

EDITORIAL

Not only we are convinced that the World Commission Report and the Perspective 2000 (see last issue at pages 159 and 162), are documents which will exert a major influence on the future of international environmental policy for a long time. This is the reason why both have been discussed at length in the UN General Assembly and why we feel it is so important to reflect on how the debate was conducted there. As a result, we have devoted much space to this subject. We are very grateful to Charles Caccia M.P. (Canada), who prepared for us a summary of the speeches given during that debate (see page 222).

We had already been partly informed of the outcome of these discussions by Dr. Tolba, UNEP's Executive Director, who reported on some of the aspects when speaking with the Editors in late November. One of the points of issue was the concept of "conditionality" as a factor with relevance to sustainable development and especially with regard to those projects in developed countries supported financially by third parties. In particular, with regard to the obligation for prior impact assessment. The basis for the request of the Group of 77 to amend in this respect the resolution of the General Assembly as proposed by UNEP (see last issue at page 159), is Mrs. Brundtland's speech to UNCTAD, printed on page 255.

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Sometimes the material promised for the individual issues of the journal comes in slowly and only following much prompting on the part of the Editors. However, this time so many important events have occurred simultaneously, that we have not had enough space to report on all we would have wished. So we have had to hold over the reports on the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting and on the Working Group to prepare a Global Convention on the Control of the Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes, to mention just two, until next issue.

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To our readers and contributors our thanks for their interest and support during the past twelve months and our best wishes for a successful 1988.

28 November 1987

Wolfgang Brune