

Belgian
Ladelen

(cf. article
by A. Gosh)

LAND/SETTLEMENT POLICIES

A. General

The existing policies for Jewish settlements, through land expropriation, land purchases made by public institutions or private investors, on their own or with government subsidies, and by the enactment of zoning or other restrictive laws which have curtailed Arab constructions, encourage a large number of Israelis to continue to settle across the 1967 Green Line. Such migration to these areas alters Israel's demographic and political map in its favour 1/.

According to a declaration made by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mikhael Dekel, as reported by the press, it would seem that the Israeli presence on the West Bank will be so established as to prevent any possibility of returning the territory to Arab rule 2/. The policy for the establishment of new settlements continues, and is promoted by various administrations such as the Ministry of Housing and Development, the Interministerial Committee of Settlement Affairs, the Israel Land Administration, the Council for Jewish Settlements for Judea, Samaria and Gaza, as well as by the increase of financial allocations for settlements (Knesset Finance Committee meeting) 3/. The policy of converting lands requisitioned for military purposes into civilian zones continues. Pursuant to the decision of the Joint Knesset World Zionist Organization Settlement Committee of 5 October 1983, six paramilitary settlements in the West Bank have been converted into civilian zones: Brosh, Eliya in the Jordan Valley; Itzar and Meitzah in Samaria; Ginat and Tzvrit in the Hebron Hill 4/.

Amman Jan 1967 2.

B. Plans for New Settlements

The plans for new settlements carried on by the Israeli authorities underline the tendency to ignore the Green Line entirely 5/. In this connection, the Settlement Department of the Jewish Agency and the Settlement Department of the Zionist Agency are completing a major settlement plan for 1983-87. According to this plan, 100,000 more ^{knowles} Jews will be settled on the West Bank, 20,000 in the Golan and 10,000 in the Gaza Strip 6/.

The governmental committee formed to look into developing the Jordan Valley has planned the creation of 35 new Israel settlements 7/ and two new settlements in the area of Hebron 8/. However, settlements plans for Judea and Samaria have top priority, according to Prime Minister Shamir addressing Tekhiah Party. It was stressed by Mrs. Cohen from the Tekhiah Party that this settlement plan is not a Tekhiah plan but a government one 9/.

cf. discussion on timing of new settlements

C. Creation of New Settlements

Jewish settlements are still being established in the Occupied Territories as reported as follows:

- The Jerusalem Post reported that grounds breaking has begun on the 58th settlement in the Southern West Bank, Nehusha 10/.
- The Israeli Government decided to turn eight military outposts on the West Bank, among them the Nahal Brecha settlement, into civilian settlements 11/.
- The 30-year plan prepared by the Department of the World Zionist Organization will bring the number of settlements to 165; within 30 years the Jewish population in this area is expected to be equal to that of the projected Arab population and will stand at 1.3 million. The plan calls for the construction of 400 Km. of roads to improve access, thus encouraging private initiative 12/.

change of date of ~~settlements~~
suburban
pioneer → Residences

3.

- The head of the Settlement Department of the Israeli Settlers' Union has said that a settlement named Battir will be constructed nearby 13/.
- The Israeli ministerial Committee for Settlement has ^{who} decided to establish two new settlements in Galilee and three more in Arabeh Valley 14/.
- An internal report of the Ministry of Housing states that the Ministry is planning to construct 2,046 apartments in the Occupied Territories in addition to another 100 apartments to be built by the settlers themselves 15/ and has decided to establish six new settlements in the Occupied Territories 16/.

Military settlements continue to be established as follows:

- The Israeli Defense Forces are planning to establish nine military settlements in the West Bank: Tenr and Atniel along the Hebron/Bersheba road; Ganim, south-east of Jenin; Bitonat, south of Mehdah in the Jordan river Valley; Nahal, between Nablus and Ramallah; Yitzar, south of Nablus; Aspar, north-east of Hebron; Migdalin near the Samaria road 17/.
- 15 new military settlements in the Occupied Territories will be established 18/.

