

# JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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## GEN. GIRAUD CRITICIZED FOR DEPRIVING ALGERIAN JEWS OF FRENCH CITIZENSHIP

NEW YORK, March 15. (JTA)-- The abrogation by Gen. Giraud of the Cremieux decree of 1870 under which the native Jews in Algeria were given French citizenship was severely criticized here today in a joint statement issued by the American Jewish Congress and the World Jewish Congress, which termed the abrogation "wholly inconsistent with Gen. Giraud's statement that the laws and decrees of the French Republic are to be recognized."

Two noted French legal authorities now in the United States at the same time challenged Gen. Giraud's power to abrogate the Cremieux law and thus reduce the Jews in Algeria from the status of French citizens to that of subjects. The two are Henri Torres, former French Deputy and prominent lawyer, and Paul Jacob, formerly of the bar of Mulhouse and now lecturing at the Institute of Comparative Law of the Ecole Libre des Hautes Etudes. Both agreed that Giraud, as High Commissioner of North Africa, had exceeded his authority.

"What quality, what authority, what sovereignty has Gen. Giraud to cancel the laws promulgated under the Republic and which might be abrogated only by the Republic, that is, by the majority?" Torres asked. He declared that in the announcement of the abrogation in his speech Sunday, Giraud had acted "under the specious pretext that it (the Cremieux Law) represented racial discrimination.... while the result will be that an entire category of citizens will be excluded from the French nationality which was granted to them by the Republic."

Paul Jacob, who spent six months in Morocco and Algeria before coming here in December, 1941, pointed out that "the only authority which could abrogate the Cremieux law would be the General Council of Algiers." He said that General Giraud "has no power concerning the matter," and that "his position is arbitrary." The Cremieux law, he pointed out, was never an obstacle in the obtaining of French citizenship by a Moslem.

"Under the law adopted Feb. 15, 1872, it is provided that if the General Assembly of France is unable, for any reason, to function, the General Council of France is provisionally authorized to exercise plenary power for the maintenance of public order and security, by all the means necessary under the circumstances," Jacob pointed out. He explained that a General Council still exists in Algiers, and that this body alone is empowered at present to alter the law there.

## Situation of Jews in North Africa Remains Unsatisfactory, Congress Says

The joint statement issued by the American Jewish Congress and the World Jewish Congress reads: "The statement by General Giraud announcing the abrogation of all racial laws introduced by Vichy represents a certain advance. Until, however, the decree abolishing these laws has been promulgated, the announcement will be simply a declaration of intentions. Final judgement, therefore, on the statement of Gen. Giraud, must be reserved until the promulgation of the decree of abrogation.

"What occasions deep concern, moreover, at this point is the fact that the Giraud statement, promising abrogation of the racial laws adopted by Vichy, is

coupled with the abrogation of the Gambetta-Cremieux decree of 1870 under which the Jews were granted equal rights as citizens. The effect of the abolition of the Gambetta-Cremieux decree is to relegate the Jews of Algeria to the inferior status of subjects. Abrogation of the Gambetta-Cremieux decree does not restore the Jews to their position under the Third Republic, but relegates them to their position under the laws of Napoleon III. This is an intolerable position for Algerian Jewry and wholly inconsistent with General Giraud's statement that the laws and decrees of the French Republic are to be recognized.

"For these reasons the situation in North Africa, insofar as the Jews are concerned, remains unsatisfactory. The World Jewish Congress with which North African Jewry is affiliated, and the American Jewish Congress, will continue their efforts to bring about the restoration of the full rights of North African Jews as they were enjoyed by them prior to the promulgation of Vichy anti-Jewish legislation."

#### Fighting French Say Gen. Giraud Did Not Return Pre-Vichy Rights to Jews

LONDON, March 15.(JTA)-- Fighting French spokesmen asserted today that abolition by Gen. Giraud of the 1870 Cremieux law for Jews in Algeria did not mean a return to their rights under the French Republic.

General Giraud's announcement yesterday of his abrogation of the Cremieux decree, coupled with a pledge against racial discrimination, deviated from a demand by General de Gaulle's committee that there be a return in North Africa to Republican French laws and the status quo before June, 1940, the Fighting French commented.

#### MODIFICATION OF ANTI-JEWISH LAWS IN FRENCH MOROCCO EXPECTED, WASHINGTON HEARS

WASHINGTON, March 15.(JTA)-- Modification of the Nazi-inspired anti-Jewish laws in French Morocco is expected in the near future, following the announcement by Gen. Giraud yesterday that "the laws of racial discrimination, imposed on France by the Nazis, exist no more," it was indicated here today by an authoritative source.

Unlike Algeria, Morocco is not constitutionally a part of France, but is nominally ruled by Sultan Sidi Mohammed, although real power is in the hands of the French Resident General, Gen. Auguste Nogues, who, it is charged, forced the Sultan to introduce the anti-Jewish decrees despite the latter's unwillingness. While technically Gen. Giraud has no power to modify the laws in Morocco, the same authoritative source pointed out that in practice he has such power. It was noted that there are about 160,000 native Jews in Morocco as yet unaffected by Giraud's action. Native Jews in Algeria are estimated to number only 110,000.

Government quarters here expressed satisfaction with Gen. Giraud's announcement that the laws of racial discrimination have been abrogated. Observers here, however, expressed surprise at the portion of Gen. Giraud's statement in which he announced cancellation of the Cremieux decree of 1870, which conferred citizenship on the native Jewish population of Algeria.

The abrogation of the Cremieux laws, it was pointed out here, may soon have practical repercussions in view of the Giraud announcement that municipal elections will shortly be held in Algiers. It will mean that for the first time since 1870, native Algerian Jews will not have the right to vote in those elections unless they have succeeded in obtaining citizenship in the meantime.

