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EQUALITY, DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE:
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APPRAISE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE
UNITED NATIONS DECADE FOR WOMEN

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL
First regular session of 1985
Item 5 of the provisional agenda**
ACTIVITIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
WOMEN: UNITED NATIONS DECADE
FOR WOMEN: EQUALITY,
DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

Letter dated 19 March 1985 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing in connection with the report of the Secretary-General entitled "The situation of women and children living in the occupied Arab Territories and other occupied Territories" (A/CONF.116/6 of 30 October 1984). In a letter addressed to Your Excellency on 6 March 1985, the Permanent Representative of Israel brought to your attention the text of a response to the information contained in the above-mentioned document. The response is entitled "Arab Women and Children Under Israel's Administration: A Paper in Rebuttal of Document A/CONF.116/6".

I have the honour to request that this response be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 92 (b) of the preliminary list, and of the first regular session of the Economic and Social Council, 1985, under item 5 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Aryeh LEVIN
Ambassador
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

* A/40/50 and Corr.1.

** E/1985/30.

A/40/188
E/1985/60
English
Page 2

ANNEX

ARAB WOMEN AND CHILDREN
UNDER ISRAEL'S ADMINISTRATION

A PAPER IN REBUTTAL
OF
DOCUMENT A/CONF. 116/6

("The situation of women and children
living in the occupied Arab territories
and other occupied territories -
Report of the Secretary-General")

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CONTENTS

	<u>paragraphs</u>	<u>page</u>
A. INTRODUCTION	1 - 3	5
B. MAIN POINTS	4 - 13	6
C. POPULATION		
Demographic data	14 - 16	10
Migratory Movement	17 - 19	11
D. LEGAL MATTERS		
Legal structure	20 - 22	14
Legal practices	23 - 25	15
Settlements	26	17
Law and Order	27 - 30	17
E. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT		
General	31	19
Situation prior to 1967	32 - 34	19
Principal directions of development	35 - 42	20
Standard of living	43 - 44	24
Food consumption	45	25
Housing	46	26
Domestic water supply	47	27
Electricity	48	28
Household durables	49	29
Refugee rehabilitation	50	30
F. EMPLOYMENT		
Employment situation prior to 1967	51	31
Changes since 1967	52	31
Employment of women	53 - 55	32
Employment in Israel	56 - 58	36
G. EDUCATION		
General	59	37
Pre-school education	60	38
Public education	61 - 63	38
Textbooks	64	40
Illiteracy	65	40
Higher education (seminals, colleges, universities, vocational training)	66 - 69	41
H. HEALTH		
General	70 - 73	45
Health services	74	47

	<u>paragraphs</u>	<u>page</u>
Environmental health	75 - 80	48
Hospital services	81	50
Manpower training and staffing	82 - 83	51
Maternal and child Health	84	54
Nutrition	85	55
Immunization	86	55
Mental Health	87 - 89	55
Health insurance	90 - 91	57

Tables

1. Population and sources of its growth	13
2. Agricultural output per dunam	22
3. Income of farmers	23
4. Growth in GNP, per capita GNP, and per capita consumption, 1968 - 1983	25
5. Daily per capita energy and nutritive value	25
6. Household facilities	27
7. Households possessing durable goods	29
8. Employed women by economic branch	34
9. Population aged 14 and over by labour force characteristic and sex	35
10. Schools - by area and sex	39
11. Population aged 14 and over by years of schooling and sex	42
12. Health services - highlights, Judea and Samaria	47
13. Health services - highlights, Gaza District	48
14. Personnel in government health service, Judea and Samaria	53
15. Personnel in government health service, Gaza District.	53

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A. INTRODUCTION

1. The Report of the Secretary-General (A/CONF.116/6) of 30 October 1984 on "the situation of women and children living in the occupied Arab territories and other occupied territories" has been tabled pursuant to a decision of the preparatory body for the Nairobi Conference, as approved by ECOSOC. The introduction states that the Report "draws exclusively on recent reports and other material dealing with various aspects of living conditions of Palestinian people in the Arab occupied territories, prepared by United Nations bodies". It is further noted that "none of these reports refer specifically to the question of Palestinian women..."

2. If the United Nations consider that the situation of Palestinian Arab women requires special study, it is regrettable that no effort was made to prepare for the Nairobi Conference a report which would document the remarkable progress made by Palestinian Arab women in the context of the general economic and social development of their community, political difficulties notwithstanding. But then, any serious enquiry into the situation of Palestinian Arab women under Israeli administration would have had to examine that situation in comparison with the position and status of those women prior to 1967, on the one hand, and with the position and status of women in the Arab world generally, on the other hand. Both comparisons have been studiously shunned for obvious reasons.

3. The Report, as it stands, contains so many mistakes, makes so many false or misleading statements, omits so much relevant material, as to turn it into a vehicle of anti-Israel propaganda rather than provide "basic documentation to the Conference". The Report thus joins a long list of United Nations documents prepared in recent years on many aspects of "the question of Palestine" which fail to provide unbiased,

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well-researched information. Material from acknowledged PLO sources complement that culled from those documents.

3. This paper takes issue with the more blatant inaccuracies, mistakes and misrepresentations in the Report and attempts to present the members of the preparatory body, who have the responsibility of approving the documentation for the Nairobi Conference, with supplementary information which might assist them in determining whether to give their approval to the Report. Brief main points follow in section B. Each assertion in rebuttal is more fully explained and documented in sections C to H.

B. MAIN POINTS

4. The Report devotes a page and a half to emigration (paragraphs 11-13, tables 1 and 2). It fails to mention the emigration, during the years of Jordanian rule, of some 270,000 persons. It also fails to point out the pattern of migratory movement in the Arab world in general, determined largely by economic developments in the oil countries. Nevertheless, though not noticeable in the Report, the spectacular economic progress in the areas under Israeli administration has diminished emigration. The four-fold growth in GNP (three-fold in GNP per capita) left its mark, not least on the lives of women and children.

5. The chapter on "political matters" in the Report (paragraphs 14-31) is in grave error on basic and important points of fact, let alone the political bias. Thus, for instance, a tax which, according to paragraph 15, "further diminished the living standard of many Palestinian families", is not a new income tax introduced by the Israel authorities, but a property tax collected exclusively for the use of local municipal

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authorities under Jordanian law. Following a reassessment in Jordan, local mayors requested that the criteria be similarly reclassified. The Civil Administration acceded to that request. The tax continues to be transferred to the local authorities in its entirety.

6. As distinct from the political controversy, the nexus between the Palestinian Arab population and the Israeli settlers (whose number is given in paragraph 19 of the Report as 35,000, that is less than 4 percent) is tenuous. The advocacy of the view opposing settlements surely does not require the inclusion of blatant untruths in a United Nations document. Paragraph 23 is devoted to Israeli settlers carrying arms. It speaks of acts of violence attributed to those settlers and claims that "Moslem and Christian religious sites have been desecrated. In 1984, two nuns were stabbed in the convent of the Russian Orthodox Church in Jerusalem". The Report fails to say that the perpetrator was apprehended, that he is currently in prison for the commission of this crime, and that he is an Arab.

7. Paragraph 24 falsely asserts that Palestinian Arab women are particularly affected by Israeli restrictions on water ("because clean water is necessary for household use, for child care and for maintaining health and hygienic standards in the family") and by curtailed electricity supplies (which "create additional problems for them in carrying out household tasks and rearing children"). In fact, domestic water and electricity supplies have dramatically improved in the Arab Palestinian towns and villages of Judea and Samaria and the Gaza District since those areas came under Israeli administration. Paragraph 70 grudgingly admits improvements here denied.

8. Paragraph 25 speaks of "the declining prospects for Palestinian farms". In fact, the average yearly growth in agricultural production has been

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10 percent. This compares with 2 percent per annum in the Arab world and 5 percent in Israel. Farmers' income, in constant prices, has almost trebled.

9. The blanket claim, in paragraph 31, regarding the "imprisonment and torture of Palestinian children" is completely without substance and foundation.

10. The chapter on employment and working conditions (paragraphs 32-40) in the Report abounds in contradictions and deficiencies which make strange reading in a document to be submitted to the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women. Thus, references to changes in "the economic status of women" and in "the existing pattern of women's employment" are invariably put in a negative context.

11. The chapter on education (paragraphs 41-55) is almost entirely devoted to the UNRWA school system, although UNRWA caters only for 19 percent of the Palestinian Arab school population. The schools for which the Israel authorities are responsible (66 percent) are all but ignored, as is the remarkable progress of female students. Thus, government run vocational training centres had 56,000 graduates, including 10,000 females. Some courses are co-educational and of late some women have enrolled in courses that were traditionally considered for males only.

12. The chapter on health (paragraphs 56-68) draws on a report of a committee of WHO experts, but only after carefully expunging any findings that might reflect favourably on the situation or on the Israel authorities. For instance: the authors of WHO report A 37/13 visited schools and state that "the general appearance of the children indicates satisfactory nutritional status" and "hygiene seemed good and the health

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status of the children seemed satisfactory"; they find "that from the viewpoint of the strategy applied basic health care has been essentially directed towards mothers and children"; they mention "the noteworthy efforts to promote environmental health made by the municipalities and the Israeli authorities". These remarks on behalf of a body reporting to an international organization are especially noteworthy since such findings, if not duly qualified, earn their authors reprimands from those quarters interested only in the unqualified vilification of Israel. An instance of ignorance attempting to come to the aid of malice is provided in paragraph 59 and table 9 which deal with the incidence of underweight in infants and children. They fail to point out that the rates of low birth weight are lower than in the United States, a country whose health standards are generally considered quite acceptable, and one which, moreover, does not live under Israeli occupation.

