

Sheen, Fulton J.: *Missions and the World Crisis*. Scepter Books/Dublin 1964; 273 p., s. 30/—

The difficulty of commenting on such a work years after publication is that such a critique is bound to put the author in a difficult position. The very concept of the Mission has been re-evaluated, re-cast, as it were, by the Second Vatican Council. While important principles underlying the Council document *Ad Gen-tes* are indeed suggested in this book, certain lacuna are unfortunately more or less evident. The participation of the Church in the advancement of under-developed countries does not seem sufficiently accentuated, while a rather constant reference to the evils of communism leaves one somewhat uncomfortable. — The first section of this book comprises an overall view of the world situation with a masterly presentation of the contrasts between eastern and western mentalities, thereby underlining the necessity of pre-evangelisation. — The hidden realities of foreign-aid policies are highlighted in another section. So often an ulterior purpose lies behind the giving and has unwarranted repercussions on the mission of the Church. Where technical assistance programs seek for instance, to promote the *American way of life*, the effect can be disastrous. — In a third chapter Bishop SHEEN speaks of the reserves of missionary power. He points out the relevance of mission courses and bewails the absence of such courses in most American universities. If the present-day missionary is not seen as a scholar and a technician and if he lacks a proper understanding of the history and culture of ex-colonial lands, he risks enslaving these people in a new sort of mental colonialism. — Subsequent chapters sketch a brief history of papal policies, treat of the importance of being mission-minded at home, and of the indispensable role of the laity in the implementation of the Church in foreign lands. Finally Bishop SHEEN speaks of spirituality and the missions, emphasizing the need for witness, for holiness, rather than for success. Although this is probably contrary to the American doctrine of pragmatism, it is in fact, the only valid criteria for the success of the mission. — In the opinion of this reader, Bishop SHEEN writes as an American for Americans. Fellow compatriots would do well to meditate these thought-provoking chapters.

Lubumbashi

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Spindler, Marc: *La mission, combat pour le salut du monde*. Delachaux & Niestlé/Neuchâtel 1967; 270 p.

Das Werk des Schweizer reformierten Theologen ist aus missionarischer Erfahrung (in Afrika) und aus mitgeteilter Reflexion entstanden: Vf. lehrt in Ivato (Madagaskar). Was er vorlegt, ist eine sehr beachtliche, durchaus eigenständige Synthese der Missionstheologie, die sich weithin und immer wieder auch katholischen Autoren verpflichtet weiß. Nach methodologischen Überlegungen voll kritischen Gehalts wird im Hauptteil das Mysterium der Mission oder die Mission als Mysterium behandelt, oft im Einklang mit dem Konzilsdekret über die missionarische Tätigkeit der Kirche. Dabei wird mit wohlthuender Klarheit zwischen Schöpfungsordnung und Heilsordnung unterschieden und die Gefahr einer Absorption des eigentlichen Missionsgedankens durch das Pathos der Entwicklungshilfe mutig bei Namen genannt. Glänzend geschrieben, beschwingt und dennoch nüchtern, bietet das Werk umfassende Belehrung und packende Ermunterung zugleich, und das in einem Augenblick, von dem mit Recht gesagt wurde: