JEWS ABROAD SEE PROGRESS OFFSET
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Welfare Leaders Say Fear of Arabs Hampers Gains in Israel and North Africa

Special to The New York Times.

PARIS, Nov. 1—Jewish welfare leaders reported today substantial economic and social progress among Jews in Israel and Moslem countries. They added, however, that this progress had been offset by a feeling of insecurity over what is felt to be a danger from surrounding Arab populaces.

The reports were made to the ninth annual conference of country directors of the American Joint Distribution Committee, a private agency that aids needy Jews throughout the world. More than 60 per cent of the committee's budget is being spent in North Africa and the Near East.

Dr. Giora Josephthal of Jerusalem, treasurer of the Jewish Agency for Israel, said the country's economic development was being hampered by the need for arms spending to meet expanding arms programs of the Arab states.

Four Factors Mentioned

He mentioned four factors that had increased Israel's fears for her security: the defense budgets of the Arab states, which he termed larger than Israel's overall budget; the United States-Iraqi treaty giving military aid to Iraq; the lifting of the arms embargo on Egypt and the evacuation of the Suez Canal zone by Britain.

Dr. Josephthal noted that Israel had decreased her trade deficit, increased acreage under cultivation, augmented farm population, cut down unemployment and reduced the number of persons living in temporary shelters.

He warned, however, that an increase in her armament budget, particularly in the use of foreign currency to buy arms, "may endanger the rapid progress of our economic and social development in the near future."

Gains in Tunisia

Henry Levy, director of the committee's program in Tunisia, said the 105,000 Jews in the French protectorate registered gains in welfare and community organization in the last year. Tuberculosis, tinea and trachoma, diseases that are widespread in tropical countries, are now under control among Tunisian Jews, he reported.

Despite this progress and the fact that no Jew was attacked during the last twelve months of tension and disorders, Mr. Levy reported, there is fear that with the growing tide of Moslem nationalism in Tunisia the Jews will be forced out of their economic and social positions.

The Tunisians are negotiating with the French for internal autonomy.

Mr. Levy cited emigration figures showing that 1,862 Tunisian Jews have left for Israel so far this year compared with 594 for all of last year. Another 4,000 are registered for emigration.

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