

*Note on the Project 'Absorptive Capacity for Foreign Aid to Newly Independent Countries and Problems of Transfer of Techniques'*

THE European Coordination Centre for Research and Documentation in Social Sciences has embarked on a project on 'Absorptive Capacity for Foreign Aid to Newly Independent Countries and Problems of Transfer of Techniques', following decisions made at Constance in May 1966 and in pursuance of UNESCO's research programme on the economic, social, and cultural problems facing the newly independent countries. The purpose is to fill some gaps in the fields of both theoretical and empirical research on problems of foreign aid to newly independent countries. The approach will be an interdisciplinary one and the emphasis will be on problems arising in the recipient countries. A substantial part of the work will be done in co-operation with research institutes in these countries. The shortcomings of a merely 'europeocentric' approach to the problem will thus be avoided. Particular emphasis will be on the following: the scope for and the modalities of foreign aid in the agricultural sector; limits to the absorption of capital-intensive techniques in the urban sector (with particular reference to construction and housing).

*Study Session on Urban Centres in the 'Third World'*

THE International Institute of Differing Civilizations (INCIDI), 11, boulevard de Waterloo, Brussels 1, held its 34th international study session in Aix-en-Provence from 11 to 16 September, in collaboration with the Centre Africain des Sciences Humaines Appliqués (CASHA) which has its headquarters in Aix. The subject for discussion was 'The social, economic and political role of urban centres in the States of the "Third World"'. The general rapporteurs were Professor André Beteille, Delhi University (Asia); Mr. Mohamed T. Diawara, Minister for Planning of Ivory Coast, and Mr. R. Descloîtres, President of CASHA (Africa); and Mr. Gino Germani, Director of the Institute of Sociology at Buenos Aires University (Latin America).