

THE UNDERPRIVILEGED NATIONS, by Pierre Moussa, translated by Alan Braley; Sidgwick and Jackson; 30s.

M. Moussa has made a useful contribution to the discussion of ways and means of ending the poverty of the underdeveloped nations. He begins by looking at some of the difficulties facing them. There is some evidence for the belief that the prices of their exports of primary products have fallen relatively to those of manufactured goods, and have, moreover, been very unstable. Within the underdeveloped countries, there is need for agrarian reform, and for ending the exploitation of the peasant by the middleman. Finally, there is the tendency for population to grow rapidly. In some parts of the world, particularly Latin America, nutritional standards have been falling. World food production has more than kept step with world population, but it is chiefly the more advanced countries that have been enjoying higher standards of nutrition. Nevertheless, this is by no means conclusive evidence in favour of a birth-control campaign. It is equally evidence that the real problem is one of securing a proper distribution of the earth's bounty.

There follows a discussion of the means to promote economic growth in the underdeveloped countries, and of the wider geopolitical issues involved. M. Moussa suggests that with population growing at $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent a year, the underdeveloped countries would need to devote the equivalent of 10 per cent of their national incomes to investment in order to maintain their present per capita income, and that to raise their per capita incomes by 4-5 per cent a year they would need to invest something like 20 per cent of their national incomes. M. Moussa stresses the importance of the underdeveloped countries making their own contribution through their savings towards this investment, though obviously there must also be help from abroad. This may take various forms: outright gifts, loans and investment by foreign enterprises. Investment by foreign enterprises will only occur if conditions are such as to give them confidence. Governmental aid may be bilateral, or multilateral (being channelled through various international organizations). The latter may have advantages in cases where bilateral aid might involve the risk of domination of the underdeveloped country (or be feared to involve such a risk).

The raising of living standards in the underdeveloped countries is not merely politically expedient: it is as Pope John XXIII has shown in *Mater et Magistra*, a moral duty for the wealthier nations. For this reason, we should give a serious study such as this the attention it deserves, even though there are inevitably points where we are bound to disagree with the author.

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AFRICAN MISSION, a historical study of the Society of African Missions, by John M. Todd; Burns and Oates; 25s. od.

The Society of African Missions is to be congratulated on securing Mr John