

Report on Fascist Activity in the Region of Oran in the Month of
March 1943

Fascist organisations known to all, are: the L.F.C. (Legion Francaise des Combatants), the P.P.F. (Parti Populaire Francaise), the S.O.L. (Service d'Ordre de La Legion), the Legion Tricolore, the Phalange, and the Fifth Column.

L.F.C. (French Legion of Combatants)

One can contest a fascist character to the Legion if one takes into account the great variety of social classes admitted into the shelter of this organisation. One cannot deny its unhealthy mystic politics, based on a cock a hoop propaganda, the aims of which are never acknowledged. It is still possible to observe the unfortunate effects produced by cheap slogans on good morality and strongly dosed popular imagery. Thus the L.F.C. tried to smother the feeling for human dignity by vanishing the Republican ideal; then tried to take away from the people of France their liberty of conscience, giving them instead their incorporation into marching processions decorated with flags and cocards; then to lead them into an inferior social condition which was exclusively peasant and primary; lastly, in reducing the school curriculum diminishing the means at the disposal of the laique and government schools to the profit of the private schools: - to serve the aims of the domination by the Roman Church.

The L.P.C. did not represent ex-combatants. It was an organism destined to serve a political formula, that which, in view of military events, no doubt aided by them, the reactionaries wished to give the country. It is enough to read the books on the Croix de Feu, it is enough to know the methods of organisation of the Cagoullards, to find again the plan and the formation of the L.F.C. and its branches.

Progressively the L.F.C. became that of the Volunteers of the national revolution, and then gave birth to the Legion Tricolore, then to the Service d'Ordre de la Legion, S.O.L., then to the militia.

The initial movement, remaining a mass movement, the elements of which being fed the Mystic of the Marshal, assimilated the political doctrine of Vichy and became the source of the active parties authorised by the Government.

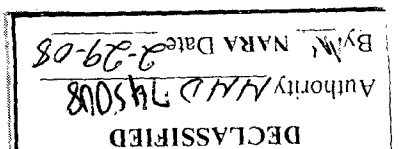
At Oran the L.F.C. was overflowing with Anti-Semitism and was favoured by local Spanish elements of fascist tendency. General Giraud has replaced the L.F.C., on paper, in its role of inter aid for Ex-Combatants. Actually the L.F.C. has kept its form. Every day, one can see Legionnaires wearing their insignia of Amis de la Legion without the mailed fist, which indicates that they are not ex-combattants.

The sections continue to function and the numerous resignations have only left those in place who were fanatics; now encouraged by the indulgence of the Allies and sometimes the sympathy of those in public positions.

The coloured imagery and facile slogans still decorate the

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unrequisitioned offices where the "Purs" of the National Revolution continue to assemble. Meetings take place where the victory of the Axis is upheld and the commentaries of the Axis radio are discussed.

The charities of the L.F.C. pillage the Allied food supplies. The L.F.C. disorganises the Administration, holds back the enthusiasm of the people and demoralises the Army. The Mystic of the National Revolution, that is to say that which hopes for the victory of Germany, continues, and we learn that an important sum of money has been collected to order a wood engraving of a motif, the model of which has already been executed. This motif represents a Legionary, one kneel on the ground, brandishing the flame of the Revolution, leaning on the shield and arms of the L.F.C., the centre of which is torn and open and through which one can see the Legionary Plan of Oran i.e. the topographic division in eighteen sections. The "Work of Art" is to be offered to President Duffau.

The "cadets" and "cadettes" dissolved about March 15th still keep, nevertheless, their uniforms, their insignias and their pictures. They pass under the protection of the "Social works of the Legion."

The L.F.C. remains the L.F.C. It must be got rid of with its unhealthy mystic, it must be changed up to the very name, "Legion". The offices must be shut, the sections dissolved. The departmental offices for the Mutilated Combatants and Victims of the War must be reconstituted.

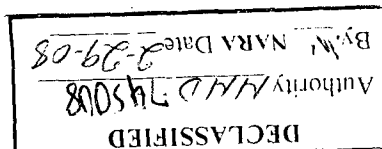
Public rumor has it that the official nomination of M. Cazals, ex-President of the Federation of Societies for ex-Combatants in N. Africa, as new President of the L.F.C. will take place. The opportuneness of this decision, if it happened, cannot be discussed here: M. Cazals is a Free Mason, certainly a Republican; has never belonged to the L.F.C., but he would accept to be President of the L.F.C. and that must be dissolved.

