

and fiscal matters. Can we not envisage a participation of oil exporters in the IMF and World Bank commensurate with their increased importance in terms of world financial power? Given the mutuality of interest which exists, there is every reason for developed countries and oil exporters to work together to deal with problems in this area.

Most developing countries are badly hit. Overall the increase in their bill for imported oil will exceed the total flow of aid last year from all private and public sources. They lack the reserves to meet more than a fraction of the expenditures called for and they are the countries least able to obtain credit to finance their imports. If no solution is found they will have to reduce the pace of economic activity already inadequate. In fact they will have to cut back imports of food for their people and of fertilizers and fuel required to produce food domestically. The supply of other necessities will also be cut back. For many countries the situation must be termed disastrous. On humanitarian grounds, in terms of the solidarity of the international community and in view of the political consequences of serious distress in such a wide area of our planet, a special international effort is called for.