

aimed at achieving the following objectives:

a. Eventual annexation of most or all occupied regions. In June 1967 Levi Eshkol's government annexed East Jerusalem after a decision was taken to expand its municipal boundaries by several areas. In December 1981 Begin's government annexed the Syrian Golan Heights. There is speculation at the time of writing (April 1982) that Begin might take the anticipated step of annexing the West Bank in the near future, shortly after withdrawing from Sinai.

b. Colonial exploitation of economic resources available in relatively abundant quantities in the occupied territories. Although over-shadowed by more volatile political issues the exploitation of these resources has led to far-reaching consequences on Israel and the occupied territories themselves.

Annexation measures and exploitation policies will be discussed in Chapters III, IV, and V.

c. Controlling efforts which might eventually facilitate the emergence of a Palestinian state. This bears not only on Israel's foreign policy but further permeates its day to day practices in the occupied territories.

There are substantial differences among all major Israeli political parties in regard to their long-term policies in the occupied territories.\* The ruling Likud coalition and the Labour opposition are both convinced that the entire territory encompassed by Mandatory Palestine falls entirely within the boundaries of Eretz (greater) Israel, but they differ significantly in the methods they use to realize their objectives. The Labour party is deeply apprehensive

\* The Communist Rukah party (with four members in the Knesset out of 120) and Shelli (with two MK's) are the only parties which recognize the rights of the Palestinians to self-determination and statehood. The mood among Israeli voters, however, is overwhelmingly opposed to both ideas.

of the demographic and social consequences which might result from incorporating so many Palestinians into Israel itself. The ensuing dangers, they believe, more than justify surrendering the densely populated parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They would like to see those regions return under Jordanian sovereignty within an arrangement which secures Israel's basic interests. Among the most famous versions of this proposal are the Allon Scheme and the Federal State Scheme proposed by King Hussein in 1972. Both were floated and then stalled for various reasons. But there are clear indications that the Labour party still adheres to the same principles of territorial concessions advocated in Allon's scheme.

The ruling Likud coalition, being strongly committed to a scriptural basis, is more adamant on annexation issues. Mr Begin has consistently described the new territories as "liberated" and not occupied. His record for the past five years indicates clearly that his claims are not pure rhetoric. His government's policies regarding the West Bank, including his understanding of Camp David Accords, demonstrate his determination to annex the West Bank region. The demographic imbalance does not seem to worry the Likud and right-wing groups (most notably Gush Emunim), because they are confident that Israel will be able to exercise measures which will encourage Palestinian residents to leave. This, in the researcher's experience, is what Begin's government has attempted to do since its accession to power in 1977. Many of the measures taken in this regard will be discussed and evaluated later in this thesis.

#### Land

Land is probably the most important requisite in the process of agricultural production, particularly in underdeveloped countries,