The theme of the Conference emerged from a survey conducted among all IAMS members, in which they were asked to respond to the following questions: 1. What do you find the most painful experiences which challenge mission today. 2. What do you think is the major theological question underlying your understanding of mission in the light of your answer to the first question. The answers showed concern about the relation of mission to the quality of Christian life (credibility and spirituality), purifying analyses (hermeneutics), division and unity in mission, new relationships in and for mission, the challenge of living non-Christian faiths to mission. All these remarks and suggestions were helpful in finalizing the programme of the Conference.

The overall theme was: Credibility and Spirituality in Mission. Visibility to the theme was particularly given in the daily meditation- and prayer sessions, which concentrated on the Mission of the Holy Spirit to the World. The three key lectures focused on the spiritual dimension of the political, scientific and church realms of life. Dr. Robert Muller, United Nations Office for Inter-Agency Affairs, spoke out of personal experience on The Spiritual Dimensions of the New World Order; Dr. Ulrich Duchrow opened up in a non-easy but challenging talk The Spiritual Dimensions of the Scientific World; Dr. Eugene Stockwell confronted the
audience, in his address on 'Spirituality and Struggle for Fullness of Life' with the Struggle against Hunger, the Struggle for Human Rights and the Struggle for Meaning.


For each workshop a set of study material could be prepared of about 50 pages containing a formulation of the state of the question, a selection of relevant texts and a selected bibliography. The idea was that a team of three people (coming from Europe, America and a Third World Country) should prepare this material, and - no small miracle - this was realized in most cases.

Each participant, on arrival, received the full set of all workshops (400 pages), a unique collection of study material. 3)

A new feature was the possibility of presenting papers in an Open Forum. Thirty papers were presented, many of them on contextualization, but also with topics like: Christian-Muslim mission in Africa: a crusade or jihad against godlessness; Puebla - a critical appraisal of the consultation document's historical view; First century mission methods at work in the twenty-first; God in African history, etc. etc.

The meeting took place in the spacious and well-located premises of Maryknoll Seminary, the headquarters of the American R.C. missionary organization. A local committee, consisting of Maryknoll Fathers and Sisters guaranteed the smooth running of the Conference and the creation of a warm welcoming atmosphere. While quickly feeling themselves at home, all participants persevered in doing their homework in workshops and sessions. More than 180 persons took part in the Conference, of whom

3) Of these sets a small number is left and they can be obtained from the address mentioned under 1 for the price of 30 US$, post-paid.