

INTRODUCTION TO UTAFITI VOL. IV NO. I

The main theme of this issue is transfer of technology. The subject of transfer of technology has recently been raised within the context of the New International Economic Order as one of the aspects of development policy where the replacement of the present world economic system is required. The significance of the theme of transfer of technology can be seen from the fact that it has received considerable attention at a number of recent conferences (e.g. UNCTAD IV, UNCTAD V, the Pugwash Conference).

The article by S. Wangwe starts by reviewing the major issues of transfer of technology in recent discussions. The Author then proceeds to discuss some issues and policies that may be necessary to build up a strong technological base in developing countries. The article places special emphasis on the role of the engineering sector in creating the technological base.

The article by Professor Msangi and Dr. Chagula critically analyses some of the problems of developing science and technology in Tanzania. The article tackles problems of the development and utilization of scientific manpower in Tanzania bringing out the need to give indigenous professionals the opportunity to practice their trade and develop through tackling challenging problems. The authors go on to argue that useful and applicable results of scientific research and technological development should be applied to solve development problems. The authors indicate the problem of lack of coordination between research institutions in their programmes and suggest that research be streamlined and coordinated.

Lemunge's article looks into the problems of science and technology in the construction industry in Tanzania. The question of research in the development of building materials for Tanzania is discussed and the author points out the inadequate system of disseminating research findings to the users, particularly to the rural areas.

Ngila Mwase's article discusses the Japanese report on construction of the proposed Arusha - Musoma railway line. The author argues that the report largely falls short of providing an adequate basis for decisions and brings out some of the important issues that are omitted in the report.

In the next article Dr. Mensah traces the process and mechanics of monetary decolonization from the time when many African countries became politically independent up to 1977. It is indicated that although the monetary zones were fragmented with no links with one another they were all linked directly with the metropolitan headquarters. The author argues that the establishment of central banks initiated a modification of the monetary relations between the ex-colonies and the metropolises. It is, however, noted that the imperial powers have devised other means of siphoning financial resources from the ex-colonies. In fact the author observes that the task of transformation is not complete as there is still a proliferation of foreign monetary zones in Africa a situation made more complex by the emergence of many national monetary systems.

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The next article discusses the politics of confrontation and indifference between the USA and Africa. In volume II No. 2 of this journal Prof. A. J. Temu, in his **ethnic consciousness which had developed in Nigeria well before the colonial era** represents the interests of a dominant class and its foreign policy must facilitate and be consistent with the fundamental need for investment and trade by US corporations. It was contended that the US is determined to facilitate investments in Africa and profits out of Africa. In the present issue Dr. Asante takes up **these issues and** argues that since the early 1940's American policy has been that of consistent indifference to major problems and aspirations of Africa consequently American policy and prestige in Africa are drifting steadily downward. The author demonstrates conflicts between the US and Africa on issues of major interest to the latter and that it is on the Southern African problem that current confrontation between the US and Africa is centred. It is contended by the author that the importance of racial and cultural linkages as one of the determinants of **US attitudes** towards the Southern African problem cannot be easily ignored.

Dr. Ogunbadejo raises issues of conflict in Nigeria during 1960-66 a period in which, according to the author, large sections of the country were virtually excluded from participation in the process of government. The author argues that ethnic consciousness which had developed in Nigeria well before the colonial era was accentuated by **British** Colonial policy and by the political system that grew out of it. And that it is this **sharpening** and institutionalization of ethnicity that made the drift to instability and chaos much easier. All along the author demonstrates the interaction between **colonialism**, ethnicity and corruption in Nigerian politics.

Wangwe in his book review of Stewart's Technology and underdevelopment indicates that the book provides a clear and systematic presentation of the impact of technology on the development patterns of developing countries. The book brings out the close link between income levels, income distribution, the product-mix and technological issues.