

# ANALYSES ET COMPTES RENDUS

---

## TRAINING CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN NATIONAL INCOME

*organized by*

THE SOCIETY OF POLITICAL ECONOMY, STATISTICS AND LEGISLATION

*in collaboration with*

UNITED NATIONS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION  
AND ITS STATISTICAL OFFICE.

---

The major objective of the Training Center is to increase the knowledge of national income and to secure the eventual improvement of national statistics on which it is based in order that they may fulfill national as well as international needs for sound estimates.

Attainment of this objective may be furthered by:—

(a) Giving specialised training in the definition and conceptual framework of national income and related aggregates.

(b) Training personnel in techniques and practices of the statistical methods used in the measurement of national income, and applications in economic analysis and policy.

(c) Dissemination of information on international standards and recommendations to improve national statistics and international comparability.

(d) Development of close working relationships and co-ordination of efforts between national agencies concerned with the collection of economic data and statistics.

(e) Exchange of ideas among responsible personnel and research workers in this field.

### ORIGIN OF THE CENTER.

The problem of improving national income estimates through the medium of the Training Center has been well indicated in the inaugural address delivered by Dr. Helmy Bahgat Badawi, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and chairman of the Board of Directors of the Center. An extract of this speech is quoted hereafter :

"The Société has for long, given much thought to the field of national income. Its various aspects and problems have repeatedly been studied in our discussion group, and valuable contributions to the literature in the field have appeared in our quarterly publication, *L'Egypte Contemporaine*. The more we dealt with that subject, the more we came to realize that it has not received, in our country its due of closer study and attention. We especially felt the lack of relevant accurate statistics and sound estimates.

The disadvantage to our economic policies consequential upon the lack of such basic data, could not be exaggerated.

The Société, in the circumstances decided to undertake this project with a view to promote the interest in the national income studies and applications. The competent authorities in the Government welcomed our initiative which was soon approved by the Technical Assistance Administration of the United Nations. It is thanks to its collaboration and assistance that this project has been made possible."

### SPONSORS.

The Center was sponsored by the Society of Political Economy, Statistics and Legislation, the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration, and its Statistical Office, and was held at the building of the sponsoring Society, from 12 January to 22 April, 1953.

#### Contribution of the Society :—

(a) The Society complied fully with all the responsibilities according to the terms of its agreement with the United Nations.

(b) Designated a Director to the Training Center, Mr. Mansour Mashaly, Director of the Statistical Department of the Egyptian Government.

(c) The excellent facilities of the building of the Society was made available to the center, including classrooms, Stationary, duplicating facilities and clerical assistance.

(d) Arranged to provide and pay for the suitable housing, with full board, of the United Nations experts.

### **Contribution of the United Nations.**

(a) In terms of staff the United Nations engaged the service of Mr. Pieter de Wolff of Amsterdam (Netherlands) for a period not exceeding five months for the purpose of advising and assisting the Society in the organization of the Training Center on recent methods and procedures in economic statistics, especially national income statistics.

(b) Made available the services of Mr. John Crawford (U.S.A.) for a period not exceeding five months. Mr. Crawford's principal duties were arranged as to assist in the operations of the Training Center, and to work on improving estimates of national income in Egypt.

(c) Agreed to pay the travelling expenses of the two experts from their places of residence to Cairo and return, as well as their salaries plus suitable allowances in accordance with regulations laid down by the Technical Assistance Administration.

### **DIRECTION OF THE CENTER.**

#### **Board of Directors :—**

A Board of Directors was set up to decide on broad policy and on important administrative matters. The committee was fortunate in having as its Chairman Dr. Helmy Bahgat Badawi, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Secretary General of the Sponsoring Society. Members of this board are : Dr. Abd El Hakim El Rifai, Director, Crédit Hypothécaire Agricole d'Egypte, Dr. Abd El Moneim El Shafei, Director, Taxation Department, Mr. Sani El Lackani, Ex-Economic Consultant of

the Ministry of National Economy, Mr. Mansour Mashaly, Director, Statistical Department, and Mr. Pieter De Wolff, Expert, Technical Assistance Administration of the United Nations.

The direction of the Training Center was entrusted to Mr. Mansour Mashaly.

The Board met on January 5, 1953 and decided on the qualifications of the participants to be admitted to the training center, their number, and the date of the opening of the Center. The committee assigned two Egyptian specialists, namely, Mr. Bahgat El Tawil and Dr. Saleh Toulan (both are members of the Technical Committee of the Statistical Department) to assist the United Nations experts in lecturing on refresher courses, and designated Mr. Ibrahim Kassem, Chief, Taxation Statistics Section, Statistical Department as Administrator Assistant Director of the Training Center.