JEWISH PROPERTY "ARYANIZED" IN FRANCE VALUED AT 100,000,000,000 FRANCS

ZURICH, March 15. (JTA)-- More than 100,000,000,000 francs worth of Jewish property in France has been "aryanized," it was announced today by Darquier de Pellepoix, French Commissioner for Jewish Affairs, addressing a press conference in Vichy.

Broadcasting a report of the conference, the Vichy radio quoted Pellepoix as stating that in Paris alone Jews owned 3,500 businesses which have passed into "Aryan" hands. He complained that "Jews are being supported everywhere in France by non-Jewish sympathizers who are trying to sabotage the anti-Jewish regulations" and indicated that the Vichy regime intends to revise all naturalizations of French Jews acquired since 1870.

The Paris radio today reported that Pellepoix has submitted to Marshal Petain the draft of twelve laws further curbing the rights of Jews. Among the twelve bills, the broadcast stated, are measures compelling Jews throughout all of France to wear yellow Mogen David badges and barring them from marrying non-Jews.

GERMANS SEIZED FOR SMUGGLING JEWS OUT OF REICH; JEWS ARRESTED IN BULGARIA

STOCKHOLM, March 15. (JTA)-- German Jews are attempting to flee from the Reich to neighboring occupied countries in the hope that they will eventually be able to reach Allied or neutral territory, it is indicated today in the Svenska Dagbladet, published here.

The Dagbladet reports that fourteen Germans have been arrested in Aachen, on the Belgian-German frontier, on the charge of conducting a "smuggling agency" designed to facilitate the escape of Jews.

The same paper reports from Bulgaria that a number of Jewish merchants in the town of Ruschuk have been arrested on the charge that they attempted to smuggle money from Bulgaria to Palestine.

PRESS ASKS GOVERNMENT ACTION TO HALT ANTI-JEWISH PROPAGANDA IN LONDON

LONDON, March 15. (JTA)-- London newspapers continue today to press the Government for action to check organized anti-Jewish propaganda which is being conducted through anonymous leaflets and inscriptions on walls.

"Anti-Semitism constitutes the gravest peril for Britain," writes Hannen Swaffer, noted columnist. He demands that the government publish facts disproving the claims of the anti-Semitic propagandists that Jews are not serving in the armed forces. He emphasizes that it is essential that the British public be informed that Jews constitute thirteen percent of the British Army, which is three percent more than their proportion of the general population.

Relating that "the latest lie which the fascists are now spreading in London" is that Jews caused the recent disaster in a London shelter which resulted in the death of 178 persons, Mr. Swaffer points out that this particular shelter was not used by Jews. Reynold's News, a London Sunday newspaper, reporting yesterday that anti-Semitic elements are exploiting the shelter accident for anti-Jewish propaganda, demanded that the Government take measures to put an end to the "organized propaganda" against the Jews in London.

"EYE-FOR-EYE" LAW MUST BE INVOKED AGAINST NAZIS FOR MASSACRES OF JEWS, ICKES SAYS

BOSTON, March 15.(JTA)-- A demand that "the democracies remind the Nazis that the ancient Biblical law of an 'eye-for-an-eye and a tooth-for-a-tooth' will be invoked against them" for Hitler's atrocities against Jews, was voiced here last night by Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, addressing the Jewish National Fund Council of Boston at a dinner in the Statler Hotel marking the dedication of the establishment in Palestine of Nachlat Massachusetts, a Jewish settlement bearing the name of the State of Massachusetts. More than 1,500 attended the gathering.

"Hitler's atrocities against the Jews," Secretary Ickes said, "have been so utterly horrifying, and his threat to exterminate the whole Jewish people so frighteningly real, that it is urgent that something drastic be done to check his savage purpose. I believe that the leaders of the United Nations should come out immediately with a sharp and determined warning to Hitler and his organized murderers. These killers should have it made known to them that every Nazi who slays or tortures or otherwise mistreats a Jew, anywhere, will be held accountable for his acts. Notice should be served in a no uncertain tone that it will not serve as a justification for a killer to plead that he was merely obeying orders. It is about time that the democracies remind the Nazis that the ancient Biblical law of an 'eye-for-an-eye and a tooth-for-a-tooth' will be invoked against them.

"At the same time the United Nations should declare, once and for all, that Palestine shall be a home for those Jews who wish to abide there - not a place of exile, but a respected and self-respecting member of the commonwealth of nations. Other Jews, everywhere, should be treated and regarded as integral and equal members and citizens of the countries in which they live. A civilized world should not tolerate, longer than it will take to mend matters, the principle of the ghetto on either a local or a national scale. The only way to right a horrible wrong, the only way to atone in part for the sufferings and humiliations to which the Jews have been exposed for too long, is to give them the same rights that we assert for ourselves - freedom to live, to work, to worship - on the same basis upon which we have insisted upon this freedom for ourselves. The time to start to do these things is now."

JEWS WILL PROTECT HOLY PLACES OF ALL RELIGIONS IN PALESTINE, MIZRACHI PLEDGES

NEW YORK, March 15.(JTA)-- A pledge that "the Jewish people will obligate themselves to protect the holy places of all religions in Palestine" if the country is proclaimed a Jewish Commonwealth by the United Nations, was voiced here today in a resolution adopted at the annual convention of the Mizrahi Organization of America.

The resolution also pledged full rights to the Arabs in Palestine "as individuals and not as a nation." The resolution points out that the Arabs have national rights in other countries and that the center of their religion is in another land.

Dr. Chaim Weizmann, addressing the Mizrahi convention last night, reviewed the tragic Jewish situation in Europe, and indicated that Palestine may become a Jewish homeland if sufficient efforts are made by the Jews of America. The convention closes tomorrow.