

Thus the shift from the analytic phase to the action-oriented phase presented considerable difficulties which occupied a good deal of the attention of Dr. Perez Guerrero and myself during the summer months. Indeed, at the end of July the Conference seemed to be on the verge of collapse. Dr. Perez Guerrero consulted intensively with the Group of 19 (the OPEC and non-oil-producing developing countries) and I did the same with the Group of 8 (the industrialized countries). Despite obvious differences in outlook and interests, both sides were convinced of the usefulness of the dialogue and were willing to make the necessary accommodation. As a result, we were able to agree on a work formula which would enable the four Commissions to continue their work.

Specifically, it was possible to draw up work programmes for the four Commissions which were acceptable to the Group of 8 as well as to the Group of 19. Necessarily, these work programmes had to be couched in general terms and not prejudge the issues. They also tend to be all-inclusive and take in a very wide range of issues, reflecting of course the interests of the three main groups in the CIEC