13. The chapter on housing (paragraphs 69-72) is grossly misleading, in regard to both construction and facilities. Between 1968 and 1978, construction starts of new private and public buildings rose from 88,000 square metres per annum to more than 1,120,000. In 1983, building starts amounted to 937,000 square metres. Housing density improved from 3.2 in 1975 to 2.5 in 1983. Of all households in Judea and Samaria 17.7 percent had running water in 1967. In 1981 it was 49.9 percent. From 5 cubic metres of water used annually in 1966 per person for domestic consumption, water use in 1983 rose to 25 cbm in the rural sector and to 75 in towns. The absence or presence of kitchens, bathrooms, toilets, etc., in Israeli settlements has no bearing on the Palestinian Arab population, as insinuated in paragraph 72.

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C. POPULATION

Demographic Data

14. Since 1967, Judea and Samaria, as well as the Gaza District, have experienced significant demographic evolutions, some of which are: decrease in infant mortality due to improvements in health conditions and to the growing percentage of hospital births; decrease in mortality rate due to better sanitary conditions and use of medical resources; increased life expectancy from 50 years at birth in 1967 to 62 in the 1980's; fluctuations in the rate of emigration which has influenced the demographic characterization of both areas.

15. By the end of 1983, the overall population of Judea and Samaria was 767,300 out of which 50 percent were females, and of the Gaza District 493,700, out of which 50.2 percent were females. The total population of both areas amounted to 1,261,000. Since 1968, the population of Judea and Samaria has increased by 31.5 percent and of the Gaza District by 38.2 percent. Male-female ratio in Judea and Samaria in 1967 was 985:1,000, 1,007:1,000 in 1977, and 996:1,000 in 1983. In the Gaza District the figures were 942:1,000, 977:1,000 and 991:1,000, respectively. In Judea and Samaria in 1967, 49 percent of the total population were children between 0-14 years of age, 9.7 percent between the ages of 25-34 and 6.3 percent ranged between the ages of 20-24. In 1983, 46.2 percent of the total population were children 0-14 years of age, 11.5 percent between 25-34 and 10.6 percent between 20-24 years of age. In the Gaza District, in 1967, 50.9 percent of the total population were children between 0-14 years of age, 9.8 percent were youngsters between 25-34 and 6.6 percent were between 20-24 years of age. In 1983, the figures were 48.7 percent, 12.9 percent and 9.1 percent, respectively.

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16. The above figures, characteristic of both regions, indicate the youthfulness of the population which is typical of the Arab world. The low percentage of persons in the 20-24 age group in 1967 is clearly an indication of "missing age" due to the high rate of migration prior to 1967. The figures recorded in 1983, which mark a significant increase in the proportion of youngsters 20-24 years of age, can be attributed to the decrease in the level of migration.

Migratory Movement

17. A remarkable feature in the demographic evolution of Judea and Samaria has been the prominence of migratory changes: the influx of refugees in 1948 on the one hand, and the heavy departures throughout the Jordanian period and in consequence of the 1967 war on the other. Male migration is a widespread phenomenon in the Arab region. Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen account for 73.5 percent of the total Arab migrant work force, with 3.7 percent, 27.1 percent and 28 percent of their respective work forces. Arab women with qualifications also migrate.

18. According to the Egyptian Minister of State for Emigration (*Al-Ahram*, 19 March 1983), there were 1.25 million Egyptians working in Iraq, 800,000 in Saudi Arabia and 200,000 in Kuwait, 150,000 in the UAE, 135,000 in Jordan, 30,000 in Libya, more than 100,000 in other Arab states, and nearly half a million in America, Europe and Australia. Yemeni migrants to Saudi Arabia constitute roughly one third of Yemen's active population. The number of Arab migrant workers in Europe, America and Australia is an estimated 3.7 million, the majority being from North Africa.

19. The Jordanian government conducted a census twice only: in 1952 and in 1961. Both censuses indicated that although there was a considerable

influx of refugees into Judea and Samaria, many as a result of the 1948 war, the growth of population in this area was only slight and much smaller than the natural increase. This phenomenon highlights the negative migration balance under Jordanian rule. Following are some indications to the rate of emigration during that period:

a) Between 1952-1961, the population of Judea and Samaria increased from 686,000 to 729,000, an overall growth of 6 percent, but a mean annual growth of 0.7 percent only. This low rate of growth is untypical of Arab societies in which the average annual growth is 3 percent. Had the annual natural increase been 3 percent, the population would have been 900,000 in 1961. This implies a total loss of 170,000 people. This assumption is further justified by the figures which indicate that from 1952 till 1961 the relative proportion of the Judea - Samaria population out of the total population of Jordan has decreased from 51.5 percent to 42.7 percent.

b) Emigration was particularly common at the age groups of 15-34, especially among males. A marked absence of men was recorded. The male-female ratio was 890:1,000 at the ages of 15-29 and 760:1,000 at the ages 30-44.

c) In the 1961 census, 17 percent of all households reported having at least one member of the family abroad.

d) Assuming that between 1961 and June 1967 annual population growth was the same as that recorded between 1952 - 1961, i.e. 0.7 percent, and comparing that figure with one for a population with an average annual growth of 3 percent, a loss of more than 100,000 persons is evident. This is the minimum rate of emigration, as there is strong evidence that

after 1961 emigration increased. Hence, during the time of Jordanian rule, more than 270,000 persons emigrated, a high percentage of whom were refugees.

e) The September 1967 census, conducted by the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics, recorded a total population of 596,000 in Judea and Samaria. Had no migration taken place, the overall population would then have amounted to 250,000 more. Hence, 150,000 emigrated between June 1967 - September 1967.

f) Between September 1967 and the end of 1968, 29,000 people emigrated. The decline in the negative migration balance continued mainly due to the availability of new employment opportunities open to residents of the areas in the Israeli labour market.

g) Fluctuations in the negative migration balance were common in the 1970's with the rising economic situation in the Gulf countries. Between 1975-1981, 90,000 citizens emigrated from Judea and Samaria. However, since these countries encounter economic difficulties in the last years, migration of workers is expected to decline as is also indicated in table No. 1.

Table 1: Population and Sources of Its Growth, by Area
 In thousands

	JUDEA	-	SAMARIA	
	Population at end of period	Natural increase*	Balance of movement of residents	% annual growth
1968	583.1	13.0	- 15.9	- 0.5
1975	675.2	20.6	- 15.1	0.8
1980	724.3	22.9	- 17.3	0.8
1983	766.9	22.6	- 2.7	2.7

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	GAZA		AREA	
	Population at end of period	Natural increase*	Balance of movements of residents	% annual growth
1968	356.8	8.3	- 32.3	- 6.3
1975	425.5	15.0	- 3.5	2.8
1980	456.5	16.9	- 5.1	2.7
1983	493.3	17.7	- 1.0	3.5

* an estimate based on recorded live births and estimated deaths

Source: Judea Samaria and Gaza Area Statistics. Israel Central Bureau of Statistics Vol. XIV No. 3, 1984

D. LEGAL MATTERS

Legal Structure

20. Any contention, as in paragraph 16 of the Report, that the local population of Judea and Samaria are subject exclusively to the jurisdiction of 'military law' is without basis in fact. Since 1967, the Military and Civil Administration has maintained a consistent policy of non-interference in the local judicial system which is independent and subject solely to the law. The local judicial system includes not only civil and criminal courts but also such institutions as the Land Registry Office, the Registrar of Companies, the Registrar of Trade Marks and Patents and the Notary Public. The functions of this judicial system are almost exclusively performed by local officials.

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21. The civil jurisdiction of the local courts has not been restricted in regard either to the local residents or Israeli nationals. The local courts continue to entertain jurisdiction regarding criminal offences according to the local Jordanian law which has remained in force. One significant change, however, since 1967, has been the abolition of the death penalty which local courts were empowered to impose under Jordanian law. It is therefore evident, that the local judicial system has largely remained intact in the region and continues to function in civil and criminal matters in addition to its other responsibilities enumerated above.

22. Military courts have been duly established in conformity with international law and are empowered to try offences under the security enactments of the regional commander. According to the prevailing law in the region, concurrent criminal jurisdiction exists in the military and local courts for both Israeli nationals and local residents. Trials before the military courts are held in accordance with the procedure and laws of evidence obtaining in the courts of the common law countries which guarantee observance of the rules of natural justice. The right of appeal against a decision of a military court is granted only to the accused, not to the prosecutor, and is submitted to the Regional Commander who may review sentences and mitigate them, but under no circumstances increase them.

