

ISRAEL TO SPEED UP IMMIGRATION

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TEL AVIV, Israel, May 22—A speed-up of immigration to Israel is a primary aim of the new state. The problem of large immigration was a main point in the conflict between the British mandate administration and the Arabs on the one hand and the Jews on the other.

About 1,000,000 Jews throughout the world have registered for immediate immigration to Israel and Israel's Government is doing its utmost to bring immigrants into the state quickly.

No Interruption

Immigration Minister Moshe Shapiro has declared that the influx would be at the rate of at least 125,000 a year. The first two years' program for absorbing at least 250,000 immigrants has already been set up.

Asked this week whether immigration would continue in view of the attempted blockade of Palestine's coast by Egypt, whose planes fly along the shores of Palestine, Haim Barlas, Director of Information, declared, "Immigration will not be suspended for one moment, although I cannot disclose, because of military secrecy, how it will be organized."

Of the million Jews slated to come to Israel, thousands are held as hostages in Arab states. Among the rest, preference will be given to the Jews in refugee camps in Cyprus and to displaced persons in camps in Germany, Austria and Italy.

Immigrants From Germany

The first immigrants who had been barred and had waited for months in European ports for an opportunity to sail to Palestine have arrived in Israel as free immigrants. Also on the way to Israel are Jewish DP's from the British Zone in Germany who have Palestine immigration certificates distributed by the British authorities without consulting the Jewish Agency.

In his announcement this week

War Will Not Halt The Movement, It Is Promised

Mr. Barlas revealed that negotiations were going on with military authorities in the United States occupation zone of Germany for a speedy transfer of Jews.

An indication of the importance of the immigration problem in Israel was given this week by Menachem Begin, Irgun Zvai Leumi commander in chief. He declared that mass immigration on an unprecedented scale is the basic condition for Israel's existence and for peace inside Israel's state.

Mobilization of Ships

The Government plans to organize the Mediterranean crossing of about 10,000 immigrants a month. For this purpose all ships flying Israel's flag will be mobilized, others will be chartered and vessels of regular shipping lines will be used.

The absorption of immigration

on such a scale will be one of the greatest organizational and economic problems facing the new state.

Immigration and passport officers in about twenty capitals will be named by Israel. Their task will be to regulate immigration according to instructions of the Israeli Government. As long as the war lasts in Israel preference will be given to young men and women who can be absorbed immediately in the war economy. It is obvious, in view of the military situation, that major emphasis will be placed on the speedy arrival of these young men and women.

Some immigrants will be lodged in former British Army camps bought by the Jews from the British. Because of geographical and other reasons, not all such camps are usable for military purposes. Camp Pittsburgh, an American Army installation, in France, was bought a few years ago by the Jewish Agency for Palestine and transferred to Palestine. Many immigrants are already housed in it.