

Viewed separately employment figures for Palestinians working in Israel and the occupied territories exhibit minor trends over the last 15 years of Israeli occupation. But when the total employment aggregates are considered for the two regions new patterns begin to emerge. For the period 1968 to 1980 the most noticeable of these patterns is a decline in the figures for agricultural employment, from 35 percent to 28 percent of total employment, together with an increase in the proportion of construction workers, from 11 percent to 21 percent for the same period (Bregman, 1976:28; Israel Statistical Abstract, 1979:738-739; Israel Ministry of Defense, 1982:43). Another noticeable drop in figures for the category of trade and services suggests, possibly, a tendency towards the elimination of small peddlers and artisans.

If one attempts to establish any trends using the year 1968 as a starting point, the evidence is likely to be inconclusive, considering that this was a year of post-war adjustment; this quite apart from the general caution one should adopt when dealing with collected data in "enemy territory." Yet, if we accept these statistics as a basis for establishing medium-range projections, and provided that there are no dramatic changes in the political picture, then it seems inevitable that "the dominant tendency for the territories is to become a dormitory economy" for Israel (Van Arkadie, 1977:74).

This conclusion is further highlighted by certain geographic aspects of commuting to work in Israel from the West Bank and Gaza. Any Palestinian village or town is at most between one hour to ninety minutes in travelling time from the nearest Jewish workplace (without taking into account, of course, availability of transportation). This fact, together with the casual character of employment, ensures that the process of land alienation is not likely to take a drastic turn for the worse since peasant-