Legal Practices

23. The Report contends falsely (paragraph 15) that the "military administration has also reinstated the Defence Emergency Laws of 1945". In 1967 Israel continued to respect and apply the local laws applicable in the region in conformity with international law and as such had no need to "reinstigate" such laws. The Defence (Emergency) Regulations of 1945 were

enacted by the British Mandatory Government in 1945 and have continued to apply both to the region and in Israel. It is emphasized that throughout the period of Jordanian rule from 1948 to 1967, these Regulations remained an integral part of the local Jordanian law. The groundless and unsubstantiated contentions regarding the use of these Regulations in paragraphs 16 and 17 have once again no basis in fact and are totally inconsistent with the rule of law which prevails in the region.

24. All local residents have the unprecedented and innovative right to petition the Supreme Court of Israel sitting as a High Court of Justice, which supervises the respect and maintenance of the rule of law under international law and in accordance with the liberal norms of the Israeli legal system. The impartiality and scholarship of the High Court of Justice are beyond question and, indeed, are evidenced by the number of local residents who petition the Court for redress.

25. An additional factual inaccuracy (in paragraph 15) relates to a "new income tax introduced by Israeli authorities in Gaza and on the West Bank in early 1983...", which reveals either a thorough misunderstanding or a misrepresentation of the situation. The tax in question is a property tax which is due under Jordanian law and collected for the local municipal authorities. Although these taxes are collected by the Staff Officer for Taxation in the Civil Administration, they are transferred in their entirety to the appropriate local municipal council. In the beginning of 1983, after a reassessment in Jordan, a number of local mayors requested that this tax be similarly reassessed and the criteria be reclassified. The Civil Administration agreed to this request. The Staff Officer for Taxation remains responsible for the collection of the tax, and the new amounts are transferred to the local authorities.

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Settlements

26. The establishment of townships and villages in Judea and Samaria reflects the Israeli belief that Jews have a basic right to live in their ancient historic homeland. This is not in contradiction to international law and is carried out in a manner designed not to impair in any way the demographic, geographic, economic and social position or cultural development of the local Arab residents. The settlements are established on public, not on private lands and any local resident who claims that land intended for use by the Civil Administration is private land can, by right, petition a special appeals board in which both sides must present evidence in order to substantiate their claims and the status of the land in question. Under no circumstances has Israel's policy and activity in regard to settlements entailed the forced transfer of either Israeli nationals or local Arab residents. In fact, the number of local Arab residents has increased (see table 1).

Law and Order

27. Unfortunately, as a result of PLO instigated terrorist activity, it is necessary that residents, including local Arab residents, carry personal arms under license, for their self-defence. Persons permitted to carry such arms are not vested with any role whatsoever to maintain law and order, a duty incumbent solely on the relevant law enforcement authorities. It is curious that in paragraph 23 the Report refers to the tragic incident in which two nuns were stabbed in Jerusalem. The perpetrator of this crime, an Arab, is currently in prison for the commission of this offence.

28. Concerning the closure from time to time of educational institutions it should be borne in mind that academic freedom does not embrace the

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freedom to disturb public order by extreme violence, incitement and threats. Indeed, so long as student activity does not imperil public order, directly or indirectly, the Civil Administration avoids interfering. The authorities only close such centres when there have been violent demonstrations or incitements resulting, or likely to result, in a serious breach of the peace, and in accordance with the duty to maintain law and order. In the event that there is no alternative, reasonable force, proportionate to the circumstances, is used to restore order. The start of the academic year 1984-85 was postponed by three to four weeks in Beir Zeit University, Al Bireh College, Science College of Abu-Dis, Bethlehem University and the Islamic College in Hebron, due to internal political struggles within these institutions which, the institutions' administrations feared, might have led to open and violent confrontations between the rival factions.

29. In practice the wide powers of the Regional Commander under Section 119(1) of the Defence Emergency Regulations 1945 to seal up or demolish houses used in terrorist activity, have been used with extreme caution and generally have only been resorted to where terrorist acts have resulted in the murder of innocent people and where such terrorist activity has included the use of such houses to prepare explosives and store ammunition or as bases for the use of arms and the throwing of grenades. Every effort is made to avoid demolition especially if this might damage neighbouring houses or might affect residents of a house who have no connection with the terrorist act. Where possible, therefore, the house or a section thereof may be sealed up making it possible to revoke the measure at some future date. Indeed, it is resorted to less and less.

30. The contents of paragraph 31 is completely without substance and foundation and is categorically and emphatically rejected by Israel in its entirety.

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E. ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

31. The steady economic development in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza district between 1967 and 1984 has greatly improved the status and living conditions of women.

Situation prior to 1967

32. The current economic situation can only be understood if the situation prior to 1967 is taken into account. The economies of Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District were characterized by a low level of development, slow growth, an unskilled labour force, a high rate of unemployment (10 percent of the total labour force in Judea and Samaria, and 43 percent in the Gaza District), a high share of domestic products originating in agriculture and no basic economic or social infrastructure. Agriculture comprised 24 percent of the GNP in Judea and Samaria and 30 percent in the Gaza District. Forty percent of the total labour force was engaged in farming in both areas. Cultivation and irrigation methods were primitive, reflected in low agricultural output.

33. The Jordanian government, prior to 1967, enacted two laws concerning water rights: the Law for Regulating Natural Resources, No. 37, 1966, and Regulations for Controlling Ground Water, N. 88, 1966, both of which, however, were not implemented. The absence of government control on water resources in an area of water scarcity caused a steady drop of the water level in existing wells (in the Gaza district, the water level dropped by 15-20 cm. per annum), posing a threat to the future water supply.

34. As a result of the Jordanian government's policy of developing industries solely in the East Bank area, plants in Judea and Samaria were small-scale or medium size only. 11.6 percent of the total labour force was engaged in the industrial sector.

Principal Directions of Development

35. Since 1967, assistance and advice have been extended to local entrepreneurs by establishing a comprehensive agricultural and industrial infrastructure. This was and still is done mainly by introducing modern techniques, including modern technological equipment and know-how, new methods of cultivation and use of fertilizers, modern irrigation, selected seeds, plastic coverings, nurseries and greenhouses, etc. Local entrepreneurs are offered loans and credits; taxes levied on local firms are lower than in Israel: 37.5 percent as opposed to 67.5 percent.

36. Technical assistance has been granted in the development of agricultural and industrial infrastructure. Most importantly, in view of the scarcity of water resources in this semi-arid region, the Israeli authorities maintain the following policy of ensuring a regular water supply for domestic use; of protecting water resources from salination and from deterioration as a result of over-exploitation; of securing the rights of existing irrigation water users; of utilizing untapped water sources; of issuing licenses for drawing water which raises the ceiling of the quantity pumped by 10 percent; and of ensuring that no legal discrimination will exist among water users. Differences in water availability may result from hydrological constraints or from prior water rights only. No restrictions are put on permits to dig new wells for domestic consumption. The authorities see to the proper maintenance and operation of the existing water network so as to constantly improve the services given to the inhabitants. These policies, which have been carried out by maintaining and implementing the Jordanian laws of 1966 (see paragraph 33), resulted in a growth of agricultural output due to the intensification of the use of the given water quantity and accelerated the development of enterprises such as stone and marble cutting plants, brick, tiles and slab

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manufacturing, which need a reliable supply of running water. At present, some 300 Arab wells and 17 Jewish ones are operating in Judea and Samaria. The Jewish wells were dug into deep water-bearing strata that had never been tapped before.

37. Distant towns without close aquifers were connected to the peripheral network which was developed by the Israeli authorities. Emphasis has been put on connecting as many villages as possible to the water network. In 1967, 50 villages in Judea and Samaria had running water, while 150 were so supplied in 1983, and 50 more are in the process of being connected. As examples of the increase in supply of water to municipalities in Judea and Samaria may serve the Bethlehem-Beit Sahur-Beit Jallah area, which, in 1966, had a pumping capacity of 260 thousand cbm., growing to a capacity of 3500 thousand cbm. in 1983; the El Bireh and Ramallah area, which had a pumping capacity of 850 thousand cbm. in 1966, growing to 3600 thousand in 1983; the pumping capacity of the Nablus area, which was measured at a level of 190 thousand cbm. in 1966, reaching the capacity of 2100 thousand in 1983. (See also paragraph 47.)

38. Large towns and more than 40 villages in Judea and Samaria are today connected to the national electric network. Prior to 1967, there were 7 generators operating in the area, some with a capacity of 140 kilowatts and some with a capacity of 3500. In 1973, the area of Hebron was connected to the high-voltage electric cables, with a capacity of 5.5 megawatt-amperes. In 1980, an additional high-voltage cable with a capacity of 5.5 megawatt-amperes was laid in the Hebron area. In Judea alone, three high voltage electric cables, 95 km. in length, with a capacity of 22.5 megawatt-amperes, were laid. The Gaza District has been connected to the Israeli electric grid and has at its disposal a capacity of 40 megawatts. When compared with the 3.300 kilowatt capacity prior to 1967 a thirteen-fold growth in the electric capacity is recorded. (See also paragraph 48.)

39. The inter-relationship between the Israeli economy and the economies of Judea and Samaria resulted in opening a new labour market and new marketing opportunities. This encounter had positive effects on the rapid growth of the GNP, GDP, and private consumption rates. A new economic situation resulted. The modernization of agriculture led to an average yearly growth in agricultural production of 10 percent in Judea and Samaria and 11 percent in the Gaza District, compared with 2 percent yearly growth in the Arab world. Table 2 provides figures which show the change in the amount per dunam of output in Judea and Samaria.

