

# LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

*Prepared for, and under the guidance of  
the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable  
Rights of the Palestinian People*



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## INTRODUCTION

The Arab-Israeli war of June 1967 dramatically shook the existing status quo in the Middle East. It resulted in Israel occupying the remainder of mandated Palestine including East Jerusalem, as well as Egyptian and Syrian territory.

Israel's de facto annexation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip has had a tremendously negative impact on the political and socio-economic life of the Palestinian population. It has resulted in the overall stagnation of the Palestinian economy, dismantling of the Palestinian communities, violations of the fundamental human rights and exploitation and depletion of natural resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories. This also gave impetus to the second Palestinian exodus. Half a million Palestinians became the "new refugees", forcefully driven out of their homes and indigenous communities. Immediately after the 1967 war Jewish settlements began to "mushroom" in the occupied territories of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.\*

\* It should be noted that Israel's occupation in 1967 of Egyptian and Syrian territories is not considered in this study.

Ever since, the question of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and living conditions of the Palestinians in the occupied territories have been a matter of concern of numerous organizations and bodies of the United Nations family. Moreover, the well-being of the Palestinian people has been continuously scrutinized by the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, composed of three Member States and established in December 1968 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 2443 (XXIII).

On 10 December 1969, the General Assembly, in its resolution 2535 (XXIV), recognized the political dimension of the issue, declaring that "the problem of the Palestine Arab refugees has arisen from the denial of their inalienable rights under the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

From 1970 to 1972 and again in 1974 General Assembly resolutions declared that full respect for these rights of the Palestinians "is an indispensable element in the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the Middle East" (resolutions 2672 (XXV) of 8 December 1970; 2949 (XXVII) of 8 December 1972 and 3236 (XXIX) of 22 November 1974).

On 10 November 1975, the General Assembly, concerned with the violations of the fundamental rights of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, adopted resolution 3376 (XXX) which, inter alia, stated the following:

" Deeply concerned that no solution to the problem of Palestine has yet been achieved,

" Recognizing that the problem of Palestine continues to endanger international peace and security,

"3. Decides to establish a Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People composed of twenty Member States to be appointed by the General Assembly at the current sessions;"

The recommendations of the Committee on the Palestinian people's rights to self-determination and return to their homes have been clearly formulated and widely publicized.

## I. PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND AND WATER RESOURCES

### A. Land and settlements

Land and water resources continue to be of utmost concern to the Palestinian population and are major factors in the evaluation of the living conditions of the Palestinian people. The total land area of the occupied territories is approximately 2,350 square miles of which 2,200 square miles are in the West Bank and 150 square miles in the Gaza Strip. According to Jordanian information, the amount of land under Israeli control as of February 1985 has risen to 52 per cent of the total land. 41 per cent of it, an area of 2.5 million dunams\* out of a total of 5.5 million dunams, had been placed under the control of the Israeli authorities by direct means, such as declaring it to be State land, preventing its exploitation, and seizure; and the remaining 11 per cent, an area of 570,000 dunams, was indirectly controlled by Israel by such means as prohibiting construction and cultivation and declaring the land to be subject to the Nature Reserves Authority. 1/ By November 1983 the total estimated number of different types of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories has risen to 267.\*\*

The process of expropriation, in association with other factors, has led to a decline in the amount of land used for agriculture and, to some extent, in agricultural output of certain commodities traditionally produced in the occupied territories.

\* 1 dunam = 1,000 m<sup>2</sup> = 0.25 acre (approx.)

\*\* This information is based on the data contained in the study prepared by the Division for Palestinian Rights entitled " Israeli settlements in Gaza and the West Bank (including Jerusalem). Their nature & purpose, Part II ".

That expropriation of land is widespread and is continuing, adversely affecting the living conditions and viability of the Palestinian farming population, is backed by the information presented to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories and set forth in its report to the General Assembly at its thirty-ninth session (A/39/591). The effect of these measures on the Palestinian farmers and communities has been a heightened sense of insecurity and consequently their reluctance to make long-term investments to improve the land.

In addition to the direct expropriation of land, under existing emergency laws and Israeli regulations, the authorities have started inserting a clause in building permits to the effect that while the Palestinian applicant has permission to build a house on the land, the land on which the house stands does not belong to him. This appears to apply mainly to urban land, especially when the Israeli authorities maintain that the land comes under the category of absentee owner's property. 2/

The practice of expropriation and confiscation of land by Israeli authorities, combined with their practices with regard to the use of water resources, have resulted in a major decline in the agricultural activities of Palestinians in the occupied territories. Various sources differ on the estimate of the total cultivated land appropriated for Jewish settlements.\* However, there seems to be a consensus that, since 1967, the decline of the amount of land cultivated by Arab citizens has been very significant.

\* See, for example, Showkat Mahmoud, West Bank Water and Agriculture under Israeli Occupation (Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs, Amman, November 1982), p. 2 (31.6 per cent between 1967 and 1979); and Emile Sahliyah, "West Bank industrial and agricultural development: the basic problems", Journal of Palestine Studies, No. 42, Winter 1982, p. 64 (27.3 per cent between 1967 and 1973).

Categories used by the Israeli authorities for expropriation of land in the occupied territories up to 1979 have been listed and discussed by the former Deputy Mayor of Jerusalem, Meron Benvenisti, in a report 3/ presented to the American Enterprise Institute. Those categories have been classified as follows:

- (a) "Absentee" property in respect of which the Israeli authorities act as custodian;
- (b) "Registered State Domain": the occupying authority (Israel) replaces the previous Government, Jordan or the Jordanian King;
- (c) "Land requisitioned for military purposes": land remains under ownership. The military Government pays for the use of the land (according to Benvenisti, many settlements have been built on these lands).
- (d) Lands closed for military purposes;
- (e) "Jewish lands": lands owned by Jews prior to 1948 and administered by the Jordanian custodian of enemy property;
- (f) Lands purchased by Jewish bodies (organizations);
- (g) Lands expropriated for public purposes.

Since 1970, Israeli authorities have adopted a new policy based on the old Turkish Land Code, whereby any vacant land, such as mountains, rocky places, stony fields and grazing grounds, under certain circumstances, can be considered ard al-mawat (dead land), and anyone who is in need of such land can, with the permission of the authorities, cultivate it on the condition that the ultimate ownership shall belong to the Sultan, to whom the Government of Israel considers itself to be a successor. 4/ In 1968, the military Government had already "temporarily halted" all title settlement procedures (Military Order No. 291). At that time, only one third of the occupied territories were "settled" by definition and entered into the Land Registry. According to Raja Shehadeh, 5/ Israeli authorities, by means of the above-mentioned two instruments (the Turkish Law and Military Order No. 291), can virtually expropriate any piece of property they wish.

The Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories is closely linked with the colonial settlement in these lands. The Israeli authorities mapped out a large-scale settlement programme, beginning with agricultural-military enclaves and followed by urban industrialized centres. Through establishing Jewish centres that forced the Palestinians to localize themselves in limited spaces surrounded by the new settlements, the occupying Power introduced changes to the demographic pattern of the occupied areas.

The trends in the establishment of Israeli settlements in the Arab territories occupied after June 1967 can roughly be divided into three phases, namely: 6/

- (a) 1967 to 1970;
- (b) 1971 to 1977 when the Labour Government was in power;
- (c) 1977 to the present during the tenure of the Likud Government and afterwards..

These periods do not form distinct phases but rather a continuing process; the difference lies more in emphasis than in radical changes in policy.

The years of 1967 to 1970 were marked by the establishment of a number of military outposts known as nahals, mostly in strategically vital areas, as security steps as well as with the aim of maintaining law and order in these zones. In 1968 three nahals were established in the Jordan Valley (Mehola, Kalia, Argaman). One (Phatzael) was established in 1969 and four (Gilgal, Massua, Yitar and Maele Efrayim) in 1970. Kfar Daron nahal outpost was set up in the Gaza. In the meantime, the Ministry of Housing and Construction undertook the construction of urban residential units within the Arab area incorporated in the City of Jerusalem, namely the Arab sector of Jerusalem, and the surrounding Arab villages of Sour Bahr, Beit Safafa, Eltour, Elam, El Issawiya and Anata as well as the area around the airport.

