

to be able to increase domestic production by a significant degree.

The government has instituted the death penalty for individuals found hoarding basic foodstuffs or attempting to sell them privately. Popular committees have been established to report on any violations of the ration system.

Right from the beginning, there has been no intention to starve Iraq into submission or to use food as a weapon. The UN sanctions resolution provides for the supply of food to Iraq under humanitarian circumstances. Iraq, however, has vetoed any UN role and has even denied permission for the UN to investigate claims of civilian deaths due to shortages of food and medicine. We have no evidence to substantiate these claims, and treat them as little more than propaganda.

Military Capabilities

Iraq's top priority is ensuring that its military forces are well supplied. The military is given priority over other sectors for petroleum products, spare parts and personnel.

At the same time that Iraq has reduced food rations for civilians, it has increased those for military personnel. Soldiers now receive 120 per cent more flour than civilians, 160 per cent more rice, 340 per cent more legumes and 20 per cent more tea.

Iraq can produce some military products domestically. However, its more sophisticated equipment is imported and is susceptible to shortages of spare parts.

To date, sanctions do not appear to have had an impact on Iraq's military capabilities, or its willingness to use its military. The launching of three SCUD missiles cost more than \$3 million. In short, although minor shortages are bound to show up, Iraq can probably maintain its present level of military activity for at least six months.

Essential Services

There is no evidence that sanctions have caused disruptions to essential services. There have been no major disruptions in electricity supply. Isolated power disruptions may occur due to shortages of spare parts and skilled labour (mostly foreign).