



AP Canada Wide photo

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is welcomed by Algeria's President Houari Boumedienne at Algiers airport as the Egyptian leader arrives to attend the

fourth summit of nonaligned nations September 1973. More than 70 countries were represented at the sessions in Algiers of Third World leaders.

fact countries over Berlin could have sent everybody to a premature rendezvous with eternity. It was precisely these fears and the sense of powerlessness in face of such tensions that brought the movement into being. East-West *détente* has thus removed some of the mortar that held the edifice of nonalignment together. This is not to say, of course, that, even if it does not find a precise role, nonalignment will not have a chance of survival.

Lauded by Peking

In the conventional demonology of nonalignment, the two arch-villains are the superpowers — the Soviet Union and the United States. Naturally enough, this has meant that the grouping has been much praised by Peking and the occasions of its conferences, whether ministerial or summit-level, are nowadays invariably the signal for a chorus of praise from the Chinese media. This does not please Moscow, with the result that what one may call the "ideology of nonalignment" has

become the subject of furious debate between Moscow and Peking. On the whole, Peking has had the better of the argument so far as propaganda is concerned, simply because the idea of the two superpowers as the two villains is so firmly established. Whether it is believed or not, it is a handy idea by which the members of the grouping can define what they have in common. This is just one of the reasons why it is likely that Peking's influence in the Third World will increase at the expense of Moscow's during the next few years. The Soviet Union's reputation at the Algiers meeting would probably have been even more heavily assailed were it not for its vital military support to the Arabs and the fact that the meeting was taking place in an Arab capital.

Even so, this question produced one of the major incidents of the conference. The vast majority of speakers had cast the two superpowers in joint villain roles. This brought a spirited defence of Moscow from Prime Minister Fidel Castro of Cuba,