Units were being constructed, particularly in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City, Ramat Eshkol and French Hill. 7/

On the whole, the establishment of Israeli settlements during this period appears to have followed the Allon Plan, presented by the then Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Yigal Allon, to the Government on 13 July 1967, which included fixing the Jordan River as Israel's "secure border" with Jordan; holding a strip of 15 to 20 kilometres wide in the Jordan Valley which would include the first ridge of mountains west of the Valley; holding the eastern slopes of Mt. Hebron and the Judean Desert to the Dead Sea; and making minor border adjustments in places like Datron and Etzion Block. 8/

By the beginning of the second phase in 1971, there was growing evidence of an emerging policy on settlement. The press made reference to the existence of a Ministerial Committee for the settlement of the occupied territories, and announcements to that effect were made by Israeli Government ministers and leaders. 9/

While settlements during this period were established in the priority areas outlined in the Allon Plan, other considerations appear to have influenced the shaping of policy, as was indicated in a statement in the Knesset made on 19 July 1972 by Mr. Israel Galili, Minister without Portfolio and Chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Settlement. He was quoted as saying that the Israeli Government had put no area out of bounds for Jewish settlements and that the only limitations to Israeli settlement in the occupied territories were moral ones; and that settlement policy was not dictated by security alone but historical right as well, if not more so. 10/

With the election of the Likud Government in early 1977, settlement trends in the occupied territories were influenced by certain decisions taken by the Government, particularly to "thicken" and strengthen already established settlements and to accelerate the pace of establishing new ones. 11/ While continuing to establish settlements in the priority areas determined by the Labour Government, the Likud Government opened new areas for settlements, which included the northern West Bank, the western slopes of the Jerusalem hills and the vicinities of Palestinian towns, such as Ramallah, Nablus and Jenin. Not only was the Government to establish settlements in these areas, but also private groups, notably the Gush Emunim. 12/

Speaking about this period of time, it should be noted that the World Zionist Organization (WZO) came out with another scheme, the so-called "Drobes Plan" (1978, 1980, 1981). Matityahu Drobes, one of the heads of the WZO Department for Rural Settlement, tabled a government "master plan" to drastically intensify the process of establishing new settlements and thickening the existing ones thus converting these lands into "homogenous settlement areas" and subsequently into densely populated kirya type habitat.

During the period 1977 to 1983, the following settlements were established: Jordan Valley, 177 East Jerusalem, 11; Gaza, 11; Hebron, 15; Bethlehem, 87 Ramallah, 17; Nablus, 217 and Jenin, 5. 13/ (See annexes I to III.)

#### B. Water resources

Palestinian communities inhabiting the West Bank and Gaza are predominantly agricultural. To them the basic elements of land and water are of vital importance. The June 1967 war brought West Bank water resources under full Israeli control. While this region has more abundant water resources than most of the surrounding area, much of it is dependent upon rainfall. In this regard, Benvenisti notes:

"It is clear that West Bank farmers are being forced to maintain extensive rather than intensive agriculture and to develop traditional agricultural branches. The fact that they must rely almost exclusively on rainfall puts them at the mercy of climatic conditions." 14/

To control water resources in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, these resources have, since June 1967, been placed under the direct responsibility of the Department for Water Allocation and Certification of Israeli Water Commission.\* Israel attaches great importance to the water potential of the West Bank and considers this to be a strategic asset to its settlement policy. 15/ In Al Hamishmar of 25 June 1978, Amir Shapira shows the connection between Israel's intentions concerning West Bank waters and its political stand on the West Bank:

"Israeli water experts have recently briefed senior political circles on the question of the possibility that in the framework of administrative autonomy in the West Bank [proposed in the Camp David Accords], Israel would lose control over essential water resources and [the experts] warned against a double bind. In the view of these circles it is inconceivable that Israel will not include in its autonomy plan articles that will prevent the development of a situation in which Israel loses the ability to secure itself against the possibility that local elements assisted by foreign finance pump water through deep drilling from the underground aquifer in West Samaria which supplies approximately one third of Israel's water consumption, and which is fed by water that originates in the watershed of the Samaria mountains." 16/

\* This Commission administers Israeli water resources. The Israeli Water Law (1959) governs the operations of the Israeli Water Commissioner, who heads the Commission and works under the authority of the Minister of Agriculture.

Jewish settlements are using the limited water resources of the West Bank at the expense of Arab farmers. Israel has imposed severe restrictive measures in terms of limiting the consumption of water by the Palestinian population to the maximum level used in 1967, 17/ which has had a direct and detrimental impact upon the living conditions of the Palestinian people. Simultaneously, Israeli settlements are being created in increasing numbers every year, each agricultural settlement consuming an average of 2.4 million m<sup>3</sup> of water per year. 18/ Drilling of irrigation wells has been substantially restricted in the West Bank since 1967.

On the basis of a previous report of the Secretary-General (A/38/282-E/1983/84, paras. 44-49), his recent report entitled "Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories" (A/39/233-E/1984/79, paras. 51-54), Arab sources 19/ and Israeli sources, 20/ the following factual picture of water supply and water consumption emerges: while Israel consumes about 1,700 million cubic metres (MCM) per year, the Arab population in the West Bank consumes about 100 MCM (86 MCM for irrigation and 14 MCM for domestic use) from a supply available, in principle, of 800 to 850 MCM (600 MCM underground, 50 MCM surface and 200 MCM from the Jordan). Israeli settlements in the West Bank (excluding East Jerusalem) consume about 26 MCM, mostly for water-intensive irrigation in the Jordan Valley (see annex I).

The Israeli Water Commissioner, with exclusive control of water supplies and water allocation, can exercise his control either through Mekorot, Israel Water Co. and/or Tahal, Water Planning for Israel Co., or directly through the granting of permits to individuals or to village associations to sink wells locally. The denial of access to the national resource of water to the Palestinian Arab population under Israeli rule is legally structured and patterned to correspond to their exclusion from access to the national resource of land.

According to the paper "Economic activity and access to national resources: legal restrictions on access to land and water in Israel", prepared for the International Conference on the Question of Palestine, the legal structures regulating the activity of Mekorot and Tahal result in virtually total exclusion of Palestinian Arab peasants and farmers under Israeli rule from access to irrigation water. All Israeli Jewish settlements are connected to the national grid of running water supply and are fully electrified by the national electricity company before the first Jewish settler family sets foot in the place. Thus, Mekorot and Tahal regard it as their national mission to secure running water to every home in every Israeli Jewish settlement. 21/

At the same time, the increase in demand for water in Israel has led to expanding expropriation of the water resources of the Palestinian Arab people. In this regard, James Lederman, correspondent for National Public Radio in Jerusalem, observed in The Wall Street Journal of 22 January 1985,

"A series of major pipelines - paid for by Israel to serve Israeli settlements and Arab villages - have now connected the West Bank water network to the Israeli water grid. Availability has led to demand. And as a result of the growth in demand, the West Bank Arabs have become net "importers" of water piped from Israel."

### C. Population and Housing

The population of the occupied territories has increased considerably since 1967 owing to high fertility and low mortality. In the West Bank the population increased from 583,100 in 1968 to 767,300 by the end of 1983. The population in the Gaza Strip increased from 356,800 in 1968 to 493,000 by the end of 1983. 22/ Although the population of the occupied territories has increased considerably since 1967 no institutional arrangements have been created at the official level to ensure adequate provision of housing for the increase in population to alleviate the prevalent overcrowding, or to ensure replacements for demolished or dilapidated housing. In the West Bank there are no public housing schemes, or any publicly supported financial institutions for the development of housing. 23/ Housing constitutes one of the basic requirements for satisfactory living in any society. In 1966, 255,000 sq m of housing were reported as being completed. After the 1967 war, building fell drastically, creating a large shortfall in housing provision. This in turn led to high rents, and with the low levels of income, it was inevitable that density of use would be very high. 24/

The long-term impact of the occupying authorities' lack of attention to residential construction in particular and construction activities in general could be expected to further aggravate the shortages in housing units and public buildings.