The Parti Populaire Francaise P.P.F.

The Nazi character of the P.P.F. will not be contested. Since Nov. 8th 1943 the P.P.F. has been organising itself clandestinely. Its office: 1 Avenue Loubet at Oran has been searched and has given fruitful results. Thus all the archives and lists of addresses are in the hands of Departmental Surete police with all its files, brassards, insignias, etc.

The new organisation of the local P.P.F. comprises: the leaders of the enterprise, who are M.M. Seneclouse, Raoux, Saint-Pierre. The organisers are: M. M. Berge, Prochasson, Pelissier, Poncemur, Gaudiet, Gilotte. And the members who are divided in Troikas, each one composed of 3 individuals of whom one is in liaison with a member of a second troika one of the latter in connection with a third, etc..the last executing the orders issued. Certain Troikas concentrate on direct external action, others are charged with assuring the liaison with the phalangists, others find their field of action in the ranks of the Army. Outside the Directing Group, 2411 31

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We are told of something else which is much more serious, but for which we lack precise proof.

In the second half of the month of November a committee of appreciation was constituted to evaluate the goods on the scuttled ships. Cdt Deprez was President of this committee. He was helped by several big ship chandlers chosen among men in whom he had confidence. It was reported to us by a person worthy of faith that these distressing individuals divided millions between them. We demand that an inquiry be held by competent persons.

We mentioned the Deprez was the protege of Admiral Roulle commanding the fleet at Oran. He is the intimate friend of the Stevedore Companies of Ambrosino and Russi, the owners of which are Axis-paid agents. The facts we shall cite are flagrant proofs. On Feb. 4th 1943 a maritime gendarme passing the Quai Sainte Marie noticed that the national flag was at half mast over the Ambrosino companies' offices. The authorities were warned and an inquiry was held by the members of the naval 2eme bureau. This inquiry revealed that Russi and Ambrosino had hoisted the flag at half-mast in accordance with orders given by Dr. Goebbels in sign of mourning for the Germans fallen at Stalingrad.

No measure was taken against the heads of these companies and we will now show the underhand work which these companies do in the port. We will mention that one of the members of the Russi family has been in a concentration camp since December for "close relations with the Italian Armistice Commission."

We now come to the sabotage as practised in the commercial port since Nov. 8th:

November and December 1942

The same man who directed this port in close collaboration with the Italo-German commissions continue to do so. Those who at dawn Nov. 8th were trembling, have now regained their calm and can make money on the side and practice sabotage. All stevedore work on the quays, to the astonishment of the public, was given to reknowned pro-Axis individuals such as Ambrosino, Russi, Allano, Palumbo.

The grand master of the stevedores is Mr. Charles Ambrosino, President of the Syndicate of Stevedores in the port. Who is Charles Ambrosino? French? Perhaps, in virtue of a vague decree of naturalisation, but is Italian and an Axis agent. By his acts, and attitude, this man and his family have clearly showed their game. The American authority in the port has confided all stevedore and disembarkation of stores to stevedore companies, the hostility of whom, to the Allied cause, is manifest.

A middleman whose offices are in the port witnessed, among others, the following concrete facts.

1. Nov. 23rd 1942 the company Allano had an employment form to take on 130 longshoremen. On pay day only 70 came to get paid. It remains to be ascertained whether payment was given (by the Americans to M. Allano) for 130 or 70 men.
2. On Nov. 26th 1942, 10 out of 20 men manipulating planks took from 2:15 to 6:45 p.m. off for sleeping. This incident was pointed out to the Commandant of the Port, to M. Gautier, Chief of Police of the Port and to M. Bendaoud of the Chamber of Commerce. Who is charged with the coordination and surveillance between the different stevedore companies? M. Ximenes, employee and collaborator of M. Charles Ambrosino.

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Resume of Many Reports on the Actions of Commandant Deprez, and Sabotage Practised in the Commercial Port Of Oran.

The Capt. de Vaisseau Deprez was nominated as Commandant of the Commercial Port of Oran towards the end of the year 1941. From the time he arrived in Oran, he was well known for his pro-German sympathies. We do not wish to talk about the intimate relations he held with the German and Italian Armistice Commissions, for, considering the post he had, these relations were quite normal. We shall talk of the acts of Commandant Deprez since the arrival of the Allies in N. Africa.

