

The House will be pleased to hear that my interlocutors were generally sympathetic to the Government's approach. All of them expressed their hope of overcoming the threat of confrontation that ensued from the last United Nations session, which they attributed to a number of related factors: the impatience of developing countries, the lack of progress registered by them on many fronts after years of persistent effort, the impact of world inflation, the energy crisis and its financial consequences, which placed numerous developing countries in dire economic straits.

Thus, I found that West African leaders had a very clear perception of their countries' fundamental economic interests and assessed shrewdly the means by which these could be enhanced. All of the strongly supported the opening of an effective dialogue between developed and developing countries and agreed that progress could only be accomplished by dealing from now on with specific problems, the solution of which could never be static and final, but rather of a continuing process of adjustment.

I found a general understanding that developed countries could not be expected to drastically alter their economic policies overnight. It was recognized that many of the adjustments sought by developing countries would create economic difficulties in the industrialized world, at least