

The Co-operative Development Agency

A FOREWORD

As we approached in the summer of 1981 the end of the first assured funding of the C.D.A. it was timely to examine from different points of view its record and prospects. We print first a factual summary of its background in the Working Group which preceded it, of the main provisions of the 1978 Act setting up the C.D.A. and of the Government's decision to provide further financial support for the C.D.A. from August 1981. "This decision will give the Agency more time to prove its value and explore the possibility of becoming financially independent of the Government. The Government has not assumed any commitment to support the Agency with public funds indefinitely.

There follow the articles by Lord Oram, Chairman of the Agency 1978-81; Manuela Sykes who shared in the minority report from the Working Group; the team from the Co-operative Research Unit of the Open University.

We planned to include an article from the local and regional level of Co-operative development but in the event this hope disappeared, at least for the time being.

A Note on the Author is included after each article.

R.L.M.

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