The alert was given in Oran on Nov. 8th 1942, towards 3:30 a.m. The troops, consigned to barracks since the evening before, were, in consequence, at their posts. Before the attack on the port of Oran had even begun, Commandant Deprez had left his post to seek refuge in town, at the Customs' barracks, rue d'Orleans. Only the non-commissioned officers under his orders, remained at their posts. From his "Headquarters" as he called it, Cdt. Deprez gave them orders which they transmitted to the different services of the port. Towards 6:30 the fight had stopped, the two which had come into the port, without firing, had been sunk and their crews killed or taken prisoner, then, Deprez from the barracks of the Customs telephoned to one of his non-commissioned officers and asked "Can I rejoin my post? Is the way free? Is there still a risk?" In the month of December 1942 Commandant Deprez was decorated with the Croix de Guerre with palm, for his fine conduct during the events of November 1942. His non-coms who remained at their post did not even receive a letter of thanks or recognition of service. Only the driver of Cdt. Deprez received the Croix de Guerre for the following motive and citation: "Accompanied with calm and sang-froid the Cdt. of the Port on all the dangerous missions the latter had to undertake during the British disembarkment in the Port of Oran, Nov. 8, 1942.

It is not necessary to add that the chauffeur accompanied Deprez to the Customs barracks at the moment he was abandoning his post.

But what we want to relate is still more serious: On Nov. 9th 1942 in agreement with Admiral RIOULT, in spite of the orders received from Algiers and in opposition to certain military chiefs, Cdt. Deprez had fifty-two ships in the Port of Oran scuttled. Any real Frenchman who watched this scene can never forget it.

Thus, we saw on the Senegal quay, the sailors of the steamers crying, when their ship sunk. All these ships were loaded with goods and there was time to unload all of them if Cdt. Deprez had not given the order to leave everything as it was. We shall prove below that this was done with one aim and object.

Towards Nov. 18th the ship, Sidi Bel Abbes, not having completely sunk was re-floated. In the refrigerators of the ship were about 3 tons of Roquefort cheese which the water had not touched. We have witnesses who certify that this was distributed right and left. Thus between the 15th and 16th of Nov. the office and the Secretariat of Cdt. Deprez were full of Roquefort cheeses.

Not satisfied with scuttling the merchant ships, Cdt. Deprez authorized the plundering of the wrecks.

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interpreters were all sent away.

Lately potatoes were disembarked pele-mele on the quays without planks under them and without tarpaulins over them. They remained there several days under the rain and bad weather. Many tons were lost of vegetable which is so needed and rare.

All those who know the work recognise that it could be done twice as fast and feel that it is a question of sabotage.

All the unloading, sheltering, distribution, etc. are little things towards victory but which should be done by people who wish for that victory, with as little delay as possible.

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no meeting takes place, but the Troikas are in constant liaison. It is to be noted that the P.P.F. chiefs meet at meals taken in the dining room of M. Gaudet, proprietor of the Taverne Alsacienne, rue de Lyon, Oran.

For direct exterior action, the Troika have received precise instructions concerning their organisation. An experiment of simultaneous secret actions and rapid transmission has been made; thus the posters representing the three allied tanks have had the British and American flags cut out with a razor blade and torn away. This was done over a period of two days in many different places and each far from the other in N. Africa. The given order was transmitted by the chain of Troika and was executed everywhere with discipline, moreover the method employed everywhere was the same. We have verified the following spots in Oran ourselves:- (Avenue de Saint Eugene, Bld. Hippolyte-Giraud, Bld. Sebastopol, rue Paixlians, rue Lamoniciere, rue de Tlemceu, and at Saint Denis-du-Sig.

The Troika has been chosen as liaison with the Phalangists. They gather the information received and transmit it to the Phalangist chiefs by the intermediary of people they are sure of: Example: Mme Giles who has a flat, 14 Avenue Loubet on the 4th floor, gave it up to a member of the Italian Commission for their personal use. On their departure Nov. 8th, Mme Giles put a panel on her door inscribed "Camera de Commercio Espagnola", to avoid requisition. This having been notified Mme Giles had published a note in the Press announcing the transfer of the "Camera" to 14 Avenue Loubet. Actually this luxurious apartment is a locality of the Phalange and the manager is M. Roland TARI, P.P.F., Chief of a Troika in charge of contacts with the Phalange.