The contrast in housing and community facilities is most apparent in occupied Arab Jerusalem. While new apartment complexes have been built in and around it with all modern amenities, paved roads and open spaces, little or no improvement has been made to the housing and infrastructure in the Arab sector of the city. This neglect also extends to municipal services such as garbage collection, street cleaning and public lighting.

As regards the standard of housing, the houses in the Israeli settlements are by far better constructed and equipped than those occupied by the Palestinians. Assuming that all new house construction in the settlements includes such facilities as kitchen, bathroom, toilet, running water and electricity, an assessment of the lack of these facilities in Palestinian dwellings in the occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza can be made from the table below.

Table 1. Housing facilities in the West Bank and Gaza, 1981 a/  
(Percentage)

	West Bank			Gaza		
	Total	Villages	Towns	Total	Refugee Camps	Towns
Kitchen exclusively for household.....	73.2	65.8	86.4	80.1	85.5	74.8
No bathroom.....	49.3	59.6	26.2	38.8	48.9	30.3
No toilet.....	14.7	21.5	2.4	2.2	(1.0)	(1.7)
Running water in dwelling.....	44.9	29.3	79.0	51.4	39.7	63.1
Electricity around the clock.....	50.6	26.9	95.8	88.5	83.9	89.2

Source: Statistical Abstract of Israel, 1984, pp. 756-757,  
table XXVII/15.

a/ No updated official information was available at the time of writing  
this study.

The Israeli regional planning concept of rural settlements, rural service centres and regional towns has been applied with advantage to provide the basic necessities and services to the Israeli settlers. However, no such planning approach has been applied to improve the living conditions of the Palestinian residents. Palestinian communities have been limited by various regulations from undertaking new construction whether private or public, and municipalities have been restricted from improving services or providing new facilities. Many restrictions have been placed on improving water service and electricity supply while the neighbouring settlements have been provided generously with these amenities.

The impact of the above-mentioned discrepancy and differing standards in housing conditions of Israeli settlers and Palestinian population is expected to have far-reaching effects of deprivation, frustration and antagonism of the local inhabitants of the area as regards the Israeli-Jewish population in the neighbouring settlements. Some of the violent incidents between Israelis and Palestinians, recorded in the reports of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories, can be reasonably assumed to have been partly due to the frustration resulting from preferential treatment of Israeli settlers.

According to the 1984 report of the Secretary-General "Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories", the occupying authorities are continuing their practice of demolishing houses and therefore punishing the families of those suspected or convicted of committing violent acts or engaging in demonstrations, stone throwing, etc. against Israeli settlers and authorities.

## II. OVERVIEW OF ECONOMIC FACTORS INFLUENCING LIVING CONDITIONS

A study of the economic structure of the occupied territories necessitates some understanding of the environment in which the economic activities are taking place.

The main feature of this environment is the systematic effort of the occupying authorities to integrate the economy of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with that of Israel through such measures as monetary and taxation policies, employment, production in agriculture and industry and trade practices. The policies adopted and implemented by Israel have resulted in a high level of economic dependency of the occupied territories on the Israeli economy, including its inflationary trends, thus preventing the generation of conditions which, in the long run, could benefit the indigenous population.

Apart from the above, an adverse effect on the development of the whole economic infrastructure is produced by the lack of economic planning and programming.

In addition to this, the Palestinians are deprived of control over the monetary situation and fiscal policies in the occupied territories.

Since the detailed data on economic activities in the occupied territories is either not available or unreliable, only some of the economic factors are considered below.

### A. Sectoral structure of employment

According to the 1984 "Statistical abstract of Israel", there has been an overall decline in the level of employment during the years of Israeli occupation. Besides, Israel has utilized increasing numbers of workers from the occupied territories. While in 1970 only 11.9 per cent of Palestinian workers were employed in Israel, the percentage had increased to 32.4 by 1975 and 37.8 by 1982. Simultaneously, employment in the occupied territories declined from 88.1 per cent in 1970 to 62.2 in 1983 25/ (see table below):

Table 2. Employment of workers from the occupied territories,  
by place of work, 1970-1983

Year	Total employed (Thousands)	Employed in the occupied territories		Employed in Israel	
		(Thousands)	(Percentage)	(Thousands)	(Percentage)
1970	173.7	152.7	88.1	20.6	11.9
1971	176.5	142.7	80.6	33.8	19.4
1972	188.7	136.3	72.2	52.4	27.8
1973	194.7	133.4	68.5	61.3	31.5
1974	210.4	141.7	67.3	68.7	32.7
1975	204.9	138.6	67.6	66.3	32.4
1976	205.8	140.9	68.5	64.9	31.5
1977	204.4	141.4	69.2	63.0	30.8
1978	210.9	142.7	67.3	68.2	32.7
1979	212.1	138.0	65.1	74.1	34.9
1980	215.7	140.6	65.2	75.1	34.8
1981	215.9	140.1	64.9	75.8	35.1
1982	222.7	143.6	64.5	79.1	35.5
1983	232.5	144.7	62.2	87.8	37.8

Source: For all years except 1971 and 1978, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 1984, p. 763, table XXVII/20.

It is clear from the above table that employment of Palestinians in Israel declined from 1975 to 1977 as a result of the general recession in Israel, suggesting the contribution made by Palestinian labour to the growth of the Israeli economy, and its role as a "buffer" in time of recession. The employment index soared again, however, from 1978 to 1983.

The sharpest decline in employment was observed in agriculture, from 42 per cent of the employed in 1969 26/ to 28 per cent in 1979 and 26.3 per cent in 1983 (for sectoral employment date, see table below).

Table 3. Employment of workers from the occupied territories,  
by selected economic branch and place of work, 1970-1983  
(Percentage)

Year	Employed in the occupied territories				Total	
	Agriculture	Industry	Construction	Other	(Percentage)	(Thousands)
1970	38.7	13.8	8.4	39.1	100.0	152.7
1971	36.8	13.6	5.6	43.8	100.0	142.7
1972	33.5	13.9	6.2	46.4	100.0	136.3
1973	31.3	15.1	6.4	47.2	100.0	133.4
1974	33.8	14.0	6.2	46.0	100.0	141.7
1975	31.8	14.5	7.3	46.4	100.0	138.6
1976	31.4	14.4	8.2	46.0	100.0	140.9
1977	30.5	14.2	9.1	46.2	100.0	141.4
1978	29.5	15.2	9.5	45.5	100.0	142.7
1979	28.0	16.8	10.1	45.1	100.0	138.0
1980	28.4	16.3	9.6	45.7	100.0	140.6
1981	26.3	16.0	10.7	47.0	100.0	140.1
1982	27.6	15.5	9.9	47.0	100.0	143.6
1983	26.3	15.8	10.1	47.8	100.0	144.7

Table 3 (cont'd)

Employed in Israel						
Year					Total	
	Agriculture	Industry	Construction	Other	(Percentage)	(Thousands)
1970	24.4	11.6	54.3	9.7	100.0	20.6
1971	22.3	14.8	52.3	10.6	100.0	33.8
1972	23.1	17.1	49.5	10.3	100.0	52.4
1973	19.3	18.1	51.7	10.9	100.0	61.3
1974	19.1	17.5	52.5	10.9	100.0	68.7
1975	14.3	18.4	54.4	12.9	100.0	66.3
1976	15.4	19.7	50.3	14.6	100.0	64.9
1977	16.2	21.3	45.3	17.2	100.0	63.0
1978	16.8	22.2	44.8	16.2	100.0	68.2
1979	14.8	22.8	46.2	16.2	100.0	74.1
1980	13.7	20.9	47.4	18.0	100.0	75.1
1981	12.7	18.2	51.0	18.1	100.0	75.8
1982	12.8	17.7	52.8	16.7	100.0	79.1
1983	12.2	18.6	50.4	18.8	100.0	87.8

Sources: For all years except 1971 and 1978, Statistical Abstract of Israel, 1984, p. 763, table XXVII/20.