### PROGRAM OF WORK.

The efficient organization of national income research requires that the officials responsible for providing the basic data have a proper understanding of the basic data needed, the definitions and classifications to be used, and the significance of the data in the overall framework of tables of national income and expenditure. A considerable amount of time have also to be given to the discussion of various techniques used in the Statistical evaluation of national income.

The teaching staff met several times and agreed that the curriculum of the center would be organized around the following categories of work :

- (a) Basic Courses :
- (b) Refresher Courses :
- (c) Discussion Groups.

#### (a) Basic courses :—

These courses include national income and related items e.g. basic concepts of national income and related totals, principal methods of measurement, statistics of capital formation, national income at constant prices, principles of social

accounting, applications of national income analysis, international comparison of national income.

**(b) Refresher courses :—**

These courses include statistical methods and economics as applied to national income studies.

**(i) Statistical methods :—**

This course includes a review of the statistical methodology. The description of frequency distribution, the computation of averages, measures of variation, elements of correlation, index numbers and sampling were also studied.

**(ii) Economics :—**

The series of lectures on economics were designed to provide the students with a brief review of general economic theory including such topics as price, monetary and macro-economic theory. In addition some of the lectures were used to discuss current economic problems of Egypt such as recent monetary developments, economics of land reform, pattern of tax receipts, etc...

**(c) Discussion groups :—**

Discussions have been organized at regular intervals with the students in order to facilitate their understanding of the subjects treated in the courses.

### **PARTICIPANTS.**

The sponsoring society prepared a special application form including certain information about every participant (Name, age, address, colleges attended, year of graduation, main subjects included in formal education, present position or activity). The forms were sent to the concerned ministries, administrations, institutions, etc., to be filled in. For reasons of efficiency, the number of participants was limited to 60 persons from various Ministries, Administrations, Banks and other institutions. As a rule, participants are college graduates. However experience in the field of statistics and economics was taken into consideration.

The center was officially inaugurated on January, 12, 1953, at the Building of the sponsoring Society. The Prime Minister, General Mohamed Naguib, delegated Dr. Mohamed Fouad Galal, Minister of National Orientation to represent him at the opening of the Center, which was attended by more than 200 personalities from various national and international agencies interested in the field.

The inaugural address was delivered by Dr. Helmy Bahgat Badawi. Mr. Mashaly gave a summary on the importance of statistics as a basis for the estimation of national income as well as other research work, which was followed by an address delivered by Mr. Pieter de Wolff on the usefulness of national income statistics and the international collaboration in this technical field.

I. K.

---

*Speech delivered by Dr. HELMY BAHGAT BADAWI, Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Training Center for Research in National Income, at its Inaugural Ceremony, on January 12, 1953.*

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to announce, this evening, the opening of the Training Center for National Income Studies.

The Société has, for long, given much thought to the field of national income. Its various aspects and problems have repeatedly been studied in our discussion group, and valuable contributions to the literature in the field have appeared in our quarterly publication, *L'Égypte Contemporaine*. The more we dealt with that subject, the more we came to realize that it has not received, in our country, its due of closer study and attention. We especially felt the lack of relevant accurate statistics and sound estimates.

The disadvantages to our economy and to our economic policies consequential upon the lack of such basic data, could not be exaggerated.

The Société, in the circumstances decided to undertake this project with a view to promote the interest in the national

income studies and applications. The competent authorities of the Government welcomed our initiative which was soon approved by the Technical Assistance Administration of the United Nations. It is thanks to its collaboration and assistance that this project has been made possible. The Organization made available, for the duration of the Center, the services of two distinguished experts in the field, Mr. De Wolff and Mr. Crawford, whom I am sure, will contribute most to the success of this cooperative project.

The aim of this Center is to enable a substantial number of students of economics and statistics to further their studies in this most important field of economic life. The response was indeed remarkable. Applications for participation far exceeded the facilities available and a selection was carried on the basis of previous training and possibilities of putting whatever new techniques that might be acquired, into use.

In accordance with those criteria more than sixty university graduates working in governmental departments, or in private institutions have been admitted to the Center.

