

Caribbean regions and the European Community.

The Ivorians also stressed the need for action at two levels: first, the arena of the United Nations and other international agencies, where matters of principle could be discussed usefully but whose machinery was somewhat cumbersome for the negotiation of detailed agreements; and secondly, bilateral or "inter-regional" arrangements that can be specific and binding, such as the Lomé Convention.

My discussions with the Cameroonian authorities showed the effectiveness of African solidarity in this area. While similarly deploring the fact that the last special session at the United Nations had developed into a confrontation, they nevertheless attributed this turn of events to the energy crisis which was at that time causing grave anxiety in the industrialized countries. In the Cameroonians' view, the OPEC countries were accused of provoking the energy crisis, whereas they saw the crisis as merely one aspect of the relations between the developed and the developing nations: hence the confrontation. There persists, nevertheless, the phenomenon of deteriorating terms of trade, represented by the continuing decline in the selling price of agricultural products from the third world and increasing prices for manufactured goods from the industrialized countries. Whenever these questions come up for discussion, the producing countries and the consuming countries split into two opposing