Dear ABPR Book Reviewer,

I enclose a clipping of your review, which appeared in

vol. **XT** no. **1** (1985), pp.17

Thank you for contributing to ABPR.

Yours sincerely,

Stella Waterman

Economics & Development

Adeyemo Adejeyi

After Lagos What?

40 pp. $3.00 pap. (General Series, 1).

African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development


67 pp. $3.00 pap. (General Series, 2).

After decades of economic stagnation and general disillusionment with "imported" development strategies, the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa 1980–2000 was ratified by

an emergency session of the Organization of African Unity in 1980. Promoting "African solutions for African problems," the Lagos Plan of Action presents a blueprint for development which calls upon African nations to reduce external dependence and foster internally generated, self-sustained development based on national and collective self-reliance and integration. It is only recently that the Lagos Plan of Action has been brought to the forefront of development

respectability, with scholars addressing the pros and cons of salient development strategies contained therein.

After Lagos What? examines the historical roots and underpinnings of the Lagos Plan of Action, as well as those of the International Strategy for the Third United Nations Development Decade. Emphasis is placed upon determining the "requirements" and "modalities" for the implementation of these two strategies at the national, sub-regional, regional, and international levels in Africa. An examination is made of the role of international organizations in aiding general implementation of the two plans and the importance of fostering proper international political and economic environments.

Social Implications of the Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Development of Africa: 1980–2000 represents the findings of various African ministers of social affairs who gathered in Addis Ababa in 1980 to discuss the social implications of the Lagos Plan of Action. The primary stated purpose of this publication, which is written in both French and English, is to assemble these recommendations in order to make them handy for ready reference. Successful in this simple task, the book identifies important aspects of Africa's social problems, predicts consequences of national economic actions taken, and identifies potential areas of African supranational collaboration.

The majority of the essay is geared toward specific recommendations of the African ministers of social affairs concerning implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action in the social realm. Issues discussed include the demographic and health situation, quality of human resources, opportunities for women, youth unemployment and adverse social consequences stemming from implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action.

Both essays are the first published products of the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD) and are part of a general series which centres on the topic of socio-economic development in Africa. Each essay represents an important contribution to the understanding of issues surrounding the formulation and implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action. Where both essays are lacking, however, and where additional research must be done, is in determining the "hows" of funding and the impetus and processes through which the implementation process will be fostered. A more specific analysis of the particular group of African nations that will take part in these processes must also be examined. After Lagos What? mentions the need to determine the proper international political and economic environments, yet it does not deal in specifics. In fact the brevity of the essays combined with the extremely broad issues that are explored require that both remain at a very general level in terms of explanation. In a more positive sense these two essays (along with the general ACARTSOD series) represent important contributions to the understanding of African development issues and are therefore recommended for all university and major public libraries.

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