

14 May 1970

Dear Elly,

As duenna to the last session of the Commission for Social Development, I believe you are clearly entitled to an interim report and to a share in my personal pleasure in the emerging trend of developments. The Commission's report is now under discussion in ECOSOC's Social Committee. Yesterday and part of today, the debate was relaxed, leisurely, harmonious, and just about sepecific. No fights, no passion, and lots of passions to the Commission for finally having achieved universal support for the concept of unified development. Except for a few mild caveats from the developing countries about the difficulties to be encountered in the practical application of this concept and of the Holy Writ out of Stockholm, the tone was euphoric. Not only was the dividing line between "economic" and "social" about to be dissolved forever, but perhaps even the administrative structure would be reshuffled and renamed so that the bifurcation (a word that caused greans in CPC last week) would no longer exist even in titular form. O Paradise, in the hearts of the earnest, indefatigable international civil servants who guide the destinies and growing empire of the Social Development Division. (I have never understood why these missionaries for the good, healthy and pleasurable life of Man--the ultimate objective of all development etc. etc.--should themselves fit so well the part of warden of jail for recalcitrant females (Mme Thorsson) or of a celibate bookkeeper for the Salvation Army (Kurt J.), so bloodless and prissy.)

Now, I know full well that WHO is for more resources for health and therefore for the social aspects of development in DD2...3, 4, and 5, no doubt, in their turn. I am for more \$\$\$ for WHO and for health myself, wholeheartedly, but I have never felt that the Social Developers would help us one dollar's worth--or even pay the costs of the vast labors they put us through in order to give the Commission a sense of purpose. So I have for years gnashed my teeth at the spectacle of the social planners--so-called getting away with their grandiose frauds. And this is where the pleasure arises.

After all the grandiose lip service to unified development (to say nothing of another long lecture from Ambassador Glen Olds, stuffed with his somorous condescensions and excruciating anecdoterie, all of which boils down to a boy scout advocacy of the status quo), it was time to get down to cases. France submitted a draft resolution--purely procedural, a mere formality--designed to rush through the Council and into the hands of the Prep.Com. for DD2 (meeting next door, simultaneously with the Social Committee) the Commission's resolution 5 (XXI) with its annex, for inclusion in the grand strategy for DD2. But the developing ones are not buying, and a prolonged and sometimes convoluted series of procedural maneuvers then ensue, which culminate in a counter-proposal, by Pakistan, Sudan et al---to DELETE from Resolution III on social policy and planning op. para. 3, asking the UN bodies which are preparing the strategy to give serious consideration to the unified approach and the role of the Commission for Social Dev. The issue is drawn and is to be decided tomorrow. You will have to stay in suspense until you get official intelligence but I do expect the developing countries to win their point--that they do not want social development to have parity with economic development and that the growth of GNP is still their overriding goal and has absolute priority. I hope you kveel at least a little--or I will have made an awful fool of myself. But tell me--I can survive egg on the chin.

You cannot imagine how utterly ominous the atmosphere here has become. It is truly frightening, for its progressively clear parallel with Germany in the 30's. There is widespread and quite deadly serious thought of departure and resettlement elsewhere--I think about it myself, often and with no frivolity whatever. The road from Dallas to Kent State has been downhill all the way and I think we are now, truly, at the briak.

Love, and share with Mike if you think he is strong enough to hear it like it is.