Table 2: Agricultural Output (kg.) per Dunam

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>% of Growth</u>
Field Crops	85	209	246
Melons	440	1582	359
Tomatoes	1010	2420	239
Eggplants	1800	3645	202
Citrus	1430	3347	233
Figs	220	500	272
Bananas	1100	3500	318

40. Since 1971, vegetable production in Judea and Samaria has increased by 100 percent, fruit production by 81 percent and melons by 435 percent. There has been increased usage of selected seeds, nurseries and greenhouses (in Judea and Samaria alone there are some 480 dunams of greenhouses). 45,000 seeded dunams are covered with plastic covers, the number of tractors has increased from 460 in 1968 to 3,400 in 1984. The amount of cultivated land did not increase in Judea and Samaria; out of 5.6 million dunams of land, only 2 million can be cultivated, out of which 0.7 million are in plains and

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the rest on slopes. However, the introduction of modern mechanization and better exploitation of water resources resulted in a two-fold growth in production per unit of land and water. In reference to paragraph 25 of the Report the comment is called for that the division of land into small segments has always been a characteristic of the area. It has resulted from inheritance laws, and the habit of big landowners to rent out their land in small segments.)

41. The rate of those employed in agriculture has declined from 40 percent of the total labour force in 1967, to 24 percent. In Judea and Samaria alone, the number of employed decreased from 42,000 in 1968 to 29,000 in 1982. Agricultural exports have increased eight-fold since 1968, from US\$ 17 million (4.5 to Israel, 12.5 to other countries) to 140 million dollars in 1982 (35 to Israel and 105 to other countries). Concurrently, per capital income has increased as shown in table 3.

Table 3: Income of Farmers from Agriculture

At Current Prices	1970/71	1979/80	1982/83
Farmers income at 1982/83 prices (I.S. million)	6,886.7	17,527.6	19,490.3
Number of self-employed (thousands)	35.9	33.4	34.1

Source: Judea, Samaria and Gaza Statistics. Israel Central Bureau of Statistics, Vol. XIV, No. 3, 1984

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42. The introduction of modern technologies in the industrial sector has led to a real annual growth in the industrial sector, from 1967 to 1981, of 6 percent in Judea and Samaria and 14.2 percent in the Gaza District. The percentage of those employed in industry has risen from 11.6 percent of the total labour force in 1967, to 16.8 percent in Judea and Samaria and 17.1 percent in the Gaza District in 1983. In Judea and Samaria about 1600 new industrial plants and workshops have been established since 1967, additional to the approximately 500 existing before 1967. In 1983 the total was about 2200. In the same period about 870 new plants and workshops were established in the Gaza District, bringing the total to 1419 at the end of 1983. Industrial exports from Judea and Samaria and the Gaza District rose from US\$ 20 million in 1968 to US\$ 270 million in 1982.

Standard of Living

43. The rapid economic growth since 1967 has resulted in a four-fold growth of the GNP, compared with a two-fold increase in Israel during the same period. Table 4 indicates a three-fold growth in the per capita GNP, both in Judea and Samaria and in the Gaza District, as compared to a 1.4-fold growth in Israel. Between 1967 and 1982, per capita GNP increased from \$170 to \$1,379 in Judea and Samaria, and from \$104 to \$1,054 in the Gaza District. Between 1968 and 1983, per capita private consumption doubled, compared with a 1.67-fold increase in Israel.

Real wages have increased 5 percent per annum between 1970 and 1982. At present, the average level of wages is equal to the average level of wages in Israel.

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Table 4: Growth in the GNP, per capita GNP, and per capita consumption, from 1968 to 1983, percent.

	Judea and Samaria		Gaza Area		Israel	
	Total Growth	Real Annual Percentage Growth	Total Growth	Real Annual Percentage Growth	Total Growth	Real Annual Percentage Growth
GNP	403	9.8	399	9.7	210	5.1
Per Capita GNP	309	7.8	311	7.8	144	2.45
Per Capita Private Consumption	219	5.4	223	5.5	167	3.5

44. Per capita GDP increased between 1970 and 1982 by 7.1 percent per annum in both areas. This marked rapid growth in the GNP, and GDP, had and still has direct implications on the standard of living and quality of life of women and children. In the following paragraphs are set out some indications of the significant change in the standard of living of the inhabitants.

Food consumption

45. The improvement both in the qualitative and quantitative food consumption is indicated in table 5. (See also paragraph 85.)

Table 5: Daily per capita energy and nutritive value in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District, compared with Jordan

	Calories			Proteins (gr.)			Fat (gr.)		
	1969-71	1975-77	1982/83	1969-71	1975-77	1982/83	1969-71	1975-77	1982/83
Judea/Samaria and Gaza District	2,344	2,780	2,833	68.1	81.6	81.9	52.3	65.9	77.3
Jordan	2,278	2,067	n.a.	56.7	55.9	n.a.	44.3	41.2	n.a.

Housing

46. Investment in improving housing conditions has taken place on a large scale. Between 1968 and 1978, construction of new private and public buildings increased in Judea and Samaria almost twelve-fold - from 66.8 thousand sq.m. to 786.4 thousand sq.m. per annum. In 1983 the construction of 600.2 thousand sq.m. was begun. In the Gaza District, construction starts, during the same period, increased sixteen-fold from 21.1 thousand sq.m. to 333.1 thousand sq.m. per annum, further increasing to 336.7 thousand sq.m. in 1983. Residential building completion has increased between 1974 and 1983 by 76 percent from 320,800 sq.m. to 566,200 sq.m. in Judea and Samaria, and by 117 percent from 126,200 sq.m. to 274,100 sq.m. in the Gaza District. New dwellings are serviced by electricity, water and sewage systems. Existing housing units, including those in refugee camps, are increasingly being linked to these modern services. In Judea and Samaria, the average number of rooms per dwelling increased from 1.9 in 1967 to 3.6 in 1983, median housing density improved from 3.2 in 1975 to 2.5 in 1983. In the Gaza District, the average number of rooms per dwelling increased from 2.3 in 1967 to 3.9 in 1983, and the median housing density improved from 2.9 in 1975 to 2.5 in 1983. The average number of persons per household in 1983 was 6.6 in Judea and Samaria, and 6.3 in the Gaza District. Table 6 lists some figures concerning household facilities.

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Table 6: Household Facilities

Percent of all households

	Judea and Samaria		Gaza District	
	1967	1981	1967	1981
1. Kitchen	45.5	74.5	55.7	96.4
Thereof, exclusively for household	43.2	73.2	50.9	80.1
<hr/>				
2. Facilities				
- toilet	40.5	91.7	44.0	79.1
- bathroom only	17.3	34.8	19.5	44.4
- bathroom and toilet		15.7		16.8
<hr/>				
		(1983)		(1983)
3. Solar heater*	-	37.9	-	61.3

Sources: Israel Statistical Abstracts 1984 and Census of Population 1967.
 Central Bureau of Statistics.

* The use of solar heaters was not common in 1967.

Domestic Water Supply

47. The installation of new water systems in urban centers and the connection of many villages to the new water supply have resulted in a remarkable increase in the amount and quality of water pumped for domestic consumption in Judea and Samaria, from five cubic metres per person per annum in 1966 to 25 cbm. in the rural sector and 75 cbm. in the urban sector, both in 1983. All water for domestic consumption is regularly tested and chlorinated. In 1967, only

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17.7 percent of all households in Judea and Samaria had running water indoors, increasing to 44.9 percent in 1981. In 1974, 60.9 percent of the households located in towns but only 9.8 percent in villages had such a water supply. In 1981 it was 79 percent and 29.3 percent, respectively. In the Gaza District, in 1974, 13.9 percent out of all households had running water indoors, increasing to 51.4 percent in 1981. In towns 25.7 percent of the households, and in refugee camps 3.4 percent had such a water supply, increasing to 63.1 percent and 39.7 percent respectively in 1981. The growth in the number of households connected to the water supply has improved the wellbeing and quality of life of the inhabitants who previously had to pump water for domestic consumption from cisterns and water ponds.

Electricity

48. As a result of the increase in electricity supply, and the improvement of the electric infrastructure, the percentage of households which have around-the-clock electricity has risen in Judea and Samaria from 23.1 percent in 1967 to 50.6 percent in 1981, and in the Gaza District from 17.9 percent to 88.5 percent respectively. In Judea and Samaria, out of all households having 24-hour electricity, 71 percent were in towns, and 6.7 percent in villages, rising in 1981 to 95.8 percent and 26.9 percent respectively. In the Gaza District, out of all households having 24-hour electricity, 34 percent were in towns while only 3.1 percent had 24-hour electricity in the refugee camps. In 1981, it was 89.2 percent in towns, and 83.9 percent in refugee camps. These remarkable improvements in the water and electricity supply, as well as the drainage and sewage systems, have greatly contributed to the hygiene and sanitation conditions of women and children. (For further details on sanitation, see paragraphs 75-78.)

