

LA PAIX DES GRANDS — L'ESPOIR DES PAUVRES

Peace among the great powers — Hope for poorer nations

This publication³, which has a preface by Claude Julien, consists of a collection of articles that appeared in the *Monde diplomatique* monthly in the course of 1989.

The views and opinions of authors on different continents build up a picture of a contemporary world undergoing profound changes. The book is both a study and a diagnosis of the complex global crisis now facing us. Finding comprehensive solutions will be quite a challenge in today's increasingly interdependent world.

Among the endemic problems highlighted in the book is the ever-widening gap between the rich countries and their poor neighbours, whose capital vanishes abroad and whose external debt, together with the restrictions imposed by the International Monetary Fund, has assumed crippling proportions.

The situation is compounded by new factors such as the damage being done to the environment, which calls for concerted ecological action, and the phenomenon of mass migration caused by war and famine, with its far-reaching economic and social consequences.

The transformation in relations between the great powers, the beginnings of disarmament, the growing danger represented by low-level regional conflicts, US support for anticommunist rebel movements, economic difficulties and nationalist pressures in the USSR—all these changes on the international scene call for an urgent review of strategic concepts.

In the light of the plentiful details supplied by the book, security no longer appears as a strictly military matter; it also has its economic, social and ecological aspects.

Some hope emerges, for example, from the renaissance of the United Nations, where a true dialogue between North and South may at last be beginning, from further progress in disarmament and from the development of international environmental law.

This mass of information, ideas and naturally subjective opinions reveals an immense need for co-ordination in many areas affecting the "global village", and makes one think primarily in terms of solidarity. Perhaps this is the essential message the authors wish to convey.

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³ *La paix des grands — l'espoir des pauvres*, (Peace among the great powers — Hope for poorer nations), La Découverte — Le Monde, Paris, 1989, 252 pp.