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FUTURE OF WORLD ECONOMY

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Today our human society is ever more interested to know the future, to determine the future evolution of our social-economic system. Thus, a real scientific expedition was outlined involving several scientists, researchers in various fields, in order to give a reply to an almost haunting question: what is going to be in 2000 year?

The first replies formulated by the first report to the Club of Rome, worked out by the researchers team at Massachusetts Institute of Technology led by couple Meadows, "Limits of Growth" has been a very violent and sonorous alarm signal. Their pessimistic conclusions, although have been disputed by a lot of people, had remained in the consciousness of those which had read them, and the limits caused by the natural resources and pollution in the development of an economic growth, seem to be, at least partially, real.

The second report to the Club of Rome, "Mankind at Crossroads" worked out by Mesarović and Pestel is considered a progress, the authors avoiding the overall vision from Meadows' report, and for the first time, a differentiation among regions depending on the existing particularities, has appeared and the gloomy visions upon mankind's future are not related to the world ensemble, but to the component elements.

Finally, the third report to the Club of Rome worked out by a researchers team led by Jan Tinbergen, Laureate of Noble Prize, means a start in approaching the overall subject-matter, not in an independent way, but in interdependence to the subject-matters of the new international economic order.

In this context, the work "Future of World Economy" worked out by a specialists group let by Wassily Leontief, Laureate of Noble Prize for economy, has appeared. The work is a report aiming to present the preliminary results of a study made under U.N.O. auspices concerning the consequences of long-range economic solutions and policies on the international strategy of development.

Opposite to the previous pessimistic conclusions, Leontief's report examines the conditions of reducing the disparities existing today all over the world. Due to these reasons, the international strategy of development stresses the necessity of speeding the growth, beginning with the second half of the present decade. The study focuses its attention on different scenarios where the growth rates of the internal gross product per inhabitant have been fixed in such a way as the disparity of the incomes existing in the developing and developed countries, to be reduced to about half till 2000 year. If today the existing disparity regarding the average income is of 12 to 1, the report forsees a decrease to only 7 to 1, around 2000 year. Leontief's report shows that for reaching this objective should be necessary a higher growth rate of the

internal gross product per inhabitant in the developing countries, objective that can be achieved only by a high rate of accumulation of 35—40%.

The model lieing at the base of this work is of input-output type. It is an absolute première the use of this very useful and valuable mathematical instrument in macroeconomic planning and forecasting which is the input-output model, in working out an world model. Leontief presents an worked out model which takes into account the reality of national economies, the world system being devided in 15 regions. The input-output model used within the system offers the possibility of describing in details the complex and differentiated structure of the world economy. Each of the fifteen regions in which all the developing and developed countries are grouped, is conceived as an esemble of 48 producing and consuming sectors connected among them, as well as to the economies of other regions, by flows of goods and services. The model lieing at the base of this study was used for forecasting eight development variants of world economy — each based on concrete hypothesis — beginning with 1970 year till 2000 year, outlining the levels of the indicators considered in 1980 and 1990 years. Six of the eight scenarios taken into consideration are based on three combinations of alternative hypothesis concerning the future increase of population and on two alternative ensembles of objectives previously fixed for the future increase of the internal gross product per inhabitant (one with higher levels and another with lower levels).

As regards the resources, the main element which has determined the apocalyptic conclusions of Meadows' study, the authors have used autious estimates for not drawing final conclusions. Their research whose conclusion is that the endowement with mineral resources is generally sufficient for supporting a higher economic growth, is scientifically characterized, the made estimates being permanently adjusted, having in view the influence of future technologies on the development and consumption of mineral resources.

As we mentioned above, the main ideea of the report is the decrease of disparities existing among the developed and the developing countries. If the future development of world system will strictly follow Leontief's model, then the shares of developing regions into the world internal gross product would increase from 13.3% in 1970 to 28.4% in 2000 year, and their share into the industrial production of the world from 9% in 1970 to 23.8% in 2000 year. To this end the conclusion of the report is implacable; in order to assure a speedy development, there are necessary two conditions: firstly, deep transformations of social political and institutional order in the developing countries and secondly important changes into the economic order. A speedy development which to lead to a substantial reduction of income disparity among the developed and developing countries, can be achieved only by joining these two conditions.

The comparative analysis of the alternative ways of world economy progress till 2000 year — each based on a different ensemble of structural and political hypothesis — allows an ample and systematic

vision on various aspects of the interdependence among the economic prospects of the developed and the developing regions.

"Future of World Economy" is a remarkable scientific rigurous objective pleading for supporting the concept of new economic international order. In a world of growing interdependences — for whose emphasis Leontief has devoted most of his life — in which the development and progress of a nation can not be regarded singularly, the presented work has the significance of a major event. May be, not all the made foreseeings will come true. But the future of world economy is a powerfull start point with whose aid other and other development scenarios of world economy will be possible to be further used.

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