D. Confiscation/Expropriation of Lands

As a consequence of the Israeli settlement policies, the measures of expropriation and confiscation of lands for the establishment of new settlements or extension thereof for military purposes, for natural reserves areas and for the construction of access roads to settlements, are still proceeding as follows:

- Confiscation by the military authorities of 1,000 dunams of land in the Kufr Dik village in the Nablus district; 10,000 dunams of land on the West Bank; 15,000 dunams of land from Deir Aschiah village in the Tulkareus area 19/.
- Confiscation by the Israeli authorities of 8,000 dunams of land from the Deir Estia village in the Tulkarem area 20/; 5,000 dunams of land from the village of Tarqumieli near Hebron 21/; 5,000 dunams of land in the village of Kobar and Beitillu in the Ramallah district 22/

- Confiscation by Israel authorities of churches and coptic holy sites in Deir Sultan in Jerusalem; for this reason the Patriarchy of the Orthodox Coptic Church in Jerusalem issued a communiqué stating that religious celebrations and pilgrimages would be cancelled. Confiscation began in 1970 23/.
- The Israeli authorities have applied a simplified procedure for announcing the seizure of vast tracts of land, as, for example, it has been reported to have occurred within the municipal borders of Nablus; an announcement in Israeli papers simply states the expropriation of land and gives a short deadline to hear any complaint 24/.
- Road from the Salman Farisi mountain to the East of Assira Al Qibliyed village 25/.
- Settlement roads in the Tor mountain in Nablus 26/.
- Preparation of roads in the Jib Valley 27/.
- Natural reserves are created including 39 reserves covering 250,000 dunams of land. It has been reported that these lands are not "confiscated" but their use especially for building purposes is limited 28/.

E. Land Speculation/Acquisition

Large-scale land speculation is being conducted by Jewish land dealers and real-estate companies on the West Bank. Plots are being sold at three to six times their actual value, and it is reported that salesmen often do not have deeds to the land; sometimes, it is reported that the property documents are extracted by threat and violent acts. To lure buyers, plots are advertised as part of nearby settlements, although there are no plans to include them in present or future settlements. It has been reported that large amounts of West Bank land were sold last year with false documents and that many settlements have been established without the approval of the Israeli Committee for Settlement. These settlements have been tolerated. In one case, a real-estate company sold land which the army had confiscated for a training area.

More irregularities associated with land deals on the West Bank were revealed extensively in the Israeli press 29/. Haaretz has traced the development of the problem posed by land buying on the West Bank as, for example, the legal planning committees which allow and decide the building of settlements have authorized only 15 out of the 38 settlements actually being built on the West Bank by private investors 30/.

It is reported by the Israeli weekly Koteret Rashit that of the 70,000 dunams bought by the State ~~(in violation of international law,)~~ 50,000 were bought in unregistered transactions from Arabs who were not legal owners. The Government also has used the services of "volunteer" middlemen who received 10 percent of the transaction's worth 31/. It is reported by Maariv newspaper that the Housing Minister is to sell 30 plots of land in the Nablus Hills near the Ariel settlement. A campaign called "Build your home" has started 32/. Referring to press allegations, some steps have been taken to remedy to this situation. The creation of a commission was called for to investigate "illegal" settlements by Government and private enterprises. The Ministry of Justice has required the Minister's Committee for Security Affairs to put an end to this situation 33/.

F. Disputes over Land (Claims)

Due to the variety of measures for expropriation of lands owned by the Arab population, the aggrieved owners continue to appeal the decisions taken by the Israeli authorities. Pursuant to military order No. 1060, which forbids Arab courts in the Occupied Territories to hear land dispute cases, the aggrieved owners now go to a newly established Military Committee, consisting of three Israeli officials appointed by the military government; while two of them are lawyers, the Chairman is the President of the West

Bank Military Court 34/. According to the civil administration, the purpose of this order is to counter a rash of forgeries which have been perpetrated by the ~~Jewish~~^{Israeli} buyers intent on acquiring land 35/.

G. Land Violences

cf. Karp Report
 The increase of settlements in the Occupied Territories and the measures undertaken for their establishment is the cause of violence in these territories. Clashes often occur between Arab villagers and the occupation forces 36/. In this connection, the Israeli authorities have been obliged to restore 'Law and Order' among Israeli settlers 37/, and to impose legal authority on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip 38/.

H. Removal of Populations

The expansion of Jewish settlements has obliged the Israeli authorities to resettle Arab tribes from the lands they have owned for decades to other locations. For instance, the Bedouins have been advised to leave the Tel Melhata area and have been informed that, according to laws regarding purchases in the Negev, the State is authorized to confiscate their lands and evacuate tenants. Their land claims cannot be recognized without official documents. Since Bedouins have lived on this land for centuries, the burden of proof of their customary ownership titles is being difficult to provide 39/.

