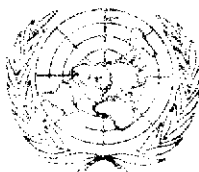


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QUESTION OF PALESTINE

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Note verbale dated 23 August 1977 from the Permanent Mission  
of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed  
to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with reference to its previous note dated 25 July 1977, by which the Permanent Mission transmitted a study prepared by the competent Syrian authorities in accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/110, entitled "Living conditions of the Palestinian people", has the honour to request, upon instructions from its Government, that this study be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 30, 31 and 62 of the provisional agenda.

\* A/32/150.

ANNEX

Living conditions of the Palestinian Arabs in the  
occupied territories

The living conditions of the Arabs in the territories occupied in 1967 have greatly deteriorated, because of the policy and measures adopted by the occupation authorities over the past 10 years and, in particular, as a result of the policy of the expropriation and shutting off of extensive areas of the territories and their allocation for purposes of Jewish settlement and measures for an economic merger of the occupied areas with Israel.

With regard to expropriation of land, the occupation authorities have laid their hands on more than one third of the total area of the Gaza Strip and one fifth of the area of the West Bank, on the pretext that these territories were government property prior to the aggression of 5 June. The occupation authorities were not content with this measure but subsequently shut off and expropriated tens of thousands of dunams of agricultural land, on the pretext that it was necessary for security and military purposes.

In the Jordan Valley the occupation authorities took over more than 60,000 dunams of agricultural land and established a number of Israeli settlements there. On the outskirts of Rafah, it took over more than 40,000 dunams and drove out the Bedouin inhabitants. In Hebron, more than 1,000 dunams were expropriated and the Jewish settlement Qiryat Arba was then established there. The occupation authorities took over 900 dunams in the village of Sammu and 230 dunams in the village of Bani Na'im, both in the neighbourhood of the town of Hebron, in order to expand the settlements in the Ghosh Ashyun area, and, in the suburbs of Jerusalem, territory was expropriated and Arab quarters demolished over an estimated area of some 18,000 dunams. In Ariha the Keren Kayemet, the Jewish National Fund of the Jewish Agency took over more than 1,000 dunams. In the Nahlus region, in late July 1974, part of the territory of the village of Sebastia was taken over, an estimated area of 1,000 dunams in the neighbourhood of the village of Beit Furik was expropriated, and territory covering an area of 25,000 dunams around the village were shut off.

The policy of the expropriation and shutting off of land has not ceased up to the present time, and there follows a summary, published in the Israeli newspaper Ha'aretz of 8 September 1976, of the expropriations made during the past year:

- In mid-June 1976 the population of the town of Tubas were notified that an area of several thousand dunams in the northern region of Bukeia had been shut off by the Israeli Army for military purposes.

- In early August 1976, the Governor of Bethlehem informed landowners in the Jabel Jila area that building in that area, which had been shut off in order to set up a Jewish quarter, was prohibited.

- In mid-August 1976, the Military Governor of the town of Bethlehem summoned the head of the local council of the village of Aizariya and some landowners in the village and informed them that 750 dunams were to be expropriated. The authorities had already expropriated close on 3,000 dunams in both Aizariya and Abu-dis.

- In August 1976 the military authorities shut off 1,000 dunams belonging to the village of Mafir near Mablus.

- In early September 1976 the Military Governor of Ramallah told landowners in the Jabal Tawil area near the town of Bira that building was prohibited over some 1,500 dunams for what were represented as reasons of security.

-- The authorities of military rule began fencing in an area belonging to the village of Bait Ur near Jerusalem in order to set up the Jewish settlement Jab'un there.

It was stated in the Israeli newspaper Al-Hamishmar of 10 November 1976 that approximately 30,000 dunams on the south-west borders of the Gaza Strip and constituting space for the growth of the towns of Khan Yunis and Rafah had been appropriated to form a hinterground for the port of Yahit which the occupation authorities had begun to build on the shores of Rafah.