We feel confident that once those participants shall have completed their training in the center, they would contribute largely to a better development of national income analysis and statistics and to a fuller utilization of this vital branch of economic discipline. It is a good omen that this project should take place in a period when our national efforts are being organized for a systematic and integrated movement of reconstruction and development under the new regime.

On behalf of the Société, I express my deep appreciation to the United Nations for its cooperation in establishing this center, which, I am sure, furthers its economic and social goals. To you, Ladies and Gentlemen I extend our heartiest thanks for attending the opening of this Center.

*Address of Mr. MANSOUR MASHALY, Director General of the Statistical Department, and Director of the Training Center for Research in National Income, at its Inaugural Ceremony on January 12, 1953.*

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to me to stand here to-day among you as the director of the first training center on National Income studies.

The "Société d'Economie Politique, de Statistique et de Législation has conferred this honour upon me and I wish to express my gratitude to the society represented in the person of its President Dr. Abdel Hamid Badawi. The credit for organizing this important center must go to this society.

Since the purpose of this center is of paramount importance the society has made every effort towards establishing it through the help of Dr. Mahmoud Fawzi, the ex-permanent Egyptian delegate to the U.N.

The first estimate of the national income of Egypt was published by this Society in its periodical « L'Egypte Contemporaine » about 30 years ago.

There is no need for me to stress the importance of statistics as a basis for the estimation of national income as well as other research work that aim at improving the Socio-economic conditions of the country.

I am pleased to state the fact that the Statistical Department, in spite of its limited resources is well appreciated by all those who get in touch with it.

Its officials are self-denying, unknown soldiers whose motto is, union, discipline and work.

Statistical data were collected thousands of years ago by our ancestors, the Pharaohs, to serve purposes of state war. Also in one of the verses of the Koran it is stated that God has recorded everything in a fully comprehensive and clarifying register.

The step taken by this society coincided with the United Nations Policy of fostering international cooperation and the exchange of services. The United Nations has provided us with the services of two of its experts, namely Mr. de Wolff of Netherland and Mr. Crawford of U.S.A., both, well known experts in the field of national income. This cooperation brings to my mind this verse by an Arab poet : Quote "Peoples of this world, bedouins and urbanized alike have to, and do serve each other, without realizing this fact".

*Speech delivered by Mr. PIETER DE WOLFF, Director of the Municipal Bureau of Statistics of Amsterdam, and United Nations Representative to the Training Center for Research in National Income at its Inaugural Ceremony on January, 12, 1953.*

Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour and a pleasure to me that I may address this audience at the occasion of this first lecture at the Training Center for National Income Statistics in the presence of so many authorities. I consider this to be a proof of the profound interest your country takes in the problems which will be treated here in the course of the next four months. It is this same interest which I have been able to observe from the personal contacts I have had during the few days I have stayed in your beautiful country and from the kind and efficient assistance I have received so far and which is of such a great importance to the organization of our work.

I think it is a highly significant fact that the *Society of Political Economy, Statistics and Legislation* under the presidency of Dr. Abdel Hamid Badawi has taken the initiative in organizing this first Training Center on National Income Statistics in cooperation with the Technical Assistance Program of the United Nations.

It is evident that the United Nations in their endeavour to aid the nations of the world has given strong support to the plans. The Statistical Office of the U.N. is also vitally concerned in increasing the knowledge of national income statistics and improving the data on which it is based. As a matter of fact the Statistical Commission of the United Nations, at its fourth and fifth sessions, recommended that the Secretariat should continue its work on proposals for providing a uniform basis for reporting national income statistics and stressed the need for establishing standards in this field as soon as possible. The Statistical Commission envisaged that, in order to take account of the experience of different countries in this field, experts from different countries should participate in this work. The sending of experts in this field to Egypt is a direct outgrowth of this resolution.

We appreciate highly the honour of having Dr. Bahgat Badawi, Minister of Commerce and Industry, in his capacity of Secretary General of the Society deliver an address at the opening of the Training Center and thereby officially underlining the importance the Society attaches to the work that will be done at the Center.

Economic life is getting greatly more and more complicated and already now many complex processes are involved and to understand these processes better an increasing amount of information is being gathered all over the world. Much of this information belongs to the realm of economic statistics.

It is easy to understand that, as the volume of information grows, there is an increasing need to systematise it and to put together the ever expanding mass of data into a coherent picture of economic structure. In pursuing this aim one has to find a compromise between two contrasting tendencies. At one side there is the desirability to give a picture which corresponds as accurately as possible to reality in its many different aspects and this leads to the inclusion of as many details as possible. At the other hand there is the necessity of having a workable system which means that the number of economic variables entering into the picture has to be restricted. It is not possible to say beforehand where the most useful compromise will be found. It will however, be clear that it is a necessary condition to restrict oneself to broad national categories like national income, consumption, production of branches of industry or even total production, national investments and so forth, e.g. to so called national economic aggregates.

