

Overseas Development Institute

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The Overseas Development Institute was founded towards the end of 1960 by a group of people who believe that the economic development of the countries of Asia, Africa and South America, and their relations with the industrially developed areas of the world, are of crucial importance.

Funds were received from the Ford Foundation, from British industry and commerce, and from the Nuffield Foundation. The Institute is non-profit-making. Its policies are determined by a Council which is independent and non-governmental. The Council is under the Chairmanship of Sir Leslie Rowan; the Director is William Clark; the Deputy Director is Athole Mackintosh.

FUNCTIONS

The ODI aims to ensure wise action on development problems. Its main functions are:

- 1 To provide a centre for work on development problems, but not to provide technical aid or financial help.
- 2 To direct studies of its own where necessary, and to encourage and assist workers on development topics.
- 3 To be a forum where those directly concerned

with development can meet others and share ideas.

- 4 To spread the information collected as widely as possible among those working on development problems.
- 5 To keep the urgency of the problems before the public and the responsible authorities.

ACTIVITIES

To ensure wise action in the wide field of development, the ODI tries to focus attention on specific problems – to make them clearer and to suggest solutions – while at the same time maintaining an overall view and balanced perspective. To this end the Institute stimulates thought, discussion and action; it undertakes and encourages research, both short-term and in depth. The ODI does not itself originate or administer programmes of aid or training. It is, however, always anxious to help other bodies to carry on work in development and it maintains close contact with such bodies.

FORUM

To stimulate discussion, the ODI holds small meetings at which a limited number of officials, businessmen, politicians and scholars may meet

others who have first-hand experience of development problems. These meetings are by invitation only so that as wide a cross-section of the community as possible may attend them. (There is no ordinary membership of the Institute.)

Speakers at the Institute have included the Prime Ministers of India and Nigeria, Ministers from nearly all Commonwealth countries as well as from South America and French-speaking Africa. Other speakers have been academic leaders from overseas (e.g. Dr. Diké, Principal of Ibadan, Nigeria; Professor Mahalanobis, Director of the Indian Statistical Institute) and from British universities. Administrators who have spoken include Paul Hoffman (Managing Director, United Nations Special Fund), Fowler Hamilton (Director, United States A.I.D. Programme), and ben Salah, Minister of Finance and Planning, Tunisia).

The ODI tries to make it customary for visitors from overseas with a working interest in development to visit the Institute and discuss their problems. Their comments and information help ODI's work, while the Institute can often provide useful contacts and advice.

STUDIES

From the start it has been recognised that the

work of the Institute must be based on careful study and appraisal of present problems and past experience. The ODI has always been fortunate to have at its disposal the knowledge and experience of many people, in universities, business and Government, both in Britain and overseas. The Institute has recruited a small staff in order to make more effective use of collaboration with associates and to undertake its own studies.

Studies of Aid

The subject of the first main programme of research is development aid. In 1962 work began on studies of the methods by which the richer countries can and do contribute to the development of the poorer countries, by government action or otherwise, and of the effectiveness of these contributions in relation to needs. These studies are being undertaken in co-operation with the Brookings Institution in the U.S.A., and in both countries the Governments have agreed to give facilities so that the research may be as authoritative as possible.

In the first stage of the work, preliminary surveys are being made of the contributions of the major donor countries, by financial, technical and educational assistance from public

and private sources, and in other ways. The ODI is responsible for the surveys of Britain (to be made by its own staff), and France and the E.E.C. (to be made by associates). These should be ready for publication in the summer of 1963. The Brookings Institution is making a similar preliminary survey of U.S. aid, to be followed by a more detailed study. Surveys of German and Russian aid are also planned.

At the same time work has begun on a longer and deeper study of development aid, with particular reference to British policy. This is being undertaken by I. M. D. Little, of Nuffield College, Oxford, in collaboration with the Institute.

The ODI intends to follow its preliminary survey by studies of various aspects of policies and of aid and trade, with the aim of arriving at recommendations for action or for further research by the Institute or by others. These studies will be based on the ODI's own preliminary survey and on other work that has been or is being done on related problems throughout the world. Many of these studies will be carried out by working parties organised by the ODI, in order to mobilise the ideas and knowledge of many sections of the community.

Other Studies

The ODI also arranges studies and working groups on a variety of development topics, including, for example:

1 **SOVIET DEVELOPMENT**—a study of aims, methods, costs and success of development by the U.S.S.R. in the Central Asian Republics, under the direction of Alec Nove of the London School of Economics.

2 **ECONOMISTS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**—a working group of university economists, officials and businessmen met under the Chairmanship of Sir Leslie Rowan, to investigate methods of increasing the supply of economists from Britain for work overseas. The group's report was sent to ministers and action is being taken on some of the recommendations

3 **AFRICA**—a group of scholars, officials and businessmen, under the Chairmanship of Professor E. A. G. Robinson, is examining some problems of contemporary Africa. A report is expected in the first half of 1963.

