

EDITORIAL

Readers are often surprised that we always report in such detail on the UNEP Governing Council. We are, however, aware that no-one else prints such an extensive analysis and only those receiving the official proceedings months later are informed of what has gone on.

While realizing that what is of interest to some of our readers, is perhaps of less interest to others, we feel that all those concerned with environmental matters should know what is going on in this forum; especially now that work is starting on the Perspectives to the year 2000 and beyond.

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The OECD Conference on "Environment and Economics" took place in June, with the challenge of making economic growth and development compatible with necessary environmental conservation. The Conclusions reached by the Conference are printed on page 39 but the report of the proceedings will follow in the next issue.

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The other important international conference — on transboundary air pollution — has just finished in Munich, with representatives from East and West. The "30% Club" has apparently found new members. Several countries have only agreed on new measures subject to conditions relating to other time schedules. Some are still of another opinion. But considering everything, the meeting was a success in spite of disagreement during the last two days concerning whether reference should be made in the conclusions to peace and disarmament. Some of the Western States opposed strongly, but not wishing to break the broad consensus, a formulation was found which reads, "Recognizing that international co-operation in the important field of the protection of the environment contributes to the reinforcement of peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole, which constitutes a significant factor for the preservation of the environment".

We don't think that anybody could lose face in accepting this formulation.

28th June, 1984

— Wolfgang R. Treu —