For years 1971 and 1978, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, "Palestine: options for development," (TD/3/960), by P.G. Sadler and B. Abu Kishk, 11 May 1983, table 1.8, p. 10

The land and water policies associated with the settlement policy, by reducing agricultural employment in the territories, have modified not only the structure of employment therein, but also the class structure of Palestinian society, as a large portion of those engaged in agriculture have been transformed into wage-labour, 27 / that is into an industrial proletariat which, however, is not utilized for industrialization. This is impeded by occupation policies on land and water, agricultural production, industrial production as well as trade. The above table seems to confirm this situation.

As regards industry, one should realize that the small share of employment in the sector constitutes a reflection of the persistent lack of development in this area. Normal production and trade activities in the occupied Arab territories are considerably hampered by the Israeli authorities in the way of closing down Arab businesses, issuing orders, forcing production workshops to be torn down, with no explanations at times, conducting tax collection campaigns targeted at Arab businesses and production enterprises which have been described as particularly brutal and damaging, since late payment of taxes has caused many businesses to be closed down. 28/

A relatively recent economic concept given primary attention in Israel is the creation of three types of industrial zones or parks within the framework of the Israeli plans for industrialization of the occupied Arab territories. Industrialization is expected to solve economic problems and meet the needs of the primarily Jewish population. According to M. Benvenisti, the industrialization "will be Jewish, not Arab". 29/ He goes on to mention that,

"The current policies of the (Israeli) authorities are to build only capital-intensive, sophisticated factories to achieve two objectives; to minimize the need for settlers to commute to the cities and to limit Arab employment." 30/

One of the dangerous trends in the occupied territories' industrialization concept is that the mentioned high technology plants are usually defence-related. 31/ This is illustrated by the fact that one half of all workers employed in the largest industrial park of Maaleh Adumin, for example, are Jewish workers employed in military installations. 32/ According to Najwa Makhoul, 33/ there is a reluctant and selective induction of Palestinians into military-related industries. Arabs are normally hired to work in non-sensitive, routine and often hazardous jobs.

Another significant characteristic of employment in the occupied territories is that a substantial portion of the labour force works in Israel. Although this study deals with the living conditions within the occupied territories, the problem of Palestinians having to commute to their working places in Israel is closely and directly linked to the question under consideration. Those Arab workers from the occupied territories employed in Israel continue to be disadvantaged in many ways with respect to their conditions of work compared with Israeli workers.

The workers employed in Israel have no job security. They are engaged on short-term work permits, and the continuity of their jobs largely depends on fluctuations in the Israeli economy. They are the first to be laid off in times of recession and the last to be engaged in times of economic recovery. They are not entitled to unemployment benefits. Very often skilled workers seek unskilled jobs because of the lack of suitable opportunities commensurate with their skills either in the occupied territories or in Israel. <sup>34/</sup>

In examining the data on Palestinian workers employed in Israel, one must bear in mind the following circumstances:

"The restrictions and constraints placed upon Palestinians living in Israel have forced many of them into migratory labor, with all the dislocation this kind of work entails. Most industrial enterprises are located in the Jewish sector, so Arab workers have had to travel long distances from their villages to places of employment. It is estimated that around 70 per cent of Palestinian workers commute to work places outside their villages; the figure approaches 90 per cent among workers aged fifteen to twenty-five." <sup>35/</sup>

#### B. Agriculture

The economy of the West Bank and Gaza is basically agricultural. Agriculture is the most important and productive sector. However, as is mentioned above, there has been an obvious decline in the total employment in this economic branch since 1970. According to the report of the Director-General to the International Labour Organisation at its fourth session,

"The (Israeli) authorities claim that the West Bank agricultural sector has not suffered from the reduction in the labour force employed, as can be seen from the fact that the agricultural workers' earnings and the owners' income both increased regularly between 1970 and 1981 - by 6 per cent in the first case and 5.5 per cent in the second. On the other hand, Arab sources and information obtained from Palestinian circles draw attention to the difficult situation of agriculture in the occupied territories: first, because of the lack of capital and credit institutions, the sector is unable to introduce capital-intensive crop processes; second, agricultural products from the occupied territories do not have free access to the Israeli market whereas there is nothing to prevent Israeli products from flooding the local market." <sup>36/</sup>

According to the Palestinian sources, <sup>37/</sup> other factors inhibiting the development of this extremely vital factor are as follows:

- Confiscation by the Israeli occupation authorities of the huge land areas and their utilization for the construction of Israeli settlements;
- Israeli authorities' control over the Palestinian water resources and their use for the needs of the Israeli settlements. At the same time, the Israeli occupation authorities restrict Palestinian consumption of water for agricultural, industrial or domestic purposes; As Benvenisti writes, "The fact that they (Palestinian farmers) must rely almost exclusively on rainfall puts them at the mercy of climatic conditions;" <sup>38/</sup>
- There has been a forced restructuring of the Palestinian agricultural sector with its subsequent accommodation to the requirement of the Israeli industry, local needs neglected. Even cultivation of wheat, the Palestinian staple item, has been discouraged;
- Palestinian farmers are obliged to surrender the proceeds of their exports in exchange for shekels, the value of which is constantly declining. This entails financial losses for the Palestinians;
- Palestinian farmers are prohibited from exporting their citrus output to West European countries lest it compete with Israeli citrus exports;
- Israeli policies in the occupied territories brought the activities of the Palestinian agro-co-operatives to almost a complete standstill. Israeli authorities prevent the cooperatives from obtaining any financial aid;
- Finally, Israeli occupation authorities prohibited the establishment of an agricultural college in the occupied Palestinian territories.

#### C. Industry

Industry is not a leading sector in the economies of the West Bank and Gaza. Its structure has not altered significantly over the occupation period. It is still characterized by small firms, low level of capitalization, low level of technology as well as by preponderance of manually operated machinery and equipment. Most of the industrial enterprises are small-scale ones. This is partly due to their being administered, prior to 1967, by separate countries in accordance with those countries' national economic priorities. <sup>39/</sup> The predominance of small establishments is illustrated by the fact that in 1979, only 205 of the then total of 3,540 establishments employed more than 10 people, whereas only 65 employed more than 20. <sup>40/</sup> In the West Bank and Gaza, industrial enterprises engaged in production of textiles and clothing, wood and its products, basic metals and metal products and leather and its products prevail in the existing industrial structure. From 1967 onwards there has been insignificant development in the West Bank and Gaza industries. Moreover, according to P.G. Sadler and B. Abu Kishk, "there has been no real industrialization since 1967". <sup>41/</sup> M. Benvenisti observes that,

"The industrial sector's contribution to the gross domestic product fell from 9.0 per cent in 1968 to 8.2 per cent in 1975 and 6.5 per cent in 1980. ... Productivity, measured by value added per worker in industry, was less than half the value added per worker in agriculture in 1980.

"Growth in value added is estimated at an average annual rate of 4.5 per cent, compared with an average growth of 7 per cent in Israeli industry and almost 13 per cent in Jordanian industry." <sup>42/</sup>

The Israeli policy of establishing the above-mentioned industrial parks in the West Bank also deprives Palestinians of their lands. By 1983, six parks were established, namely: Maaleh Adumim, Barker, Kemet, Shomron, Maaleh Ephraim, Kiryat Arba and Shaked (total of 1,260 dunams). There are plans for seven additional parks (with a total area of 15,010 dunams) to be established in the occupied West Bank by 2010. <sup>43/</sup> This policy however requires heavy financing which is readily available for these purposes from the Government.