Although Israel had expropriated millions of dunams of the land of Arab refugees and the Palestinians who had continued to reside in Galilee, Al-Muthallath /the Triangle/ and the Negev, it resorted to the expropriation of extensive land areas on the West Bank on the pretext that the Jews had had rights in them before 1948. The newspaper Ha'aretz of 2 March 1977 stated that the Real Estate Office of Israel had purchased rights in more than 35,000 dunams on the West Bank and that they were conducting negotiations for the purchase of rights to land covering a total area of approximately 38,000 dunams.

Since 1967 up to the present, Israel has established 76 Jewish settlements on expropriated Arab land on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, Golan and Sinai.

The policy of the expropriation of Arab land has been extremely detrimental to the living conditions of the Arab population of the occupied areas and has affected them in the following fields:

(a) Reduction of the area of agricultural land, which forces the owners of such land and the workers on it to seek to eke out a living by working in Israel;

(b) Reduction of the area of natural pasture land earmarked for stock-raising. The gravity of this aspect is clear when it is realized that animal production constitutes more than one third of agricultural production on the West Bank.

(c) Reduction of the land area around Arab towns and villages through the expropriation of land which would otherwise provide space for the expansion of these towns and villages.

The Israeli occupation authorities did not stop at the expropriation of land but also took over some water sources. At a time when the Gaza Strip is suffering from a water shortage and the proportion of salinity in the Strip's water is increasing annually so as to threaten agricultural production, the occupation authorities have allowed the Israeli water company Mekorot to filter sweet water in the Rihal al-Samiri area to the west of the town of Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip and to allocate this water for use by the Qatif complex of Jewish settlements which has been set up between the cities of Khan Yunis and Deir el Balah (Al-Hamishmar, 2 February 1966).

The same company has also dug 11 wells for water in the Jordan Valley area to supply water for irrigation to the Jewish settlements set up in the area after 1967.

The occupation authorities are exploiting the other natural resources of the occupied areas. For example, they have established on the Arab portion of the Dead Sea shore a plant for the extraction of chlorine, another for the extraction of potash and a third for the extraction of bromine. They have likewise exploited the Arab salt factories set up on that side of the Dead Sea and are currently drilling for petroleum in the Dead Sea area and on the Gaza Strip coast and have taken over the profits from tourism and pilgrimage to the sacred areas in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, etc.

As a result of the reduction of the agricultural land area, a large number of peasants and small farmers have given up farming. On the West Bank the farmland has been reduced from 2.6 million dunams in 1966 to approximately 1 million dunams only, and there have been changes in the cultivation of export crops, particularly olive oil. Because of the measures for an economic merger, Arab farmers have been obliged to adjust to the Israeli economy and produce the crops required by Israeli industry, such as tobacco and sesame and the Israeli company Gresko is monopolizing the marketing and export of agricultural produce from the occupied areas.

In the Gaza Strip the occupation authorities issued a decree in 1968 limiting the cultivation of citrus, which is the principal crop in the Strip, to the area which it covered before occupation, namely, approximately 71,000 dunams, and prohibiting the cultivation of citrus on any new land, even as a replacement for blighted trees. The decree also restricted the amount of water which citrus cultivators were permitted to use for irrigation, and these farmers have been forced to install meters on the wells to measure the amount of water drawn. The seasons for the harvesting of citrus have been set for dates when world markets are slack, so that the citrus crops do not compete with the Israeli citrus sector. The occupation authorities compel citrus exporters in the Gaza Strip to export their crops through the Israeli Citrus Council, which sets a short time-limit for delivery of the crop.

On the pretext of purposes of security, the occupation authorities have destroyed more than 2,500 dunams of land under citrus cultivation in the Gaza Strip and the areas of Qalqilyah and Ariha on the West Bank.

The Israeli authorities are endeavouring, by citing selected samples of statistics, to convince world public opinion that agriculture in the occupied areas has increased during the years of occupation and that this increase is due to the use of Israeli expertise and technology. These claims have no basis in truth. The increase in citrus production, for example, is due mainly to the fact that half of the land under citrus cultivation in the Gaza Strip was planted between 1963 and 1965 and has therefore begun in recent years to produce a full yield, thus causing an increase in crops.

