

constantly, thanks to the training courses conducted by the Ministry of Labor, that adjust the labor force to the requirements of the Israeli economy. In 1973, no less than one-third of all employed persons in the areas were working in Israel, as against 12 percent in 1970 and 4 percent in 1968. Evidently, the flow of workers from the administered areas will persist as long as overemployment exists in Israel, says Bergman.¹²⁴

The number of employed persons increased by 45 percent in 1968-1973. The entire increase in employment stemmed from increased employment in Israel. Employment in the areas themselves went down by 3.5 percent annually between 1969-1973. Demand for labor in Israel -- which persisted throughout the entire period and was especially acute in 1972 -- and the higher wages in Israel attracted ever-increasing numbers of workers from the areas, causing both labor shortages and rapid wage increases there.¹²⁵

An article published in Maariv, June 14, 1970, by Ezra Yenov, under the title, "The Gaza Strip: A Reservoir of Cheap Labour Flooding the Israeli Economy," indicates the following: Labour Exchange workers from the Strip settlements are today the main reservoir of seasonal manpower in northern Negev and southern Israel. Their penetration into the Israeli economy is increasing. They are slowly dominating the agricultural sector and now in tens and hundreds are entering into the construction industry and earth works; and their first wave is already filling the available jobs in industry. More than 80 percent of the citrus pickers are Arabs from the Strip. The number of Israeli pickers is decreasing and in some orchards the work is done entirely by Arabs. The (male) workers from Gaza can't be selective over the kind of job, still are ready to rush to the orchards for picking and not to the trucks that carry women workers to the can factories in Israel. In the can factory, the work-