The efforts to arrive at an all inclusive description of the economic life of a country have taken a number of distinct, but practically related, forms.

One group of investigators has been concerned mainly with the concept and measurement of national income and product and their development into a system of national accounts. Another group has approached the general problem from a somewhat different point of view which has resulted in the establishment of so called input-output tables which display the structure

of commodity flows between industries. Still other groups have concentrated on tracing purely financial flows in the economic system or on stocks rather than flows, on wealth rather than on income and production.

Much has been done in recent years to reconcile these different though highly important approaches and although attention will be given at the Center to the different lines of thought, the major attention will be devoted to the problems of defining and measuring national income.

The choice of national income as the focus of this Training Center is, I believe, a particularly appropriate one since the concept of national income embraces the major measures of economic welfare such as production, investment and consumption. It is only through a knowledge of these interrelated processes that plans for economic development and raising the well being of a nation can be drawn up and carried out in a satisfactory fashion.

Inspection of the figures, even available for only a single year, yields information on the structure of an economic and for the formulation of wise public policy. They show already what part of the total product is consumed as opposed to that part which is added to the stock of capital. It is possible to see to what extent the economy is dependent on foreign trade, which parts of total production originate in the different industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, commerce and transport.

If figures are available for a series of years still more important conclusions may be drawn from them. It is then possible to follow the course of the economic development and to check the results of the economic policy adopted. In this connection the recently appointed Permanent Council for the Development of National Production should benefit greatly in its long range planning from a developed system of national accounts. They form an excellent guide in allocating the huge sums which will have to be invested in order to realise the program of rapid industrialization your Government is considering.

Having shown you the usefulness of national income statistics, I should now like to recall the work which already has been done in this country in this field and on which we are going to base our future work. The first estimate which ever has been made, as far as I know, is due to Dr. Levi, the former Controller of the Statistical Department; it refers to 1922 and it is only a very rough one according to the gaps in the statistical material available at that time. It nevertheless shows clearly the great interest present in your country for the subject at a date at which were still completely lacking in most other countries. A second phase in the work was the estimate of Dr. Shafei, made a few years later, and in the third place we now have at our disposal the material contained in the dissertation of Dr. Anis and of an estimate recently turned out by the Statistical Department under the supervision of Mr. Mashaly. Looking at these most recent data it is easy to see that great progress has been made. The available statistical material has been greatly improved and many guesses have been replaced by reliable figures. Still much remains to be done. The differences between the various estimates are still considerable and especially in the field of investment which is of such a vital importance as I mentioned before, many basic data are still lacking.

Before concluding my lecture, I should like to say a few words on the organization of the center. At the end of 1951 Dr. Derksen, in charge of the national income branch of the United Nations Statistical Office paid a visit to Egypt at the request of the Society and of the Ministry of Finance. He drew up a memorandum which has served as a basis for the organization of this center. In the course of 1952 the plans gradually formed and as of the present the preparatory work has been done and the Center has become a reality.

The United Nations has made possible the appointment of two experts to the Center, Mr. Crawford from the Statistical Office of the United Nations is one of them. I feel very honoured to be invited to act as the other one. With the cooperation of a number of your countrymen we hope to run this center for which the Society has also provided the material means, including housing, secretariat, college rooms and so forth.

The main subject of the center in which approximately sixty officials from governmental agencies, banks and other societies will take part as students, will be formed by a course on national income statistics, supplemented by refresher courses on statistics and economics. Moreover plans have been made to introduce lectures on related subjects by university professors and persons from other agencies in order to broaden the basis of the education.

The center will be in close contact with the institutions preparing the basic data for the calculation of national income.

The Statistical Department, the Director General of which has already given very valuable assistance to the preparation of the Center is foremost amongst this group. Other agencies such as the various Ministries, the National Bank of Egypt and others certainly will be prepared to make an important contribution to the improvement of the basic data.

The advisory work which has to be done for this purpose can not be expected to be completely incorporated in the work which will be done at the Center and therefore Mr. Crawford, will stay for an additional eight months as has been requested by the Egyptian Government.

