

sanctions did have an impact on trade and were even profitable for the Arab oil exporters; moreover, they enhanced the Arab League's cohesion. On the other hand, the sanctions failed to achieve their political objective, due in large part to the existence of alternative sources of energy and to the fact that the hike in oil prices made petroleum exploration and development in areas considered more secure for western countries cost-effective. This contributed to the slow decline of OPEC.

### United Nations Sanctions

There have been few major cases of mandatory UN-ordered sanctions since the UN was founded over 40 years ago: Rhodesia, South Africa, Iraq and Yugoslavia. There have been a number of cases of voluntary sanctions: restrictions on arms sales to Portugal (which was denying independence to its colonies) from 1961 to 1974, restrictions on arms sales to Rhodesia up to 1980 (prior to the imposition of mandatory sanctions), economic sanctions against South Africa. The new activism displayed by the UN in the past three or four years could lead to profound changes if the trend towards more frequent intervention in civil and international conflicts continues. We will look here at some of the episodes in which sanctions have been applied under the aegis of the UN.

#### k) Portugal (1961-74)

Due to Portugal's colonial policy, the UN recommended (but did not impose) the severance of diplomatic relations, the closing of ports to Portuguese vessels and a trade boycott. Later, recommendations concerning arms sales and the sale of industrial goods with military applications were issued (1963-65). These recommendations were not acted upon because the NATO countries considered it more important to avoid alienating Portugal than to respect the will of UN members. After Salazar was overthrown (1974) and Portugal's colonies became independent (1975), the sanctions were lifted. On the whole, the sanctions had little effect because too few countries applied them.

#### l) Rhodesia

Great Britain refused to recognize the Unilateral Declaration of Independence of 1965 and applied military sanctions. Subsequently, it gradually applied economic sanctions, which quickly became an almost total embargo on import and export trade with Rhodesia. Financial measures affecting development aid were also announced. The Commonwealth and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) joined the embargo, as did the US (for oil deliveries and imports from