

US "Contribution"

In the context of the resettlement project, it is interesting to note that a US State Department delegation recently visited 'Israel' and suggested projects to develop the West Bank and Gaza Strip with \$1.5 million. The US claims that this aid is humanitarian, to help improve the conditions of the Palestinians. In fact, it would be geared to strengthen the hand of so-called moderate elements, who might be prone to cooperate with US plans for 'resolving' the issue of the occupied territories. Therefore, the US role is not only significant in financial terms, but politically as well.

ships of their daily lives, rendering them more vulnerable to resettlement. Israeli coordination with UNRWA has become clear in the past year. Since the 1982 war in Lebanon, UNRWA has decreased the number of its Palestinian employees. More pressure is exerted on UNRWA schools, whereby students accused of resisting the occupation are expelled on orders from the military authorities. Services to the refugees have been decreased or suspended, mainly health care and drinking water.

3. Procuring the funds to implement this project. 'Israel' does not possess the required finances. Thus, after unveiling his resettlement plan, Ben Porat contacted US officials and US Zionist organizations to cover the expenses for the plan. He is reported to have received huge amounts of money for this purpose. On Nov. 6th, Binyamin Ben Elezer, an Israeli general who is coordinator of the military government's activities in the occupied territories, told *Jerusalem Post* that 'Israel' proposed to a US delegation a project to resettle 250,000 Palestinian refugees in the West Bank

and Gaza Strip. The expenses would come to about \$1.5 million.

4. Generating international support for resettlement. To this end, a campaign will be waged to convince international public opinion that with this project, 'Israel' aims to improve the plight of the refugees, and not, as the Arab governments, deliberately maintain the camps for their own interests. Furthermore, such a campaign aims to create an international atmosphere conducive to finding an overall solution to the Palestinian question as a problem of refugees, thus sidestepping the establishment of a Palestinian political entity.

The Zionist state is determined to implement this project. Like previous resettlement plans, the ultimate goal is to have the refugees living in permanent shelters within confined areas and under the sole jurisdiction of the Israeli authorities. While previous plans (see next article) have aimed to

accommodate the refugees through economic projects, while preserving traditional social relations and involving the Arab governments' participation, Ben Porat's project aims to resettle Palestinians without establishing an economic base for them. This is consistent with Israeli policy for subordinating the Palestinians under occupation to the Israeli economy. Ben Porat's project comes as part of the overall Zionist plan, whereby the Palestinians of the 1967 occupied territories are to be surrounded and