There are some sectors of agriculture which are suffering many difficulties and are on the verge of dying out because of the economic merger measures. The best example of this is grape and date cultivation in the Gaza Strip and on the West Bank. Israel places restrictions on these crops and prohibits their transportation to Israeli markets, in order to prevent competition with corresponding sectors of Israeli agriculture.

As a result of the economic policy followed by Israel in the occupied areas, no development has taken place in industry during the past 10 years; on the contrary, the number of industrial workers on the West Bank dropped from approximately 14,000 in 1966 to approximately 11,000 in 1969, and the number of industrial workers in the Gaza Strip dropped by 15 per cent between 1969 and 1973. That is due to harsh restrictions on the granting of permits for the importation of the primary commodities necessary for industry, the imposition of high customs duties on them, and competition from Israeli products. Because of this, many industries have been forced to operate as ancillary concessionaires for Israeli industry, as is the case of the clothing industry and the construction materials industry. Those industries which have not been able to achieve a merger have been obliged to close their doors and the employers and workers have resorted to seeking a source of subsistence by transferring to work in Israel.

The same situation has arisen with regard to construction. The averages for construction are 0.5 square metres per capita on the West Bank and 0.3 square metres in the Gaza Strip, as against 1.8 square metres per capita in Israel. The number of construction workers on the West Bank dropped from 25,000 in 1966 to only 7,000 in 1973, while in Gaza the figure dropped during the same period from 6,000 to only 2,000 and construction workers have turned to work in Israel.

In all, as a result of the economic merger policy and the plan to destroy the economic foundation of the occupied areas and sever their economic relations with the neighbouring Arab areas, the occupation authorities have a reserve force of an estimated total of approximately 140,000 workers from the occupied areas who have been forced by their economic circumstances to work in Israel. In order to conceal the destructive effects of the transfer from the occupied areas to Israel of the production element represented by this manpower, the Israeli occupation authorities mention in their statistics only those workers who are working in Israel through employment offices and who total between 60,000 and 70,000. There are, however, a corresponding number working through contractors or independently, but Israeli statistics count them as part of the labour force within the occupied areas themselves. The Israeli newspaper Davar of 15 June 1975 admitted that the records of the Israeli Ministry of Labour estimated the number

of Arab workers from the occupied areas working in Israel at between 120,000 and 140,000, while the statistics mentioned only between 60,000 and 70,000.

These workers operate under extremely harsh conditions, the terms of their work are bad, they are deprived of any protection, and they can be dismissed at any time. For them the working day begins at 4 a.m. and ends at 10 p.m., and they are obliged to travel daily from the occupied areas to their places of work in Israel, since the inhabitants of the Jewish settlements will not agree to rent them rooms for lodging. Those of them who are obliged by circumstances to stay where they work spend the night either at their place of work or in insalubrious hovels or in the open air under the trees. The wages of those employed through Israeli employment offices are usually between 25 and 50 per cent less than the wages of their Jewish counterparts. Deductions, in the form of health and social insurance dues and a tax known as "the reconstruction of the occupied areas tax", account for some 40 per cent of these wages. Since they are not members of the Histadrut, they derive no benefit from these deductions as do Jewish workers, who receive benefits in the form of paid annual leave, family allowances, compensation and health services. When we add travel expenses to the above-mentioned deductions, what the Arab workers have left becomes less than half the nominal wages they are supposed to receive. These workers are prohibited from forming their own trade unions, and there is therefore no one to defend them.

Those who work through contractors or independently are in a much worse situation and are exposed to the harshest kinds of exploitation, particularly since the majority of them are juveniles under 15 years of age working in hotels, restaurants and coffee houses or women working in agriculture. These workers generally receive a wage not exceeding 50 per cent of an adult man's.

The jobs of workers from the occupied areas are generally concentrated in the sectors requiring hard physical exertion, such as agriculture and construction or what is known in Israel as "black labour", such as serving in restaurants, coffee houses and hotels and cleaning in the municipalities.

