

infrastructure of the economy in the occupied territories (Bregman, 1975:6).

Bregman's optimism about the stimulating impact effected by the Israeli economy was qualified in a follow-up study which took into account the results of the 1975 recession in Israel (Bregman, 1976). GNP growth by then stood at the rate of 8 percent increase annually (for 1974-75) compared with 17 percent for the 1969-73 period. Special emphasis was now placed on the cyclical and unirrigated nature of West Bank agriculture to explain the substantial decline in 1975 output, and the related 7 percent decline in industrial production (ibid.:7-15).<sup>1</sup>

This, generally positive, assessment of the impact of Israeli occupation on the Palestinian economy is not confined to the accounts of Israeli economists and social scientists such as Ater, Bregman, Zarhi and Weigert. In her study of the "viability" of the West Bank as an economic entity, Vivian Bull, an American economist, describes patterns of growth similar to those claimed by Bregman, although her political conclusions would probably differ from his (Bull, 1975:143-153). The author is particularly impressed with achievements in the agricultural field, where she sees Israel's role as emphasizing productivity increases, creating non-agricultural job opportunities, using the under-employed or unemployed rural labor force in local projects, encouraging capital investment where the marginal productivity of capital is greatest, and emphasizing the returns which can be generated from crops rather than being concerned with institutional arrangements (Bull, 1975:81). Moreover, similar achievements, albeit on a lesser scale, are noted in the industrial sector (ibid.:96-103), the technical infrastructure (roads, communication, extension of the electrical grid, etc., ibid.:105), and in the training of the labour force (ibid.:120-124). The main economic obstacle to the continuation of this positive development is seen in the limitation of the "available market