

settlement priority inside the pre-1967 boundaries of Israel, most notable in the Galilee and greater Jerusalem. In the Galilee, Jews constitute today 52 percent of the total population, and in some subdistricts Arab majorities have emerged (Statistical Abstract of Israel, 1981:36). According to a ministerial committee for Jerusalem, the weight of the Jewish population in the city declined from 74 percent in 1968 to 72.6 percent in 1975 (Litani, 1976).

The chief obstacle to Jewish colonisation efforts, besides the scarcity of water resources of the Judean Hills, remained the problem of inducing immigrants and members of Zionist settler movements (such as Gush Emunim) to move to new settlements in the occupied territories. However, a breakthrough in this problem was achieved with the second victory of the annexationists when the Likud coalition was voted to power in June 1981. The adoption of the Drobles Plan signalled a resolve by the Sharon's allies in the government to "seal the fate of the West Bank" against possible territorial deals with Jordan or with the Palestinian National movement. By the end of 1980 the Jewish Agency's Settlement Department had started a nation-wide campaign to facilitate increased movement to the West Bank. Under the program of "Build a Nest in the Jordan Valley" new incentives were given to settlers, including: a minimal financial investment, an air conditioned house, a 20-dunum plot, water quotas, agricultural implements, credit, agricultural instruction and community services (Haaretz December 9, 1980). The success of the program encouraged the Jewish agency, with government backing, to extend the program to the rest of the West Bank highlands -- regions of high Arab population density (Al-Hamishmar January 23, 1981). For the purpose of land acquisitions the Jewish National fund devoted 60 percent of its 1980-1981 budget (some 402 million IL) for the purchase of lands in the occupied territories (Al-Hamishmar April 29, 1981).