

# African-Arab Summit In Cairo Sets Agenda For Peace And Development

A meeting of heads of state and representatives of 60 Arab and African countries and the Palestine Liberation Organization ended in Cairo this week with a resolution calling for intensive cooperation between the Arabs and Africa in agricultural and industrial development and for the establishment of an Arab-African Permanent Commission to coordinate political work.

The twin themes of the Cairo summit, according to Algerian reports, were the struggle for the new international economic order and for peace in southern Africa and the Middle East.

Although the final documents of the conference are not yet available, initial reports from Cairo indicate that the summit succeeded "beyond expectation." Traditional suspicions long festering between the Arabs and Africa were overcome, and the two sectors agreed to work together, especially in seeking political cooperation with Western Europe. Statements from the foreign ministers of Algeria and Tunisia, in particular, explicitly called on the Europeans to show more independence from the United States.

The meeting of Arabs and Africans in Cairo coincided with a Brussels meeting of the foreign ministers of the Common Market (EEC), called to discuss the issues of North-South and East-West economic relations. Despite urgent calls from Italy's Prime Minister Andreotti and others for a European endorsement of the Third World's negotiation position, the EEC ministers failed to take a stand, issuing instead a vaguely worded statement on the question of prices of raw materials and other commodities, the result of direct U.S. pressure to the EEC to accede to demands from Rockefeller and Co. for raising the prices of these commodities to bail out the New York banks.

Europe's forced endorsement of the phony Brookings Institution-UNCTAD plan for raising commodity prices along the model of the 1973 Great Oil Hoax — like the coffee price boom that has bailed out the huge Brazilian debt burden — is not the final word from Western Europe, however. The fight that is raging in the cabinet rooms in all Western Europe is best reflected in the debate in West Germany.

According to a spokesman for the West German Development Ministry, both Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Maria Schlei, the minister of development, are resolved to support debt moratorium for the Third World. "Some members of the Cabinet are still afraid of a debt moratorium," said the spokesman, but Schmidt and his supporters "do not want West German loans to the Third World to be used simply to pay back its debt service to another industrialized country." The leading

opponent on this issue is Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who told the EEC ministers today to await the position of the Carter Administration before making any decision, adding stupidly, "but we cannot have a slavish mentality."

Heavy-handed efforts by the Carter Administration to disrupt the working of the summit by exacerbating the numerous fissures in the Arab world and Africa — most recently the synthetic crisis in East Africa centering on Uganda's Idi Amin — failed to prevent the assembled leaders from singling out the crucial issues facing the Non-Aligned Movement and the developing sector. Perhaps the key event at the Cairo summit was the decision by Saudi Arabia and several other smaller Gulf

## Algeria's Bouteflika On Arab Aid To Africa

The African countries are not upset by the polemics around the amount of aid, because they know that the Arab countries favor long-range economic cooperation with Africa... Like the Arab world, the African world is seeking cooperation with European countries, once past relations are cleared away in favor of cooperation based on the future... The Europeans and the Arabs are seeking through their dialogue direct formulas of cooperation, which would be used as a test of the industrialized world's willingness to cooperate with all other nations... The African world and the Arab one will be the core of the whole Third World. It is a homogeneous group which must be the privileged partner of Europe and the industrialized world.

-El Moudjahid, March 5

oil-exporting countries to provide \$1.5 billion in development assistance to Africa, most of which has been earmarked for specific development projects in Africa. According to *Le Monde*, the Saudi financial aid will not be used for making up the balance of payments deficits of poorer African states, but will be used almost entirely for real development. Among the projects named by the Saudis will be several ambitious road-building plans, including transport routes from Egypt to southern Africa and across West Africa from Senegal to Chad, and from Algeria to Nigeria.