

WBers employed in Israel is available from labor exchange bureaux (existing in all main WB and Gaza Strip towns). The estimates are, according to Bregman, derived from both sources, i.e. family survey and labor exchange bureaux and cross-checked against one another. Bregman, writing in 1974, states that "in the main, the annual estimates on population, employment and wages are fairly reliable and serve as a basis for analysis of annual trends in the system as from 1969".<sup>(6)</sup>

As far as the population estimates (and thereby net out-migration estimates) are concerned the statement of Bregman does not appear to be contradicted by other sources. His statement about wage and employment data must, however, be modified, partly because of later developments.

The statistical treatment of the highest wages has been changed twice, in January 1975 and October 1980. (Probably the effects of the high inflation on wage levels are the cause of the modifications). Therefore the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics advises that comparisons between wages data has certainly also been negatively affected by the occurrence of illegal employment (see below).

As to employment data the situation is more complicated. There is general agreement about the fact that part of the Palestinians from the occupied territories work illegally in Israeli, i.e. without work permits. There is, not surprisingly, no agreement about the size of this underestimate; for 1978 Khouri suggests that the underestimate is 10%, whereas Muslih claims that it is somewhere in the neighborhood of 100%.<sup>(8)</sup> The existence of illegal employment would be a less serious problem in published data reflect variations in employment in Israel, leaving out a constant share of the workers. It is, of course, impossible to conclude that this is the case. Neither is it impossible that the family surveys are conducted in such a way as to secure that honest answers are given here meaning that the illegal workers in Israel are properly registered as working there. If so the critics are mistaken. According to Tamari "hardly any attempts are made by the government to control "illegal" work."<sup>(9)</sup>

... It seems likely that wage data are more reliable; they do reflect the wage for a considerable part of the WB population and the changes introduced in 1975 and 1980 do not seem to be fundamental. The wages of legally employed WB workers are not firmly regulated and to quite a large