

- b) The Sister Churches and Mission Agencies may stop granting on the assumption that enough has been done and that the ECMY is now able to carry on her task as a church.
- c) The 3rd possibility is that the government, if it so wishes, can stop the ECMY from receiving grants from her Sister Churches and Mission Agencies. Either of these three possibilities or any other reason may happen.

This is to say that to enter into an agreement with any organization or union for the following two or three years is out of the question as far as the ECMY is concerned. How does the ECMY continue her work if there is no guarantee for the following two or three years? "We walk by faith not by sight". We believe in the providence of the Lord of the Church, speaking spiritual things to spiritual men.

We plead with those concerned not to judge the church on the basis of rules and laws issued to regulate profit-making organizations. This is to say that the inability of the church to recognize the formation of a labour union under her should not be taken as a reactionary attitude and defiance of social justice.

This apologetic approach is to solicit reasoning and understanding of the position the ECMY is maintaining. As the church by nature is not interested in profit-making, those who do not desire to serve in such an uncertain situation should decide for themselves. An organization having no assurance of a fixed guaranteed income can never guarantee its employees for years to come. To look for security where there is no guaranteed income is unreasonable (Luke 9,58).

8. Contributions to Nation Building

In the light of the present situation, I have contended in the preceding paragraphs that the functional approach is preferable to the

institutional, as far as the church is concerned, as regards our contributions to nation building for various reasons.

One reason is that the present government has declared that it would look after the welfare of its citizens, and the ECMY should not give any hint that she is competing. As stated in the Pastoral Letter, the ECMY welcomes the present changes that promote the cause of the masses and serve their interest. As a matter of fact, the ECMY has contributed her share for the changes that are taking place all over our country. In the event anyone doubts the validity of this statement and the integrity of this church, one should be referred to the resolution of the 8th General Assembly of the ECMY held at Yirgalem. In January 1973, the General Assembly of the ECMY discussed extensively matters concerning land reform and passed a resolution requesting for a land reform law. The resolution of the Assembly was communicated to the two Houses of Parliament and to the Ministries of Land Reform and the Interior (see 8th General Assembly).

The ECMY has been a pioneer in settling landless peasants under the oppressive feudal system, and if anyone is interested in ascertaining this one should visit the settlements of nomadic Shankallas in the Didessa Valley. Anno-Gambella is another model community. The contribution the ECMY makes to eliminate poverty, ignorance and disease is not to win favour from anyone. The ECMY does it because the need is there, and Christian love compels us to make as much contribution as possible, so that our country may be a beautiful and comfortable place to live in.

The ECMY will continue to contribute her share to the economic development of Ethiopia, to improve the living conditions of the people, to the political orientation of the people in being useful to society, in knowing their rights and obligations as citizens.

Training Literacy School teachers selected by the bodies concerned at the expense of the church is a possibility to contribute to the mental development of society. The provision of radio receiving sets at reduced prices, in consultation with the government, is something to be explored.

The contribution of the ECMY to the famine and rehabilitation programme should be reinforced from within our congregations as well as from abroad, knowing that our Sister Churches are showing great interest in continuing to help the drought-stricken areas of our country.

Training cooperative workers for the farmers' associations at our own expense is another way to be explored to accelerate the development of Socialist Ethiopia.

At Yirgalem a paper was submitted to the 8th General Assembly exploring different ways of providing work opportunity to some of the prostitutes in Addis Ababa. However, due to lack of a concrete plan, we have not been able to make a contribution towards the elimination of this social evil.

Now because of government's intention to change this condition we should be able to co-operate with the Government Department concerned to do our best.

Undertaking small scale industries to provide employment for urban and rural communities is something within the possibility of the ECMY, on the basis of the experience acquired in past years. In past years, the ECMY invested in development projects millions of Ethiopian dollars annually. For the sake of discussion, I have just mentioned a few examples to show the manifold ways in which we can contribute to the development of Ethiopia.