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### WEST BANK MILITARY AUTHORITIES COPE WITH TIGHT BUDGET

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[Article by Yosef Tzuri'el: "On the West Bank Taxes are Low but Services are High"]

[Text] They call it a "military government" but what they're usually referring to is the presence of soldiers in the cities, check points on the highways and the capture and trial of terrorists. The military government, however, is also responsible for the performance of civil services, economic functions, industrial and commercial activities, employment and welfare services, health and education.

During the recent fiscal year of the "iron hand policy," as it is dubbed by the Arabs—or in the words of the regional commander, Lt Col Benyamin Ben Eli'ezer, "consistent restraint"—the military government could only concentrate on matters indirectly related to security and directed toward establishing a foundation of civil services.

The government had the relatively meager amount of 437 million shekels at its disposal. Only one-tenth of that was earmarked for development. The remainder was intended to underwrite current expenditures.

Thus, for example, the field officer in charge extended loans to workers for the purchase of automobiles and housing, granted loans to the local authorities for the development of electricity, roads and water, and guaranteed loans taken by individuals for commercial and industrial undertakings.

#### Agriculture and telephones

In the agricultural sector, production reached 1.8 billion shekels, an increase of more than 220 percent over last year. In three areas of production (olives, wheat and barley, and sesame), studies are being conducted to aid local residents. In the area of marketing, the military government is working to establish agricultural unions to reduce political dependence.

The telephone symbolizes economic development in the territories. In cities and rural areas telephones are in demand. In the eyes of many, this is the symbol of progress, but it is hard to catch up after decades of slow development in this area. In the last year, 662 new telephones were installed on the West Bank. In

Bethlehem, they're working to triple the number of lines. In Jericho, a central switchboard is being set up which will add 600 lines and in Janin, where today there are only 200 lines, there will soon be 1,000.

#### Automobiles

Another indicator of the economic situation on the West Bank is the increase in the number of automobiles. In 1980, there were close to 21,500 cars of all types, and in 1981, this figure increased to 25,000. A year ago there were 27,000 licensed drivers. This year there were more than 30,000.

Twenty-one new facilities for the care of mothers and children were opened, bringing the total to 79. Almost 300,000 residents now have health insurance. All area children have been immunized against small pox, measles, dyptheria, tetanus and tuberculosis. Data indicate that 1,342 people from Judea and Samaria who suffered from serious and complicated illnesses were treated in hospitals in Israel, and 2,479 people were examined at Hadassah Hospital, Tel Hashomer and other medical facilities in Israel proper.

In the field of education, a revolution is taking place. Since all children were given the opportunity to study at no cost, there has been a constant increase in the number of classrooms in all schools. Last year, 203,552 students attended 792 schools with 5,915 classrooms and 7,108 teachers.

Probation officers and special social workers have been brought in to rehabilitate youth with adjustment problems. These services and others cost money. People everywhere are rarely happy about paying taxes. On the West Bank, the payment of taxes is seen as taking money from the citizens' pockets in order to purchase planes and tanks.

Direct tax rates are lower on the West Bank than in Israel proper. In the last fiscal year 45.5 million shekels were collected, 40 million in customs and excise taxes.

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