In conclusion I should like to express as my sincere hope that this Center may work under the most favourable circumstances and I am convinced that if the spirit of cooperation and enthusiasm that has been shown so far will be maintained in the future by all working together in the Center, both students and teachers, it will most certainly reach its goal to the benefit of this beautiful country and its hospitable inhabitants.

---

REVUE "EVOLUONS": *L'envahissement de la fiscalité risque de provoquer une révolution économique.*

C'est le titre d'un article paru dans le fascicule de Septembre 1952 de la revue *Evoluons*, organe de l'Association Générale des Notaires de France que le hasard d'une visite à un notaire nous a fait découvrir à Nice.

Très modeste quant à son volume et à sa présentation, cette revue offre au lecteur une matière d'une valeur très appréciable, car elle reflète les opinions des membres d'une corporation d'une haute tenue morale et on ne peut plus avertie en tout ce qui se rapporte aux législations civile, commerciale, fiscale et administrative.

Dans cet article, Maître Caillot, notaire à Marseille, a résumé le sens d'un rapport qu'il avait présenté au 51<sup>me</sup> Congrès des Notaires qui s'est déroulé au Touquet au mois de Juin dernier, rapport qui a suscité un très vif intérêt parmi les congressistes.

La fiscalité est une très ancienne manifestation de l'intervention de l'Etat dans le domaine économique. Elle ne cesse de subir des modifications plus ou moins susceptibles d'affecter l'économie nationale et privée.

Jusqu'au début du XX<sup>me</sup> siècle, remarque l'auteur, l'évolution de la fiscalité s'est produite dans le sens d'une restriction de son domaine tendant à libérer de plus en plus les activités individuelles et à diminuer l'emprise et l'intervention de l'Etat.

Par contre, depuis la fin de la dernière guerre, en France comme ailleurs, l'institution de nouveaux impôts tels que l'impôt progressif sur le revenu, les taxes sur les transactions et les successions, impositions rendues nécessaires par l'inflation continue des budgets de l'Etat et provinciaux, la fiscalité a de nouveau assumé le caractère personnel d'antan. Elle surveille, par conséquent, dit l'auteur, l'activité de chacun et fatalement limite la liberté. Et à mesure que la fiscalité s'aggrave, les particuliers s'évertuent à se défendre de son emprise sur leurs revenus et leurs ressources.

Ainsi l'Etat est fatalement amené à constituer un véritable arsenal de lois fiscales pour l'interprétation et l'application

desquels les contribuables se trouvent de plus en plus embarrassés et obligés de recourir aux services onéreux de spécialistes qui constituent une puissante légion.

“La fiscalité qui n'était primitivement — dit l'auteur — qu'une série de règlements particuliers sujets à une interprétation limitative *strictu sensu*, est devenue un droit spécial, tirant de lui-même ses conséquences, un droit interprétatif autonome. Le droit fiscal, qui respectait précédemment les règles du droit privé, mais s'en affranchit aujourd'hui complètement”.

Cette autonomie fait que les situations économiques et juridiques sont essentiellement envisagées du point de vue de l'intérêt du fisc. Il en résulte que souvent l'impôt ou la taxe, qui sont censés grever le revenu ou le bénéfice, aboutit en fait à un prélèvement sur le capital.

La fiscalité égyptienne, qui a subi la même évolution au cours des dernières années, en est-elle arrivée à ce point ?

Certes non. Toutefois on ne saurait nier que le taux de l'impôt progressif sur le revenu net a déjà atteint un niveau qui affecte sans doute les activités privées ainsi que la formation de l'épargne dont le pays a grand besoin. D'autant plus que l'évolution de la fiscalité égyptienne a été particulièrement rapide et a surpris l'administration aussi bien que les contribuables habitués de longue date à un régime fiscal plus simple.

“CENTRE NATIONAL DU COMMERCE EXTÉRIEUR DE FRANCE”: *Egypte*.

C'est le titre de l'une des nombreuses monographies relatives aux principaux pays éditées par le “Centre National du Commerce Extérieur de France”.

Elle constitue un précieux vade mecum des hommes d'affaires et des importateurs et exportateurs opérant en Egypte.

Il comprend cinq chapitres étayés d'une riche documentation statistique se rapportant respectivement à la situation générale de notre pays, à ses niveaux de consommation et de production, au commerce extérieur en général et au commerce franco-égyptien suivis d'un guide de l'exportateur contenant

des renseignements généraux d'ordre pratique sur le régime douanier, le système bancaire, etc...

