

Foreword

John Toye

This issue of the *IDS Bulletin* examines Dudley Seers' work on development policy and development issues, and his continuing influence on these areas in the years since his death. It does so in two separate ways. In the first section of this issue, we publish the texts of three lectures on themes closely related to some on which Seers himself worked — nationalism, the future of Europe as a region and the role of the development economist. These lectures, given in a Dudley Seers memorial series, are by three highly distinguished development academics and practitioners — Hans Singer, Louis Emmerij and Gerald Meier. In the second section, we publish four new interpretative essays — by Paul Streeten, Richard Jolly, Barbara Ingham and myself — aimed at elucidating key aspects of the personality, intellectual thrust and practical leadership of Dudley Seers. This section is rounded off by Mike Faber's reconstruction of the journey leading up to Dudley's untimely and much mourned death in March, 1983. Rosalind David's first attempt at a bibliography of Dudley's many writings concludes the *Bulletin*.

After Dudley's final collapse in Washington in March, 1983, about which Mike Faber writes so evocatively on pages 00 to 00, the Institute of Development Studies at Sussex established a series of annual lectures. Their purpose was to commemorate Dudley Seers as one of the Institute's most distinguished Fellows and its Director in its formative years. It was intended that the lecturers in this series should either choose a topic linked to the themes that Dudley Seers worked on, or comment on Seers' own ideas and proposals, or preferably both. Three Dudley Seers Memorial Lectures are now published in this edition of the *Bulletin*. Hans Singer's article on 'Keynes, Seers and Economic Development' was the first Dudley Seers Memorial Lecture, given in 1984. The third lecture, on 'Europe and the Wider World', given by Louis Emmerij in 1987, and the fourth on 'The New Political Economy', given by Gerald Meier in 1988, are also published here for the first time. They provide the basis for new and interesting evaluations of many of the insights of Dudley Seers, in the light of both prior and subsequent analyses of some of the central topics with which he grappled.¹

The inclusion of these three lectures in this special issue of the *IDS Bulletin* provides a welcome opportunity to publish additional papers that

celebrate and reflect on Seers' life and influence. Paul Streeten has written a distinctly personal appreciation in which, with the skill of an impressionist painter, he captures with a few strokes and sketches, the charm and intensity of the man, his quirks and also his elusiveness. He also introduces a major theme in Seers' contribution to the political economy of development, his analysis of 'the economics of the special case'. This originally addressed the question of the type of economics that is really relevant to the policy problems of developing countries. But in the 1970s, it led to the further question whether the structuralist economics which Seers argued was most appropriate to developing countries was not also the most appropriate for developed, industrial countries as well.

The task of writing the substantial retrospective assessment of Seers' contribution to development studies and policy has been shouldered by Richard Jolly. It is a tribute to the impact which Dudley Seers had on those who worked closely with him that Richard Jolly, whose association dates back to joint work on Cuba in the early 1960s, should volunteer — despite his gruelling work schedule as Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF — to write such a difficult piece, demanding such breadth and balance of judgement, and that he should have done it so well. In particular, his discussion of the originality of Dudley Seers' statistical work, and the importance of applied statistics to his way of thinking about development policy is very welcome and apposite.

Barbara Ingham has contributed a paper dealing with an early episode in Seers' career as a policy adviser. The reason for including this (apart from its intrinsic interest as a piece of the history of late colonial Ghana) is to indicate that the intention of this *Bulletin* is by no means hagiographical. Seers himself, later in life, recognised the naivety of his early advisory work in Ghana and criticised himself publicly for it. It is important to see how far his later practice was rooted in the self-criticism of his earlier efforts. Barbara Ingham's article helps us to do this.

¹ Two other Dudley Seers Memorial Lectures have been given to date. The second, by Mary Benson on Nelson and Winnie Mandela, occurred in 1986 and the fifth, by Mike Faber on why conciliatory debt reduction must come, took place in Berlin before a large audience in September 1988. Neither is included in section one of this issue because both have already been published elsewhere — see references below.

In my own piece, I try both to draw together the threads of the three memorial lectures and to show their relation to the two themes of nationalism and structuralism which dominated the intellectual part of Dudley Seers' contribution. Both Hans Singer's and Louis Emmerij's insights clearly belong to the still lively debate about the validity of the concept of extended nationalism. But modern nationalism is usually embedded in, or embodied by, a state; and so some theory of politics is an unavoidable element in any political economy of nationalism. Jerry Meier's discussion of the new, neoclassical political economy fits in here. Despite its analytical advances, it is resistant to the inclusion of nationalism as a political motive, and so is ultimately unhelpful in the task of criticising or reconstructing Seers' idea of the nationalist state striving for development.

No-one before Rosalind David has, to my knowledge, tried to compose a bibliography of Dudley's writings. They were many and various, and certainly not confined to the economist's standard trinity of books, articles and official reports. The provisional list published here does not try to tackle all the problems that would be raised by the inclusion of newspaper articles, multiple publication and translation, and 'grey literature'. It merely tries to get the basics as straight as possible. We appeal to readers to write in with corrections which can be used in a future, more refined edition.

The incompleteness of the provisional bibliography symbolises the larger incompleteness of this *Bulletin* as a sufficient account of Dudley Seers' work for

development. We have not found space here to chronicle many of his activities, and his friends may look in vain in these pages for a mention of particular speeches and actions that were important to them. Very little is said here about the conferences which Dudley organised, like the famous one on the 'crisis in planning', whose proceedings he co-edited with Mike Faber in 1972, or the one which I helped to organise with Dudley on graduate studies for development in 1980. We also say little here of the journals which Dudley helped to start and to sustain. Again the advice and help which he gave to new institutions in developing countries — whether statistical offices or centres of development studies — has been largely overlooked here. To all those who fail to find here their favourite memory of Dudley, we apologise, acknowledging that it would take a publication many times the thickness of this one to do full justice to all the facets of his *very* extended and *very* polycentric professional achievement.

References

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