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Household Durables

49. An increase in the amount of households possessing durable goods such as refrigerators, sewing machines, washing machines, etc., has liberated women from much menial housework. (See table 7.) The growth in the total number of motor vehicles, from 4,893 in 1970 to 38,609 in 1983 in Judea and Samaria, and from 2,227 to 20,184 in the Gaza District, also marks a significant improvement in the standard of living. The rate of telephone owners increased, in Judea and Samaria, from 4.4 percent of the total households in 1974 to 5.6 percent in 1981, and from 3.1 percent to 8 percent in the Gaza District. All these figures are indicators of the improvement in living conditions of the family.

Table 7: Households Possessing Durable Goods
 (percent)

	Year	Judea & Samaria	Gaza District
1. Electric or gas stove	1974	8.3	3.8
	1983	27.7	37.0
2. Electric or gas range for cooking	1967	5.0	3.0
	1974	32.7	12.7
	1983	79.5	86.8
3. Electric refrigerator	1967	4.8	2.5
	1972	13.8	5.7
	1983	59.8	76.8
4. Washing machine	1967	5.0	3.0
	1974	13.0	3.0
	1983	31.9	30.2

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	Year	Judea & Samaria	Gaza District
5. Radio	1967	57.9	47.7
	1972	74.9	85.5
	1983	82.4	86.3
6. TV set (including colour TV)	1967	1.8	3.3
	1972	10.0	7.5
	1983	67.1	77.7
7. Electric vacuum cleaner	1981	1.4	0.1
	1983	1.3	0.4
8. Electric mixer	1981	4.1	2.2
	1983	5.5	7.8
9. Private car	1972	2.3	2.3
	1983	9.9	14.1
10. Sewing machine	1967	2.0	3.0
	1983	26.8	28.5

Source: Statistical Abstracts of Israel. Central Bureau of Statistics. 1984

Refugee Rehabilitation

50. Refugees inside and outside their camps have shared in the general developments. A special effort has been made to improve their housing. Rehabilitation of refugees away from their camps, mainly in the Gaza District, due to the difficult conditions of refugees residing in those camps, has ameliorated their living conditions significantly. Since 1972, each family from any of the refugee camps, including those who reside in existing dwellings illegally, is entitled to be included in the rehabilitation programme.

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Rehabilitation includes renting a government property unit by the resident, in a neighbourhood where environmental infrastructure as well as schools, religious institutions, health centres, etc., have all been established. Each family independently builds up its home with the financial support of the authorities. Since 1972, some 50,000 refugees were rehabilitated in new neighbourhoods built on government property.

F. EMPLOYMENT

Employment Situation Prior to 1967

51. As a result of governmental disinterest in developing independent and sustained economies in Judea-Samaria and the Gaza District, the labour market was limited in range. In line with conditions elsewhere in the Arab world, the following features prevail: Constant migration of labour force reflecting on the rate of employment; low level of labour force participation (the average is between 22 percent and 32 percent of the total working age population); low level of women participating in the labour force; high rate of unemployment (10 percent in Judea and Samaria, 40 percent in the Gaza District); high rate of illiteracy among the labour force participants; unskilled labour force, and high rate of employed in agriculture (37 percent) as opposed to low participation in the industrial sector (11.6 percent).

Changes Since 1967

52. With the expansion of economic activity and new job availability resulting mainly from the opening of the Israeli market, the employment situation has improved significantly. The unemployment rate has dropped considerably, reaching the level of an annual average of less than 1 percent between 1973-1983. The rate of the total labour force out of the total

working-age population has been recorded at an annual average of 34.3 percent. The rate of people employed in agriculture, which was 37 percent out of the total labour force prior to 1967, decreased to 26 percent, while the rate of those employed in industry increased from 11.6 percent prior to 1967, to an average of 17 percent. The rate of illiteracy among the labour force participants having zero years of schooling has dropped from 49 percent in 1970, to 26 percent in 1980.

Employment of Women

53. When trying to analyze the characteristics of changes in women's employment, one has to take into consideration that socio-economic, demographic and religious factors play a significant role in the employment and in the labour force characteristics of Arab (especially Muslim) women. In the Arab countries, high fertility, low literacy, traditional restrictions, including women's segregation for women's activities and social obligations, negatively affect female labour force participation. In addition, the characteristics of female labour in the Arab world are a high rate of females engaged in farming in rural areas, and low and almost no participation in labour in urban areas. These features undoubtedly are reflected in the nature of female employment in Judea-Samaria and the Gaza District.

54. Following are facts and data concerning women's employment in Judea-Samaria and the Gaza District:

(a) The increase of women in working age from 268,300 in 1969 to 352,700 in 1983 corresponds to a total population growth of 28 percent in Judea and Samaria, and 34 percent in the Gaza District since 1967.

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(b) The female labour force has increased from 27,300 in 1969 to 28,500 in 1983, with 25,100 fully employed in 1969 (i.e. 91.9 percent) and 27,800 fully employed in 1983 (i.e. 97.5 percent). The average number of women employed in Judea and Samaria is around 25,000 and 4,000 in the Gaza District. These figures fluctuate according to the economic situation.

(c) Females active in the labour force constituted 10.2 percent of the total female working-age population in 1969, and 15.7 percent of the total labour force. In 1983, the figures were 8.08 percent and 12 percent respectively. The number of women participating in the labour force declined with the improved economic situation, as traditional attitudes reasserted themselves. (ILO data concerning the rate of female participation in the labour force in Arab countries are instructive: Algeria - 3.5 percent; Egypt - 5.7 percent; United Arab Emirates - 5.8 percent (including immigrants); Kuwait - 10.7 percent (including immigrants); Jordan - 3.3 percent (in 1975); Saudi Arabia - 2.6 percent (in 1975); Syria - 6.0 percent (in 1975).)

(d) In Judea and Samaria the majority of women employed range between the ages of 35 and 44, whereas in the Gaza District the age range is between 25 and 34.

(e) In 1982, the number of women who did not participate in the labour force in Judea and Samaria was 185,500 (193,200 in 1983) and 123,800 (131,005 in 1983) in the Gaza District. In Judea and Samaria, 64.4 percent of non-participants were housewives, 14.7 percent were engaged in studies, 2.6 percent were sick or old, 16.1 percent worked in the previous year. In the Gaza area, 85.3 percent of non participants were housewives, 11.4 percent were studying, 1.8 percent sick or old.

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(f) The distribution of the female labour force into various branches of occupation marks a slight decline in the percentage of women working in agriculture and a slight increase of those working in industry in Judea and Samaria, whereas in the Gaza District, the percentage of women working in agriculture increased as opposed to a decline in those working in industry. Table 8 indicates these tendencies and table 9 shows the characteristics of the female labour force.

Table 8: Employed Women by Economic Branch

	Judea and Samaria				Gaza District			
	1979		1983		1979		1983	
	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%	Total	%
Total	24000		23100		4400		4600	
Agriculture	14900	62	13200	57	400	9	600	13
Industry	2700	11.25	2900	12.5	1600	36.3	900	19.5
Trade & Tourism	700	2.9	800	3.4	200	4.5	400	8.7
Public Services	5000	20.8	5400	23.3	1900	43.1	2600	56.5
Others	700	2.9	800	3.4	300	6.8	100	2.1

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Table 9: Population Aged 14 and over
by Labour Force Characteristic and Sex

	Judea and Samaria			Gaza District		
	1970	1975	1983	1970	1975	1983
(1) Population aged 14+ (thousands)	322.9	366.9	420.9	196.8	225.0	261.6
Thereof, females	169.2	189.7	217.2	106.4	120.2	135.9
(2) Total labour force (thousands)	118.4	133.9	150.2	62.4	72.7	85.8
Total female labour force	24.0	24.0	23.7	5.5	4.7	4.7
Total employed	114.6	132.3	147.2	58.7	72.4	85.3
Thereof, females	23.6	23.7	23.1	4.1	4.7	4.6
(3) % of labour force out of population aged 14+	36.7	36.5	35.7	31.7	32.3	32.8
Thereof, females	14.2	12.7	10.9	5.2	4.1	3.4

Source: Judea Samaria and Gaza Area Statistics. Vol. VIII. No. 1, 1983.

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55. As a result of the impressive growth in the number of female university graduates and female graduates of vocational training centres, the percentage of women participating in 'white collar' professions has increased. Thus, in the government welfare administration there are 30 female social workers working in Judea and Samaria and 15 in the Gaza District, all university graduates, among them three directors of regional welfare offices. In addition, there are women heads of projects in welfare organizations. There are 363 female school directors and supervisors in Judea and Samaria and 35 in the Gaza District. The number of women teachers has increased by 173 percent, from 2,367 in 1967/68 to 6,475 in 1984/85. There are women working in regional labour exchange offices. A high percentage of women work in the government health services: In the Gaza District alone there are: one hospital director; two hospital department directors; 21 doctors, three dentists; 16 pharmacists; six laboratory workers; two X-ray technicians; four medical instructors. There are 1943 registered and practical nurses employed in the government health services in both areas. There are also architects, lawyers, legal advisors in the government administration, a woman judge in Ramallah and another in Gaza, as well as a district attorney in Gaza. An increasing number of women work as saleswomen in shops, drugstores, etc.

