

# RAW MATERIALS AND PACIFIC ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

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The importance of this book lies in two areas. First, in its contents and ideas; these can be expressed in one key word — 'complementarity'. This is the word used by those who see Australia's future economic development in terms of providing foodstuffs and minerals for a developing ASEAN. This is also, of course, the line pushed by the I.A.C. Crawford and Okita do realise, however, that 'maintenance of both price stability and full employment in this situation is likely to be a continuing problem' (p. 135). This is because of Australia's 'highly skewed pattern of comparative advantage', so 'the closer Australia's industrial growth is linked to her raw materials base, the better the outlook for competitive Australian industrial production' (p. 136).

The second reason for this book's importance is its authors. John Crawford was one of Australia's most powerful public servants and is an international bureaucrat (a special advisor to the World Bank); he also helped set up the I.A.C. and was its ideological beacon. He is also chairman of the Federal Government Study Group on Structural Change — and very popular with the Financial Review and National Times. Saburo Okita is chairman of the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan, former president and chairman of the Japan Economic Research Center, a candidate for election to the House of Councillors, has been heavily involved in economic planning for the Japanese Government, is a senior and active member of the Trilateral Commission (see JAPE 2), and has participated in Williamsburg Conferences.

The report is thus one link in the ideological chain of imperialism, from one of the leading bodies of transnational ideology through the Japan-Australian Economic Relations Research Project to eager recipients in the Australian ruling class and its ideological watchdogs.

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\* Raw Materials and Pacific Economic Integration, edited by Sir John Crawford and Saburo Okita, Australian National University Press, Canberra, 1978, \$19.95.

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