

category A was highest (79 per cent) for the youngest (ages 19-20) and lowest (70 per cent) for the oldest (ages 23-25).

MARILYN SCHWARTZ ARON



## HUNGRY PEOPLE AND EMPTY LANDS<sup>1</sup>

**T**HIS essay by the past director of demographic research in UNESCO (at present University Professor of Economics in the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, India) is a lucid, impassioned if not occasionally alarmist, plea for a world population policy. Chandrasekhar sketches the now-familiar pessimistic picture of two-thirds of the world's population increasing rapidly in an area of extreme congestion and low level of living and one-third of the world's population possessing the highest levels of living and the greatest room for expansion while in or approaching the stationary phase of population growth. The rapid population increase in such areas as Japan, China, and India only serves to increase the existing imbalance of the present distribution of the world's wealth. Moreover, the whole situation is further seriously aggravated by "man's blind, insidious, unknowing war on nature" which has resulted in soil erosion and depletion of natural resources. These processes, although occurring everywhere in various degrees, are most evident in precisely those countries having the greatest population pressure. Chandrasekhar argues that these combined factors of overpopulation and the mismanagement and abuse of natural resources are essential elements in current international tensions and, if allowed to go unchecked, will very likely lead to World War III. A world population policy built upon the following five objectives is the author's remedial program. They are (1) the grant of political freedom to all colonial peoples; (2) the universal adoption of birth control; (3) planned international migration (Chandrasekhar visualizes the organization of an International Migration Authority which would promote migration, for example, from the overpopulated areas of Asia

<sup>1</sup> Chandrasekhar, S.: HUNGRY PEOPLE AND EMPTY LANDS. Indian Institute for Population Studies, Baroda, India, 1952, 306 pages, \$3.50.

to the underpopulated islands in the Pacific, such as Borneo); (4) large-scale and rapid industrialization; and (5) intensive agricultural development. The complexity of each of these plans is discussed at some length in the book and no doubt the author would agree that such a program is anything but simple. Nevertheless, it seems to this reviewer that the author is so imbued with the dire urgency of the situation that he tends to repress considerations of the problems inherent in the implementation of such a program. In brief, it would appear from the point of view of practical politics that the prerequisites for the implementation of the author's objectives place him in the unhappy dilemma of presupposing the very condition he is trying to achieve—world peace. This is not intended to suggest, however, that these very real problems he elucidates can for long be ignored. Sooner or later they will force themselves on the attention of the world and, if the author's diagnosis is correct, the alternative to collective action in at least some approach to a world population policy is indeed "a grim one."

CHARLES F. WESTOFF

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### THE POPULATION COUNCIL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

A NEW organization, The Population Council, Inc., has recently been established as a non-profit corporation in order to encourage research and education concerning the relationship of the world's population to its material and cultural resources.

The Council plans to study the problems of the increasing population of the world, to support research, and to make known the results of such research. It will serve as a center for exchange of facts and information on population questions and cooperate with individuals and institutions having similar interests.

The trustees of The Council are Frank G. Boudreau, Detlev W. Bronk, Karl T. Compton, Frank W. Notestein, Frederick Osborn, Thomas Parran, John D. Rockefeller, III, and Lewis L. Strauss.