

serves to underwrite the supply of cheap rural labour to Israeli industries. The physical proximity of Israeli work sites to the village ensures that, in contrast to the situation in South Africa, there is no conservation-dissolution process here which threatens the destruction of the agricultural sector by the very system which stands to benefit from the preservation of backward farming. What does threaten the persistence of marginal farming along these lines is negligence generated by increasing migration out of the country altogether.

(f) The family plot remains an important source of security for the peasant-worker, given the instability of work tenure and the determination of employment opportunities by the prevailing ideological trends in Israel.¹ This explains the relative absence of a land market in rural Palestine, and - in part - the lack of any significant trends towards concentrations of fragmented parcels. The continued involvement of the peasant-worker in his family farm has adapted itself conveniently to the conditions of wage-labour in the construction and service sectors, both Israeli and Arab, where the seasonal release of the peasant-worker during periods of peak demands for his household agricultural work becomes necessary (in harvesting, pressing of olives, etc.). Conversely, the possibility of such release explains the high involvement of peasants in such 'flexible' sectors as construction and catering services. Simultaneously, we witness a progressive displacement of men's work on the farm by that of women, children, and older men. It is possible to explain, consequently, the low participation of rural women in the labour force by the new contingencies of agricultural demands in the peasant household rather than merely by factors related to social conservatism in the Palestinian village.

I have suggested in this thesis that wage labour involvements in