

## Editorial

IN MARCH 1983 the seventh Conference of heads of state or government of non-aligned countries was held in New Delhi. This was attended by the representatives of some 100 countries, fifty of whom were heads of state or prime ministers. The members come from the group of 77, with the notable exception of some Latin American countries, and do not include China. In the course of their six-day meeting the participants produced two comprehensive texts, one a political declaration the other economic.

The political declaration called upon the great powers to halt the arms race, to agree upon an international convention prohibiting the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons and to stop further production and deployment, as well as to observe existing arms limitation agreements while seeking to negotiate more effective programmes leading to general disarmament under international supervision. The non-aligned pledged themselves to work in particular for the establishment of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace, free from foreign bases and nuclear weapons. They also affirmed their basic objectives of freedom from all forms of neo-colonialism and foreign interference; respect for their sovereignty and independence; and assistance to all liberation movements, thus bringing heavy condemnation on Israel and South Africa.

The non-aligned also undertook to work for general disarmament, the peaceful settlement of disputes, the strengthening of the United Nations and support for the UN Charter of Human Rights. They were especially concerned with the continuing internecine conflict between Iraq and Iran, but their efforts to mediate have so far been without success. This declaration is perhaps more a reflection of the idealism of the movement than a recognition of the forces of reality.

An equally compendious declaration dealt with economic affairs, the greater part forming the basis for the resolutions which the 77 elaborated in Buenos Aires for submission to UNCTAD VI in Belgrade. In addition however to preparations for negotiations with the North, the economic declaration contains an important section dealing with economic co-operation among developing countries (ECDC). It is pointed out that developing countries command vast markets, produce practically all commodities and have a large reservoir of human manpower, technical skills, manufacturing capacities and financial resources, potentialities which should be fully explored. It is stated that "in the present situation in which the developed countries are not displaying adequate political will for undertaking an effective and meaningful programme of international economic co-operation, the need to accelerate the pace of ECDC

is even greater". Although it is made clear that this is in no way intended as a substitute for North-South co-operation, the hope is expressed that developed countries and international organizations will support and assist such efforts in the interests of all-round stability and progress.

The New Delhi Conference drew up an action programme for economic co-operation which incorporated the Caracas programme of action already agreed by the ministers of the 77 in October 1982. The programme related to twenty-one topics, in respect of each topic a group of up to about fifteen countries was put in charge. Half the programme was to be supervised by the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement and half by the Group of 77 in New York.

In the field of raw materials the principal points were the establishment and strengthening of producers' associations, intensification of co-ordination within the Integrated Programme for Commodities, ratification by all developing countries of the agreement on the Common Fund and participation in commodity agreements. For trade the most significant item was the pursuit of negotiations for the Global System of Trade Preferences between developing countries, in which the support was urged of UNCTAD and the UN Regional Economic Commissions for the conduct of the negotiations and their implementation. Among monetary matters it was noted that a study was being made to establish a bank for developing countries. In other fields a project was under way for the setting up of a Centre for Science and Technology in New Delhi. Action was also to be taken for working out a viable system of food security for developing countries, particularly co-operation in the field of irrigation, joint agricultural production and trade projects. Emphasis was put on fertilizers and pesticides. The creation was welcomed of the International Centre for Public Enterprise in Ljubljana (Yugoslavia) and early completion was hoped for the establishment of the Centre for Information on Transnational Corporations in Havana.

This is an ambitious programme which will take much time and energy to implement, but there has been encouragement in the fact that financial contributions have already been received from developing countries.