"These parks are situated within a radius of fifteen miles from Israel's industrial belt (Ashdod-Hadera). They are eligible for assistance at the highest level, despite the short distance from the existing industrial zones that receive no assistance. Moving to the new industrial parks in the West Bank entitles entrepreneurs not only to receive massive financing but also to sell their old property in the urban center at a high profit and to receive a free plot with a sophisticated physical infrastructure." <sup>44/</sup>

The Palestinian industrial sector has suffered before and is suffering now from the imposed unfair competition with Israeli products as well as from the policies of the Israeli authorities aimed at encouraging the production of cheap labour-intensive goods to meet the needs of the Israeli economy. Major exports of the occupied territories to Israel are construction materials. Products created by the Palestinian craftsmen of Jerusalem and Bethlehem are purchased by the Israeli firms and then re-exported abroad under Israeli labels. Exports of industrial products (total - West Bank and Gaza) from the occupied territories to Israel account for almost one third of the imports from Israel to the West Bank and Gaza. According to Israeli statistics, the total value of industrial merchandise imported from Israel to the West Bank and Gaza in 1983 is estimated at 35,314.5 million shekels (20,410.8 million - West Bank and 14,903.7 million - Gaza) whereas the total of only 13,245.6 million

shekels' worth of goods were exported to Israel in the same year. 45/

As in other production sectors, there is no long-term planning and programming to reorganize and vitalize the industrial sectors to respond to the demand for industrial products by residents of the occupied territories or to develop an export market for the products. This situation is likely to prevail as long as the indigenous leadership in the industrial sector is excluded from directing industrial development and as long as no local institutions are available to meet the technological, commercial and financial needs of those sectors. 46/

#### D. Trade and monetary situation

No trade existed between the occupied Palestinian territories and Israel prior to 1967. Agricultural products sold to Arab countries of the region were the only export commodity. The occupied Palestinian territories formerly imported goods manufactured in developed countries while the nearby Arab countries played the role of the major export market for the high quality agricultural products of these territories.

After the 1967 occupation, trade between the Palestinian territories and the outside world has been drastically changed and restructured. Currently almost all of the trade operations are conducted via Israel and controlled by the Israeli authorities as Sadler and Abu Kishk point out,

"The progressive absorption of the Palestinian economy into that of Israel also has its effect, for much Israeli trade is, in fact, either of goods produced in Palestine and sold to Israeli agents, or of goods part-finished in Palestine and completed for the world market in Israel. Many of the restrictions and directions imposed by Israeli legislation have resulted in much Palestinian labour commuting to Israel for work.

"Without political control of the monetary and fiscal systems the Palestinian people have been unable to influence the exchange rate, which has been manipulated to serve purposes of little relevance to their own development, and has in all probability been detrimental to it. They have had no influence on the tariffs and subsidies which affect trade flows, either between them and Israel or between them and the outside world. The occupied territories are now a market for Israeli production sectors rather than a separate economy which deals with a neighbouring economy on equal terms." 47/

Except for Israel and Jordan, trade between the occupied territories and other countries is virtually non-existent. According to Sadler and Abu Kishk:

"Agricultural products figure very low in exports to Israel, due to the high proportion of agricultural products in Israel's own output. This has encouraged Israel to adopt a restrictive policy on agricultural imports from the occupied territories. Yet the absence of an industrial base and restrictive policies on indigenous industrial developments have not allowed the development of alternative export possibilities. Indeed, the requirements of industry are especially predominant in trade between the occupied territories and Israel, with Israel supplying some 80-90 per cent of their import needs. The occupied territories are now an extremely important market for Israeli outputs." 48/

Apparently, the only facet of the economic life in the occupied territories which has not been totally dependent on the Israeli economy is the monetary system. In the post-1967 period, Israel closed down virtually all commercial banks that were integrated with Egyptian banks in Gaza and with Jordanian banks in the West Bank, consequently replacing them by Israeli banks. The Israeli shekel became the main unit of exchange while Jordanian dinar continues to be legal tender in the West Bank and, since it is relatively strong and stable, a preferred currency. Although the relationship between the two currencies is officially regulated, there exists an informal money market made up of exchange agencies that act as intermediaries with the Jordanian banks in Amman.

The absence of an adequate banking system and the restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities on investments coming from Jordan have injurious effects at the level of economic activity and stifle the West Bank economy. According to Antoine Mansour, the present monetary situation is characterized by two features: the absence of integration along with the presence of destruction. 49/

### III. IMPACT OF ISRAELI OCCUPATION ON THE SOCIAL LIFE OF THE PALESTINIANS

#### A. Some general characteristics

The living conditions of the people in the occupied territories have been profoundly affected by various constraints and restrictions imposed by the Israeli authorities as regards social life, outlook, aspirations and cultural environment of the Palestinians. Policies and practices of the occupying Power embodied in many military orders, totalling over 975 since the occupation, have brought about numerous changes in the life style of the Palestinian families. 50/

Expropriation of private and public land, and restrictions in the use of water for agricultural needs of the Palestinians, have resulted in a deep sense of insecurity and disincentive to pursue the traditional rural mode of life. Some family members are therefore forced to seek wage employment in nearby settlements or in Israel; moreover some Palestinians, in order to feed their families, have to go for employment as far as the Gulf States. 51/

Israelis continue to destroy dwellings under "The Defence (Emergency) Regulations" of 1945. The Israeli Government has adopted the same Defence Regulations, changing some terminology in them, while preserving the substance. Imprisonment and incarceration without trial is also observed. Israelis resort to deportation of Palestinians for political and other reasons. 52/

According to the 1983 Report of the Secretary-General entitled "Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories",

"Cases of individual harassment have frequently been reported. Palestinian farmers have been threatened or molested while working on their land by settlers who claimed the land belonged to the settlements. Fruit trees on private land have been uprooted or destroyed. Armed settlers have tried to take over houses inhabited by Arabs, have attacked residents and have sometimes kidnapped them, particularly students and young people, on the grounds that they had participated in demonstrations." 53/

The current policy of the Israeli authorities is to establish settlements in dense clusters in proximity to Palestinian communities. This results in an increasing tension between the Israeli settlers and Palestinians. In the areas of Hebron and Nablus, where Israeli settlements comprise members of radical religious groups, such tensions and physical confrontations were reported highest. 54/

The Israeli settlers, in the exercise of their role as "maintainers of law and order" being supported by the military administering the territories, exceed their powers and harass and intimidate Palestinians individually as well as collectively.

"The permission granted to the Israeli settlers to carry arms and to be involved in maintaining law and order has had a direct impact on the normal day-to-day activities of the Palestinians. According to residents of the West Bank visiting Amman, who were interviewed by the consultants, the streets in Palestinian villages and towns are deserted after nightfall. People confine themselves to their homes, fearing to go out lest they be accosted by either the armed settlers, the police or army personnel on patrol, asked to show their identity papers and questioned at length. The presence of a group of armed settlers in a market place or on patrol is sufficient cause for Palestinians to become apprehensive of any encounter, however peaceful it might be. While the Israeli settlers are free to move as they please and are able to pursue their social and cultural interests without any hindrances, the Palestinians are subjected to frequent curfews. The need to obtain permission from the occupying authorities to hold meetings, which is often denied, and the close supervision exercised over the activities of Palestinian institutions and organizations in the occupied territories has further curtailed the social and cultural activities of the Palestinian residents." 55/

The Palestinians in their own land are still restricted in their movements. The frequent curfews are periodically imposed on Arab towns, villages and refugee camps thus disrupting the day-to-day life and activities of the population. This hampers the conduct of commerce and business activities, commuting to work (including

work-places in Israel), attendance at schools and performance of religious duties. The Military Government of the West Bank issued numerous orders within a brief period of time restricting mayors, municipal councilors and other public figures to their towns of residence or their homes.

