
Political Issues

As in the case of previous Economic Summits, leaders and Foreign Ministers will have an opportunity at Tokyo to discuss a number of important political issues.

The current state of East-West relations and the slow pace of progress at the Geneva arms control negotiations will undoubtedly dominate the political agenda. After the tensions of the early 1980s and NATO's response to the threat posed by Soviet SS-20 missiles, last November's meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev raised hopes for an improvement in East-West relations. But little real progress has been made since then, and the impasse at the Geneva negotiations has made it questionable whether the Summit scheduled for Washington later this year will be held.

Regional conflicts throughout the world will also be a source of discussion at Tokyo. Considering the Asian venue of the Summit, conflicts in that area of the world will probably be accorded particular attention. However, the difficult situation in Southern Africa and the deteriorating political climate of the Middle East and Central America could also feature prominently in the discussions.

After East-West relations, the next most discussed item on the political agenda will be that of international terrorism. It is an issue which has been the object of much attention at previous summits. In light of the events of recent months, Summit participants will be examining ways of expanding the scope of their deliberations and collective action in this field.

Other Issues

Other issues which may arise at the Tokyo Summit include science and technology, environment, and narcotic drug abuse.

Science and Technology

At the 1982 Summit in Versailles, a Working Group on Technology, Growth and Employment was established to identify the contribution of research and technology to economic growth and employment and to identify and implement proposals for international collaboration in important areas such as biotechnology, advanced materials, and remote sensing. The final report of the Working Group will be presented to the Tokyo Summit. It expresses the Group's satisfaction that the Summit initiative has stimulated international collaboration in science and technology thereby giving new momentum to national R&D activities.

Environment

During the 1984 London Summit, leaders included in their final declaration a paragraph initiated by the FRG and supported by Canada acknowledging the international dimension of environmental problems and the role of environmental factors in economic development. The Working Group on Technology, Growth and Employment (TGE) was also asked to report on the matter at the following year's summit in Bonn, where leaders agreed that they would use government vigilance and the discipline of the market to solve environmental problems.

Narcotic Drug Abuse

The Bonn Economic Summit in 1985 discussed the international drug problem and possible joint action to combat narcotics production, trafficking and consumption. A report on initiatives additional to measures already in force was prepared by a group of experts and approved by Foreign Ministers for the consideration of leaders at Tokyo.