Excerpt: His Highness the Aga Khan on one of the most central issues facing Third World countries

by NANOWISDOMS ARCHIVE

Javed Jabber: As the unique international personality of our times, you have been able to visit different countries in the Third World. You are able to gain a special insight into different aspects of development that face the Third World. Of all the problems that confront us in Asia and Africa, such as medical care, nutrition, literacy, education, employment, would you care to identify one single area in which you think that certain countries need to undertake great effort which could act as a catalyst or a pivot to advance overall programmes?

Aga Khan: Very good, a very astute question and a correct question. I think you should look at the Third World countries, and essentially I am talking about Asia and Africa. I am referring as yet to South America, but if you look at most of these countries, many of their economies are dominated by one or two major cash crops. It may be jute, it may be sisal, it may be tea, it may be coffee, and so long as there is no stabilising force, which enables these countries to manage their economies, without continually being subject to fluctuation over which they have not control, these countries simply are never going to be able to plan and develop their economies; and that, perhaps in my view is one of the most central issues that has got to be resolved and quickly.

His Highness the Aga Khan's 1981 Pakistan TV Interview, Javed Jabber (Karachi, Pakistan)

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