

EHRI Online Course in Holocaust Studies
Memorial de la Shoah Fondation (CDJC); XCVI 22
Persecution and Deportation in Western Europe
– Jewish Responses to Persecution: The Case of France
Translation: D08 Report on deportation and forced labor of Jews in south France

General Commissariat 2 - 65 - *XXVA - 324/25* *XCVI - 22*
for Jewish Affairs *Ag. 2*
The French State

Ref. Cab

Paris, January 28, 1943

J.A./D.N.

1, Place des Petits Pères
Central 01-52

Confidential

The General Commissioner for Jewish Affairs
an den

Befehlshaber des Sicherheitspolizei
und des S.D. im Bereich des Militärbefehlshabers
in Frankreich

82, Avenue Foch

Paris

Attention: The Obersturmführer, Mr. Roethke

Further to my visit today, I have the honor of providing you with the attached confidential copy of the report written by the Regional Prefect of Nice for the Head of Government.

For the General Commissioner
Cabinet Director

Attachments: 1

J. Antignac

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PREFECTURE
OF
THE ALPES – MARITIMES

THE FRENCH STATE

NICE, January 14, 1943

OFFICE OF THE PREFECT

from the COUNCILLOR OF STATE

Prefect of the Alpes-Maritimes

to

The Head of Government

Secretary-General

Cabinet

No. 145

SECRET

Copied to: the General Secretariat for
the Police (Cabinet).

I have the honor of describing to you in the following report regarding the conditions under which the Italian military and civil authorities opposed the application in the Alpes-Maritimes department. [sic] The different measures on foreign Jews prescribed by the French government.

Three series of measures were implemented.

1) In circular no. 18743, you prescribed that all foreign Jews having moved to the department prior to January 1, 1938, be sent away from the area that extends 30km from the sea toward the interior. The concerned parties were to settle in the two departments you designated: Ardèche and Drôme.

As soon as this measure was implemented, MR. CALISSE, Consul General of Italy, asked me to exempt all Italian Jews from the move. Then several days later, the Commanding General of the Italian division of Nice asked me to purely and simply suspend the application of this measure.

On December 31st, the General-President of the Italian Monitoring Delegation for the Alps program sent me a letter informing me that “the Commander of the 4th Army has issued an order forbidding the prefects from interning people of the Jewish race because the Italian government will not allow people who could engage in anti-Italian or anti-German propaganda to be released from its surveillance and therefore, the above-mentioned measures cannot be carried out.”

In telegram no. 198.71, dated December 31st, you informed me that there was reason to stay the application of this measure.

2) The government sent the prefects telegram no. 18.736 on December 6th and telegram no. 18.844 on December 8th informing them that

they should continue enrolling the following individuals in the foreign workers' companies;

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a - foreign Jews who have lost the protection of their consulates, are between the ages of 18 and 55 and have been deemed able-bodied;

b - Jews from countries that are neutral, allies or enemies of the Axis, who arrived in France after January 1, 1933, are between the ages of 18 and 55 and have been deemed able-bodied;

As soon as the census of the foreign Jews covered by this second measure had been completed, the concerned parties were invited to join the 702nd Foreign Workers' Company in ENTREVAUX (Basses-Alpes department).

Because the Italian authorities had not taken any action on this second measure, it was carried out in the first days of January.

Moreover, the measure could not have "released from the Italian authorities' surveillance individuals who are likely to engage in anti-Italian or anti-German propaganda" since the headquarters of the 702nd Company are located in the Basses-Alpes in ENTREVAUX, which is to say, in the area occupied by the Italian armed forces. Therefore, the arguments put forth by the 5th Army command regarding the formation of groups of workers from the Alpes-Maritimes in ENTREVAUX are not valid.

It was only on January 10th that MR. CALISSE, Consul General of Italy, asked me, first in conversation and later in writing, to stay the enrollment of foreign Jews.

On January 12th, the Commanding General of the Italian Division of Nice made a similar request. I then asked you for instructions in telegram no. 00067. In the meantime, I temporarily suspended the application of this second measure.

3) Lastly, a law passed on December 2, 1942, required that all French and foreign Jews residing on French territory on an ongoing basis have the

word "JEW" stamped on their identity card or residency permit. The application of this law began on January 1, 1943, in the Alpes-Maritime.

On the request of MR. CALISSE, Consul General of Italy, it was decided that the application of this law would be stayed for the Italian Jews residing in the Alpes-Maritimes.

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Today, I received a new letter from MR. CALISSE asking me to stay the application of this law for all of the foreign Jews residing in the Alpes-Maritimes.

The following passage has been quoted directly from MR. CALISSE's letter: I have the honor of confirming what I told you in conversation, which is to say that the stamp in question will not be used for the Jews residing in the areas where the Italian troops are stationed because the measures taken on the Jewish problem in this area must be carried out exclusively by Italian organizations.

In conclusion, the Italian authorities are currently causing the three major measures on foreign Jews that were enacted by the French government to fail.

First, the Italians opposed the transfer of foreign Jews to Drôme and Ardèche under the pretext that they could not allow people who are likely to engage in anti-Italian or anti-German propaganda to be released from their surveillance. Then, they opposed the creation of workers' groups to be headquartered in ENTREVAUX, which is to say, in the area occupied by the Italian armed forces.

Lastly, they requested that the word "JEW" not be stamped on the identity cards of foreign Jews, stating that all of the measures taken on the Jewish problem in the area where the Italian troops are operating must be handled exclusively by them.

It is in the letter written by MR. CALISSE, the most important passage of which I quoted above, that you will find the Italian government's policy position on the Jewish problem. It intends to resolve this problem itself, not for reasons having to do with the safety of its armed forces but for political reasons. In the department's Jewish communities, sympathies for the Italians, who are said to "protect the Jews," have grown. The Consulate General of Italy and the intelligence

department of the Italian army receive visits from Jews of all nationalities, who come to ask them for assistance and protection. The effects of the Italians' policy can already be felt on the local level. Nevertheless, I maintain that what motivates the Italian authorities is not just the desire to appeal to the communities that led the French Riviera to prosper. Above all, these actions strengthen a policy that is meant to diverge from the German policy on this matter.

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I learned, in confidence, that every time that I had been approached by the civil or military authorities, they had done so on the personal orders of Count CIANO, who has seems to have taken the greatest interest in resolving this issue.

In keeping with the directions that I received by telephone today from the Head of Government, I met with the Italian military and civil authorities. During this meeting, I proposed that Italy receive – precisely because of the Italian government's interest in the matter – the foreign Jews who fall under the different measures enacted by the French government.

The General responded that that was not the issue and that since the Italian command wishes to keep the Jews and other foreigners who live in the area of operations in that area, the status quo must be maintained. As for the Consul General, he stated that regarding the Jews residing in the Italian area of operations, his government intends to apply the same legislation as that which applies to the Jews in the rest of Italy, in other words, he said, "a humane legislation."

The Prefect,

Signed:

translated by Nina Fink