

ten per cent per year during the 1970s, has declined considerably in recent years as a result of the economic slowdown that has affected the oil-producing Arab states.

The main concern of Jordanian foreign policy is to find a solution to the problems resulting from the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially regarding the status of the West Bank. This has been especially evident in recent years, as seen in King Hussein's efforts to devise a common political strategy with the PLO's Yasser Arafat for future peace negotiations with Israel. Following difficult negotiations, Hussein and Arafat agreed in February 1985 on a common action plan for peace. However, later discussions on more specific details soon led to an impasse. On February 19, 1986, King Hussein announced that he was suspending his efforts to reach a common political position with the PLO.

Following these recent developments, Jordanian policy has now entered a period of reflection.