of the project conception. Moreover, the direct incorporation of the business world and the utilisation of its experiences shall serve the purpose of keeping costs, which have been described as being "considerable", as low as possible. This will contribute to the quantitative and qualitative improvement of the structure of the Brazilian trade balance.

The Office for the Promotion of Imports from Developing Countries, a department of the "Bundesverband des deutschen Groß- und Außenhandels" — BGA (Federal Association of German Wholesale and Foreign Trade), is in charge of handling and coordinating the formulation of the project conception.

According to this Office, German business quarters have been asked to suggest a list of Brazilian products possibly having sales chances in the Common Market. Brazil has already recommended textile fibres, textile fabrics, clothes, foodstuffs, kinds of woods, furniture, machine tools, and motor vehicle parts for export promotion.

Aid to Vietnam: The Federal Government provides DM 30 mn as immediate aid to South and North Vietnam. Further DM 100 mn are to be given as reconstruction aid in 1973 still. Church Associations, welfare and aid organisations as well as the German Red Cross are also collecting donations for Vietnam. According to the Dia-Charity Organisation there are already beginnings of a coordinated action of the welfare and aid organisations within the Federal Republic, which have been initiated by the Federal Ministry of the Interior and for which DM 10 mn will be provided. These funds are to be spent on humanitarian aid measures, as e.g. the reintegration and settlement of refugees and the rehabilitation of a health service. South and North Vietnam are to receive 40 p.c., Cambodia 13 and Laos 7 p.c. of the sum total.

Over and above these aid measures Misereor also intends to spend on aid applications part of its offertory that in February has been collected in all Catholic churches in the Federal Republic. It is also intended to provide the monies collected in the Lentenaction of April 8 within the scope of a long-term development aid concept for these countries.

Compiled by the Department on Development Policies of the Hamburg Institute for International Economics.