1. Redistribution of Lands

by 2/ Misgav
The annexation of Arab lands to Jewish regional councils has hindered the development of Arab villages. This arose when the authorities decided to annex a thousand of dunams of Arab lands to Jewish local councils in the Galilee as, for example, the annexation of Arab lands to the Misgav regional council; this decision has caused many protests and strikes by the affected population. In connection with this situation, the Interior Ministry examined the problem and promised to redistribute lands of the Misgav regional council; this has caused the subsequent intervention for the return of a small part of 180,000 dunams of land newly included within the jurisdiction of the Jewish Misgav regional council 40/.

Footnotes

1. Benvenisti, Report on the Palestinians Under Israeli Rule (RPUIR), Jerusalem Post 4. 10. 1983, Davar 7. 10. 1983, Haaretz 9-14. 10. 1983
2. RPUIR, Haaretz 3. 3. 1983
3. Declaration by Finance Minister Yogel Cohen as reported in RPUIR, Jerusalem Post, Haaretz 27. 11. 1983, Al Fajr Weekly 4. 11. 1983
4. RPUIR, Jerusalem Post, Haaretz, International Herald Tribune 6. 10. 1983, Al Fajr Weekly 14. 10. 1983
5. RPUIR, Al Fajr Weekly September 1983.
6. RPUIR, Haaretz 29. 9. 1982
7. RPUIR, Palestinian Press Services 18. 8. 1983
8. RPUIR, Palestinian Press Services 17. 8. 1983
9. RPUIR, Davar, Jerusalem Post 7. 10. 1983, Al Fajr Weekly 9. 10. 1983
10. RPUIR, Jerusalem Post 7. 9. 1982
11. RPUIR, Al Hamishmar, Haaretz, Jerusalem Post 22. 3. 1983
12. RPUIR, Jerusalem Post 10. 4. 1983
13. RPUIR, Palestinian Press Services 3. 5. 1983
14. RPUIR, Palestinian Press Services 23. 5. 1983
15. RPUIR, Palestinian Press Services 24. 6. 1983
16. RPUIR, Haaretz 15. 6. 1983, Palestinian Press Services 16. 6. 1983
17. RPUIR, Jerusalem Post 20. 7. 1983
18. RPUIR, Al Fajr Weekly 4. 11. 1983
19. RPUIR, Al Fajr Weekly 17-23. 9. 1983, Davar 13-14. 9. 1983, Palestinian Press Services 10, 12, 13, 14. 9. 1983
20. RPUIR, Palestinian Press Services 3. 3. 1983
21. RPUIR, Palestinian Press Services 10. 3. 1983
22. RPUIR, Al Fajr 5. 7. 1983
23. RPUIR, Palestinian Press Services 22. 4. 1983
24. RPUIR, Al Fajr 19. 5. 1983
25. RPUIR, Palestinian Press Services 5-17. 9. 1982
26. RPUIR, Palestinian Press Services 17. 9. 1982

Footnotes (contd.)

27. RPUIR, Al Fajr, 29.4.1983
28. RPUIR, Haaretz 8.4.1983
29. RPUIR, Al Fajr, Haaretz, Palestinian Press Services 1.6.1983, Haaretz 2,3,5,8,9.6.1983, Davar 2.5.1983, 2.6.1983
30. RPUIR, Davar 30-31.5.1983
31. RPUIR, Haaretz 15.6.1983, Palestinian Press Services 16.6.1983
32. RPUIR, Palestinian Press Services 27.5.1983
33. RPUIR, Al Hamishmar 3.8.1983, Palestinian Press Services 8.9.1983, Al Hamishmar, Jerusalem Post 13.9.1983
34. RPUIR, Palestinian Press Services 8.9.1983, Al Hamishmar, Jerusalem Post 13.9.1983, Al Hamishmar 3.8.1983
35. RPUIR, Al Hamishmar, Jerusalem Post 13.9.1983
36. RPUIR, Haaretz 2,3,5,6,10.5.1983, Jerusalem Post 3,4.5.1983
37. RPUIR, Davar 17.5.1983
38. RPUIR, Palestinian Press Services 25.5.1983
39. RPUIR, Jerusalem Post 22.7.1983
40. RPUIR, Al Hamishmar 4.3.1983, 1,6.6.1983, Haaretz, Davar, Palestinian Press Services 6.6.1983