In the Army the Troika are constituted but are not known. It will be noted that influential members of the P.P.F. are reserve officers: M. Beige, Dentist, P.P.F. and Phalangist.

Nevertheless, in spite of considerable interior cohesion the P.P.F. is difficult to follow in its action because of its ramifications among the organisms cooperating with it, especially the Phalange.

Legion Tricolore

This group was dispersed on the Allied disembarkment. The elements which composed it were all P.P.F. or S.O.L. many of whom are now in the Army. It is surprising to see, free and in French uniform, men who had asked to serve with the Germans against our allies.

The wives of Tricolore Legionnaires who enlisted voluntarily and left for Germany no longer receive allowances. Some, being without resources, went to Colonel Texeire, the Oran recruiting office to ask for material help. They were sent to the Legion Tricolore, who have burnt their files and can do nothing for these unfortunate women.

An inquiry should be made. The victims could, in the meanwhile, designate Captain Lavail in the 2eme Zouaves as responsible and have his pay stopped.

Service d'Ordre Legionnaire S.O.L.

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The S.O.L. in Algeria was to have been invested Nov. 19th 1943.

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The arrival of the Allies deprived them of this legal consecration, so that even according to the laws of Vichy, they were illegal. The chief Daunic committed an offense when he asked for arms for his men, General Boisseau even according to Vichy committed an offense by distributing them. Today the S.O.L. too well-known to the public, has been dispersed. The elements which composed it have joined the P.P.F. and the Phalange. They constitute the leaders of the 5th Column in the Army and the civil organisations which work for the Allies!

Well known, they are easily picked out, but their action is unfortunately favoured by the blind confidence of the Americans in them; and by the sympathy of many active French officers.

Some S.O.L.s have been decorated; but one notes particularly the unwounded S.O.L.s who have been decorated: Daunic, Berge.

A Phalangist Service of Information has been organised by the S.O.L. at the demand of Berge. A meeting at the beginning of December 1942 at M Marmies, 24 Avenue Loubet designated six S.O.L.s for this service. These are:

M. Daunic, 30 Bd Front de Mer, charged by the Americans with the military job of smoothing and equipping aviation fields.

M. Labadie, 14 Avenue Loubet, slightly wounded in the ear.

M. Personneau, 23 rue El Moungar does painting jobs for the American Engineer Corps. (Genie)

M. Mialy, engineer, 23 rue Alsace Lorraine, designer at the Air engineer corps, rue Calendini. The mission of this information office comprehends:-

- a) Aerial activity.
- b) Number and variety of effectives.
- c) Disposal of Aviation fields and their equipment.
- d) Value and morale of the troops.
- e) Establishment of a plan of Oran showing the different buildings and ground spaces occupied by the Americans, the industrial buildings, the shops, the concentration of troops and munitions, the material.

This plan has to be kept up to date, day by day, and all information and reports are handed in to M. Berge for the Phalange.

Another intelligence Service was created in January; it was charged with the Ports of Oran and Mostaganem; M. Assis, housepainter, rue de Lyon, Oran is to run it. Probably the members who compose it were recruited outside the S.O.L. Apparently the working of this service has been held up by the arrest of M. Beudaoud.

The Phalange

This very powerful and rich Francist organisation in the service of the Axis, possesses solid bases at Oran: the President is the Spanish Consul, and the fear of diplomatic incidents prevents the Americans from controlling its action.

Spaniards like the Marquis of Santogildes, M. Puga, Frenchmen like M. M. Berge, Poncemur, Mme Giles animate the Phalange at Oran.

Troika P.P.F.s are specially charged with the liaison with the

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liaison with the Phalange. R. TARI, 8 rue Lamoriciere, VALVERDE cafetier, Bar Charlemagne, LABADIE, 14 Avenue Loubet insure part of this service.

The facilities the Consul has of corresponding with Spain and Spanish Morocco permit the Phalange to constitute a remarkable service of transmissions for the German secret service run by fascist fanatics in N. Africa.

