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By HARRY GILROYSpecial to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
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Big Influx From Backward Nations Is Factor in Debate on Bid to Zionists to Enter

By HARRY GILROY
Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

JERUSALEM, Israeli Sector, Jan. 5—The debate here over the opinion of former Prime Minister David Ben Gurion that Zionists should move to Israel focuses attention on the fact behind the debate: This nation needs a new wave of immigrants with the pioneering spirit that established it.

Various American members of the Zionist General Council have challenged Mr. Ben-Gurion's view. Their comments boil down to agreement that the American Zionists feel the United States is their country and few will be willing to leave it.

At the Jewish Agency for Palestine, S. Z. Shragai, who is in charge of immigration affairs, said today it was immigrants with the halutz (pioneer) spirit that Israel needed. He said that since the establishment of the state of Israel "rescue immigration" had accounted for most of the 750,000 persons who came here. "There is almost no halutz spirit among all those people," he said.

He added that the Zionist Organization was interested "in the immigration of people who can help the country which suffers from a shortage of professional men spiritually equipped to help build up the state."

The great tide of immigration of the last five years has slackened. The Government's Bureau of Statistics reports that 10,500 immigrants entered in 1953. The number of declared emigrants from the country was approximately 8,500. The actual number of emigrants for the year—persons who could not find a place in the life of Israel or who wanted to rejoin families left in other nations—is estimated as slightly more than 12,000.

Israel is prepared to continue the work of "rescue" without restriction from the Iron Curtain countries and Iraq, Libya and Yemen. It is felt that the entire Jewish populations of these countries should be moved. It also is planned to moderate the restrictions on immigrants from other nations.

These restrictions, according to Mr. Shragai, now bar persons more than 40 years of age, those in bad health or widows with many children or divorced women. Persons of any age and condition who refuse to go where they are sent on arrival in the state also are barred.

Most From Islamic Lands

Slightly more than half of the immigrants of the last five years have come from the lands of Islam: Iraq, Yemen and Aden, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon and Iran. The effect of this immigration is vividly described by Mr. Ben-Gurion in his foreword to the Government Year Book which came out three weeks ago:

"The massive influx of the Oriental communities following the establishment of the state has fundamentally and suddenly changed the composition and character of the Yishuv [the Jewish settlement in Israel]. The state has been brought face to face with, potentially, very dangerous problems.

"First, the problem of 'race.' A supposedly 'superior' race has begun to stand out. There is an Ashkenazi [middle and northern European Jewish] race, which, in practice, leads the nation, and an Oriental race of inferior status.

"Second, there is the problem of confusion, linguistic and communal, among the Ashkenazi and Oriental communities alike."

Some of the other problems associated with the influx of the last five years are mentioned by Mr. Ben-Gurion in other parts of his message. This is one of his comments:

"A mixed multitude of tribes without common language or tradition, not linked together by cultural or economic bonds or public and political relationships, is being accustomed to a disorderly political system of contentious and irresponsible factions."

Another comment is:

"The state cannot allow itself to ignore the dangers involved in the great differences between the relatively high economic and cultural living standards of the greater part of the long-established Yishuv and the low and inadequate standards of the majority of the new arrivals."

Mr. Ben-Gurion notes that the largest group of persons of Jewish faith in the world is on the American continent, mostly in the United States, and that only 1,809 immigrants came here from North America in the first five years of the state's existence.

The former Prime Minister declared that "what is decisive is the fact that American Jewry regards itself as part and parcel of the United States and is proud of being American, although it does not deny its Jewishness."

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