HISTADRUT: Together with the foreign ministry this huge trade union and investment complex sponsored a ten-week course in techniques of cooperative living, beginning this September, for especially qualified farmers from ten former French and Belgian colonies. In October, it opened a school to teach African and Asian trade unionists how constitutional democracies can achieve results in economic planning and social development. This is "The Afro-Asian Institute for Labor Studies and Cooperation" and is to be a joint venture with the AF of L. The limited budget, which will be borne equally by the two unions, provides for 70 students. Representing some 30 countries this fall, they will have 300 hours of lectures and 400 hours of practical experience. In the last two years Histadrut seminars in these general fields have already graduated 130 students, mostly from Asia and Africa.

HADASSAH: According to a medical survey prepared for this women's Zionist organization, the number of native-born doctors in Africa ranges from "none in the Congo (Belgian), which has a population of 15,000,000, to 314 in Ghana, the most medically advanced country, which has a population of 6,500,000. Some 60,000 physicians are immediately needed [on this continent]." Hadassah, which is concentrating on health problems, is trying to whittle this need down. It is training a limited number of Ethiopian medical students at Hebrew University -- Hadassah Medical School -- and has set up courses for Liberian nurses.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY: More than 100 students are enrolled from such countries as Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, the Congo (Brazzaville), Liberia, Burma, India, Japan. The University's contribution to Point Four activities is primarily made on campus -- through exposure to its unrivalled academic and research facilities -- but it has also sent out several missions of experts to Africa and Asia to help organize educational systems in those areas.

"ORT" - The Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training: Traditionally, ORT has provided technical education for Jewish youth throughout the world. In November, however, it announced plans to open its centers to non-Jews from some of the world's underdeveloped countries. The ORT technical school in Israel will be expanded to make room for 40 non-Jewish students from Africa, who will be taking courses in electro-mechanics, metal machinery, carpentry and agricultural mechanics.

AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS: Long the primary attraction for the foreign visitor, Israel's agricultural settlements have proved highly successful export items to countries with tribal ways of life and capital shortages. The freer, less ideologically based moshavim are winning out in the "popularity race" with the collectivistic kibbutzim.

The Importance of Being Earnest

The British diplomat who startled Ben Gurion attributed the Israeli popularity in Asia and Africa to the fact that Israel's own advance up the industrial and technological ladder has been such a recent one. But this strategic midway position -- and the sensitivity which accompanies it -- is only part of the explanation. These other factors should be noted too in evaluating the success of Israel's Afro-Asian program:

1. The vitality and flexibility of Israeli institutions. New patterns of economic and social organization -- such as the Histadrut and the agricultural settlements -- contributed enormously to the Jewish commonwealth's own existence and security. These have now