

organization, ever calling for "Jewish redemption of the land." In the case of Moshav Argaman a major scandal ensued in 1978 when the Jewish Agency discovered that several Jewish farmers subleased their land (already confiscated from its Arab owners) to Palestinian farmers from the Galilee (Litani, 1980). An indication of this dependence on Arab labour was the boast made by the farm manager of Phasael, in the Central Valley, that his settlement is distinguished from all other Valley settlements by restricting each family's hiring quota to a maximum of two Arab workers for each harvesting season (Goell, 1980:ibid.).

- d. The Jordan Valley settlements could not be considered "commuter" settlements, in the same way as the highland settlements, given their agrarian base and distance from Israeli urban centres. With the abandonment of the Allon plan and the introduction of Likud's autonomy scheme for the West Bank, many Valley settlers became uneasy about their future prospects. In the transitional period between Likud's coming to power and the final scrapping of the Jericho corridor plan (as part of the "Jordanian Option") in 1981 there was strong pressure by Valley settlers' associations on the government for formal annexation of the Rift, along with the Golan and Jerusalem (Goell, 1980:ibid.). Harris quoted a leader of the Jordan Rift Settlements Committee declaring:

"Here in the Rift we work thousands of dunums -- which, why is the truth not said? -- are Arab lands. What Arabs? Above all absentees, inhabitants of Nablus and Toubas who fled to the East Bank in the Six Day War. These people cannot return to Judea and Samaria because a list of their names is kept at the bridges. Now there will be autonomy.