The totality of the measures for an economic merger of the occupied areas with Israel have caused the ruination of small producers in these areas and a grave distortion in the structure of employment and the economy in those areas. Small producers who were not strong enough to compete with Israeli production have been forced to leave their farms and workshops and transfer to work inside Israel. The Arabic language newspaper Al-Anba al-Israilliya reported that the total area of the agricultural lands abandoned and left fallow by their owners in 1974 on the West Bank was more than 100,000 dunams (Al-Anba, 9 December 1975). It may be noted from an analysis of Israeli statistics on employment in the occupied areas themselves that there has been a rise in the number of service workers in the areas and a decrease in the number of production workers. Similarly, an analysis of the statistics on the national income in the occupied areas shows a decrease, year after year, in the portion representing local production and an increase in the portion representing the proceeds of work in Israel. The proportion representing the proceeds of work in Israel rose from 14 per cent of the national income of the occupied areas in 1970 to 21 per cent in 1971 and then to one third of the national income in 1974.

This distortion of the structure of the economy of the occupied areas will have a destructive effect on the potentials for the establishment and development of an independent economy in the future and will also have serious consequences in the event of an economic recession in Israel. Any recession in the Israeli economy and any unemployment will have fundamental repercussions for the workers of the occupied areas, and the alleged prosperity which the occupation authorities claim exists in the occupied areas will suddenly crumble. Initial indications of such a development have become clearly visible in the last two years. The above-mentioned source, the newspaper Al-Anba al-Israiliyya, reports that in 1975, as a result of the economy recession in Israel, the number of Arab workers from the occupied areas in Israel was reduced by 10 per cent, or the equivalent of approximately 15,000 workers. There are estimates which indicate that a similar reduction occurred in 1976.

Ariel Bergman, the economic expert in the Bank of Israel's Research Office admits that the economy of the occupied areas has begun to slacken (Ha'aretz, 26 October 1976), and the newspaper Al-Hamishmar of 23 July 1976 states that the available data and statistics of the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics show that the economy of the West Bank runs the risk of a severe decline since in 1975 the national real income dropped by 6 per cent, local production by 7 per cent, agricultural production by 40 per cent and industrial production by 3 per cent.

The measures for an economic merger of the occupied areas, Israel's monopoly of trade with these areas, the imposition of Israeli customs tariffs on the trade of the occupied areas with States other than Israel, the refusal to provide any Israeli facilities for the exports of these areas abroad except on the basis of the conversion of the proceeds from hard currency into Israeli pounds through Israeli banks, the prohibition of banking activity by any banks in the occupied areas except Israeli banks, the raising of the interest rate from 6 per cent to 9 per cent and other measures aimed at placing pressure on the economic development of these areas and reducing the percentage of profit and accumulation there, so that it has not exceeded 11 to 14 per cent, which is less than one half of the corresponding figure for Israel and less than the figure for all the Arab countries and the developing countries generally.

In 1972, which the Israeli occupation authorities consider an economically brisk year for the occupied areas, the average per capita income on the West Bank did not exceed one seventh of the per capita income in Israel, and the median output per worker did not exceed one quarter of the output per worker in Israel.

Moreover, the financial inflation in Israel and the successive devaluations of the Israeli pound have placed additional burdens on the Arab inhabitants, who are subject to all Israeli economic measures, such as direct and indirect taxation, while not enjoying any safeguards. Prices in the occupied areas rose at an annual rate of 12 per cent between 1968 and 1971 and increased by 18 per cent in 1972, 22 per cent in 1973, approximately 25 per cent in 1974 and 1975 and approximately 33 per cent in 1976.

The occupation authorities proceeded to apply the Act concerning the Value-added Tax in the amount of 8 per cent to the population of the occupied

areas as of 1 July 1976, and the new Government of Israel intends to raise this percentage to 25 per cent, which will increase the economic hardships of the inhabitants of the occupied areas and force them to bear additional burdens. Moreover, while salaries and wages for Israeli workers and officials have doubled, the increase in salaries and wages for workers and officials in the occupied areas was only between 10 and 30 per cent, although the basic disparity between salaries and wages in Israel and those in the occupied areas was already considerable. Salaries and wages in Israel are triple their counterparts in the occupied areas, despite the fact that all are subject to the same conditions because of the economic merger (Al-Anba, 9 December 1975).

