

NEWS

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JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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Monday, August 12, 1940.

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No Jew, Negro or North African refugee who previously resided in Alsace-Lorraine has been permitted to return home along with other returning refugees, it was stated.

Meanwhile, police raids are continuing on a wide scale in the occupied area, especially in Paris. A number of Jewish institutions, business offices and apartments have been raided, but few persons have been arrested thus far, it was reported.

Jews and Negroes are forbidden to enter well-known Paris cafes such as the Dupont, in the Latin quarter, and the Colisee and the Triomphe. Jews are banned from the Stock Exchange and the bank accounts of some prominent Jews have been blocked.

Conditions have been made so difficult for Jews, Negroes and North Africans in the entire occupied zone that the French authorities in the free zone have been compelled to advise these categories not to return home unless imperatively urgent.

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Henceforth, "blood Rumanians" will be the patricians of the new totalitarian Rumania while her 450,000 Jews will serve as the plebeians.

By far the most onerous of the new restrictions on Jewish liberty is the retro-active provision of the special ban on intermarriage. As a matter of fact, however, it will not be the full-blooded Jews who will suffer most from this provision, but the offspring of all the mixed marriages that have occurred in Rumania since the limited emancipation of Jews in 1879 after the war of independence.

By the retroactive nullification of all such marriages, the offspring of first and second class Jews--and they number many thousands--will be reduced to the status of illegitimates and stripped of their civil rights.

Except for this provision--perhaps the most stringent of any anti-Jewish law of modern times, except the Nuremberg laws in Germany--the new Rumanian anti-Semitic code is somewhat less onerous than that of Hungary, which it markedly resembles.

The law defines Jews as all persons of Mosaic faith, all offspring of such persons; all persons born of a Christian mother and an unbaptized Jewish father, all Christians born of an unmarried Jewish mother; all wives of Christians not baptized before June 20, 1940 (the day the Party of the Nation was established), all Jewish atheists and all persons belonging to Jewish communities. Baptism after the publication of the law will not change a person's Jewish status.

The three classes into which Jews are divided are as follows:

1--All Jews who were living in Rumania prior to Dec. 30, 1918, after "Old Rumania" had acquired Transylvania from Hungary and Bessarabia from Russia.

2--All Jews naturalized by individual decrees before Dec. 30, 1918; all Jews naturalized collectively according to the provision of the modified constitution of 1879; all Jews living in the Dobrudja who were naturalized following its annexation in 1879; all Jews who fought "on the line of fire" in Rumanian wars and who were not taken prisoner individually, or disappeared, or who entered the territory occupied by Germany from 1916 to 1918; all Jews who were wounded, decorated or cited by decree for acts of bravery in time of war; and finally all descendants of Jews who were killed in action of their widows.

3--To the third class of Jews belong all persons--at least three-quarters of the present Rumanian Jewish population--who do not pertain to either of the two foregoing classes.

(According to latest official Rumanian figures, quoted by the German wireless, the country's 450,000 Jews are divided into categories as follows: 210,000 in Class I, comprising all Jews who came to Rumania after Dec. 30, 1918; 10,000 in Class II, including all those who were nationalized in Rumania until Dec. 30, 1918 and who were at the front in Rumania's wars; 230,000 in Class III, which comprises all other Jews. This census was taken according to membership in the Jewish denomination. With the cession of Bessarabia and North Bukowina to Soviet Russia, roughly 330,000 Jews were taken over by the U.S.S.R., the German wireless said.)

First and third class Jews are deprived of the rights to become civil servants, members of any profession having direct relation with the civil services--that is, all lawyers and all other professionals, including doctors, employed by official boards, committees, services, and corporations.

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All rural property owned by the Jews of whatever class will be liquidated. The Government reserves for itself, however, first right in the purchase of all Jewish property.

The law makes no mention of educational rights for Jews except to state that "primary, secondary, professional and superior educational facilities for Jews" will be defined by decree at some time in the future.

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Figures available today reveal that 5,500 Jews have either been converted or have withdrawn from the Jewish Community, which is a preliminary step to conversion. This figure represents 18 per cent of the total Jewish population in Italy.

The current epidemic of conversions is generally attributed to international developments and the desire of those seeing no other possibilities to secure the protection of the Church. Most of the converts hope that membership in the Church will exempt them from the racial laws, but actually the Vatican has not yet succeeded in persuading Fascism to recognize the Church creed of brotherhood in Catholicism despite racial origin. This is still a point of major divergence between the Church and the State.

One result of the situation is that a number of full-blooded Jewish Catholics are considered "Aryans" while members of their families are regarded under the laws as Jews.

One of the racial decrees specifies that "Aryanization" may be achieved by proving illegitimacy as a consequence of a mother's relations with an "Aryan." Since no one wants to reflect against his mother's morality, there have been many cases of unearthing transgressions on the part of long-buried grandmothers.

Italian Jewish communities have been severely affected by the present situation. Under a Government decree all Jews are compelled to give a proportion of their income to the Jewish Community. The numerous withdrawals, therefore, have severely affected the Community's income at a time when relief demands have become most urgent.

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Suzanne Blum has sailed for the United States and Pierre Lazareff, former editor of the Paris-Soir, and Dalio, the film actress, for Mexico aboard the S.S. Quanza, via New York, among a party of 100 Jewish refugees en route to Mexico, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic, 50 of whom were assisted to emigrate by the HIAS-ICA Emigration Association.

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