

French Problem viz Middle East

We would like to convey to you a sense of the deep and sweeping concern that there is throughout the Jewish community in this San Francisco Bay Area about the recent actions by President DeGaulle in the Middle East. This concern is not by any means restricted to the Jewish community. We share with other Americans a dismay about President DeGaulle's actions which culminated in an embargo on the delivery to Israel of defense materials which had already been bought and paid for. This action serves to break down any stability in the Middle East, with these inevitable results: That the Soviet Union will more completely control the Middle East; that Israel will be more vulnerable to those sworn to attack her; and that therefore the likelihood of war in and emanating from the Middle East will be increased. As Americans, with an historic sense of attachment to the French people, we are deeply concerned about these developments.

As American Jews, we add to this our concern that this action by President DeGaulle brings our co-religionists in Israel closer to the hazard of genocide with which they have been formally threatened by the Arab governments. Our sorrow that this hazard is increased by an action of the French President is compounded by our own special feeling as Jews as well as Americans for the French people. We can never forget the haven given to Jewish refugees during the days following World War II by the French people which has extended even until today.

It is for these reasons that we must express our deep shock at these actions by the French President DeGaulle; and that we must relay the feeling of the entire Jewish community that "it is imperative for the peace and sanity of the world that the great nation of France again take its stand firmly for the peaceful negotiation of difference, against the continuation of terrorism, and against the threat of genocide in the Middle East."