

MIEC

22-7-1986

~~réunion différente de celle du~~

~~23 septembre 1987~~

sans doute

~~mais même cadre -~~

? car "cadre"
est le MIEC
(et non pas le DIEC)

ici seulement, me semble-t-il,
des notes prises au cours de la

Conférence par vous, mais

peut-être est-il de votre texte ?

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I Science - a world of complexity

MIEC
22/7/86
non-publ.

① The sequence of interventions yesterday:

Laurier stressed that there is not one unique solution because we live in ~~the~~ a profound "mutation" ^{illusion of development}

Amalia Mexico Mercedes → oil meant a boom in Mexico and in a couple of years it all vanished leaving the country impoverished + indebted
Douglas → proved that the beginning building up of an egalitarian society goes by steps + leaves necessarily for some time basic needs unfulfilled

M. Teresa Phil → good what an irony that the manipulability of some people, of groups of people can also be found in a rich country like the USA

Geal Dine → such an ~~at~~ situation reflects itself in UK with the neo-conservatism

Stephano → has shown how the intellectual paralysis in Europe has prevented us from breaking the cage of the post-ind., post-se., ...

Luiz Mariz → The path of Latin America is + but the basic same basic question is raised: democracy for what? which goals?

Alex → The answer cannot come in strictly political terms but asks for cultural foundations + values in a great diversity

Etiemo → And yet those foundations are, in turn, shaped by political choices.

Yacinty asks → Where are those choices made? maybe not any more where we imagined but rather in the very place where the confront between the super-powers is stronger.



② "Tout se tient". Everything has ~~something~~ to do with everything else.

(In the limit, there are no problems but one problem.)

But it is not a merely logic relation.

Rather, one thing interferes with, provokes the other. This is true of any two factor in these series, of any 3, of all. This is why we speak of a new notion:

complexity, which means that many variables are creating in a dynamic way many diversified situations

③ tool to deal with complexity:
system-science

System is a set of events, things, phenomena, who are autonomous and yet, interdependent.

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④ Fascination of living in such a world:
complexity outside
+ inside ourselves

Can we solve the problems?
Not only what or how
but why

{ The facts in themselves
The acceleration of history - tech become obsolete
The spreading/intertwinning of tech - m-m/world systems

④ Complexity includes the capacity of self-organization.
Real source of innovation

⑤ Global learning

⑤ complexity as a simplification device is the process of develop/:

because of micro-electronics, reformer, bio-technology,

it is possible to blend traditional technologies with high technology

∴ possibility of short-cut in the process of development

⑥ develop/ seen now:

~~as state of eco-systems~~

~~disorder of internal systems~~

~~effects of scientific discoveries~~

⑦ complexity having a negative effect "perverse effect":

The rapidity of change may lead to fundamentalism based on ethnic, religion, language, region
 ↓ extreme position, reducing issues

Attempts to cope with worldwide dimensions
"See what they did with ~~our~~ ^{their} ~~land~~... of all kinds of problems

① Institutions of Great hope

1. politically: UN system (no more war)

as a regulating mechanism of
international conflicts

Yet, since WWII more than 140 wars.

incapacity of the system to function

- economically: the Bretton-Woods institutions
born of tremendous economic power of USA
IMF / World Bank / Marshall Plan /
the General Agreement on Tariffs + Trade

Yet, what we have today is
an institutionalized world economic disorder.

② ~~Highlighting~~ Substitute mechanisms in the last years:

if you want to discuss international org. — you are 12
if you want to discuss industrialization
aid to development, unemployment — you are 7

" " " " N/S big money questions — you are 5

" " " " discuss peace — you are just 2 !!

③ Other attempts have been made in the last 10-15 years gaining momentum in the last 5 years:

- Club of Rome → opinion-making
- Brandt Comm. / Palme Comm.
- Leadership forum → strategies

• InterAction Council

④ Shift from Atlantic to the Pacific (consequences)



III. Leadership

① dominant role of the ^{political} leaders / raised by Africa/USA/UK
and yet their incapacity to change situations, often to grasp problems

② "first duty of political leaders is to lead".
- to be lucid
- to call a spade a spade
- to confront the people with the real issues

~~But~~ yet electoral mentality creating artificial realities,
e.g. — to promise employment for all
— to " increase of welfare allowances, ~~at~~

in order to strengthen mechanism of security (of which Stéphane Hugué so eloquently), indeed a safety net

③ ~~m-m~~ reinforcing image of leader rather than portraying goals + objectives
— in elections the population is, in fact, choosing a product of marketing like a detergent or a shampoo

Q: can the ~~elector~~ citizen accept the truth?

Not anymore ~~world~~ crises but institutional world economic disorder

IV External debt

① The "debt bomb"

{ indicates failure of economic policies
is equally dangerous for dev.^d + dev.^{ing} c.

It is a debtor + creditor problem.

