

international conflict resolution. Most OECD countries froze or suspended budgets for concessionary financing until 1991. They generally opted for relatively quiet pressure and high-level visits were suspended for a few years. It is too early to speak of full normalization of relations, but we may contemplate a return to the status quo within a few years. In summary and conclusion, there was no international consensus on China, the pressure could have been stronger, the country was in a position to withstand this relatively weak pressure quite easily, and despite the indignation generated by media coverage of the Tiananmen Square events, support for the cause remained limited.

j) Arab Oil Embargo

In 1967, in the wake of the Six Day War, the Arab League first recommended an oil embargo against the US, France and Great Britain. This proposal came to nought. In October 1973, shortly after the outbreak of the Yom Kippur War, the League decided on partial cuts in oil production until Israel withdrew from the territories it occupied in 1967 and the legitimate rights of Palestinians were restored; the League also declared an oil embargo against countries "unfriendly" to its cause, while continuing to supply friendly countries. In late October 1973, an embargo was declared against the US in particular when it confirmed additional military aid to Israel. This embargo was quickly extended to the Netherlands due to its staunch pro-Israel stance. Japan and the European Community were however excluded from the embargo due to their "less biased attitude" and to the perceived progress towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict. In late November, the embargo was again expanded, this time to South Africa, Rhodesia and Portugal. In March 1974, the embargo against the US was lifted, and in July 1974 the embargo against the Netherlands was finally lifted as well. In the meantime, the production cuts adopted in the fall of 1973 in order to pressure the West, curtail supplies and exert upward pressure on prices had gradually been abandoned. The Arab oil-producing countries had achieved a very partial success with these measures, insofar as Israel had not yielded to their demands. However, as regards the efforts of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to obtain better prices for its members, 1973 marked a turning point; continued uncertainty about supplies throughout the rest of the 1970s was one of the factors which led to a ten-fold increase in prices by the early 1980s and increased earnings for Arab OPEC members. In November 1974, the industrialized oil-consuming countries agreed to set up the International Energy Agency, with a mandate to develop supply-sharing arrangements in case of future embargoes. The US and the Netherlands registered declines in oil imports in the order of 9% to 14%, but these reductions were similar to those registered by the other European Community countries. In the short and medium term, the