Regarding the frequent Israeli violations of the religious practices and performance of religious duties by the Palestinians, the 1984 report of the Secretary-General on the "Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories" concluded the following:

"Interference in religious places and with religious performances has increased and enlarged in scope in recent years. The numerous incidents involving the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem have been widely publicized, the latest being on 27 January 1984, when a cache of hand-grenades and explosives were discovered in the Islamic cemetery abutting the Mosque and the guards at the Mosque had also discovered ladders and ropes dangling over the wall. Another holy place that has been the scene of frequent confrontation between Palestinian Muslims and Israeli Jews is the Patriarch's Cave at Hebron. Jews have been allowed access to the Cave to hold prayer meetings at which times the Arab Muslims must keep away. In fact, access by Muslims to the Cave has been progressively curtailed. According to the Ha'aretz of 11 September and Al Fajr of 18 September 1983, the Civil Administration in the West Bank had imposed restrictions on Muslim prayers during the Jewish holidays (the Jewish New Year's Day, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of the Tabernacles, and the Rejoicing of the Law) all occurring over a period of three weeks in September." 56/

Incidents of attacks against Muslim and Christian religious places have been widely reported throughout the occupation period. The above have been attributed to Israeli groups, such as the so-called "Terror against Terror" which have emerged in Jerusalem and the occupied territories with the aim of harassing, intimidating and terrorizing Palestinians and subsequently forcing them to abandon their domiciles. 57/

The Palestinian refugee camps have often been the objects of interference by the Israeli settlers as well as military personnel who frequently accuse camp residents of being involved in all sorts of unrest and demonstrations. According to the same report,

"The interferences have been most grave in those camps which have been earmarked in connection with the plans being prepared by the Government of Israel to relocate the refugees, such as Dheisheh and Jalazun." 58/

#### B. The Karp report

In its last report the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories considered the so-called "Karp report", prepared by the special inquiry commission of the Israeli Ministry of Justice established to investigate anti-Arab vigilantism by Jewish settlers and enforcement of law in the occupied West Bank. It was established on 29 April 1981 by the Israeli Attorney-General Yitzhaq Zamir in response to a petition submitted to the Attorney-General's office in July 1980 by 14 law professors from Tel Aviv and Hebrew universities. The petition expressed concern about the state of law enforcement in the occupied territories and cited numerous instances of violence committed by Israeli settlers against the Palestinian population. The Commission was headed by Deputy Attorney General Mrs. Yehudit Karp.

In performance of its investigative functions the Commission encountered numerous obstacles and lack of co-operation from some military government administrators and police officials. Moreover, The Jerusalem Post reported on 8 February 1984 that during the period under consideration in the Karp Report, Jewish settlers in the West Bank were under Israeli Defence Forces orders not to co-operate with the civilian police after incidents in which Arabs were fired on. The report was submitted to the Attorney-General and to the Ministers of Justice, Interior and Defence and to the police on 25 May 1982. Details of this report were not made public until February 1984.

The report is of great importance to the international community since it uncovered in an official Israeli document numerous cases of serious and consistent violations of human rights of the Palestinians of the West Bank by Jewish settlers. Ha'aretz reported on 6 February 1984,

"At a Cabinet meeting held on 5 February 1984, on the eve of the submission of the report prepared by Deputy Attorney-General Yehudit Karp to the Knesset Law Committee and to the Government Ministers, the Government unanimously adopted a resolution providing that whoever breaks the law in the territories shall be liable to penalties laid down by the law, and that the enforcement of law and public order in the territories is the duty of the IDF command, with the assistance of the police and other security bodies."

On 7 February 1989, the Karp report was finally released. The 33-page report was drawn up by a committee headed by Deputy Attorney-General Yehudit Karp and also consisting of the Jerusalem District Attorney, the legal advisers to the West Bank military Government and the head of the Israeli police prosecutions division. The Committee examined 70 complaints from Arabs regarding alleged offences by Jewish settlers, over a period of one year, beginning in May 1981. Fifty-three of the investigations into these complaints ended with no action being taken. Files were closed because of the inability to trace suspects, lack of evidence, or the absence of public interest. In addition to the examination of the performance of the Israeli police, the Committee also examined several investigations by the military police. It found that a lack of co-ordination between the two agencies severely hampered the efficacy of their operation. The Committee noted that, while it was not authorized to examine the IDF policy regarding the use of firearms, the increase in the number of local Arab residents wounded in the head and upper body raised the need for a re-examination of this policy. It also found that in several instances where the Border Police was involved in alleged offences against local residents, its own internal investigations were incomplete. No information on these investigations was provided.

#### C. Trade union rights in the occupied territories

As regards the trade union movement in the occupied territories, the ILO fact-finding mission visited the territories in February and March 1984 and reported various violations of freedom of association and trade union rights. The trade unions' rights are restricted in many different ways. This includes, for example, the searching of trade union premises by the Israeli military authorities and the confiscation of union documents and records, the closing down of union headquarters, the impossibility of receiving any assistance and documentation from outside sources. Also hampering the trade unions' normal activities are the persistent refusal of the Israeli authorities to register any new trade unions as well as repressive actions against individual union members and officials. Another negative feature is that the Arab trade unions are prevented by the Israeli authorities from quantitative growth. According to the 1984 Report of the Director-General of the ILO:

"The number of registered trade unions has not changed since 1982; 28 on the West Bank (not including East Jerusalem) and seven in Gaza." 59/

Trade union activity in Gaza is extremely limited, largely due to the limited strength of the union ranks. The above seven unions, affiliated to the Gaza Trade Union Federation, for example, consist of 464 members or 1 per cent of all workers employed in Gaza. 60/

#### D. Education

In any society education is a vital element in the living conditions since it not only provides the opportunity and leverage for self-improvement but also helps to

enhance a person's standard of living through upward occupational mobility. As Sarah Graham-Brown observes,

"Education has been one of the most enduring sources of social change in Palestinian society both inside and outside the borders of Palestine. In the occupied territories it has continued to be important since the Israeli occupation - despite the shortages of funds which now threaten both the state and the UNRWA systems. This is not to imply that everyone who completes the preparatory or secondary cycle of education necessarily moves from one class or status group to a higher one. In many cases education is wasted or frustrated by the lack of job opportunities, but for those who have help and encouragement from their families and for those who can go abroad to work, the possibility of social mobility does exist." 61/

Generally speaking, the system of education is the same in all the occupied territories, starting with kindergarten for children under the age of 6, then followed by elementary or primary school for children between the ages of six and 12, proceeding to preparatory school, normally for three years. The primary and preparatory schools form the compulsory cycle of education and are followed by secondary, vocational and teacher training institutions and institutions of higher learning.

The curricula continue to be those in use at the time of the occupation, namely, the Jordanian one in the West Bank and the Egyptian one in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli curriculum and educational system in general have been adopted in East Jerusalem in the education of Palestinian children.

There is constant Israeli interference in the functioning of schools and other educational institutions in the territories. This is manifested in a number of ways. For instance attempts are made to revise the curriculum to incorporate changes in Arab culture and society. Books which are recommended for use in classes are closely censored and revised by the occupying authorities. Such revisions lead to the distortion of facts as they relate to the students' understanding and perception of their socio-cultural heritage. Books in the humanities are the primary target of these practices. The system of education in general in the occupied territories has been continuously disrupted by the Israeli authorities' measures aimed at closing down for indefinite time of individual schools, groups of schools and universities (see annex II). Besides, the situation today is such that any teacher trying to remedy these shortcomings and attempting to create nationalistic sentiments among the students is most likely doomed for transfer, dismissal or other punitive measures including arrest, detention or fine. 62/ Sometimes students creating these sentiments are arrested, incarcerated or transferred to other schools.