Employment in Israel

56. The encounter of the economies of Judea-Samaria and the Gaza District with the Israeli market resulted in the expansion of job availability, which also reflected on the rate of full employment in these areas. Some 85,000 workers from Judea-Samaria and the Gaza District are employed in Israel. Of the 85,000, almost two-thirds are channeled through labour exchange offices. One-third work in Israel without work permits. Workers employed through labour exchange offices are entitled to social benefits,

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health services, sick pay, paid annual leave as well as paid leave on religious holidays, seniority increments, work accident insurance and a vacation allowance. Workers who work without permits are not entitled to the above benefits. However, under the National Insurance Law, every worker is entitled to work accident insurance. Wages paid to Arab workers, men as well as women, equal those paid to Israelis performing the same job.

57. Out of the total of 50,000 workers channeled through the local labour exchange offices, 10 percent are women, mostly unmarried, although the number of married women is increasing. These young women are engaged mainly in agriculture, textile plants, food manufacturing, and public services. There are women functioning as forewomen and shift directors. Women are entitled to all social benefits as listed above. However, no woman has yet been paid seniority increment payments because, since 1967, no woman working in Israel has reached the age of 60.

58. Many families willing to send their womenfolk to work in Israel prefer them working for a 'Rais' (local contractor) who is held to be responsible for the girl. The Rais contacts employers directly and usually pays the woman's wages to male members of her family. Employers, contractors, and employees who illegally circumvent the employment office do so of their own free will and are defrauding the State of taxes. Some also thus circumvent the Israeli law prohibiting the employment of youth under the age of 17.

G. EDUCATION

59. The Report describes fairly thoroughly the UNRWA school system as if no other education systems exist in Judea-Samaria and the Gaza istrict. Following are supplementary data concerning the public education system in those areas.

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Pre-School Education

60. In Judea and Samaria, kindergartens are under welfare and private organization supervision, whereas in the Gaza District most kindergartens are private. The number of children attending kindergartens has increased, between 1975/76 and 1983/84, from 11,620 to 14,237 - a 22.5 percent increase: 16 percent in Judea and Samaria and 38 percent in the Gaza District.

Public Education (up to high school level)

61. The entire education network has continued to operate in line with pre-existing structures and standards: following Jordanian patterns, curricula and textbooks in Judea and Samaria, and Egyptian in the Gaza District. The school system includes government schools, which comprise 66 percent of the total education institutions; UNRWA schools, which comprise 19 percent of the total institutions, providing education facilities up to high school level only, and private schools, independently owned and operated, which comprise 15 percent of the total institutions. The education system provides 12 years of free schooling: six years of compulsory elementary education, three additional years of compulsory junior high school and three more years of free but not compulsory high school. The overall number of pupils in both regions has risen between 1967 and 1984/85 by 104 percent, and the number of classes by 95 percent. (The population grew during the same period by 28 percent.) The number of girls aged 5-18 attending school rose between 1967/68 and 1984/85 from 88,931 to 200,437, an increase of 125.3 percent. See table 10 for some figures concerning public education as a whole, and the rate of females attending school.

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Table 10: Government and Other Schools - Distribution by Area and Sex

	Judea-Samaria	Gaza District	Both Areas
<u>1967/68</u>			
Total	140,300	72,596	212,896
Females	55,440	33,491	88,931
% females	39.5%	46.1%	41.7%
<u>1984/85</u>			
Total	283,227	151,958	435,185
Females	128,171	72,266	200,437
% females	45.2%	47.5%	46.0%
% of growth of females studying between 1967-1984	131.1%	-115.0%	125.3%

62. The number of girls attending elementary schools has increased from 37,290 in 1967/68 to 82,692 in 1984/85, an increase of 121.7 percent. (In Judea and Samaria - 103 percent, in the Gaza District - 216 percent). The number of girls attending junior high school has increased from 6,042 in 1967/68 to 24,684 in 1984/85, an increase of 308.5 percent. (308 percent in Judea and Samaria, 310 percent in the Gaza District). The number of girls attending high school has increased from 6,154 in 1967/68 to 21,085 in 1984/85, an increase of 242.6 percent. (340 percent in Judea and Samaria, 154 percent in the Gaza District.)

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63. High school pupils are eligible to sit for matriculation examinations, composed in accordance with the Jordanian and Egyptian criteria respectively, which provide graduates with an appropriate certificate enabling them to proceed to higher education in Arab universities. In 1983/84, 35 percent of the examinees in Judea and Samaria were females, of whom 64.4 percent passed the exam, whereas females comprised 41.1 percent of the total number of examinees in the Gaza District. The examination success rate of females in Gaza was 71.5 percent.

Textbooks

64. Since 1970, a special committee has been examining textbooks used in the UNRWA and governmental schools for anti-Jewish and anti-Israel passages. Six books in Judea and Samaria and six in the Gaza District were censored for that reason in 1975/76, four and 25, respectively, in 1980/81, and none in 1983/84.

Illiteracy

65. The significant growth in the number of those attending school since 1967 is reflected in a remarkable decline in the total rate of illiteracy and in the rate of illiterate females especially: In 1970, the percentage of those with zero years of schooling was 47.5 percent of the total population aged 14 and over in Judea and Samaria, and 51.1 percent in the Gaza District. This situation has improved to 26.6 percent of the total population aged 14 and over having zero years of schooling in Judea and Samaria, and 26.5 percent in the Gaza District. The overall rate of illiterate females decreased in Judea and Samaria, from 65.1 percent in 1970, to 38.9 percent in 1983; and in the Gaza District from 65.3 percent to 36.8 percent.

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Comparison of the rate of female illiteracy in Arab countries (70 percent of all women recorded in 1975) with that in Judea and Samaria and the Gaza District, brings to light the low percentage of those with zero schooling in the latter regions: In Algeria, 68.3 percent of the females were recorded illiterate in 1982; in Egypt, 77.6 percent in 1976; in Jordan, 49.5 percent in 1979; in Saudi Arabia, 87.8 percent in 1980; in Kuwait, 52 percent in 1975; in Syria, 76.1 percent in 1975. Table 11 indicates the decrease in the rate of illiteracy.

Higher Education

66. Prior to 1967, there were no universities in Judea and Samaria, nor in the Gaza District, and only few institutions of higher learning. Since 1967, five universities have been established in Judea and Samaria, all of which enjoy full academic freedom. Colleges and seminars for teachers which provide programmes of higher education on a high level were also established, mainly in Judea and Samaria, since 1967. The fact that higher education is provided locally has significantly reduced the number of students forced to go abroad for their studies.

Seminars and Colleges

67. In Judea and Samaria, teachers' seminars, agricultural, technical and paramedical institutions, mostly operating since 1967, all provide higher education. The total number of students in these institutions in the 1980/81 academic year was 2,599, of whom 1,189 were women, increasing to 4,680 in 1984/85. Following is a list of institutions:

- Under UNRWA Supervision

Ramallah Teachers' College; Al-Tira Teachers' College (Ramallah); a Vocational Training Institute (Qalandiya). These institutions comprise a total of 600-700 students.

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Table 11: Population Aged 14 and Over, by Years of Schooling, and Sex (Percent)

	Judea and Samaria					Gaza District						
	Total (thousands)	0	1-6	7-8	9-12	13+	Total (thousands)	0	1-6	7-8	9-12	13+
<u>Total:</u>												
1970	322.9	47.5	26.4	10.5	14.7	0.9	196.8	51.1	16.8	7.2	24.4	0.5
1975	366.9	37.0	25.8	12.0	19.8	5.4	225	38.9	18.5	8.6	29.0	5.0
1983	420.3	26.6	25.1	13.5	26.1	8.7	261.8	26.5	20.6	9.6	33.4	9.9
<u>Females:</u>												
1970	169.2	65.1	18.9	6.7	8.8	0.5	106.4	65.3	10.3	5.6	18.4	0.4
1975	189.7	52.8	21.5	9.5	13.9	2.3	120.2	51.2	14.1	7.3	24.8	2.6
1983	216.7	38.9	23.8	11.4	20.6	5.3	135.6	36.8	17.0	9.2	31.6	5.4
Age: 14-17	31.9	3.1					20.4	3.4				
18-24	55.8	7.5					33.1	5.1				
25-34	40.5	22.7					29.3	15.7				
35-44	26.8	58.9					17.7	60.4				
45-54	25.3	82.2					15.7	89.2				
65+	17.4	95.9					8.5	96.5				

Source: Statistical Abstracts of Israel, Central Bureau of Statistics, 1984

- Under Government Supervision

Kadouri Teachers' College (Tul-Karm); Women's College (Ramallah);
Al-Araub College (Hebron); with a total of 660 students.

- Under Private Ownership

Al Randa in Nablus; Shuyukhi College in Ramallah; with a total of
1,300 students.

Holy Book College (Bethlehem); El-Bireh Medical Aid College (which also
provide BA programmes for nurses); with a total of 182 students in 1983;
Hebron Polytechnic Institute, with 421 students in 1983; Islamic
Studies Institute Qalqilya with 120 students in 1983; Bet Hanina
Religious College with 310 students in 1983.

In the Gaza area, Al-Azhar Islamic College with a total of 2,847 students
provides studies in science, education, and Islamic studies. The total
number of female students in Al-Azhar College in 1984/85 was 1,089, which
is almost 40 percent of the total number of students. This marks a two-
fold increase from the 1983/84 academic year.