As a result of the decline in living and economic conditions, the occupied areas are again witnessing a wave of emigration abroad. This is perhaps precisely what the Israeli authorities want. It was reported in the previously mentioned source, the newspaper Al-Anba, that after the October war a wave of emigration from the occupied territories began and that the number of engineers on the West Bank dropped by approximately one half. Shlomo Amir, the Adviser for Affairs in the Occupied Territories to the Israeli Minister of Labour stated (Ha'aretz, 12 October 1976) that approximately 19,000 inhabitants of the occupied territories, comprising 15,000 from the West Bank and 4,000 from Gaza, had emigrated abroad in 1975 and had not returned. It was reported in the newspaper Ma'ariv of 3 May 1977 that approximately 15,000 young people with ages ranging between 18 and 30 had emigrated from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1976 and had not returned and that there was a steadily increasing reduction in the number of professionals and academics in the occupied territories.

In the field of services, the inhabitants of the occupied territories are experiencing severe difficulties. Israeli newspapers reported that the military government authorities recently refused to pay millions of pounds to the West Bank municipalities out of the funds collected by the Military Governor for the municipalities, on the pretext that the municipalities are refusing to pay income tax for their workers. It is known that the Military Governor sees to the collection of taxes, gives the municipalities 90 per cent of the funds and keeps 10 per cent as a commission in place of the income tax for workers.

The military government authorities refuse to grant loans to the municipalities except on harsh terms. For example, it is stipulated that Israeli courts have sole competence to pass judgement in the event of any dispute concerning these loans and that the loan agreements are to be written in the Hebrew language only. The heads of the municipalities have therefore refused to sign the agreements.

When the municipalities tried recently to raise the necessary funds to develop their utilities and services through voluntary contributions from the Arab States, the Israeli authorities refused some municipalities permission to send delegates abroad to collect such contributions and stipulated that the other municipalities which did collect funds should deposit them in Israeli banks and inform the Israeli authorities concerning their disbursement.



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In the field of health services, there has been no development since 1967, despite the increase in population, and the number of government hospitals both in Gaza and on the West Bank has remained unchanged, or, rather, the number of beds in West Bank hospitals dropped from 1,156 in 1966 to 941 in 1975. In Jerusalem, the occupation authorities closed more than 50 Arab clinics and turned the hospital of the Sheikh Jarrah quarter into a police station. The El Arish hospital in northern Sinai was turned into a military emergency hospital. The occupied territories are suffering from a lack of medical specialists, nurses and technical equipment, and the food allowances for patients were reduced in value. In spite of the rise in prices, the food allowance per patient was reduced from 130 fils on the West Bank in 1966 to 100 fils at the present time.

As an example of the deterioration of health services, we would draw attention to the fact that the authorities have closed the clinics of Deir al-Asal, Al-Burj and Abdah in the Hebron Governorate and that weekly work has been reduced to one day instead of two in the clinics of Surif, Sair and Halhul in the same Governorate.

It was reported in the newspaper Al-Fair of 11 September 1974 that Doctor Isam Kamal, who had been working as Director of Health on the West Bank in 1974, submitted his resignation in protest against the deterioration of health conditions on the West Bank. He said in a statement which he issued that the authorities had closed maternal and child-care centres in Qaldilyah and elsewhere, drew attention to the shortage of workers and furnishings in government hospitals and clinics, described the services in the fields of school health, preventive medicine, inoculation and contagious diseases as paralysed and accused the authorities of general neglect of preventive medicine to such an extent that some diseases such as leprosy, cholera and poliomyelitis had raged in the occupied territories in the summer of 1974 to an almost epidemic degree.

