

problem in the North-South dialogue in the 1980s but at the present time there is no way foreseen in which to carry out a productive negotiation. It will be one of the great challenges of the 1980s to find ways out of this impasse.

Whatever may emerge by way of global discussion and co-operation about energy matters, the industrialized countries are certainly deeply involved in common discussion of the energy problems. Within the European Community the first signs of common energy policies are emerging. The International Energy Agency, which embraces a wider group of industrialized countries, provides a forum and a framework for co-operative actions. In the OECD the impact of energy is front and centre in all discussions of the economic policies of member countries. The Economic Summits, in which Canada participates with the six other largest industrial countries, have focused increasingly on energy questions. Indeed, at Tokyo last summer the Heads of Government spent almost all their time grappling with energy questions.

The clear message from that meeting, attended by Prime Minister Clark, Miss MacDonald and Mr. Crosbie, was the need to reduce oil imports and consumption, and to develop alternative sources of energy.

The seven Summit countries are committed to set out oil import targets to 1985 so as to reduce their demands on the world market. They have put machinery in place to monitor their progress towards meeting these targets. They have been joined by other European countries in commitments of the same character. Of course, targets themselves achieve nothing. They do provide, however, benchmarks against which the effectiveness of policy actions can be assessed. So far as Canada is concerned, our international undertakings are in line with the Government's commitment to self-sufficiency, and buttress it by the support of the other major countries.

At Tokyo the leaders also recognized the urgent need to bring on stream alternatives to conventional oil. In the belief that the individual efforts of each country might be strengthened by international collaboration, they set up an International Energy Technology Group. The IETG is looking into problems associated with the commercialization of technically proven but commercially untried technologies. It is to identify candidate technologies which show significant promise, examine the impediments which may stand in their way, and consider how their commercialization might be brought about by concerted international action, which includes the possibility of international financing. The results are to be available by the end of March next year, well in advance of the next Summit scheduled for Venice in June.

Conservation and the development of oil substitutes will, of course, take time. Meanwhile, the industrial countries — and others as well — are exposed to the risk of interruptions of oil supply. That point hardly needs emphasis these days.

For the industrialized countries the oil shock of 1973 was the trigger for much closer co-operation among themselves in energy matters than had ever been thought necessary before. If it were to occur often, the deliberate withholding of supplies of any commodity, to achieve either price increases or political objectives, would pose a very

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