C'est un modèle du genre qu'il serait désirable d'adopter à l'usage de nos commerçants.

ERNEST TEILHAC : *Structure de l'économie Moyen-Orientale.*

M. Ernest Teilhac, Professeur à la Faculté de Droit de Beyrouth, a publié dans le fascicule de Décembre 1952 de la revue *Droit Social*, une étude très intéressante sur l'influence présente et future de l'industrie pétrolière sur le développement économique et social du Moyen-Orient.

Il estime que cette région, "dans un sens historique profond", joue et jouera dans l'avenir un rôle considérable dans l'évolution de l'économie mondiale.

Il aborde son étude par la constatation du décalage existant entre les réserves pétrolières de la région et la production. Celle-ci ne représente en effet qu'un cinquième de la production mondiale, tandis que les réserves représentent les deux cinquièmes des réserves mondiales. Cela tient, dit-il, à la structure des réserves mêmes et à celle de la production.

Les réserves sont irrégulièrement réparties sur toute la région, mais localisées pour une grande part sur les côtes du Golfe Persique où s'est concentré l'effort du capitalisme pétrolier, les autres réserves étant pour le moment négligées. De sorte que l'on peut dire avec l'Auteur que la structure des réserves "se traduit par une simple *apposition* du capitalisme pétrolier à l'Est et au Sud-Est du Moyen-Orient". C'est-à-dire que l'exploitation des réserves pétrolières est réalisée grâce essentiellement à l'apport du capitalisme mondial au précapitalisme moyen-oriental, sans s'y intégrer ni le modifier, et cela sous le triple aspect de capitalisme industriel, capitalisme de transport et capitalisme commercial dont l'auteur expose l'action respective.

Avant d'aller plus loin, il y a lieu de signaler que les remarques ci-après ne s'appliquent guère à l'Egypte, ni à l'Israël

dont la structure économique n'est pas comparable à celle des autres pays du Moyen-Orient.

En ce qui concerne le capitalisme industriel, l'auteur signale la faiblesse relative de la production par rapport aux réserves, mentionnée plus haut et le fait que seuls les trois cinquièmes de la production sont raffinés dans la région principalement en Iran, à Abadan.

Quant au capitalisme de transport, l'absence des moyens de transport adéquats dans la région constitue une entrave à la production, les compagnies concessionnaires étant obligées de construire les ports, les pipe-lines et les bateaux-citerne destinés à l'exportation.

Pour ce qui est du capitalisme commercial, c'est à lui que l'on doit si presque tous les pays du monde sauf la Russie, sont tributaires du Moyen-Orient pour une bonne partie de leur approvisionnement, ce qui tend à s'accroître avec l'accroissement de la production. L'Auteur se livre ensuite à l'exposé de ce qu'il désigne comme la *superposition* de l'industrie pétrolière à l'économie moyen-orientale. Il entend signaler ainsi :

(a) La faible participation de la région aux bénéfices financiers *directs* (sous forme de redevances qu'il estime modestes et d'aucune influence sur le développement économique) et aux bénéfices *indirects*, apport de devises étrangères dont une très faible part revient à la région qui les consacre à l'augmentation des importations de produits de consommation qui pourraient être produits localement et non à de biens de production.

(a) La faible participation aussi aux bénéfices économiques des habitants de la région, considérés comme producteurs et consommateurs.

En tant que producteurs, on estime à moins de 30 % la fraction de la population qui tire un profit appréciable de l'exploitation des réserves ; et en tant que collaborateurs directs on estime leur nombre à un peu plus de 100.000 personnes, presque entièrement des manœuvres. Cette collaboration directe dont il faut souhaiter l'extension doit être doublée d'une collaboration indirecte, sous la forme de production locale d'une

grande partie des produits complémentaires et accessoires dont les sociétés ont besoin et qu'elles achètent actuellement à l'étranger.

Le développement de la production pétrolière est un facteur puissant pour l'industrialisation et le resserrement de l'union moyen-orientale.

Du point de vue de la consommation, seule une partie insignifiante de la production est absorbée par la région.

De l'exposé qui précède, l'Auteur tire la conclusion que le lien entre le capitalisme pétrolier et le précapitalisme moyen-oriental reste trop financier et juridique, et pas assez économique et technologique. Aussi est-il à souhaiter un rapide changement de cette situation afin que l'industrie pétrolière contribue de plus en plus largement à la prospérité de la région et à élever son standard de vie qui reste très bas.

Dr. I. LÉVI.

---