

If Peres rejects the presence of the PLO in the international peace conference in the Middle East, repeats the same Jordanian conditions that have already been rejected by the masses of our people, calls for Palestinian participation that he brings out of his pocket, and wants direct bilateral talks, he thus not only expresses a personal stand, but utterly rejects any peaceful settlement bound to give the Palestinians their rights and force Israel to withdraw from the occupied Arab lands.

Amid all this, some Palestinians try to dance to the very tunes played by Peres. They are moving counter to the will of the masses and have announced their readiness to play an alternative role to that of the PLO. Soon enough these people will find themselves isolated because they have no effect on the common Palestinian who has always affirmed his commitment to his legitimate leadership.

Economic Statistics for Past 18 Months Released

TA311303 Jerusalem *THE JERUSALEM POST* in English
31 Aug 87 p 7

[Excerpts] Real wages rose a full one-third in the last 18 months, figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics showed. The unprecedented rise in salaries since the last quarter of 1985 came after the 25 per cent wage erosion that came in the wake of the 1985 economic stabilization. [passage omitted]

In addition to the increase in the pre-tax real wages, workers, especially those in the upper-income brackets, benefited from the reduction in tax rates and the widening of income tax brackets. This put the overall increase in net wages since December 1985 at 40 per cent.

Real wages rose 10.4 per cent in the second quarter of the year from the previous three months, the bureau figures showed, while

the average gross wage stood at NIS [new Israeli shekels] 1,400 for the second quarter of the year.

The figures released yesterday also showed that the average real wage for the first half of 1987 was 7.6 per cent higher than in the same period last year and 3.8 per cent higher than in the first half of 1985. Pre-tax real wages for the second quarter of the year were 10.3 per cent higher than in April-June 1986.

Real wages in industry for the second quarter were 6.7 per cent higher than in the same period last year, while in the public services they went up 7.7 per cent. In the transportation, construction and personal-services sector, the figures went up by 19-20 per cent, while in the trade and services sector it rose 16 per cent.

West Bank 'Unprecedented' Economic Growth Noted
TA011003 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR' in Hebrew
1 Sep 87 p 1

[Report by the economic correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] The West Bank economy has recently undergone unprecedented growth. This emerges from figures published by the Central Bureau of Statistics. The figures show that there is a rapid rate of growth in the gross product, savings, standard of living, investments, employment, and productivity. According to the figures, the gross product of the West Bank grew by an average of 9 percent during 1985 and 1986.

The sharp rise in the gross product reflects a record harvest of olives. But even without the olives there was 8 percent economic growth in 1985 and 1986. The standard of living went up by an average of 4 percent and simultaneously, investments went up by 15 percent. At the same time, there was an increase in savings made possible by an 11 percent rise in private income.

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