official price from private transactions at a free-market price — the system introduced in March 1968. Another way would be to maintain a uniform price of gold, which would require a combination of a gold-selling agreement with a dollar-holding agreement among monetary authorities.

To remove reserve currencies from national monetary reserves by having them deposited with an international reserve pool has been part of several proposals, including the Keynes Plan of 1943 and the various plans by Triffin, Bernstein, and Maudling. These plans have differed in their generality, for example, on whether all of the existing overhang of dollars and pounds should be turned in or only amounts that the holders consider excessive, and whether the national authorities, having gotten rid of their existing holdings or excess holdings, should be allowed to acquire new dollars or pounds. To deal with the existing overhang but allow new accumulations of reserve currencies would seem inconsistent. A "final solution" of the problem of confidence would have to exclude future accumulations of reserve currencies after funding the accumulations of the past.

The removal of reserve currencies from national reserves to an international agency would leave the gold problem unsettled. To have a two-ring circus with private gold acrobatics in one ring and official gold clownery in the other, with the official gold dispersed among a hundred reserve-holding countries, all of whom would also hold presumably gold-value-guaranteed deposits in the international agency — this would hardly be a definitive solution of international monetary affairs. If the private price of gold differed substantially from the official price, leaks would be likely to develop from one circulation to the other. The ratio between exchange-pool deposits and gold in the monetary reserves would differ from country to country and problems of differential confidence in these two reserve assets might arise. Nothing, therefore, would be more sensible than to call for a central gold pool; but rather than setting up a separate gold pool, it would seem much more logical to have the same international agency corral all the monetary gold as well as all the existing reserve-currency holdings.