

the management of relations among countries.

The energy problem cuts through the middle of the developing world. As against the oil-rich developing countries there are 100 or more whose energy resources are limited and whose economic progress is crucially dependent on obtaining rapidly increasing energy supplies one way or another.

The developing world currently consumes about one-third as much petroleum as the Western industrialized countries. This figure hides as much as it reveals, however, because a mere handful of the more advanced developing countries account for most of the consumption. In fact there are over 90 developing countries whose aggregate consumption is less than Canada's alone. Looking into the future, the OECD has predicted that by the end of this century the energy demands of the Third World countries will increase more than five-fold (as compared with a doubling in industrialized countries) and their import demands will increase three-fold. This rate of growth in demand is the result partly of the rapid industrialization which is taking place and the international attention being given to the satisfaction of basic human needs (which consume energy). Failure to meet this demand will not only constrain growth in the Third World but also add to international tensions.

Energy problems are thus not surprisingly an important component of the North-South dialogue. OPEC countries have consistently refused to discuss problems of energy price and supply with industrialized countries unless the matter was incorporated into broader discussions of the so-called New Economic Order. In other words, they have argued that they are prepared to place oil on the negotiating table only if the industrialized countries are prepared to negotiate changes in the international trade, monetary, commodity and development systems. OPEC and other developing countries have thus far maintained a solid front but signs of strain were evident at UNCTAD V and at the recent Havana Non-Aligned Conference.

Various attempts have been made to promote an international energy dialogue. A United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy is scheduled for 1981. As I mentioned earlier, President Portillo of Mexico has outlined the rough framework of a World Energy Plan. The developing countries have before the United Nations a proposal for global negotiations on international economic co-operation, including energy as one of the subjects for "simultaneous" negotiation. The intent of these global negotiations would be to examine the major North-South issues and the relationships between them, and search for solutions. Included would be "issues in the field of raw materials, energy, trade, development, money and finance". The resolution has the support of the Group of 77 with its 119 members. While, if adopted, such negotiations could get underway next year, it is clear that they could stake out ground in areas covered by other institutions and that both their size and scope would make them very unwieldy.

You may recall that the Conference on International Economic Co-operation (CIEC) a few years ago had similar broad aims, and did not succeed in coming to grips with energy. The problems of non-oil-producing developing countries will remain a crucial

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