② Who are the debtors? N^o 1: USA

US\$ 400 billion

relation to GNP

to exports

to remittances of migrant workers

③ Possible measures:

- restriction of annual debt service payments of a debtor country to an agreed maximum
- consolidation of short-term debts to medium-term fixed interest bonds
- multi-year rescheduling instead of the current shortest term practice
- capitalization of interest
- additional measures

③ Conditionality of IMF

+ mismanagement by political leaders

- no plan

④ - no priorities

- just begging

⑤ Baker plan

- Seoul, Oct. 85

- replenish / of capital in IMF + encourage /
to commercial banks ^{World Bank}
- case by case approach: only successful
if previous points are taken very seriously
and if it is done soon

⑥ correlation debt / trade-protectionism

need for a fair initial trading
regime

new round of GATT
only if it goes together with the
monetary system

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- ⑦ no way out if } national leaders
 } initial officers
are not aware of nat / \Leftrightarrow initial interdependence



V. Arm's race

- ① Importance of institutionalized dialogue between leaders of super-powers (and as general principle)
- ② Equilibrium at ever lower levels of armament.
- ③ In Geneva, Reagan/Gorbachev agreed to use all ~~force~~: negotiating ~~for~~ platforms:
 - reduction of intercontinental ballistic missiles to be established by a Strategic Arms Reduction & Talks (START)
 - ~~the~~ ^{the} intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) problems should be solved separately, preferably by a zero solution (they both proposed it at \neq times)
 - Vienna talks on Mutual Reduction of Forces in Central Europe should be reopened so that stable equilibrium between conventional forces may diminish the risk of nuclear early first use.
 - CSCE should be implemented
- ④ In Geneva they restated "to negotiate effective measures relating to cessation of nuclear arms race + to nuclear disarmament." Article VI of Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)
- ⑤ They should negotiate a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)
(Gorbachev proposed a moratorium.)
- ⑥ Stars War by 4, of 15, 16

VI Next generation of problems

① Because of the complexity + ~~mutual~~
~~interdependence~~, new problems are
mainly in the interfaces:
security / development
environment / human settlement
hunger / poverty
climate / influence of man on environment
~~interdependence~~ / autonomy
technology / culture

② For the next generation (yours) the
task is paramount, dramatic.

③ What is needed?

Vision to conceptualize
but also to dream

process to get ~~there~~ to the goal
but also to be attentive to the 7 steps

strategy to make sure that the vision
is ~~present~~ implemented
+ the process is not changed
by a "perverse effect"

④ Need of articulation of short-term / long-term

- decisions to be taken now,
always with risk in them
- having in mind a clearly defined
perspective

Organization
Structure

VII Main context: information society

① a new form of relating persons, materials, data with electronics, robotics, micro-processors.

- not an abstraction but as an economic reality
- greater rhythm of change because of innovation in communication + computers
- application to traditional industries and later to new ones, generating new fields, new products

Civilization of immaterial → *type spirit*

② together with ~~it~~ this change, another one which is happening and of which we don't know yet all the results:

the developments in natural sciences, namely biology + molecular biology.

~~These~~ life-sciences, for the first time, give the same foundation to the study of all reality. From Physics + Chemistry to biology.

Life-sciences have impact ^{on} not only the microbiological fermentation industry + agriculture, fisheries, medical care but also engineering + industry

Rather than constituents of a new branch of natural science, life-sciences can be seen as something that can change the very structure + character of modern science + technology.



③ We are facing a civilizational mutation from the material civilization to the life-centered civilization. From physics + chemistry to biology.

④ There are dangers + pitfalls, most of all:

- to develop in this civilization only the tele-observed mentality (another form of consumer's society, only more dangerous, because tele-objects create the "illusion" of being subjects - even Snoopy ~~is a game !!~~ + Lucy is a game !!)
- to deal with life-centered realities as if they would be mere material objects - surrogate mothers---

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~~⑤ Demands put on individuals + societies~~

~~- for the individual: entering into a clear determination of goals + limits~~

~~- for the society:~~

⑤ immaterial civilization → leading to an awareness
life-centered " "

that the spirit is at work everywhere, that the Spirit fills the whole earth, the Spirit of the Lord is the 'ultimate form of life

→ a love of the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of ~~the~~ risen from the dead, alive in our history

||| (Hans Küng)
New Thinking → if possible, to deepen the theology of the Spirit

VIII Ethics / Knowledge / world governance

- ① from the micro to the macro,
- one single ethics → 'Etica array document'
- no dichotomy private/public
(w's ~~moves~~ shown interplay between both)

- ② as science is but probability
in the universe of uncertainty
the law comes from within

(the self)
(the mankind)
- every generation has to interpret the limits:
in order to save life, in order to give space to human freedom

- ③ the personal law, the personal ethics:
awareness of one's own limits,
shown to us by life → structuring of the
human person,

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forbidden
until there is a sign, recognizable only
by the person: "from this fruit you shall not eat"

- ④ science not any more neutral, we have created
scientific tools which ~~carry~~ destruction ~~with~~
themselves

"you shall not eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge"
We did. And we recognized that we were
naked. And we are ashamed.

Every time is the time of the creation. ~~for~~
whom, ~~for~~ whom, for whom, are things created?

a (new) theology of creation

- balance/equilibrium of universe threatened
by foolish use of destruction means

"To wonder. To act."

DATE

~~Yesterday at the end of the presentation~~
~~of how the British people feel about their c.~~
said that the task of the students
is to help to question issues in society.

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