In the 1983/84 academic year, some 1,583 students, of whom 864 were females,
attended seminars for teachers in Judea and Samaria, and 696 students, of
whom 446 were females, in the Gaza District.

(For details on nursing schools, see the chapter on Health, paragraph 82.)

Universities

68. Five privately owned universities have been established in Judea and
Samaria since 1967, with 10,270 students in the current 1984/85 academic
year. The number of students has increased by 60 percent since the 1980/81
academic year. Almost 50 percent are female - a three-fold growth since 1981.

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- An-Najah University in Nablus, established in 1977, provides programmes in humanities and sciences. 3,500 students.
- Freres University in Bethlehem, established in 1973, provides programmes in sciences, humanities, business administration, nursing etc. 1,500 students.
- Bir Zeit University, established in 1973, provides programmes in humanities, sciences and economics. 2,600 students.
- Al-Shariya Islamic College in Hebron, established in 1971, provides programmes in Islamic studies. 1,800 students.
- Abu-Dis College of Sciences, established in 1981, provides programmes in mathematics, sciences, chemistry, computers, etc. 420 students.

Vocational Training

69. The Report portrays the UNRWA network of vocational training only, ignoring the government vocational training centres. Since 1967, steady effort has been invested in vocational training centres, which have become an important factor in upgrading the labour force. By the end of September 1984, there were over 56,000 graduates, about one-fourth of the total labour force. This includes about 10,000 female graduates. There are 19 female instructors in these courses in Judea and Samaria, and seven in the Gaza District.

A variety of courses, structured so as to fulfil local need, are available: The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs sponsors 25 vocational training centres, 18 in Judea and Samaria, 9 of which offer courses for female students; and 7 in the Gaza District, offering courses in weaving and knitting, sewing, hairdressing, accounting, clerking, construction, mechanics, electric work, etc. Some of the courses are co-educational; courses in

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office work and bookkeeping are offered jointly in Beit Jallah, Hebron and Ramallah. Girls are free to enroll in other courses as well, and lately some women have enrolled in courses which were traditionally male oriented. Courses are free of charge, and all equipment necessary is made available. A small stipend is given to the participants. In addition, under a new programme, youth at the age of 14 and 15 who did not attend school are granted one day a week of schooling at the vocational training centres. These centers provide women with greater opportunities to work, by helping them pave the way towards participating in the labour force. Nevertheless, less than 10 percent of the female graduates have actively joined the labour force, while the others, who mainly consider these courses as a means of freeing themselves from existing strict environments, usually use their training to work at home.

H. HEALTH

General

70. The Report concentrates, in its chapter on Health, on UNRWA activities, even though UNRWA is responsible for health services of a mere 11-12 percent of the population in Judea and Samaria, and of 50 percent in the Gaza District. All the rest are the responsibility of the government. The following survey attempts to supplement relevant information, and to correct erroneous statements.

71. To evaluate health progress achieved over the past 17 years, the development of socio-economic, health and community infrastructure conditions, on the one hand, and the pre-1967 conditions as well as the health situation in other countries of the Middle East, on the other hand, must be taken into account. Comparison with the situation in Arab countries is most instructive.

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Essential elements of social and health progress include full employment, fair wage and income scales, adequate housing and education, electrification, safe water supplies, garbage and sewage systems, maternal and child health care facilities, expanded immunization programmes, primary health care as well as general and specialty hospital services. This complex developmental process naturally takes time. Steady advances in this process have been achieved and are measurable in terms of the establishment of such services, as well as in their positive effects on health status through reduction of the morbidity and mortality rates of the population.

72. In 1967 an assessment of health conditions was made. From this and through a continuous planning process broad goals were established to improve health focusing on the following priority areas: Improving infant health and reducing infant mortality; encouraging birth deliveries in medical centres; immunization and preventive services; surveillance and control of infectious diseases, including diarrhoeal diseases; establishment of a network of basic sanitation facilities and services; providing safe drinking water; developing sewage and solid waste collection and disposal; improving food control; developing primary care services; providing high quality secondary and tertiary health care; encouraging voluntary health insurance.

73. Efforts have been made to improve and strengthen a local health care system that is maintained and operated locally. Infrastructure has been established for a comprehensive and effective local health service system which has been guided by a commitment to establish a strong base of primary health care at the community level, including preventive and curative services. Emphasis has been placed on maternal and child health, particularly on an expanded programme of immunization, and diarrhoeal disease control, as well as on the establishment of a network of basic sanitation and other primary care services.

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Health Services

74. Following are facts and figures concerning the improvements in health services conducted by the government authorities, excluding health services extended primarily by UNRWA to refugees in refugee camps. Tables 12 and 13 indicate the steady improvement of health such as the decrease in infant mortality, the increase in life expectancy; and the increase in the number of hospital beds per person.

Table 12: Highlights - Judea and Samaria

	1968	1974	1983
Population (thousands)	583.1	663.7	767.3
Birth rate (per 1,000 population) (reported)	44.0	46.2	39.8
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population) (reported)	4.8	5.3	5.4
Infant mortality rate (reported) (per 1,000 live births)	33.6	30.7	29.4
Hospital deliveries (% of total deliveries)	13.5	30.0	48.3
Hospital beds (total general) (per 1,000 population)	1.5	1.4	1.4
Hospital utilization: Days of care (per 1,000 population)	543	532	347
Community clinics (governmental) (MCH and general medical)	113	149	243

Source: Health and Health Services in Judea-Samaria and Gaza 1983-84
 The Ministry of Health of Israel

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Table 13: Highlights - Gaza District

	1968	1974	1983
Population (thousands)	356.8	414.0	493.7
Birth rate (per 1,000 population) (reported)	43.1	50.2	45.8
Crude death rate (per 1,000 population) (reported)	8.7	6.5	-
Infant mortality rate (reported) (per 1,000 live births)	86.0	67.1	38.2
Hospital and maternity centre deliveries (% of total deliveries)	10	47	72
Hospital beds (total general) (per 1,000 population)	1.9	1.9	1.8
Hospital utilization: Days of care (per 1,000 population)	NA	563	406
Community clinics (governmental) (MCH and general medical)	0	12	24

Source: ibid

Environmental Health

75. Environmental health programme development has been a major commitment on the part of the authorities in the establishment of the necessary infrastructure of safe water systems, solid waste disposal systems, sewage systems, electrification, food safety and monitoring systems and surveillance of imported foods. These have been and are continuing to be developed in collaboration with local authorities and international agencies. Monitoring of water standards is carried out regularly by district sanitarians. Water supply is routinely chlorinated on a continuous basis.

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76. Sewage collection systems in most urban areas have been extended and re-equipped and sewage treatment plants have been built in ten towns: Hebron, Ramallah, El Bireh, Nablus, Kalkilya, Jenin, Anabta, Salfit, Tulkarm and Jericho. El Bireh, Bethlehem/Beit Jallah/Beit Sahur are about to have the system completed soon. The dangerous and previously common practice of using untreated sewage for irrigation of vegetables has been stopped.

77. Before 1967, only part of the city of Gaza had a public sewage system (approximately 25 km. in length) which served the old part of the city. All the rest of the area used various types of dry and wet wells, with and without septic tanks. The public sewage system served approximately half the population of Gaza. In the last few years, the sewage system in Gaza has been enlarged and a new system encompassing approximately 47 km of piping, with two new oxidation ponds, is in operation, covering the whole town. Khan Yunis has a new central sewage collection system, and a regional treatment system is in the first stage of implementation. Jabaliyeh's central sewage collection and treatment (oxidation pond) was opened in 1979. A sewage system is now under construction in Rafah and Bet Lahya which will solve the problem of the sewage from the refugee camp which is at present collecting inside the town itself. The refugee camp of Jabaliyeh is also due to have its system completed, freeing it from a scourge. A solution has been found for the disposal of the purified water by recycling it for irrigation of citrus groves (non-ground crops). Shati Refugee Camp's solution is complete canalization (i.e. underwater pipes) connected to the central sewage system of Gaza. Deir-el-Balah is in the process of planning a public sewage system.

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78. Solid garbage disposal has been altered drastically over the past dozen years. The practice of refuse disposal along roadsides has been replaced largely by the establishment of municipal garbage disposal sites. Garbage collection in urban and rural areas as well as refugee camps has been equipped and carried out by the municipalities on a modern basis. Although community awareness of public hygiene needs has been problematic, there has been a radical change in the past several years as a result of improved facilities, more efficient collection and cleaning, and generally improved attention to public health and sanitation.

79. Supervision of food quality has focused on food production, food marketing and public eating establishments. Sanitary standards in food production and marketing are supervised routinely by district sanitarians.

80. Control measures for surveillance and prevention of epidemics and epizootics have been established so that people, their animals, their crops and their water are kept safe from disease. Two examples of ongoing efforts are the constant testing of sewage for cholera and salmonellosis, and of water for dissolved chemicals. A large scale surveillance and animal immunization programme from rift valley fever has been carried out since 1978 in order to prevent this very serious human and animal arbovirus disease from entering Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District. With the rising standard of living, and the prolonged life expectancy, people suffer less from epidemics and more from diseases characteristic of the modern world.

