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15.2.77SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF
THE CLUB OF ROME

There can be no doubt that The Club of Rome, as far as its image is concerned, has been very successful until now and perhaps too much is being expected from it in the present time of important transitions.

Why a Club of Rome ?

The initial preoccupation about the predicament of mankind, which led to the creation of The Club of Rome, is still alive. The Club of Rome certainly accounts to a large extent for the fact that wide circles all over the world are aware today of the existence of a global problematique. It seems however as if, the more people are confronted with global issues, the more the conviction of the necessity to find solutions in a fairly short time is fading away. The reinforcement of nationalistic thinking with its growing isolationism, fantastic increase of armaments, floating of currencies etc. gives the impression that we are farther away from any practical solution than ever. This growing nationalism has not only a weakening, almost self-destructive effect on the existing international organizations, it also leads to attacks against the multinational corporation as an institution, although there exists no substitute for it.

The question arises whether the continuing effort to point out the world problematique is of real help or not.

We have been quite aware in the past of the weakness of merely focussing attention to the world problematique by discussions and therefore accepted to launch pertinent projects, the main purpose of which was to help better understand some of the important aspects of it. This was certainly a concrete policy, as it enabled us to organize some big meetings to present and discuss the results of the projects initiated by The Club of Rome. The continuation of such a policy will make sense as long as there are no other institutions able to do the same, or perhaps even a better job. In any case, it is not enough to point out a need; we have to contribute in an original and creative way.

What should The Club of Rome do ?

The Club of Rome should:

- pinpoint the essential issues of the world problematique for which solutions have to be found;
- catalyse actions on such issues by
 - initiating special studies capable of conveying a message
 - initiating meetings with decision makers and the public at large.

How to do it ?

1. Initiation of studies

- of high quality and high relevance
(MIT was of high quality & originality, this is also true for the M/P report inspired by the former; RIO is rather weak in this respect because of its little originality; 'Future Goals' does not look outstanding, although the subject is alright).
- establish a list of possible issues. The ExCom should devote each year a few sessions to this.
- Each study proposal should be reviewed by an ad hoc group in order to designate the best people for its execution.
- A small fund should be raised to allow for necessary contacts in the world, to undertake the preliminaries for the meetings (~100.000\$/year).
- A modest secretariat has to be established, as an extension of Aurelio's organization.

2. The Institution

- Actually, the whole undertaking goes on solely due to the profound dedication of its president.
- The ExCom is necessary, but it should be more active. It may be wise to find some young people, who may become prospective leaders for the future.
- The policies should be defined more precisely and be published, so as to form a creed for the members.
- The better definition of The Club of Rome's policies may help crystallize new types of projects.

3. Some thoughts on issues to be treated

- The world problematique and Herman Kahn's scenario for the next 200 years (as proposed by Saburo)
- Concepts of future boundary conditions for nation states necessary for a harmonious continental or global development.
- Future relationships between Governments, Multinational Corporations and International Trade Unions.
- Participation will be unavoidable in any government system in the long run. How can it be best achieved ?
Is the party system the only solution ?

H. Lieberman