Speaking about the higher education system, university education, it should be noted in the outset that the system has been subjected over the last few years to various pressures by the occupation authorities. There are three universities in the West Bank and an Institute of Islamic Religious Studies in Gaza, all of which are supported by private foundations and individuals and obtain practically no assistance from the Government. The 1984 ILO report emphasized that:

"University establishments continue to be closed down, sometimes for long periods as in Bethlehem and Bir Zeit, and on several occasions various measures were again taken - which numerous reports received by the mission described as involving searches, fines, suspension without pay of teachers in schools closed by the authorities, dismissal and arrest of teachers, expulsion of students and exclusion from examinations - that jeopardize the normal completion of the students' education. Reports were also received of the enforcement of Military Order No. 854, which empowers the authorities to supervise such matters as the appointment of teachers, and of threats to expel teachers not living in the occupied territories who refuse to sign a statement that they do not support certain organisations defined by the law. Generally speaking, the argument that these steps are taken in the interests of security is felt to be groundless by the Palestinian students and teachers concerned, who see them on the contrary as a deliberate attempt to restrict their academic freedom and disrupt the smooth running of the education system." 62/

Probably the most notorious even entailed by this Israeli Military Order No. 854 (of 8 July 1980) has been the expulsion, in October 1982, of 28 professors of Palestinian origin teaching in the West Bank universities. They were charged with refusal as a matter of principle, to sign a "pledge" not to support any terrorist organization. Twenty one of them were from the Al Najah University. By the same order,

"All institutions of higher education, whether in existence at the date of the order or not, have to obtain a permit from the Military Governor in order to operate and all teachers have to be cleared by the Military Governor and his office before they can obtain employment in the University or continue in such employment. In addition, all foreign students, including students from the Gaza Strip, have to obtain permits to enable them to attend the universities." 64/

The situation is becoming more dramatic due to the physical interference of the Israeli authorities in the attendance of the universities by the Palestinian students:

"The security forces of the occupying authorities have continued to put up road blocks at the entrances to universities. Soldiers have entered the university premises on occasion and searched student dormitories, confiscating books, reviews and posters. On other occasions students have been arrested and detained for varying periods of time." 65/

Year after year ILO missions have reported on the status of the vocational training in the occupied territories. Equipment and fellowships have been made available to the Palestinians by many United Nations-family organizations, notably UNDP, UNICEF, the ILO, UNESCO, UNIDO and WHO. UNRWA has been especially active in the past several years.

Despite claims by the Israeli authorities of the on-going expansion of the vocational training programmes, the 1984 ILO mission observed that:

"While the mission was in Israel a study was being made of the requirements of undertakings in the occupied territories, with an eye to the syllabus of future courses. In spite of these indications that the authorities are making an effort in the field of vocational training, however, other factors point to the need for the whole structure of the training programmes to be looked at again. In practice, the level of skills of the local labour force continues to serve essentially for semi-skilled employment in the Israeli economy, and the decision to carry out the study referred to above is therefore certainly welcome. In a centre it visited on the West Bank, for example, the mission noted that only 10 per cent of those who had completed their training had managed to find work on the West Bank itself, while the remainder had gone to work in roughly equal proportions in Israel and in the Arab countries. In another centre it saw in Gaza, the proportion of former trainees employed locally was barely 20 per cent. There is therefore an urgent need for manpower resources and requirements to be geared specifically to the development of the occupied Arab territories. Moreover, despite some progress, the rate of increase in the total number of trainees - 8 per cent between 1981 and 1983 - is still fairly low." 66/

#### E. Health conditions

The Thirty-sixth World Health Assembly adopted resolution WHA36.27 on 16 May 1983 which, inter alia, requested the Special Committee of Experts:

"To continue its task with respect to all the implications of occupation and the policies of the occupying Israeli authorities and their various practices which adversely affect the health conditions of the Arab inhabitants in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine, and to report to the Thirty-seventh World Health Assembly, bearing in mind all the provisions of this resolution, in co-ordination with the Arab States concerned and the Palestine Liberation Organization". 67/

The Committee's visit to the occupied Palestinian territories lasted from 5 through 14 April 1983. Upon completion of their mission the Committee came up with this conclusion..

"Progress in the health field is assessed not just in terms of the number of units, staff, or activities carried out, but in the light of the appropriateness of the

relationships between the different components of the health system, i.e. the epidemiological, technical, social, economic and operational components. This relationship involves two concepts: accessibility and acceptability.

"Health promotion activities must be guided by accessibility and acceptability. In the context of the general socioeconomic development policies laid down for the occupied territories (policies for which the health sector is inseparable), and in view of the specific problems and structures of the region, it cannot be claimed that these two conditions of accessibility and acceptability are met for the Arab population." 68/

According to the findings of the above Committee, certain improvements had been made in the medical care infrastructure for the delivery of health services and in the supply of equipment. However, despite the effort of the international community, in particular, WHO, UNRWA, UNDP, UNICEF, medical care in the occupied Palestinian territories is still inadequate due to the lack of funds, closure of hospitals, lack of qualified medical personnel, poor equipment and the heavy workload in the existing hospitals. There have been no significant changes during the past few years.

"The system of centralization in planning for health services was not conducive to community participation in the public health effort and left the local medical authorities very little room for initiative. The health budget did not allow for desirable developments in the health services. Extrabudgetary resources from non-governmental and philanthropic institutions and associations or the community were often refused by the Israeli authorities." 69/

More specifically, as regards the health of schoolchildren in the occupied territories, the Committee established that:

"Despite the fact that hygiene seemed good and the health status of the children seemed satisfactory, there is virtually no school health service to carry out specific surveillance of the development of the children. Consequently there is no dynamic control or evaluation of the children's growth." 70/

It has also been pointed out by the Committee that in the area of workers' health protection, no code of occupational medicine has been issued to deal with hygiene problems that affect agricultural and industrial workers (construction industry and small companies).

Life of the Palestinians under the occupation leads them to psychological traumas and excessive negative stresses. In this respect the Committee observed the following:

"The economic situation, emigration, changing life styles and above all the latent tension within the community, claimed by the Palestinians to be a consequence of the occupation, are all exerting unfavourable effects on Palestinian society which take the form of the deterioration of mental well-being, not only in the individual but also within the community." 71/

Poor overall health care in the major hospitals of the West Bank and Gaza resulted in a situation where local physicians were compelled to refer an increasing number of Arab patients to hospitals in Israel.

"The worst off among the population in the occupied territories in terms of health care are those who have not joined the health insurance schemes - about half the population - because they are not qualified to join the compulsory scheme or because of an imperfect understanding of the scheme or because they lack a regular source of income. They find the costs of medical care too high in relation to their resources and many of them find it difficult to obtain the kind of free medical treatment they were accustomed to before the occupation." 72/

According to some sources, 40 per cent of the population of the occupied territories still enjoy no insurance coverage which makes it extremely difficult for them to meet high costs of admission to hospitals (approx. 3100 per day), which, though more or less the same as in Israel, is still out of reach for a large segment of the Palestinian population. 73/

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Present living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories are fundamentally affected as a direct result of Israeli occupation policies pursued for almost two decades. Apart from political domination and de-Palestinianization policies, Israel's occupation of the Palestinian lands has had a number of far-reaching socio-economic consequences.

The economy and infrastructure of the West Bank and Gaza are being tied and made subservient to Israel. Settlement policy required confiscation of Palestinian lands, annexation of Jerusalem and settlement of Jewish residents therein. Systematic depletion of the West Bank's water resources and their use for the needs of Jewish settlers led to severe drought and forced Palestinian farmers to abandon their traditional households. The demographic consequences of the occupation are described by Janet L. Abu-Lughod as follows:

"We might summarize the demographic consequences of the occupation as follows:

- "1) a massive expulsion of residents sufficient to stabilize numbers, despite a natural increase rate that has averaged 3.5 per cent per year;
- "2) a distortion in the normal population characteristics of the residual population, due to the selectivity of expulsions and emigrations, and
- "3) a transformation of the remaining population from a diversified independent society of peasants, businessmen, and professionals to a proletarianized and dependent reserve labor army at the mercy of Israeli political and economic interests.