For the Palestinian Arabs in Israel, the situation is worse. The policy of national oppression and land expropriation under various pretexts and laws has turned the majority of Arabs capable of engaging in gainful occupations into hired labourers since they are employed in non-professional "black labour" in agriculture, construction, services, restaurants and hotels, because the principal factories and establishments are closed to them on the pretext of security. The number of independent Arab workers in Israel is not more than 20 per cent. Of the 88,000 Arabs constituting the Arab labour force in Israel in 1970 there were some 64,000 hired labourers. In 1973 the number of hired labourers was 74,000 out of a total Arab labour force of 107,000 and in 1974 80,000 out of a total of 113,000. Arabs in Israel have been forced to seek work as hired labourers in Jewish settlements and towns because of the policy of the plundering of Arab land and the placing of restrictions on what agriculture is left in Arab villages. Between 20 and 25 per cent of the Arabs in the Gaza Strip are working in construction, as against between 6 and 8 per cent of the Jewish workers in the Strip, while in the areas of financial and commercial services, electricity and water the proportion of Arab workers fluctuates between 1 and 1.5 per cent of the Arab labour force in Israel. Between 10 and 14 per cent of the Arab labour force is employed in coffee houses and restaurants and between 16 and

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18 per cent in industry, particularly in fields requiring physical exertion, such as mining, quarrying and industries connected with construction. The figures here are taken from Al-Ittihad of 29 April 1977.

Arab workers in Israel were only allowed to join the Histadrut in 1959, and the proportion of Arabs belonging to the Histadrut constitutes 30 per cent of the population, as against 80 per cent in Jewish circles. The number of Arabs belonging to the Histadrut dropped from 3,173 in 1967 to 2,630 in 1968. Even though Arabs belong to the Histadrut, there is a special bureau earmarked for them, as one of the manifestations of discrimination against them.

Arab workers do not enjoy conditions of work corresponding to those for Jewish workers. Contractors exploit the lack of workers' councils in Arab villages and employ Arab workers without providing the social terms provided for Jewish workers. Those employing Arab workers in this way do not pay the contribution for them to the social security fund, especially in the case of small enterprises, so that the workers lose their social rights and are deprived of the right to obtain permanent employment. They are dismissed from time to time and deprived of the right to rest, because of their long journeys. Like their colleagues among the workers from the occupied areas, they are obliged to spend the night in hovels under inhumane conditions, because the Jews refuse to rent them rooms. Many employers are unwilling to employ organized Arab workers in order to save themselves social insurance and other dues. Arab workers are the first to be dismissed in the event of economic fluctuations and are exposed to blows and aggression from both elements. Unemployed Arab workers are denied the unemployment benefit on the pretext that they possess agricultural land, even though this does not exceed 2 to 5 dunams.

In the field of health services, the proportion of health-insured Arab workers is not more than 39.5 per cent, as against 97 per cent in the case of Jews, and the proportion of Arab workers sharing in the services of the "Kupat Holim" sickness fund is not more than 33 per cent, as against 70 per cent in the case of Jews. The sickness fund has only 42 clinics for 116 Arab villages and one doctor for every 3,000 persons in [place name omitted] and the neighbouring villages, and the situation is worse in other Arab villages.

The number of Arab families making a living by farming their own land totals only some 4,500, or 10 per cent of the Arab families in Israel. As a result of the various expropriation laws, the area of farmland has decreased by more than approximately 60 per cent since 1948, while the population has increased from 160,000 in 1948 to more than half a million at the present time.

In 1968 irrigated Arab land totalled only 4,000 dunams, or between 3 and 4 per cent of the land left to the Arabs, while the area of irrigated Jewish land was 1.575 million dunams, or approximately 45 per cent of the total Jewish-dominated land area.

As a result of the restrictions imposed on agriculture, plantations and olive groves have disappeared, and the olive cultivation area dropped from 137,000 dunams

to 110,000 dunams in one year, i.e., between 1967 and 1968. Discrimination against the Arabs even extends to a distinction between the prices of agricultural commodities; the price of a ton of Arab-produced tobacco is less than the price of its Jewish-produced counterpart.

The portion allocated to Arab villages out of the development budget under the five-year plan which began in 1971/72 was 115 million pounds, to be distributed over 114 villages, while the total development budget for the one year 1969/70 in Israel totalled 1,165 million Israeli pounds.

