

The importance of the Kibbutz as a colonial venture outstripped all economic and social considerations. Tabenkin summed up this point plainly when he stated:

Our minds and thoughts are constantly devoted to the need for security..It was not chance which dictated the location of our settlements at the expense of economic viability, we chose those sites with mostly their security in mind (Tabenkin, 1985:54)

The creation of Kibbutzim, regardless of whether or not they were properly equipped or populated, was phenomenal during the Thirties.

The underequipping of the existing Kibbutzim did not deter the World Zionist Organization and its Palestinian branch from adopting the following resolution:

The most important task of the Jewish National Fund [Keren Kayemet] in the immediate future is the creation of land reserves in all parts of the country: in particular the Congress is of opinion that it is necessary to create as soon as possible a land reserve of irrigable lands in accordance with a definite plan for colonization policy.... The colonization of Palestine is to be the basic policy of the Jewish Agency for all time to do everything to assure development and extension of Jewish agriculture colonization...in accordance with the principles laid down by the Congress for cooperation with the Jewish Agency on as large a scale as possible. (41)

The colonial settler nature of the Kibbutz was expressed in terms of its geo-political and strategic role as well as in terms of its military functions. Most Kibbutzim, especially after the 1930s were built on hills and on the borders of Palestine. Both Chaim Weismann and Ben Gurion who represented the Jewish Agency, recommended the "stocking" of Kibbutzim on the borders of Palestine.

According to Ben Gurion:

..If there are between four to five Jewish settlements on the frontier this will reinforce our