Hospital Services

81. Changing mobility and health needs have necessitated organizational and physical redevelopment of some special hospitals. A development of infrastructure services, such as laboratory, X-ray, pharmacy, supply,

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kitchen and laundry has been instituted. In Judea and Samaria, hospitals in all seven administrative districts have been reorganized and upgraded in the basic medical departments, as well as in the infrastructure and support services. Many expansion and renovation projects are under way, or nearing completion. Specialty services have been added in Judea, Samaria and in the Gaza District to all government hospitals beyond the basic services, including orthopedics, ear, nose and throat, coronary care, oncology, gastroenterology, neonatal care, renal dialysis, vascular surgery, pediatric surgery, ophthalmology, hematology, allergology, rehydration services, cardiology, endocrinology and genetics. Hospital ambulatory care is improving as the range of specialty services is increased. Moreover, the voluntary insurance programmes reduce economic barriers to specialized hospital and ambulatory care.

All government hospitals are equipped with emergency services and ambulances. The emergency rooms of the hospitals, which operate on a 24-hour basis, receive every patient, irrespective of his or her insurance or national status. Specialty emergency care is provided at a reasonably high level for coronary care in intensive coronary care units, for surgical and trauma emergencies in the hospital surgical services, and similarly in other specialized emergency care needs.

Manpower Training and Staffing

82. Priority has been given to manpower training and in particular to the development of local training programmes for nursing and paramedical staff in order to meet the growing needs of community health services staffing. Nursing schools and other health manpower training programmes have been initiated by the Israeli Ministry of Health. In Gaza, 576 practical nurses have graduated from the Shifa Hospital Nursing School, which opened in 1973

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and expanded in 1975. The course lasts 18 months. The Gaza School of Registered Nurses, opened in 1976, emphasizes community health nursing and has thus far graduated 72 students. Approximately 50 students are currently enrolled in the three-year programme. In Judea and Samaria, the Ramallah School for Registered Nurses has graduated 131 students since 1971. The Nablus School for Practical Nurses (under government supervision), St. Luke's School and El Itihad School (both private) have graduated 149 and 53 students respectively. A new practical nurse training course has been started at Bethlehem Mental Hospital. El Bireh College and Bethlehem University both offer BA programmes and have thus far graduated 78 students. A training centre for nursing and paramedical staff is being planned in Ramallah with UNDP collaboration.

83. Staffing of government health services has expanded substantially over the years, at rates faster than the population growth. In the Gaza District, 97 doctors were working before May 1967; in 1982 there were 242 doctors working in this region. This represents an increase from 2.7 per 10,000 population to 5.3 per 10,000 population. In Judea and Samaria medical personnel in government health services increased from 97 in May 1967 to 207 in 1983 (an increase from 186 in 1982), representing an increase from 1.6 per 10,000 population to 2.7 per 10,000 population. When physicians not in government employ working in Judea and Samaria are included, the physician-to-population ratio is approximately 6.2 per 10,000 population. Nursing and other health care personnel in the government health service has similarly increased. Details to be found in tables 14 and 15.

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Table 14: Personnel in Government Health Service, Judea and Samaria,

1967 - 1982

Personnel	May 1967	1978	1982	1982 Staff to 10,000 population
Physicians	97	157	186	2.5
Nurses (registered and practical)	241	599	655.5	9.0
Technical and paramedical	66	176	168.5	2.3
Administrative and support service	508	438	417	5.7
Total	912	1,270	1,427	19.5

Source: Government Health Department, Judea and Samaria

Table 15: Personnel in Government Health Service, Gaza District,

1967 - 1982

Personnel	May 1967	1978	1982	1982 Staff to 10,000 population
Physicians	97	216	242	5.3
Nurses (registered and practical)	241	468	588	12.8
Technical and paramedical	66	172	168	3.7
Administration and services	508	496	537	11.7
Total	912	1,370	1,535	33.4

Source: Government Health Department, Gaza District

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Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

84. Maternal and child health has been one of the main priorities in developing the health care system. Emphasis on MCH has a high payoff in public health terms, especially in a population with very high fertility rates and a high proportion of young people. The basis for expansion of the MCH programme has been the distribution of and access to MCH services. There was a fourfold increase (from 23 in 1968 to 90 in 1983) in the number of MCH centres in Judea and Samaria, and an increase in general community clinics from 89 in 1968 to 148 in 1983, resulting in improved access to services. In the Gaza District, 24 MCH centres have been established, providing a centre in every village, in addition to the nine UNRWA centres operating in the refugee camps. Utilization of MCH services has increased vastly. For those using MCH services in the Gaza District, an average of 15 visits per live birth and infancy took place in 1979 in the government MCH centres. A full prenatal monitoring service is available, along with routine iron and folate supplementation. The rate of hospital and medical centre births in the Gaza District has risen from less than 10 percent in 1967, to 47 percent in 1974, to 65 percent in 1980 and 75 percent in 1982. In Judea and Samaria the increase was from 13.5 percent in 1968, to 30 percent in 1974, and to 40 percent in 1983. To improve prenatal care for those women using traditional birth attendants (Dayas), licensing, supervision and educational programmes for the Dayas has been increased by the government health services with support from WHO and UNDP. Nutrition education of women during pregnancy is being expanded in order to improve fetal and infant development. The current follow-up care of infants covers many basic aspects of child health, including immunization, monitoring of physical growth and development, morbidity and parental health education.

Nutrition

85. The food balance sheets indicate an adequate per capita energy availability and one which is within the FAO and WHO recommended dietary allowance. (See also paragraph 45 and table 5). Special attention is being given to the nutritional status of infants and young children, and a proposed nutritional survey of these groups is being planned in conjunction with WHO. There are still cases of malnutrition among children as a result of inappropriate nutrition practices and this is being tackled within the framework of health education. Birth weights recorded for children born in government and non-government hospitals in Judea and Samaria in 1983 showed 6.8 percent under 2,500 grams (i.e. low birth weight). A similar survey in the Gaza District in 1983 showed a just over 5 percent low birth weight rate. These birth weight rates are lower than the 7 percent recorded in the USA (and in Israel).

Immunization

86. The childhood immunization programmes now cover more than 90 percent of the target population. Their success and the addition of new vaccines to the basic programme have resulted in reduced childhood mortality and morbidity. Diphtheria, pertussis and polio are being brought under control; tetanus cases are rapidly declining. Progress is being made in the gradual elimination of measles. A major effort in BCG immunization has been carried out; children between ages 6 and 18 have been immunized in the schools.

Mental Health

87. Mental disorders account for up to 30 percent of illness brought to the attention of doctors in the Middle East according to a key WHO study linking up the problem with the stressful impact of rapid social change. (Simon, Jan (1980). "Middle East Health. The outlook after 30 years of

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WHO assistance in a changing region." EMRO, WHO, Alexandria, p. 37).

The prevention of mental illness is a complex problem both in developing and in developed countries (WHO (1981) Social Dimensions of Mental Health. Geneva). Some people living in societies in the process of rapid change brought on by rapid economic growth, full employment and educational opportunities inevitably experience social stress and cultural conflict. There is no evidence whatsoever to the deterioration of mental well-being or an increase in mental diseases, particularly neuroses.

88. Emphasis in the development of mental health services in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District has focused on the establishment and expansion of improved outpatient and community support as well as a more active therapeutic environment in the inpatient psychiatric facilities. Psychiatric services have been modernized with local staff. The Bethlehem Psychiatric Hospital provides hospital care for Judea, Samaria and the Gaza District, as well as for East Jerusalem residents. In recent years the hospital has increased its treatment capacity with fewer beds, as a result of shortened lengths of stay and greater emphasis on outpatient care. New psychiatric services in Gaza reduce the burden of hospitalization of Gaza residents in the Bethlehem Hospital through local ambulatory day care, as well as inpatient care in a new 25-bed psychiatric unit in the Ophthalmic Hospital.

89. Hospitalization for serious mental disorders including psychotic, schizophrenic or depressive states has not increased significantly since 1968. The increase of outpatient psychiatric clinics and diagnostic and referral services has led to increased admissions for psychoneurotic disorders with shortened lengths of stay. Even though the number of hospital beds was reduced, the mental health staff increased to cope with more active inpatient and outpatient care. Outpatient psychiatric care has been extended in Judea and Samaria from three locations in 1979, to /...

five in 1981.

Health Insurance

90. Voluntary health insurance plans have been established over the past several years, with 40 percent participation rate in Judea and Samaria, and 80 percent in the Gaza District. A health insurance premium is charged for each family, irrespective of family size or pre-existing medical condition. For families in need, enrollment in the insurance plan is provided. Workers in government, and all employees working in Israel are automatically entered into the insurance plan. Families receiving social assistance are enrolled in the health insurance plan with no charge.

91. The insurance plan provides for preventive and curative ambulatory services as well as hospital services in government health facilities and supraregional hospital services. Participation through voluntary insurance gives a greater feeling of rights to service to the consumer and helps the provider agency to develop higher standards of service. It should be stressed that many government health services, particularly maternal and child health care, are provided without charge regardless of health insurance or other status. Medical and hospital care for children up to age 3 are provided free regardless of health insurance status of the family.