The French Administration, the American Army do not seem aware of or they tolerate the action of the Phalange at Oran. Madame Berge is allowed to leave on the ship which is going to fetch French refugees from Spain. Luckily the British police intercepted the ship at Gibraltar and forbade her entry into Spain. But one fails to understand why Mme Berge was allowed to leave if her action, and that of her husband, was so little known.

Doctor Darricarraire, P.P.F. and S.O.L., was allowed to correspond with his brother, a doctor at San Sebastien. One notes that this brother ex-sergeon of the French Hospital in Madrid was sent to the border of the Pyrenean frontier.

The P.P.F. and S.O.L. organisations are allowed to give their information to the Spanish Consul.

As an immediate consequence the most dangerous point in the Mediterranean for the Allies' convoys is between Oran and Mostaganem.

Fifth Column

In the Army the S.O.L. and the P.P.F. know each other and get together for sabotage and to demoralise those around them.

Notably:

Capt. DEMIZANE - Spalies at AINT EL TURCK
 Lieut. NEKKACHE - 28eme Train.
 Capt. PLASSANTIL - Genie
 Lieut. TIMMONIER - 66eme R.A.A.
 Lieut. MAZIERE - 66eme R.A.A.
 Lieut. FILIPPI - 28eme Train
 Capt. LAVAIL - 2eme Zouaves
 Capt. DRONI - 16eme R.T.A.
 Colonel CACHOU - 66eme R.A.A.
 Lieut. BERGE

The non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the P.P.F. have been enlisted. If one remembers that this Corps is mainly engaged in guarding bridges and looking for parachutists, one might be afraid that the Axis friends might do bad work for us. An S.O.L. of 23, is enlisted as Caporal-Chef in the Douaire; would he not be better placed in a fighting regiment?

The suppliers working for the American Army are generally P.P.F. or S.O.L., for example:-

SAXQUEPEY, Alexis, P.P.F. 4 rue Beranger, electrician.
 DAUNIC, Jean, S.O.L. Road mender and constructor.
 ROS, Joseph P.P.F. "entrepeneur" of masonry, Bd des Casseurs
 PASTOR, P.P.F. 6 rue Docteur Pauly, carpenter.

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PERSONNEAU, S.O.L., 23 rue El Moungar, painter, etc.

In the port M. Ambrosino and principally the dangerous M. H. Assis painter, to organise the sabotage and the espionage with undisguised hatred and contempt.

Besides these things, the telegraphic apparatus, BAIDOT of the Port Staff is held by BRUNA, Jean, foreman in the P.T.T. (Postes, Telegraphes, Telephones) member of the DEAT party and P.P.F. through GIRARD. The marechal de logis PELISSIER of the R.A.A. detached in the Port is in the service of the phalangist gang, Berge, Prochasson.

In the electric services are to be found M. Musquere, chief of service at the S.A.E.F. (S.O.L.) a lieutenant of reserve, wounded on Nov. 9th, personal friend of General Boisseau.

"COMBAT".

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Record No. W-5916
 Page 1 of 1 pages.

FROM: <u>ABRAHAM MOSES FINGERHUT,</u> <u>2 RUE SUFFRES,</u> <u>ALGIERS, ALGERIE.</u>		TO: <u>JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE,</u> <u>175 EAST BROADWAY,</u> <u>NEW YORK 2, N.Y., U.S.A.</u>	
LIST: <u>NONE</u>		LIST: <u>B7000.7364</u>	
Date of communication	Date of postmark	Kind of mail	Mail No.
<u>Jan. 16, 1944</u>	<u>Jan. 19, 1944</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>none</u>
Language	Previously censored by	Station distribution	Register No.
<u>Yiddish</u>	<u>none</u>	<u>D. R.</u>	<u>none</u>
Previous relevant records	For interoffice use	To whom photograph is to be sent	Serial No.
<u>None relevant</u>	<u>no</u>		<u>DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL COMMUNICATION</u>
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Division (or section)	Table	Examiner	D. A. C.	Reviewer	Examination date	Typing date
<u>Examination</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>7137 903 R 13</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2991</u>	<u>Feb. 21, 44</u>	<u>Feb. 22, 44</u>

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COMMENT

1. - ORGANIZATION OF YIDDISH SPEAKING JEWS IN ALGIERS.
2. - ASKS FOR INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING COLLABORATING WITH POLISH GOVERNMENT IN LONDON

1 - ORGANIZATION OF YIDDISH SPEAKING JEWS IN ALGIERS.