Loans and grants provided by the Israeli Government to Arab local councils total an average of some 2.6 pounds per capita per year, while the average provided to Jewish councils totals 50 pounds per capita per year, although the Arabs bear the same financial burdens as the Jews, such as direct and indirect taxes. For example, the aid given to the Arab village of Bukeia, which has a population of 2,800 is 1.5 million pounds, while the budget for the Jewish village of Manhiya, whose population is not more than 1,000, is 8.7 million pounds. The authorities place restrictions on Arab villages and towns and on their surface area. They demolish houses built, on the pretext that permits have not been obtained. The number of houses demolished in 1975 in Arab villages totalled more than 1,500. As an example of the discrimination between Jewish towns and villages and their Arab counterparts, the Arab town of Nazareth, which has a population of about 40,000, was allocated a construction area of 7,500 dunams, while the Jewish town of Upper Nazareth, whose population is not more than 14,000, was allocated an area of 30,000 dunams.

There are no industries in the Arab areas within Israel. The industries which were there formerly have disappeared, and the Nazareth local bus company is the only Arab company in the Arab area and is constantly exposed to pressures. Furthermore, the co-operative societies established in the Arab-populated area are all consumer and services co-operatives but are nevertheless combated by the authorities, which provide them with no assistance.

The situation with regard to education in the Arab areas in Israel are extremely bad. An exposé of this situation was given by the Bedouin Knesset member Sheikh Hammad Abu Rabia in a speech delivered before the Knesset. He said that in Nazareth and its villages, the villages of eastern Galilee and the neighbouring Bedouin villages, comprising some 40 villages in all, the number of pupils in all the schools totals more than 30,000. The schools are suffering from a 400-room shortage of space and a shortage of books and teachers. In the Negev, where 17,000 Arab citizens occupy a land area of 1.2 million dunams, there is one secondary school and only 150 pupils are receiving instruction in it. The proportion of girls in primary school is 25 per cent. There are approximately 170 teachers working in the 17 primary schools in the Negev with only 4 qualified teachers and one university graduate among them. Before it will build schools for the Bedouins, the Government stipulates that they must move to specified centres where it will build schools for them, and there are eight such centres. The authorities require the local councils to contribute 50 per cent of the cost of setting up schools. Abu Rabia described the conditions in schools as

extremely bad and said that there is not a single school which is not defective in construction, furnishings and expositional materials. The one secondary school in the Negev has no laboratory and no water. Abu Rabia said that the children in some tribes have to walk 10 to 15 kilometres daily to get to school. In the whole of the Negev there are only three kindergartens. He added that many of the children and the majority of the girls of school age do not attend school. Abu Rabia said that many of the villages in Galilee and Al-Muthallath /the Triangle/, such as Sekhnin, Arraba, Deir Hanna, Bir al-Maksur, Arab al-Sawahil, Umm al-Fahm and others, suffer from a shortage of classes and that pupils there study in hired rooms which are scattered over the various parts of the village and also insalubrious (Al-Anba, 16 August 1974).

The newspaper Al-Ittihad of 18 March 1977 sets forth some of the facts arrived at by the Education Committee of the Israeli Knesset on the situation with regard to Arab education in Israel. The most outstanding points were as follows:

1. For a number of years no resources have been made available for school construction and development.
2. Arab schools have a space shortage of between 4,000 and 5,000 rooms.
3. Some of the classrooms are scattered, hired and insalubrious.
4. There is no land available for school construction, and the Israeli Land Office is not providing any.
5. There is a very great shortage of laboratories, libraries and auditoriums, and textbooks are not of a satisfactory standard.
6. Vocational training is not developed. In 1976 there were only three vocational schools in Arab-populated areas, as against 318 in Jewish-populated areas. There are only 1,825 pupils studying in vocational schools in Arab-populated areas, as against 65,677 Jews in Jewish-populated areas.
7. In Arab-populated areas there are two agricultural schools, teaching 690 Arab pupils, as against 27 agricultural schools in Jewish-populated areas, teaching 5,655 pupils.
8. Forty per cent of the teachers in the Arab schools are not qualified, and there is a great shortage of specialized teachers.