Centre for Research

It is one of the ODI's functions to provide a

centre for work on development problems. The Institute aims to encourage and assist work by individuals or by groups in universities. It brings together research workers with others who have relevant experience and it is trying to build up information about the research that is being done in Britain and overseas – a long task, but an important one if duplication is to be avoided. The ODI is also investigating the possibilities of work in co-operation with other institutes and universities overseas.

PUBLICATIONS

Wise action in the development field depends on accurate and extensive knowledge. The ODI aims to contribute to this knowledge and to spread it widely. The Institute has produced or helped to produce the following publications:

DEVELOPMENT GUIDE – a directory of the development facilities provided by 200 non-commercial organisations in Britain (published by George Allen & Unwin, available through booksellers).

DEVELOPMENT PAMPHLETS – a series of pamphlets in non-technical language on specific subjects (e.g. Fertilisers, Co-operatives, Power

Supplies), designed to help administrators in developing countries who must make decisions on subjects on which they have little prior knowledge. (Available from ODI Publications, Mailing Services Limited, 98 Kingston Road, London SW19. Price 5/- each.)

FACT SUMMARIES – mimeographed digests (usually statistical) of relevant facts, e.g. Major Donors of Aid, Major Recipients of Aid, U.K. Expenditure on Aid, etc. (available on request from ODI).

SHORT PAMPHLETS BY THE DIRECTOR – East Africa after Independence (available from ODI), A Strategy for Development, and World Responsibility (both available from War on Want, 9 Madely Road, London W5. Price 1/- each.)

Reports on Conferences

RESTLESS NATIONS (published by George Allen & Unwin, available through booksellers, price 18/-), a report on a conference on Tensions in Development jointly sponsored by the Council on World Tensions and the ODI.

WAR ON WANT (published by the Pergamon Press, available through booksellers, price 15/-), a report on a conference on the United Nations

Development Decade, jointly sponsored by the United Nations Association and the ODI.

FUTURE PUBLICATIONS. Publications planned for 1963 include the results of the Institute's survey of British development aid, a pamphlet on staffing African universities by Sir Alexander Carr-Saunders, a pamphlet on India's need for outside assistance by Barbara Ward and Maurice Zinkin (published by the Pergamon Press), and a report on an Anglo-French conference on Economic Development in Africa to be published by the Institut de Science Economique Appliqué, 2 Caxton Street, London SW1. Those wishing for notice of these publications should write to ODI Publications, Mailing Services Limited, 98 Kingston Road, Merton Park, London SW19.

GENERAL

Where new research in depth is less necessary, the ODI focuses attention on specific problems and, acting as a catalyst, tries to ensure sensible action. The Institute does not seek credit for what others have done, but here is a brief selection of specific fields in which the ODI has helped to identify problems and to produce solutions. :—

- secondment of university teachers for short periods to posts in developing countries;*
- employment of skilled, though inexperienced, voluntary workers in useful posts;*
- use of visual and audio aids to help overcome the shortage of teachers in developing countries;*
- management training in Britain and in developing countries;*
- provision of technical assistance experts to South America from the overseas civil service.*

An important part of the Institute's work is to build up connections throughout the world so that it may become a centre for the interchange of views, experience and information about what is needed and what is being done. Members of the Council and staff travel widely in developing countries to make contact with the individuals and organisations, national and international, concerned with development. These include universities, research institutes and such bodies as the Economic Commission for Africa and the O.E.C.D.

The Institute is becoming known in developing countries and it is most anxious to make further contacts with those interested. In

Britain it is working closely with government departments, universities, other independent organisations, and commercial and industrial firms.

EXECUTIVE AND RESEARCH STAFF

William Clark	<i>Director</i>
Athole Mackintosh	<i>Deputy Director and Director of Studies</i>
David Morgan	<i>Economics</i>
Adrian Moyes	<i>Publications and Meetings</i>
Neville Nicholson	<i>Overseas Business</i>
Juliet Salt	<i>Economics</i>
David Wauton	<i>Administrative Officer and Overseas Service</i>
Peter Williams	<i>Education and Social Problems</i>
Brian Wilson	<i>Agriculture and Economics</i>

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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Managing Director, Vickers Limited

Sir George Allen
Secretary, British Association for the Advancement of Science

Richard Bailey
Director, Political and Economic Planning

E. A. Bingen
Deputy Chairman, Imperial Chemical Industries

Professor P. M. S. Blackett
Imperial College of Science and Technology

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Lord Franks
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- Professor E. A. G. Robinson
Secretary, Royal Economic Society
- Professor K. E. Robinson
Director, Institute of Commonwealth Studies
- R. G. Searight
Head of Group Trade Relations Division, Shell International Petroleum Company Limited
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- Donald Tyerman
Editor, The Economist

~~160 Piccadilly, London W1 Hyde Park 2654~~

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