

Appendix E

The Reliability of Official Statistics for the West Bank

[The following assessment of official W.B. statistics is excerpted from Hans Lofgren's Migration from the West Bank (Stockholm University, 1982), pp. 26-17].

[West Bank] population statistics are based on the September 1967 census. They have been adjusted to the various components of population change, i.e. vital statistics (births and deaths) and migration (permanent emigration, "visitors" going abroad who did not return and entrance for "reunion of families")⁽¹⁾ It is not clear how the migration component of population change has been calculated. In this study the estimates of "net out-migration" have been derived by subtracting "total increase" from "natural increase". In several other studies the same procedure has been employed in order to derive the migratory balance for the year in question.⁽²⁾

The labor data have been obtained from a survey of families in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. This survey has been conducted currently since August 1968. Each family is visited every quarter year. Until July-September 1973 it included 4,500 families. Since then it has covered 6,500 families.⁽³⁾ The following definitions have been used: (i) "Employed" are persons who worked at least one hour during the determinant week (i.e. the week preceding the enumerator's visit); (ii) "Unemployed" are persons who did not work at all and actively sought work during the determinant week, (iii) "outside the labor force" are all persons aged 14 and over who were neither employed nor unemployed. Housewives, students and persons living on pensions belong to this latter group. The definitions coincide with those used for the Israeli population.⁽⁴⁾ The constant low unemployment figures suggest that people not employed were not normally registered as "unemployed". Instead they were excluded from the labor force. An ILO-report has mentioned the possibility that only workers who have been refused work in Israel are registered as unemployed.⁽⁵⁾ If so this can mean that persons seeking jobs on the WB use other channels, while at least some of the persons who seek employment in Israel register at the labor exchange bureaux.

According to Bregman, ... (Bank of Israel), further information regarding