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**Foreword to PLANNING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/ SOCIAL CHANGE: Essays: Needs and Possibilities of Action by H. Labouisse; Objectives of Development Policy by Georges Sicault; Methods of Planning for the Need of Children by H. W. Singer**

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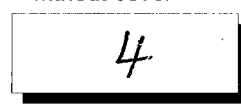
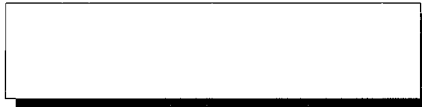
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## Foreword

It seems only a banality to say that the evolution of the rising generations is a basic element in the field of interest of this journal. There have been a number of fundamental contributions to our understanding of this relationship - one need refer only to Erikson, McClelland and Hagen in this country - yet the subject is far from having been fully explored, and in fact the following articles show that there are many aspects that would merit research.

The subject also has an urgent practical aspect in that a number of countries are now trying to take account of children and youth in their development effort. Doubtless this tendency has been strengthened by the opinion, which is now spreading, especially in Latin America, that exclusive concentration on the economic aspects of development is quite likely to lead to disappointing results, and that it is advisable to give coherent attention also to the sociological and social aspects or, as it is sometimes called "social planning." While many aspects of taking account of children and youth do form a subdivision of social planning, there are also important economic aspects to be considered in a national policy for children and youth.

The following article<sup>1/</sup> calculates that about one third of the gross national product in developing countries is spent by families and public bodies on child rearing. Obviously this should be directed both to the protection of the welfare of children as a vulnerable group and to their preparation to play a constructive part in the development of their society.

Therefore, it seems interesting to present in this special issue a series of essays which would give a general orientation of the scope of the problem. These have been chosen from a much more extensive series of papers prepared for conferences which have been sponsored by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in cooperation with other United Nations agencies, and especially the regional Economic Commissions and Development and Planning Institutes.<sup>2/</sup> In each of these meetings, planners, economists, sociologists and administrators in the various fields of health, nutrition, education, social welfare were together seeking a comprehensive approach to children and youth problems.

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<sup>1/</sup> Needs and Possibilities of Action, Henry R. Labouisse - Executive Director, UNICEF, p. 4.

<sup>2/</sup> The Round-Table Conference at Bellagio, Italy, April 1964; Regional Conference on Children and Youth in National Development in Latin America, Santiago, Chile, December 1965, sponsored jointly with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Planning Institute; Regional Conference on Children and Youth in National Planning and Development in Asia, Bangkok, Thailand, March 1966, sponsored jointly with the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East and the Planning Institute; the Seminar in Paris in February 1966, sponsored jointly with the International Children's Centre and the Institute for the Study of Economic and Social Development (IEDES); a meeting on the Needs of African Children, Addis Ababa, May 1966, held before the regular session of the UNICEF Executive Board.

UNICEF was established in 1946 by the General Assembly of the United Nations to provide emergency relief for children of war-ravaged countries. In 1950 when recovery was well along, it was directed by the United Nations General Assembly to give its assistance henceforth to programmes of long-range benefit to children and adolescents of developing countries. After a decade of practical assistance to projects designed to benefit the health and nutrition of children, in 1961-62 the UNICEF Executive Board came to the conclusion that their condition would be improved in a fundamental way if the programmes from which they would benefit were viewed by each country as part of its national development effort.

The papers in Part I of this issue outline an overall approach. After a brief description of the situation of children and youth in developing countries, they deal with objectives and methods of planning, and general economic measures which directly or indirectly improve the situation of children and youth. The last paper in this part gives one example of how a national planning authority views the problems of children and youth in relation to the country's development plans (Peru).

The papers in Part II are more detailed, and illustrate two branches of the subject. The first three papers approach the problem by age groups, and deal respectively with the pre-school child, the school-age child and youth.

The last two papers deal respectively with the child in rural and urban zones, a distinction of such great practical significance in view of the difference of availability of finances and personnel in these two situations that usually different standards and service have to be planned.

In view of limitations of space it has been necessary in many cases to abstract and shorten the versions presented to the conferences.

In general all these articles are exploring the problem rather than advancing firm conclusions, and one could infer that economists, planners, directors of programmes in social fields in the developing countries would welcome a firmer basis of knowledge in the academic community on which they could draw.