

these wells is certainly questionable, given Israel's need for additional amounts of water to meet the needs of its growing settlements in the West Bank.

Surface water resources, on the other hand, are also neglected. The Military Administration hinders efforts to modernise water carrying techniques or the construction of collection dams. A good example is its attitude regarding the project proposed by the Wadi Fara'a Committee which aims at replacing the 16 kilometers of open concrete canal with metallic pipes. A study conducted by a leading major engineering firm has demonstrated a markedly positive feasibility for the proposed project. Consequently, ANERA* agreed to support it and earmarked for this purpose \$100,000. The Israeli government, however, refused to permit ANERA to pay its grant to the said project and refused to allow Wadi Fara'a Committee raise funds from other sources.

Labour in Israel

One year after occupation, and in response to a labour shortage emerging in Israel, the Israeli government permitted residents in the occupied territories to seek employment in Israel. This may have been the most important single development on the West Bank from a socio-economic point of view.

In less than four years after occupation the percentage of West Bank labourers employed in Israel climbed to around 40 percent of the total active labour force. Table (III-6) shows that their percentage has since then stabilized at 32-35 percent. The actual figure may in fact be 5-10 percent higher due to inadequate statistics for labourers employed without going through the Labour Exchange.

* American Near-East Refugee Aid

Table (III - 6)

Distribution of labour force by place of work

	<u>Number of Workers (000)</u>			<u>Percentage</u>		
	<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1979</u>
In the West Bank	99.8	91.9	93.0	87.2	69.3	70.0
In Israel	14.7	40.4	39.8	12.8	30.7	30.0
Total	114.5	131.5	132.8	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Statistical Abstract of Israel 1980, op cit, p 696.

The immediate stimulus for the powerful mobility of West Bank workers into Israel was spurred initially by the wide gap in wages which then existed between the two territories and to the very low rate of economic activity in the West Bank during the two years following occupation. Due to closer links between the labour markets in both territories, however, wage levels in the West Bank have been forced up rapidly until they have become very close to those earned by West Bankers employed in Israel, if other non-monetary benefits are taken into account (see Table III-7).

Table (III - 7)

Comparison of wages in the West Bank and Israel

(IL - per day)

<u>West Bankers employed in:</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1979</u>
West Bank	7.9	39.6	166.0
Israel	11.8	44.6	198.7

Source: Statistical Abstract of Israel 1980, op cit, pp 697 & 700.

The consequences of labour migration into Israel on the West Bank economy are profound and of a mixed character. The most visible impact on the positive side has ensued from the significant contribution of wage remittances to the West Bank