Working for UN
Millikan planning for development

By Larry Klein
Professor Max Milikan, Director of MIT's Center for International Studies, is currently serving as an adviser to the United Nations Economic Council as one of the members of the body's specially appointed Committee on Development Planning. A committee of fifteen to eighteen international experts (of which Professor Milikan is the only American member), this group was set up to advise the U.S. on Development Decrees I and II. All of the members of the committee were appointed to serve as individuals, rather than as representatives of their nations.

The two Development Decrees were first utilized by President John F. Kennedy as he sought to suggest that the nation should and could be one of significant economic-social development for the underdeveloped peoples of the world. The United Nations, impressed with this idea, took it up by setting as a target goal for this "Development Decade" an average five percent per year growth in the Gross National Product of the underdeveloped world. However, this goal was never reached. As a result, the Committee on Development Planning was established to discover the causes of this failure. Later on, the committee was also given the responsibility of drawing up plans for preparing "Development Decade II" to take place in the 1970's. The committee quickly recognized that the sixties saw little positive commitment from the developed countries. Rather, it was only an era of good will. Consequently, the group is now formulating methods to get the developed countries to commit themselves to active support on behalf of the underdeveloped countries. At the same time, these nations are to undertake various self-help measures to develop population control and better export performances.

The committee has been meeting in various parts of the world in which it has been working with economic experts. These conferences have resulted in specific plans being laid and estimates of the capital requirements for these plans being calculated. This spring, the committee will then convene in Bangkok at which time it intends to finalize its proposals. These proposals are to be submitted to the United Nations Council during the summer and then to the General Assembly during its 1970 session.

When questioned, Professor Milikan expressed optimism for the success of this second development decade, with an important reservation. This reservation involved the probability of the developed countries of the world contributing their share of the necessary financial resources for the programs proposed by the committee. If this financial support is not forthcoming, Professor Milikan believes the proposed five percent goal can be met or possibly even exceeded. At the present time, underdevelopment would still reach an average GNP increase of two-and-one-half percent per year, and this has been done with only limited financial resources.

The key to the success of Development Decade II appears to be the United States. The Committee on Development Planning is currently requesting contributions from the developed nations of one percent of their Gross National Product in the form of direct financial aid, loans, and private investments. At the present time, the United States is utilizing approximately one-twentieth of a percent of its GNP per year in the form of underdeveloped countries. The committee hopes to use the pressure of world opinion to motivate the U.S. nations to expand the level of one percent per year. However, the probability that this new strategy being effective is unknown.

Professor Milikan sees great importance to the United States in the success of Development Decade II. Although the short run, the United States will probably receive few benefits from these efforts, to make the existence of such a social-economic underdeveloped world, it does stand to benefit of some direct benefits. The first of these is, of course, the markets to be opened up to American manufacturers. However, the most likely benefit is a combination of social and political factors. Professor Milikan sees the probability of the world environment evolving in the direction we want significantly more probable if this development decade achieves its goals. If it does, he believes a world in which two thirds of its inhabitants suffer from poverty doesn't appear to offer us this possibility.

Freshmen Woods burns draft card
Professor Francis P. D., of MIT, Monday of a brief demonstration highlighted by the burning of a draft registration card. Gary Woods emphasized that he is not a pacifist. He held it while it was being ignited.

The precipitating cause of his action was the sentencing earlier in the day of Dr. Robert Rom, a draft resister sentenced in US District Court to an indeterminate sentence for sabotaging paint on Selective Service records in the Customs House in Boston. In June, Woods was arrested by Antioch College student who sought the card in lighter fluid and held it while it was being ignited.

Wood emphasized that he is not a member of the New Left and that his opposition to merely the Vietnam War did not lie about his action. "Rather," he said, "I am and have been for several years a complete and uncompromising pacifist, I will not be part of a nation's death machine." His father was an Air Force Colonel serving in Vietnam of whom Woods said, "He has been in the military so long he chews without thinking. I cannot do the same."

Woods read prepared statements to the press after burning his card. "I burn this card and fully accept responsibility in the hope of someday seeing a world in which people may live without fear and may value the joy of life." Setting his intention to drop out of MIT after the first semester, Woods disclosed his desire to put the $4000 his parents would normally give him to help poverty programs. "School", he reiterated, "is a great luxury."

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