"These changes in the demographic characteristics of the territories occupied by Israel in 1967 have been the outcome of concerted policies adopted by the occupier. These policies have been intentionally designed both to 'contain' the size of the population over whom dominance would have to be exercised and to 'reduce' its capacity to resist domination." 74/

A number of United Nations organs and specialized agencies have been dealing with various aspects of the question of living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories for over a decade. On 16 December 1976 the General Assembly adopted resolution 31/110 entitled "Living conditions of the Palestinian people" (see annex III) pursuant to the previously adopted resolution 3 of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver from 31 May to 11 June 1976, and ECOSOC resolution 2026 (LXI) of 4 August 1976 on the same matter.

Resolution 31/110 was the first United Nations resolution in which, inter alia, the General Assembly:

"1. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the relevant United Nations organs and specialized agencies, to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session a report on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories;"

The first report on this subject was prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme and submitted to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session. Ever since this question has been under the Assembly's close attention.

It should be noted that throughout all these years, Israel has consistently voted against the adoption of any resolution on the subject.

Despite Israel's refusal to co-operate with the consultant appointed by the Secretary-General to draft the report as well as its negative posture during the voting on the above-mentioned matter, the question of the living conditions of the Palestinians in the occupied Palestinian territories has continued to be an important socio-economic item on the General Assembly's agendas. In this regard, resolution 39/169, strongly endorsed by the overwhelming majority of United Nations Member

States at the thirty-ninth session of the General Assembly, states that the Assembly:

" Gravely alarmed by the continuation of the Israeli settlement policies, which have been declared null and void and a major obstacle to peace,

" Recognizing the need to investigate ways and means of arresting the deterioration in the economy of the occupied Palestinian territories,

"1. Takes note with concern of the report of the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories;

"2. Takes note also of the statement made by the Observer of the Palestine Liberation Organization;

"3. Rejects the Israeli plans and actions intended to change the demographic composition of the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly the increase and expansion of the Israeli settlements, and other plans and actions creating conditions leading to the displacement and exodus of Palestinians from the occupied Palestinian territories;

"4. Expresses its alarm at the deterioration, as a result of the "Israeli occupation, in the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967;

"5. Affirms that the Israeli occupation is contradictory to the basic requirements for the social and economic development of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories; ".

#### Notes

1/ United Nations document A/40/470-S/17332, 10 July 1985, p. 3.

2/ Report of the Secretary General, "Living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territories", United Nations document A/37/238 (15 June 1982), p. 5, para. 10.

3/ Meron Benvenisti, " The West Bank & Gaza Data Base Project: Pilot Study Report ", presented to the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, Washington, D.C. 1982 (unpublished), p. 55.

4/ Benvenisti, op. cit., p. 32.

5/ Raja Shehadeh, "The West Bank and the rule of law", The International Commission of Jurists and Law in the Service of Man, Geneva, 1980, pp. 59-62.

6/ United Nations document A/39/233, p. 9, para. 25.

7/ Reply received by the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Population in the Occupied Territories from the Government of Jordan (United Nations document A/8089, annex V, pp. 4 and 7). See also annexes I and II.

8/ Yigal Allon, "Israel: the case for defensible borders", Foreign Affairs Review, vol. 55, No. 1 (October 1976), pp. 38-53.

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## ANNEX I

JORDAN VALLEY REGIONAL WATER PLANS

	Main Plan		Arab Plan		Cotton* Plan	
	Water+	Area++	Water	Area	Water	Area
Jordan	774	490	861	490	575	430
Lebanon	-	-	35	35	450.7	350
Syria	45	30	132	119	30	30
Israel	394	420	200	234	1290	1790
Total	1213	940	1228	878	2345.7	2600

+ Million cubic meters

++ Thousands of dunums

\* The Cotton Plan includes the water of the Litani River, as well as that of the Jordan and Yarmuk rivers.

(Adapted from Breeher, p. 2044.

Source: *The Link*, published by Americans for Middle East Understanding, Inc., vol. 17, No. 4 (November 1984).

## ANNEX II

LIST OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS CLOSED DOWN  
BETWEEN FEBRUARY 1983 AND 1984

Statement submitted by the Minister for Occupied Territories Affairs  
of Jordan to the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices  
Affecting the Human Rights of the Population of the Occupied Territories  
on 28 May 1984

Institutions	District	Closing date	Re-opening date
All schools in the West Bank		29 March 1983	20 April 1983
Al-Najah University	Nablus	3 March 1983	4 April 1983
		5 June 1983	1 September 1983
Ma'zouz Al Masary High School	"	28 February 1983	24 April 1983
Qadri Toucan High School	"	17 November 1983	24 November 1983
Industrial School in Nablus	"	1 March 1983	1 May 1983
King Talal School in Nablus	"	4 May 1983	28 May 1983
All Jenin schools		27 March 1983	1 May 1983
Anabta High School for Boys	Tulkarm	8 April 1983	8 May 1983
Anabta High School for Girls	"	8 April 1983	8 May 1983
Bir Zeit University	Bir Zeit	2 August 1983	2 May 1983

Institutions	District	Closing date	Re-opening date
UNRWA Teachers Institute	Ramallah	17 April 1983	30 April 1983
Arab medical and paramedical faculties	"	9 April 1983	9 May 1983
Ramallah High School for Boys	"	3 March 1983	3 April 1983
		9 November 1983	17 November 1983
Ramallah High School for Girls	"	3 January 1984	Until further notice
Al Bireh Nursing School	"	20 April 1983	4 May 1983
Hashemite School at Al Bireh	"	16 May 1983	28 May 1983
Al Bireh High School for Girls	"	3 January 1984	Until further notice
Bethlehem University	Bethlehem	3 March 1983	4 April 1983
		2 November 1983	5 December 1983
All schools at Beit Sahour	"	10 March 1983	4 April 1983
All schools at Al Dheisheh Refugee Camp	"	10 March 1983	4 April 1983
Beit Sahour Primary School	"	17 March 1983	4 April 1983
Intermediate Dheisheh School for Boys	"	28 February 1983	28 March 1983
Teachers Training Institute	Jerusalem	18 October 1983	18 December 1983
Kalandia Refugee Camp School	"	25 March 1983	4 April 1983
Kalandia Preparatory and Intermediate School for Girls	"	2 November 1983	2 January 1983

Institutions	District	Closing date	Re-opening date
Khawlah Bent Al-Azwar	"	5 November 1983	Until further notice
Intermediate School for Girls			
Hebron University	Hebron	10 March 1983	7 April 1983
Political Institute in Hebron	"	10 March 1983	25 May 1983
		27 July 1983	2 August 1983
Halhoul Secondary School for Girls	"	2 March 1983	7 April 1983
Yata School for Boys	"	2 March 1983	7 April 1983
All schools in Yata and Beit Omar		29 March 1983	25 April 1983
Sa'ir High School for Boys	"	12 May 1983	26 May 1983
Sa'ir High School for Girls	"	12 May 1983	26 May 1983
Tarek Ben Ziad School	"	9 November 1983	17 November 1983

Annex III  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 31/110  
"LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE"

"The General Assembly,

" Recalling the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, 1976 and the recommendations for national action adopted by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, held at Vancouver from 31 May to 11 June 1976,

" Recalling also resolution 3 of the Conference on living conditions of the Palestinians in occupied territories, and Economic and Social Council resolution 2026 (LXI) of 4 August 1976,

" Recalling further the recommendations adopted at the Regional Preparatory Conference for Asia and the Pacific, held at Teheran from 14 to 19 June 1975,

"1. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the relevant United Nations organs and specialized agencies, to prepare and submit to the General Assembly at its thirty-second session a report on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General, in preparing the above-mentioned report, to consult and co-operate with the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people;

"3. Urges all States to co-operate with the Secretary-General in this matter.

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