

Refugee Problem Worse for Jews Now Than in '45

By PHILLO J. ROBINSON
 United Press International
 Paris - (UPI) - In the paradoxically named Paris slum of Belleville (beautiful city) a Jewish Tunisian family of seven huddles in a squalid 8-by-8 foot room with one bed, no lights, no water, no window. Now, lamentably, there is heat in their casbah-like hovel. In winter there is none.

This family is a symbol of the "July crisis" and the statistics of France's new, nearly doubled Jewish population.

In just two years France gained the world's fourth largest Jewish population, behind the United States, the Soviet Union, and Israel. The mass exodus from North Africa increased her Jewish census from 350,000 in 1961 to 510,000 - more than 40 per cent - bringing with it all the special problems of these religious and primarily Oriental people.

France also has a large Jewish transient population that trickles in from Eastern Europe.

One social worker who herself lived in Nazi concentration camps and escaped death in Germany said the refugee problem for the Jews is worse today than in 1945 when she was received here.

A high percentage of the 160,000 Jews who fled to France from the Arab countries of Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco and Egypt since 1961 are without minimal standard housing, without religious facilities, rabbis and kosher butchers and kitchens.

While all of France's population increased by only two per cent from Algerian repatriation, the Jewish community's increase of 40 per cent cannot be absorbed fast enough.

The "July crisis" is the sudden elimination of French aid. Almost the entire burden is now on American Jews for their co-religionists. Some 800,000 persons (Europeans and Jews included) fled Algeria in a 40-day period of June-July 1962. The French government granted a 19-month aid of 450 francs (\$90) a month to each married couple. The problem is general among the families who fled Algeria, but in the case of the Jews there is a special problem of assimilation.

Jews, Oriental
 As the end of 1961 there were 120,000 Jews in Algeria, a year later there were only 9,000. A large part of the Jews, though of French culture, are actually Oriental rather than European. Their families had lived in North Africa for 2,000 years and their religious practices have stayed with them.

The problem is heightened by the fact that the 40,000 Jews who fled Morocco and Tunisia were never entitled to the French grant. American Jews have been providing most of their means through the American Joint Distribution Committee (AJDC).

Last year the AJDC provided \$7.5 million from funds of the United Jewish Appeal in America, but this year's needs are an estimated \$10 million.

There are Jews living in 34 French cities which never had a Jewish community, no rabbis or synagogues or kosher facilities.

An ADJC demographic map of France shows that in 1961 there were 175,000 Jews in Paris and a year later 250,000; in the southern port of Marseilles from 12,000 to 60,000.

Thanks to a loan from ADJC and the salary of the small income of the head of the Belleville family - the father is a tailor - the family will move out of its 8-by-8 box into a two-room flat. The family had live in the room since 1961.

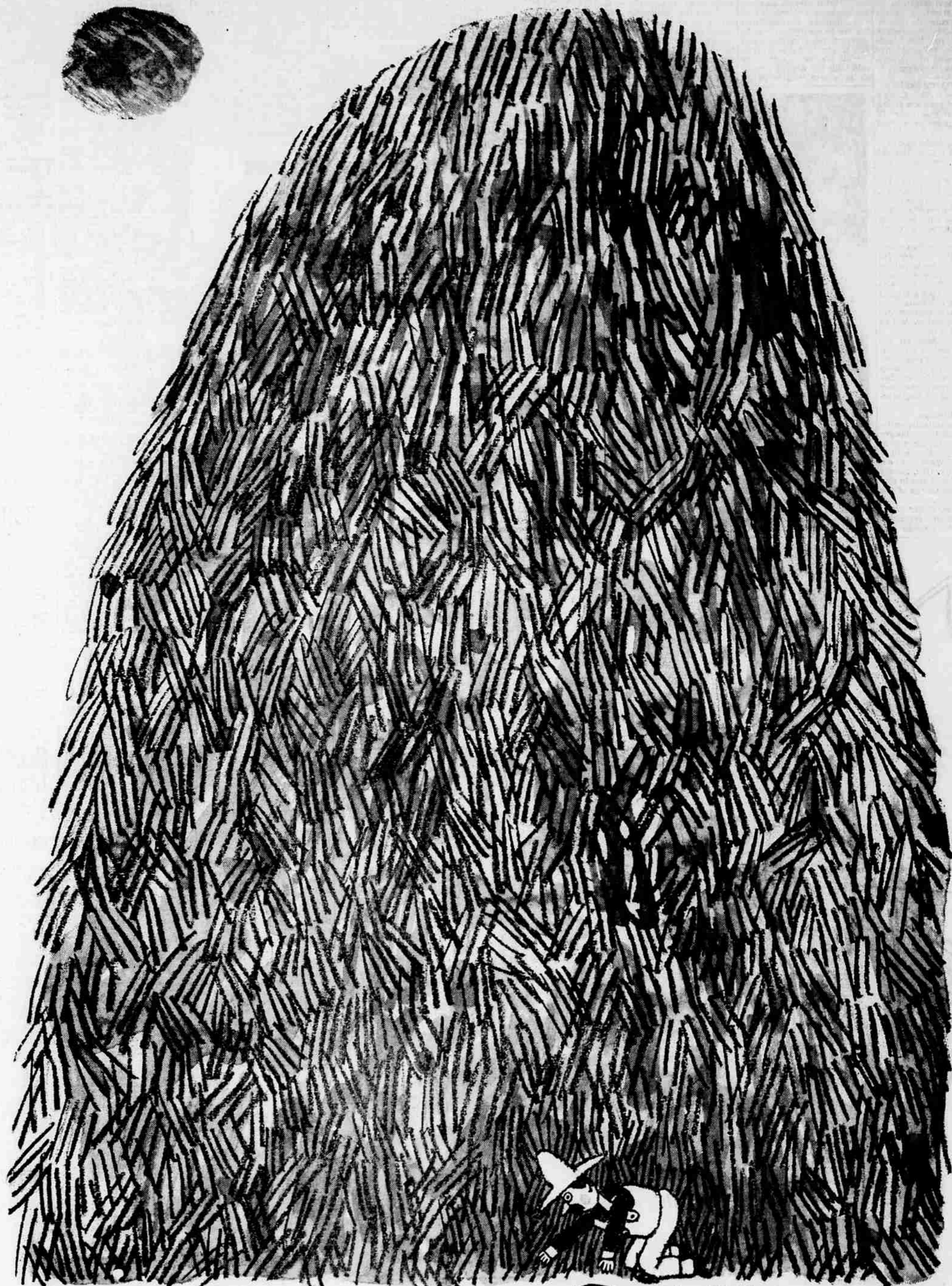
Another family, said a Jewish social worker, is eagerly awaiting the right to take the vacating family's place in the hovel. This new family will be moving from a refugee camp and the privacy of the box will seem heaven-sent.

Welfare Tenants To Face Eviction

Monmouth - (UPI) - The operator of a nursing home here has announced he will evict his public welfare tenants - 14 persons ranging in age from 60 to over 90.

K. E. Draheim, operator of the Madonna Nursing Home, said Wednesday that he had ordered the tenants to be out by noon today.

He said that he could not give the patients the care they should have under the operating rules of the Public Welfare Administration. Fees were listed as another reason for the eviction.



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