

New employment opportunities became available in the occupied territories in a few exceptional situations after the 1973 October War, but it is unjustifiable to regard these opportunities as counter-trends because of the limited period in which they have appeared. After the 1975 recession, for example, there was an absolute decline in the number of workers from the two regions employed in Israel. In Gaza, seasonal agricultural workers (employed mostly in citrus picking and packing) were replaced by Israeli workers (and possibly by volunteer workers from Europe), and a portion of them managed to find employment at home (Bregman, 1976:32; also cf. Table IV-5, p. 45). Similarly, construction workers from the West Bank, made redundant in Israel, were partly absorbed by the increase in local construction, but mainly by the building boom in Trans-Jordan.

There have been some attempts by the military government, especially under the labour governments, to encourage Israeli investments in the occupied territories through credit incentives and the provision of other facilities to Israeli entrepreneurs.⁶ Credit has also been made available to some Palestinian capitalists and subcontracting partnerships. One major industrial complex in Erez (near Gaza), exclusively funded by Israeli capital, has in fact been operating for a few years (Bregman, 1975:62-67; Samara, 1975:28-32). Another complex at Ma'aleh Adumim, near Jericho, was opened in 1977, but it seems to be designed for the employment of Jewish workers from settlements in the Judean hills.

In general, Jewish businessmen were reluctant to invest in the occupied territories, with the exception of joint (Arab-Jewish) subcontracting investments in textiles and building material which have shown considerable growth in the period following the October War. Subcontracting would seem to offer an alternative outlet for capitalist expansion in view of the shortcomings of local enterprises and since it has the open