

union. This chapter exposes the Histadrut as employer.

Histadrut's enterprises are actually patterned on private joint-stock companies.<sup>9</sup> The American researcher, M. Plunkett concludes they "in part operate in accordance with cooperative principles, and in part in accordance with strictly capitalist methods."<sup>10</sup>

The Histadrut owns and supervises huge tracting, heavy industry, mining, quarrying, wholesale and retail commerce, and the marketing of agricultural produce. It controls cooperative enterprises in agriculture, industry, and transportation, and generally exerts strong economic and political influence.<sup>11</sup>

Most of the big industrial concerns, such as Nesher cement and Shemen vegetable oil plants, are owned by the Histadrut through its holding company, Hevrat Ovdim, or in partnership with private investors. Recently, the Histadrut has been trying to get a hold in new industrial fields, particularly heavy industry, and it is buying out some private owners. Mergers are encouraged between firms with a view to improving competitiveness overseas. Many firms are seeking commercial link-ups or know-how agreements with foreign companies, especially in northwest Europe and the United States.<sup>12</sup>

The Histadrut's partnership with private capital in mixed enterprises may be demonstrated in the example of Solel Boneh, Ltd. In thirty mixed building enterprises, Solel Boneh's share was:<sup>13</sup>

- with private capital on a 50-50 basis in 15 enterprises;
- with State capital -- over 50 percent in 7 enterprises;
- with foreign capital -- under 50 percent in 8 enterprises.

Thus, where foreign capital is invested the Histadrut enterprises tend to be controlled by foreign monopolies, as, for example, the case with the