

prevented Zbeidat shepherds from grazing their cattle on the hilly grass-land where the moshav is now located.

Security alerts, which are not infrequent cause strain between the settlement and the village. When they happen, the gates of the settlement are locked to all outsiders and Zbeidat farmers are often refused entry to their own fields by the army.

It would be difficult to assess the future relationship between Zbeidat and Argaman in isolation from the policies determining the growth of Jewish settlements in the Jordan Valley Rift and the West Bank in general. In the 1980/1981 season, Argaman cultivated between 300-500 dunums, but in fact had access to another 1500 dunums allocated to it by the Jewish Agency in 1971 (see Appendix F) which it did not crop for lack of manpower. The Israeli authorities have furthermore, confiscated all the cultivable land between Zbeidat and Makhrouq, an area which includes altogether (aside from the dunums fenced-off by the army of "security" reasons) about 6000 dunums. This area was set aside for the future growth of planned settlements and for the "thickening" of existing settlements (see Map 11:6; Drobles, 1978). That land happens to be the only area of cultivable land also (aside from the fenced-off area) in the direction of which the land-hungry farmers of Zbeidat, Jiftlek and Makhrouq can expand. The resolution of these conflicting claims, however, can only be dealt with politically, in the general determination of the future status of the West Bank.

Having considered the evolution of conditions of tenancy and proprietorship in Zbeidat, we can now examine the impact of the new agricultural technology on production relationships and the internal differentiation of the peasant households.