

trators appointed by the Office for Economic Aryanzation. The same body, by a decree published on April 5, was placed in charge of all other Jewish-owned property with the exception of houses used for personal residence. The final blow came in an order, effective May 29, providing that all Jews leave all positions they hold "in the colony's economy" which, broadly interpreted, bars them from all economic pursuits.

Coinciding with renewed strong Nazi propaganda among the Arabs was the mass arrest of Jews, in February 1942, for an alleged "conspiracy." No further explanation was given. Thirty-four of them, a Nazi source revealed, were shipped to France for trial before the Lyons State Tribunal, while the others are still confined in Algiers.

The misery caused by this legislation among Algerian Jews was so great that the local Jewish community was no longer able to cope with the relief problem. In consequence, the American Joint Distribution Committee had to contribute to the relief of the native Jews in addition to several hundred foreign Jews hitherto maintained by the community. These refugees had fled to Algeria when France collapsed, and are now interned in camps near Algiers.

Morocco

The Sultan of Morocco, who at first was strongly opposed to the extension of the Vichy anti-Jewish laws to his country, finally gave in to Nazi pressure, and in four decrees issued on August 10, 1941, placed French and foreign Jews under the same general restrictions prevailing in France. Moroccan Jews, however, were permitted the free conduct of commerce and trade. All Jews in Morocco, the law stated, must register and declare their property with the proper authorities. A special decree also provided for the exemption of Jews who had rendered "exceptional services" to the Mandate. Supplementary legislation, published on October 5, following Vallat's visit, barred Jews from all those professions forbidden to them under the terms of the Vichy statute. The transfer of property belonging to Jews in these fields was to be effected by November 30, the date when Jews also had to leave the professions. Simultaneously, a warning was issued

that "Aryan" administrators would be assigned to Jewish enterprises not transferred to non-Jews by that time.

In order to prevent Jews from selling their belongings and fleeing with the proceeds from these sales, they were forbidden to emigrate. It was reported in October that, before these measures went into effect, the German Commission in Morocco and high German army officers toured the country and seized furniture, linen, silverware and other valuables from Jews whom they evicted on 24-hour notice.

As a "welcome" for Vallat who visited Morocco last summer, the Sultan, acting on the suggestion of Vichy, ordered, on August 20, the removal of all Jews into a ghetto "with the least possible delay." The anti-Jewish measures, however, did not change the status of the recognized communal institutions or the Mandate's "inspection system." Under Moroccan law, all these bodies, such as the Consistoire, the rabbinate and the community schools are subject to inspection by a Jewish government official who is also the intermediary between the authorities and the Jewish community.

Syria and the Lebanon

During the first year of the Vichy regime the Jews of Syria and Lebanon were not exempt from economic restrictions, but their rights were restored when the French-British armistice was signed on July 12, 1941 by General Dentz, the French commander, and the victorious Allied troops. Following the entrance of the Allied troops into Lebanon, several scores of Palestinian Jews who had been interned by the Vichy administration were released. Alfred Naccache, the President of Lebanon, upon his visit to the synagogue of Beirut on December 23, pledged that Jews would be given full share in the responsibilities of government. Indeed, the situation of the Jewish communities in Beirut, Damascus and Aleppo, the last being the oldest as well as the largest, is reported normal, except for the Nazi attempts to incite the Arabs against them. For example, on February 18, Axis radio stations, supported by the Italian press, spread the lie that Roosevelt and Churchill intend to incorporate Syria into a post-war Jewish State as compensation to the Jews for their support of the Allies.