

estimates derived from comparable international data, Tuma and Drabkin project the capital outlay needed for rehabilitating a Palestinian state of about 2.8 million inhabitants at £8.5 billion (1975 prices) over a transition period of five years following its inception.¹ This, they emphasize, is a modest price for reaching justice and peace in Palestine.

Elizabeth Collard and Rodney Wilson² adopt basically an identical argument, but shed more light on the repressive nature of Israel's economic policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Much of their essay is devoted to giving ideas on what they conceive as major projects for stimulating vigorous development in the anticipated state. According to their projections, the capital outlay required for this purpose during a transitional period of five years is in the range of £8000m (£16,000m) which they also consider within easy reach, should political constraints be removed. Wilson, and Collard, and Tuma and Drabkin believe that it will be relatively easy to shoulder the economic cost of a Palestinian state on account of a long-standing commitment of parts of the world community to do justice to a dispossessed nation, and in view of the enormous wealth of the Gulf states which have additional commitments toward the land of Palestine and its fellow Moslems.

Local Literature

Israel assumed full control on all public institutions in the occupied territories immediately after occupation. Consequently,

1. Ibid, p 93.
2. Elizabeth Collard and Rodney Wilson, The Economic Potential of an Independent Palestinian State, (London: Middle East Economic Digest, Vol II, 1975).

all activities of public research institutions have been either severely curtailed or altered in ways which would render them ineffectual in meeting development needs of the territories themselves. And because of the relatively late emergence of local universities, the occupied territories had little research done by local experts throughout the first decade of Israeli occupation.

The late seventies witnessed the emergence of three universities in the West Bank. Initially, the new universities did little to meet the mounting research needs in various fields, because they were too deficient in qualified teaching staff to be able to initiate and sustain a rigorous research program. Although their recruitment position has improved over the last two years, research efforts of West Bank universities are heavily restrained by opposition from military authorities. Besides forbidding government staff from releasing any information or data without prior consent, senior Arab officials are explicitly instructed not to welcome outsiders to their offices for non-routine work. Not surprisingly, therefore, the contribution of West Bank universities in this field has been extremely limited and thus far it is restricted largely to a report on West Bank agriculture written by the present researcher and published by An-Najah University in 1979.¹ Although it helped to shed some light on several problems and issues, the said report was brief and lacking of supportive field research.

Most recently (September 1981) four papers were produced by local experts and were presented in a seminar on agricultural development sponsored by the Arab Thought Forum. These papers were by

1. Hisham Awartani, West Bank Agriculture: A New Outlook, (Nablus An-Najah National University, 1979).