nistrative restrictions which prevent the entry of certain West Bank and Gaza products to Israel, especially in agriculture. The following excerpt (written before the return of al-Arish to Egypt) from an Israeli report is indicative:

> The dates grown in Deir el Balah in the Gaza Strip and in El Arish in Sinai...which support hundreds of families as basic income are perishable goods, not suited for storage. At the height of the harvest of about 2000 tons a year, the growers receive a low price of 20 to 30 agorot a kilogram (retail dates average about 50 times that much in the Tel Aviv market). In contrast, there is a large population in Israel which loves the fruit but cannot buy it because of high price, a result of preventing selling Gaza and Sinai dates (Tzidkoni, 1975:41-42).

Tariff barriers, competition and political uncertainty thus contribute decisively to the curtailment of local investment activity. We should not underestimate, however, the inability of the Palestinian bourgeoisie in the West Bank to absorb a significant number of Arab workers in local enterprises. This failure is rooted in its historical character as a landlord-mercantile class which, when defeated as a dominant stratum in pre-1948 Palestine, turned to real estate speculation (in Lebanon, Jordan and the West Bank) and to professional occupations and safe careers in public institutions for its sons. Among a small number of more enterprising individuals, members of a new established stratum of professionals and returning emigrants, we see a tendency to invest in light industries (pharmaceuticals, plastics and textiles). Furthermore, some of the traditional industries which flourished in the thirties and forties continue to operate under the patronage of their original founders (e.g., soap in Nablus, wood engraving in Bethlehem and glass in Hebron).