

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

S. DANIEL NEUMARK (1899 - 1987)

S. Daniel Neumark, Economist and Professor Emeritus in the Food Research Institute, died in Kfar Shmaryahu, Israel, on July 30, 1987, at the age of 88. Professor Neumark joined the Stanford faculty in 1954 to participate in expanded studies of the food and agricultural economies of tropical Africa that were initiated by the Food Research Institute in that year, and was an active participant in the Institute's African research until he attained emeritus status in 1965. His extensive travels in African countries helped to establish a Stanford presence in Africa south of the Sahara and contributed to the development of African Studies at Stanford.

Daniel was born in the Ukraine on September 10, 1899, and was educated in Krakow, Russia, and Bonn, Germany, with advanced studies in agriculture at Berlin's Landwirtschaftliche Hochschule and in economics at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, receiving the Master of Commerce degree in 1937. He was appointed Lecturer on that faculty in 1938 and taught there until 1947, producing numerous publications about the South African agricultural economy and performing various services for the South African government as economic advisor and agricultural administrator.

In 1947 Neumark joined the staff of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United States in Washington, D.C., and served successively as head of the African group and then head of the Near East group in economics and statistics, and as a member of the United Nations mission to Korea. In 1953 and 1954 he was an economic advisor to the Indonesian government where he played a major role in developing that country's first national accounts and national income estimates.

Like Herodotus, whom he much admired, Daniel liked to see and hear for himself, and he had a special knack for forming a reasonably accurate appraisal of a country's overall food and agricultural situation by a few days of observation and conversation with administrators, traders, and farmers, and for presenting a lucid and convincing report to others.

With this background and these skills, it was not surprising that when he joined the Food Research Institute's African research group in 1954 his first request was that he be permitted to make an extensive tour of sub-Saharan Africa, including visits to the European colonial offices of the powers that then governed most of Africa, in order to size up the food and agricultural situation for himself and to interview informed people on the spot. Other members of the Food Research Institute's staff had toured East Africa in 1951 and West Africa and the Congo Basin in 1954--Neumark undertook to do all of Africa south of the Sahara in a trip of only seven months' duration. Information collected on this extended safari formed a principal basis for "The Character and Potential of African Economies,": a general survey of sub-Saharan African economies written for the American Assembly's conference on the United States and Africa in 1958, and for the book, Foreign Trade and Economic development in Africa: A Historical Perspective (Stanford, 1964).

When Neumark first entered African studies, belief in the non-economic character of black African behavior--"living under the domain of custom and impulse" like Alfred Marshall's "savage," was widespread, as was the notion that the "Great Trek" of white South Africans was

no more than "nomadic wandering" of a people who had no attachment to place and resisted all authority. Daniel Neumark, student and friend of S. Herbert Frankel, would have none of this. In an opening chapter of his most important book, **Economics Influence on the South African Frontier: 1652-1836** (Stanford, 1957), he stated baldly that neither Bantus nor Boers were self-sufficient and that "in fact, the first contact between European and Bantu in the eighteenth century was by trade, consisting mostly of exchange of cattle and some ivory" for iron "copper, trinkets, and tobacco" (p. 25). As a disciple of Frankel, he believed strongly in the rationality and economic motivations of black men and white men alike. He recognized that one motivation of whites for the Great Trek was clearly to expand capital, although he slipped a bit when he ignored the fact that the so-called "target demand" of black men, too, was often for increased capital and spoke only of demand for consumption goods (South African Journal of Economics, 1958). But in all of his writings about African societies, economic exchange enjoyed an appropriately prominent place.

Economic Influence on the South African Frontier is a gem and deserves more than a casual mention. Its "central point, that the frontier economy of the cape was to a considerable extent a market-bound exchange economy" (p. ix), is supported vigorously and convincingly by the mass of contemporary textual information the author had collected and by his on-the-spot knowledge of physical and economic landscape. Particularly delightful are his accounts of relations in the eighteenth century between Capetown, "The Tavern of the Oceans" (ch. 6) and frontier expansion, and the chapter about "The Itinerant Trader, the "smous," who played an important role in the frontier economy during the time of the Great Trek, including a description of how profits varied with the advance of the frontier (ch. 13).

A similar theme, the interdependence of most human societies and the important contribution of economic exchange is found in Foreign Trade and Economic Development in Africa, A Historical Perspective (Stanford, 1964), which extends the story of sub-Saharan Africa and its commerce with the Mediterranean world back into earliest times. Neumark sums up (p.188), "Foreign or long-distance trade has been the driving force in African development."

In 1964, Daniel Neumark became 65 years old, an age at which Stanford professors were then required to "retire." Daniel was in no position to quarrel with University rules, but like many others he saw no reason why emeritus status and retirement should be coincidental. He accordingly simply resumed the activities he had pursued before joining the Stanford faculty, and on February 1, 1965, took up an appointment as Economic Advisor for the United Nations to the Government of Brazil. Other similar assignments followed, but he maintained a residence at Stanford and his foreign travels were increasingly more personal than professional, particularly to South Africa and Israel.

Daniel was a strong believer in-the place and future of Israel, and expressed the wish that his death and burial occur there.

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