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Report

drawn up on behalf of the Committee on Development
and Cooperation

on urbanization in the Third World and the consequent
growth of shanty towns

Part A: Motion for a resolution

Rapporteur: Mr K. DE GUCHT

PE 89.076/fin. | A
Or. En.

At its sitting of 6 July 1981 the European Parliament referred the motion for a resolution by Mr DE GUCHT and Mr DE CLERCQ, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, on shanty towns in the Third World (Doc. 1-361/81) to the Committee on Development and Cooperation as the committee responsible, and to the Committee on Budgets for its opinion.

At its meeting of 21 October 1981 the Committee on Development and Cooperation requested Mr DE GUCHT to draw up a working paper on this subject.

By letter of 25 April 1983 the Committee on Development and Cooperation was authorised to draw up a report on the motion for a resolution by Mr VERGES and others, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, on special Community action in favour of India's most distressed cities (Doc. 1-838/82). The Committee on External Economic Relations, which had originally been designated the committee responsible, was asked for its opinion, as was the Committee on Budgets.

On 16 June 1983 the Committee on Development and Cooperation appointed Mr DE GUCHT rapporteur.

The draft report was discussed on 1 December 1983. At that meeting it was decided that Mr DE GUCHT should extend the draft report to cover the general problem of urbanisation in the Third World and the consequent growth of shanty towns, taking account of his earlier working paper.

At its sitting of 21 December 1983 the European Parliament referred the motion for a resolution by Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI and others, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure, on a special EEC action programme to improve conditions in the shanty towns or favelas of Brazil (Doc. 1-1122/83) to the Committee on Development and Cooperation as the committee responsible.

At its meeting of 26 January 1984 the Committee on Development and Cooperation decided that Mr DE GUCHT should include consideration of this motion for a resolution in his draft report.

The committee considered the draft report at its meetings of 21 March 1984 and 29 March 1984. It adopted the motion for a resolution unanimously on 29 March 1984.

The following took part in the vote with Mr Poniatoski in the chair:
Mrs Focke, vice-chairman; Mr De Gucht, rapporteur; Mr Cohen, Mr Irmer,
Mr C. Jackson, Mr Pearce, Mr Price(deputizing for Mr Sherlock), Mr Vergeer,
Mr Verges.

The Committee on External Economic Relations has not presented an
opinion.

The report was tabled on 29 March 1984.

The deadline for tabling amendments to this report will be indicated
in the draft agenda for the part-session at which it will be debated.

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A.

The Committee for Development and Cooperation hereby submits to the European Parliament the following motion for a resolution together with explanatory statement :

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

on the problem of urbanization in the Third World and the consequent growth of shanty towns

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the motion for a resolution tabled by Mr VERGES and others on a special Community action in favour of India's most distressed cities (Doc. 1-838/82),
- having regard to the motion for a resolution by Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI and others on a special EEC action programme to improve conditions in the shanty towns or favelas of Brazil (Doc. 1-1122/83),
- having regard to the working document of 9 November 1982 by Mr Karel DE GUCHT on Third-World shanty towns (PE 81.365),
- having regard to the report by the Committee on Development and Cooperation (Doc. 1-120/84),

A. whereas throughout the world over 200 million people live in inhuman conditions on the outskirts of big cities,

B. whereas in many large third world cities over 50% of the inhabitants live in shanty towns which are continuing to increase in size partly due to population growth and partly because of continued influx of people from rural areas,

- C. whereas the urban population explosion is a sign of ominous structural developments in the Third World and, if there are no changes within a reasonable period, there will be social upheavals with unpredictable but undoubtedly distressing consequences,
- D. whereas shanty towns can no longer be regarded as a marginal problem, firstly in view of the number of people involved and secondly because they are a world-wide phenomenon, to be found in India, Africa and Latin America,
- E. whereas it appears from studies and experience of shanty towns in several continents that renovation is possible and that other solutions such as expulsion or razing to the ground are pointless because they do not tackle the roots of the problem,
- F. recognizing the economic significance of shanty towns in view of the development of the informal sector and links with the formal sector,
1. Considers that renovation can only be carried out if a number of basic principles are respected, in particular the legal protection and the right to housing of the population of the shanty towns; considers also that the explosive situation that they are liable to create in the future should encourage governments to consider giving the right to housing precedence over passive property rights;
 2. Considers that experience shows that renovation should be based on housing construction adapted to local conditions and the mentality of the inhabitants; considers also that supervised self-help building is a more realistic solution since it offers the possibility of using local materials and labour;
 3. Believes that the problem of shanty towns in general should find a place in the European Community's present and future development projects, both within the framework of the Lomé conventions and in the European Community's relations with the non-associated countries,

4. Considers that development projects must be combined with a rural policy to counteract the impoverishment of the countryside and these two goals must be tackled in conjunction,
5. Considers that non-governmental organizations can play an important role in helping shanty towns and that it is by co-operation with these organizations in particular that the European Community can make a tangible contribution to the shanty-town problem;
6. Calls on the European Commission to take into account the explosive situation in Third World cities in its development cooperation policy relating to the Lomé agreements, the various cooperation agreements and its cooperation with non-governmental organizations;
7. Considers that the only way that growth of shanty towns can be reduced is by more urgent attention to rural development and the quality of life in rural areas, thereby reducing the rural exodus;
8. Calls on the European Commission to urge its partners in the cooperation agreements that they too should recognize the shanty-town problem and incorporate it in cooperation negotiations;
9. Advocates a development policy that takes account of the local social and demographic situation, in order to halt the depopulation of the countryside, guarantee local food production and, in the longer term, stop the drift towards the cities;
10. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission and the Council.