II. The Occupational Structure of Employment

A. Proportionate Distribution

A comparison of the average Jewish occupational structure of employment during a five-year period prior to 1967 and that of the Arab labor force (citizens of Israel) during the very same period points out the prominence of the mental labor categories in the Jewish employment structure as compared with prominence of manual labor categories in the Arab occupational structure of employment. According to Table JJ, 79.6 percent of the Arab labor force seems to be located in manual occupational categories (this includes farmers, construction workers and craftsmen) compared with 67 percent of the Jewish labor force in mental occupations (administrators, managers, clerks, salesmen, professionals, service, sports, recreation, etc.) The fact that craftsmen and production process occupational categories seem to represent the largest (24.8 percent) portion of the Jewish labor force, while the largest portion of the Arab labor force (40.8 percent) are farmers and fishermen and only 10.9 percent of the Jewish labor force belonged to the latter (and only 15.7 percent of the Arab labor force belonged to the former occupational category) must not obscure or contradict the above. Perhaps it reflects the more industrial background of the immigrant Jewish labor force, and the more agricultural (peasant) background of the indigenous Arab labor force.

The second highest concentration of the Jewish labor force seems to be in white collar categories: 17 percent in administrative, managerial, executive and clerical occupations; 13.1 percent in professional, scientific, technical; and 12.5 percent in services. Contrary to that, the Arab labor