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ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS
Algiers

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AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL
C.A.O.
DEC 26 1942
Room 18, ALGIERS, ALGERIA
3rd December 1942.

MEMORANDUM

Jac. Scherer, Civil Affairs ✓

TO : ~~Major Lee.~~

1. Yesterday, two members of the Jewish faith called in this office and left with me, two papers:

a. A report on anti-semitic measures imposed by public authorities in Algeria.

b. A report on the conditions prevailing at the concentration camp of Djelfa.

2. I have interpreted the second document because of its significance. The report was written by a man actually interned at that camp, under date of November 20, 1942.

Translation

CONDITION OF PRISONERS IN THE CAMP OF DJELFA:

The situation of the prisoners, numbered approximately 870, has not changed after the liberation of Algeria from German tutalage; quite the contrary, it has become worse.

Still the prisoners have but one wish; to serve the cause of the Allies. Many of them are subjects of the Allied nations (Poles, Czechs; Russians, Belgians, etc.) and all the others can easily show that the only reason they have been interned is that they engaged in activities against the forces of the Axis.

1. There are 470 internees of Spanish nationality. They are veterans of the Republican Army of Spain and have been in internment for nearly 4 years. They fought under the orders of their legal government and defended their homeland against internal rebellion and against Axis intervention. They fought against the foreign invader of their country.

2. There are also 275 volunteers from the International Brigades of the Spanish Republican Army who fought under the orders of the legal government, who have been interned, persecuted and oppressed for 4 years. Among them are 111 Poles, 99 subjects of the U.S.S.R., 35 German, 11 Czechs, 9 Rumanians,

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8 Austrians, 10 Hungarians.

total 283²

3. In all, there are 745 veterans of the Spanish Republican Army representing 85% of the internees at the camp of Djelfa. These people have retained their morale intact, as well as the spirit of sacrifice and the love for their own people. This is true in spite of the inhuman treatment to which they were subjected.

4. There are 122 other internees who are classified as "administrative internees". They are, in fact, the victims of anti-semitic racial and political repression. Only an insignificant portion of this group could really be considered security cases. The Jews that are now interned are today subjected to a treatment which is deliberately anti-semitic on the part of the administration. There are 10 Spaniards residing in Algeria who have been interned because of their activity in behalf of the Spanish refugees, their own compatriots. 43 Spaniards (among the Spanish veterans) resided in Algeria before their internment. They have family and economic ties in this country. There are 12 Spaniards, and many of the other nationality groups, who now hold visas for Mexico, the United States, etc. There are 100 Russian subjects who should have been repatriated in 1940, but; transfer to Africa and departure.

5. MAIL: The directors of the camp prevent the forwarding of letters to Allied governments and institutions, as well as those addressed to their friends or families. It is enough for a letter to treat, even indirectly, the question of their liberation to have it returned or destroyed.

6. OPPRESSION: The internees are subject to a regime of repression which was deliberately increased after the liberation of Algeria by the Allied troops. The impression prevails that the intent is to exasperate the internees in order to justify, should instance develop, the notoriously inhuman regime of the past.

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE INTERNEES:

1. There are now some 30 pulmonary cases. There are some 70 chronic disease cases (heart, stomach, etc.) whose present treatment does not at all meet the minimum requirements of their condition.

2. About 50 men are over 50 years old. There are some 20 who are crippled and disabled.

3. The following infectious diseases exist at the present time: Some 150 cases of infectious skin diseases. Bleeding colitis and dysentery, afflicting about 70 internees. There are some 150 cases of disabilities due to other types of contagious

diseases.

The sanitary conditions are most rudimentary. The infirmary is located in a dilapidated building and has no proper facilities.

The barracks are infested with lice, etc. There are no wash rooms in the camp; the barracks are not heated; the food is not varied and insufficient. Wintering under such conditions presents a real peril for the internees.

In conclusion, the internees are driven to despair by the uncertainty of their fate and their pro-longed imprisonment and are bewildered because of lack of intervention in their behalf and because no information is forthcoming concerning their liberation.

End of Translation.

LEON DOSTERT
Major, AUS