In a letter addressed to MR. JACOB PAT (B7000) writer states that in his last letter he wrote that the YIDDISH speaking JEWS have organized in ALGIERS, primarily for the purpose of aiding the JEWS who are fighting in the ghettos.

Writer states that any collaboration with the JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE (B7000, 6969), is closed to writer's organization because the former has (quote transl) "too many advisers." Writer also asks about the JEWISH CONGRESS. Writer's group consists of about 4000 YIDDISH speaking Jews and as NORTH AFRICA has the right to 17 delegates, writer thinks that one of them should be the representative of his group. Writer asks addressee to straighten the matter out.

2 - ASKS FOR INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING COLLABORATING WITH POLISH GOVERNMENT IN LONDON.

Writer asks addressee for the JEWISH opinion about collaboration with the POLISH government in LONDON, and whether it is appropriate to send relief contributions to the representatives of the POLISH Government, for distribution among the JEWS. Writer also asks whether addressee knows a MR. GUREVITCH, a former lawyer in WARSAW, KROLEWSKA 23, accredited by the POLISH Government for the purpose of distributing contributions. Finally writer wants to know whether EMANUEL SCHERER is a member of the POLISH Government as the leader of JEWISH labor.

ENCLOSURES: -- None.

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- A. Youth Movements in N. Africa oppose the decree on Education signed by GENERAL GIRAUD.
- B. Report on the position of SCOUTISME FRANCAIS in Metropolitan France, and of measures now under discussion in Youth Movement circles in N. Africa for the re-education of younger youth.

Summary:

A. The leaders of the four important Youth Movements in Algeria, (FONTNEAU of Action Catholique de la Jeunesse Francaise, CARRE of Scoutisme Francais, DE LA PRADE of Compagnons de France and DE CHELLE of Conseil Protestant de la Jeunesse) are strongly opposed to the decree on Education, signed by GENERAL GIRAUD in Algiers on 16th March, 1943. This decree sets out the guiding principles which should govern the education of young people in territories coming once again under the authority of French Civil and Military Command. The four leaders complain that they, as representatives of the Youth Movements, were only informed of the so-called African Conference of Youth held from 3rd to 5th February last on the day before it was held, which gave them little chance to prepare a scheme, and that the other representatives were only Civil Servants who had no right to speak on behalf of the Youth Movements. They disapprove of the proposed Organization as giving the State too much power over children during their most malleable years, when the influence of

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their parents, their Church and of the Youth Movements should develop their individuality. The proposals embodied in the decree have been inspired, according to them, by either a Fascist ("STATISTE") tendency or by a spirit of most regrettable improvisation. They then take up several points in the decree one by one, criticising them and suggesting alterations. (See attached photostats marked Documents Nos. 8 and 9)

Mr. COMMISSAIRE CAQUELIN, a leader of the Metropolitan French SCOUTISME FRANCAIS, makes a statement on the position of the Youth Movements in France up to the middle of January when he left that country. After the total occupation of France in November last, the nazification of the SCOUTISME FRANCAIS made rapid progress. M. LAMIRANT, though still nominally the head, was only allowed to remain there to inspire confidence, while PELLORSON, under German control, issued propaganda for the regime and worked through the Scoutisme for LAVAL. PELLORSON attempted to form a National Troup, a kind of Hitler Youth Organization but was unsuccessful. He then proposed a National Council of Youth which also failed through lack of support. Because of these intrigues and attempts to politicise the Movement the Scouts found it impossible to remain loyal to the Nazified Vichy Government.

Commissaire CAQUELIN hopes for the rebirth of the true spirit of SCOUTISME from North Africa, pledged to fight against State Control ("STATISATION"). The four great Youth Movements between them cover all elements - Catholics and Protestants, Bourgeoisie and Proletariat.

(Note: A hatred of Vichy and distrust of GIRAUD forms the general impression which emerges from reading all these Documents)

(Photostats attached are as follows:

- No.1 Decree signed by GEN. GIRAUD
- No.2. Youth Movements' criticism of above Decree.
- No.3. Part of the Statement made by Cre. CAQUELIN, relevant to the Youth Movements.
- No.4. A document outlining the activities of Youth Movements in Metropolitan France since the Armistice, and activities of Algerian Youth Movements since last November.)

