

EHRI Online Course in Holocaust Studies

Paris: Archives Nationales – III 1A 2, 7, 9, cited in: S. Klarsfeld, Vichy-Auschwitz. Le rôle de Vichy dans la 'Solution finale de la Question juive' en France, tome 1: 1942 (Paris: Fayard, 1983), p. 233.

Persecution and Deportation in Western Europe - General Introduction

Translation: Quote from the minutes of French cabinet meeting of July 3, 1942

Meeting of the Council of Ministers, Friday, July 3, 1942

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. at the Pavillon Sévigné under the Chairmanship of the Marshal, Head of State

President Laval then reviewed the Jewish question, which he had described in detail at the last Council meeting. He gave the order to conduct a census of the Jews in the free zone so that when the time comes, it would be possible to distinguish between the French Jews and the foreign Jews. Specific measures for the Jews who arrived in France after September 1939 could be considered.

The Marshal feels that this distinction is just and will be understood by the public.

Handwritten notes:

Jews

Difficulties with the Germans.

Requests from the SS to place several tens of thousands of Jews from Paris in concentration camps. Refused.

They request that 10,000 Jews in the free zone be arrested and sent to concentration camps.

A distinction must be made between French Jews and the derelicts sent by the Germans themselves.

The intention of the German government would be to create a Jewish state to the east of Europe.

It would be no dishonor for me to send the innumerable foreign Jews in France to this Jewish state one day.

I raise the issue but do not ask for a decision. I limit myself to conducting a census of the Jews who have been in France since November 1, 1939 (10,000?).

Translated by Nina Fink