

THE DEVELOPMENT SET

*Excuse me, friends. I must catch my jet
I'm off to join the Development Set;
My bags are packed, and I've had all my shots
I have travelers' checks and pills for the trots!*

*The Development Set is bright and noble,
Our thoughts are deep and our vision global;
Although we move with the better classes,
Our thoughts are always with the masses.*

*In expensive hotels in scattered nations
We damn multi-national corporations;
Injustice seems easy to protest
In such seething hotbeds of social rest.*

*We discuss malnutrition over steaks
And plan hunger talks during coffee breaks.
Whether Asian floods or African drought,
We face each issue with an open mouth.*

*We bring in consultants whose circumlocution
Raises difficulties for every solution-
Thus guaranteeing continued good eating
By showing the need for another meeting.*

*The language of the Development Set
Stretches the English alphabet;
We use swell words like "epigenetic"
"Micro", "Macro", and "log arithmetic".*

*It pleasures us to be esoteric-
It's so intellectually atmospheric;
And though establishments may be unmoved,
Our vocabularies are much improved.*

*When the talk gets deep and you're feeling dumb
You can keep your shame to a minimum:
To show that you too are intelligent
Smugly ask, "Is it really development?"*

*Or say, "that's fine in practice, but don't you see:
It doesn't work out in theory!"
A few may find this incomprehensible,
But most will admire you as deep as sensible.*

*Development Set homes are extremely chic,
Full of carvings, curios, and draped with batik.
Eye-level photographs subtly assure
That our host is at home with the great and the poor.*

*Enough of these verses- on with the mission!
Our task is as broad as the human condition!
Just pray GOD the biblical promise is true:
The poor ye shall always have with you.*

Anon