

member states might be expelled or suspended from participation in the organization's activities. These questions of general principle were raised in relation to two particular cases, South Africa and Israel.

At the Algiers Summit Conference of 1973, non-aligned states not only laid the foundations for the campaign looking towards a "New International Economic Order" but also decided to step up pressure on Israel and South Africa. The non-aligned soon succeeded in obtaining for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) the right to participate as an observer in the United Nations, in its Specialized Agencies, and in most conferences convened by them. The PLO also gained the endorsement by the General Assembly of its claim to be the sole representative of the Palestinians in the Middle East negotiations (though the PLO refused to recognize the right of Israel to continue to exist as an independent state); and the non-aligned also succeeded in isolating Israel by limiting its effective participation in some United Nations organs and Specialized Agencies.

While South Africa's racist policies, discussed in Chapter Four, had been the subject of perennial condemnation, it was not until 1974 that the Assembly rejected the credentials of the South African delegation. This meant that South Africa could not continue to participate in the work of the General Assembly, and in 1975 South Africa decided not to attend. However, it remained a member of the UN, as attempts to expel South Africa were vetoed by the U.S., Britain and France in the Security Council.

At the time of its establishment, the United Nations, as an institution, was inspired by essentially Western nations, modified by Soviet insistence on ensuring the decisive role of the great powers, and it reflected an overriding concern with peace and security. In three decades the international community has undergone profound changes. The "great powers" of 1945, which were granted the status of permanent members of the Security Council, with the right of veto, are not all, in terms of the present balance of power, the most significant states of the mid-1970s. A near trebling of the membership of the General Assembly, which now