

## Editorial

As you know, *Itinerario* is still sent free to scholars who apply for it, although we have recently had to begin charging university libraries who do not send us a relevant publication in return. Printing costs these days are alarmingly high, and our university treasurers grumble about the bills that they must pay for our printing and mailing costs. The only way we can convince people here that *Itinerario* should continue to be sent *gratis* to researchers is to show that you supply us with your own scholarly output as it appears.

So - we put it in bold face type - **PLEASE SEND US REVIEW COPIES OF ALL YOUR BOOKS AND OFFPRINTS OR PHOTO-COPIES OF ALL YOUR ARTICLES.** It is doubly in your self-interest to do so - not only does it enable us to send you *Itinerario*, but it gives you publicity because we will review your books and mention your articles. You help us - and we will do our best for you. Your review copies, by the way, are not squandered or given away to reviewers, but shelved in our growing library, in effect representing your presence here.

### Politics and Expansion History

It is one of the advantages of working within the field of expansion history and on the relations of Europe with the 'Third World' that we, as researchers, will always be more or less closely involved with many of the major issues confronting the modern world. All of us must recognize our involvement, but not let it override the scholarly work with which we can best contribute to the understanding of the modern world.

On the other hand, we must never let our involvement completely disappear behind a front of scientific detachment. When it is necessary our position should be made clear. On 20 February 1978, the Council of the Leiden University passed a resolution in which it 'considered that racial discrimination is a norm in the legal system of South Africa' and laid down that 'contacts with South Africa by organs of the University of Leiden or of members of the university community as such should only be maintained in so far they can contribute to the improvement and achievement of elementary human rights in South Africa\*'. This is a sentiment which the Centre endorses. Nevertheless, the Centre intends to continue with its research into the history of racial discrimination and the political economy of South Africa, with the various consequences that that entails in terms of contacts with the country and with individual South Africans, and with the history of other 'sensitive' countries. We do this precisely in the belief that, to quote W.Barrington Moore, 'if the men of the future are ever to break the chains of the present, they will have to understand the forces that forged them'.

The Editors

\*A translation of the substantive part of Motion 35 of the *Leidse Univer-siteitsraad*.

