

the labor force on immigration of persons in their most productive age.

From the founding of the State in 1948 until the end of 1974, Israel received 1.6 million Jewish immigrants, most of whom came in the first years of Statehood, during the nation-building phase, as shown in Table II. In recent years, however, specifically following the October, 1973, war, Jewish immigration to Israel has been declining and growth in the Jewish labor force has become increasingly dependent on birth rates.

According to Maariv and Yediot Aharonot of January 2, 1975, the number of Soviet Jews who arrived in Israel in 1974 was 17,000, compared with 33,000 in 1973; 900 in December, 1974, compared with 3,000 in December, 1973. The percentage of "Vienna drop-outs" in December, 1974, was 36 percent. Haaritz, March 17, 1977, reports 49 percent of Soviet Jews who immigrated to Israel in February had already emigrated away from Israel. The number of United States Jews arriving to settle in Israel in 1974 was 3,000, compared with 4,000 in 1973. In sum, the number of new Jewish immigrants arriving in Israel in 1974 was 32,000, compared with 56,000 in 1973, a decline of 40 percent. Between 1974-1975 there was a further decline of 52 percent. The Jewish population increased by 53,000 (2 percent birth rate) and the Arab citizen increased by 17,500 (3.5 percent birth rate). Of this total increase in the Jewish population of Israel, 46,500 were due to "natural excess of births over deaths" and 7,000 were due to the balance of immigration (including those Jews who came to settle in Israel but refused Israeli citizenship) over emigration. The crisis in immigration seems matched by a corresponding increase in emigration. 1975 was the worst year for immigration in a decade; with emigration (17,000) exceeding immigration (12,600); compared with 32,000 immigrants versus 25,000 emi-