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# 5,000 PALESTINE JEWS SERVING MR. SHERTOK AT TEL AVIV PRESS CONFERENCE

TEL AVIV, Tuesday. —Five thousand Palestine Jews are now serving with the colours, it was revealed by Mr. Moshe Shertok, head of the Political Department of the Jewish Agency, this afternoon in response to questions at a press conference here.

The recruits included some 1,900 volunteers in the Jewish and mixed units of the A.M.P.C.; 1,300 in the R.A.F.; 1,300 in various technical (ancillary) units, including the Jewish Transport Company of the R.A.S.C. and over 400 in the Jewish infantry unit, while recruiting for the R. A. F. was continuing.

There has been some progress in the exploitation of industry for war purposes, and the Army had placed a number of orders with manufacturers here.

### IMMIGRATION SCHEDULE

With regard to the next immigration quota, Mr. Shertok affirmed that although there was unemployment, nevertheless, as a result of recruiting, military projects and other services which had absorbed many men, the situation was not becoming more serious.

Analyzing the unemployment situation, Mr. Shertok added that there was a shortage of labour in mixed farming, which could not be made up from unemployed in towns and villages. Furthermore, some 1,300 artisans had joined the colours, and their absence had been felt in some trades. It was also necessary to build up a large reserve of technicians, and to bring skilled workers here from other countries before they became Nazi hostages and were compelled to assist the enemy, as has occurred in some parts of Europe.

Mr. Shertok also referred to cases where the migration of expert workers stimulated the establishment of new industries.

He added that the country was able also to absorb capitalists, their dependents, and young people, and there were many Jews in Rumania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Greece whose position was threatened, and who could still be saved.

The Palestinian women in Germany have been freed, but it was not known whether they have left for Palestine yet.

Asked what the political Department of the Jewish Agency was doing to promote better relations with the Arabs, Mr. Shertok replied that courses in Arabic were being subsidized in schools and Arabic teachers sent to settlements both to teach and maintain contact with neighbouring villages.