

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) opened a price-fixing meeting today with only conservative Saudi Arabia, the cartel's biggest producer, opposed to an increase in the price of crude oil.

The Saudi oil minister, Sheik Ahmed Zaki Yamani, said on his arrival in Doha that his country favors postponing the increase for six more months because the world economy is still too shaky. The Saudis previously, said they would agree to a 'reasonable increase' of less than 10 per cent in the price of \$11.51 for a barre] of benchmark crude.

The ministers of the 13 nations who supply 80 per cent of the oil

'imported by the world's non-Communist nations met behind bulletproof 'shutters in the banquet hall of a luxurious hotel beside the Persian Gulf.

Indonesian Oil Minister Mohammed Sadli, the current chairman of OPEC, opened the conference with a reminder to the ministers that their decisions would "affect the state of health of the world, not only now but for some time to come."

we hope to convince the members of OPEC of our views," Yamani said. 'We believe we have a strong view, but we never come with a position we can't change."

Yamani said his government has found that the trend of international economic

recovery ''is not as strong as we hoped to have." He noted that Saudi Arabian light crude is the benchmark oil on which OPEC's price structure is based, and he commented: "I don't think OPEC will be ta pester to raise the price of Saudi crude without the consent of Saudi Arabia."

Saudi Arabia, OPEC's leading moderate as well as its largest producer, is under heavy pressure from the United States to hold the oil price line.

President-elect Carter told a news conference Tuesday that Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger and his successor, Cyrus R. Vance, both talked with representatives of the oil nations, and Carter said he felt "very good about their attitude |

The U.S. State Department said this week that each 5 per cent increase in the price of crude oil would mean a rise of .B cent a gallon in the price of gasoline in the United States,

Most of the 12-:member OPEC group have been insisting on a price boost despite the contention of the industrialized nations that it would worsen inflation, hamper recovery from the worldwide economic slowdown and work more hardship on the underdeveloped nations than on the industrialized countries.

The price ''hawks'' argue that the cost of goods they import from the industrial nations has risen as much as 25 per cent since OPEC's last oil price rise

in October 1975.