

Antisemitic Laws in France to Prepare the Expulsion of French Jews

Telegram (open)

Paris, 3 April 1941

Time of Arrival: 3 April 1941

18.15 hours

18.35 hours

To: Foreign Office, Berlin

No. 1068 – by secret teletype.

Xavier VALLAT, the Commissioner for Jewish matters, newly appointed by the French government, called this morning at the embassy. He was disabled in the World War and as a member of the Chamber of Deputies has for many years shown anti-Semitic tendencies, particularly in the Leon Blum controversy.

Xavier VALLAT's duties are of a Nature:

to supervise the carrying out of the laws concerning the Jews which have already been decreed by the French government.

To coordinate the laws concerning the Jews which were laid down by the French government for the whole of France with the ordinances concerning the Jews which were issued by the Military Commander in France at the suggestion of the Embassy and which applied to the occupied territory.

To formulate further French laws concerning the Jews. As Darlan only succeeded after overcoming heavy resistance on the part of PETAIN in having a Commissioner for Jewish matters appointed, and as resistance against the activities of such a Commission will certainly continue, as a result of American pressure, it is advisable for VALLAT to carry out this third duty in stages, in order not to antagonize PETAIN openly. These anti-Jewish measures announced hitherto concern the removal of foreign and French Jews from high positions in the government and in the army and from all spheres of activity in the press, the radio the theatre and the film industry.

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This is No. 3

Initial by WEIZSAECKER in margin

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The laws still to be formulated by VALLAT are to force the largest number of Jews resident in France also out of the remaining professions in the world of economies and commerce and to prepare the ground for their emigration.

If these laws apply to the “old-established” French Jews in exactly the same way as to the foreign and recently naturalized ones, it may be expected that they will be full of

If they are not in too direct opposition to the distinct Vichy tendency to differentiate between the “old-established” French Jews and the foreign and recently naturalized Jews, the laws which VALLAT has been commissioned to formulate can be expressed in very definite terms, which at present would be of the utmost importance.

In order, however, that at a later stage the “old established” Jews can be subjected to the same measures as the foreign and recently naturalized Jews, it is necessary to pass a law now, which will empower the French Commissioner for Jewish matters to declare foreigner those “old-established”

Jews who have acted against the social and national interests of the French nation.

By means of such a law it will be possible to induce also “old-established” Jews, who represent about 1\5 of the total number of Jews resident in France, gradually to leave France altogether.

I have advised Xavier VALLAT to propose a law of this sort to Vichy and have informed the expert of the Paris offices of the S.D., with whom I put VALLAT in touch, to this effect.

In the Embassy Legationsrat ZWITSCHEL is responsible for liaison with the French Commissioner for Jewish matters and the Referent for Jewish questions of the SD in Paris.

Signed: ABETZ

Source: Yad Vashem Archives TR2\N11\1009\E, NG 2432