

Directives and Guidelines Given to the Inspectors and Pretors sent to Bessarabia and Bukovina

On July 3, Mihai Antonescu [Vice President of the Council of Ministers] delivered a speech at the Ministry of the Interior which was published in a brochure (in a limited edition) under the title “Directives and Guidelines Given to the Civilian Inspectors and Pretors sent to Bessarabia and Bukovina.” In the Tenth Directive, one finds the designs for the Jewish population, which we reproduce here almost in entirety:

We are now at the moment in time most favorable to ethnic liberation, national revision and the purification of our nation from all those elements alien to her soul, which have grown like weeds, darkening her future. In order that this unique moment not be lost, we must be implacable.

Let us not be hoodwinked by the appearance of a humanitarian philosophy, under which, as the tragic experience of the past teaches us, the most acute interests of a race – a race striving to master all – are hidden, [This race] placed at its service abstract principles, behind which was a religion that speculates on a nation overwhelmed by misery.

Clarification to Directives and Guidelines

On July 8, Ion Antonescu added important clarifications to Mihai’s directives. On July 8, at a Cabinet meeting, he addressed his ministers as follows:

I beg you, be implacable. Saccharine and vaporous humanitarianism have no place here. At the risk of being misunderstood by some traditionalists who may still be among you, I am for the forced migration of the entire Jewish element from Bessarabia and Bukovina, which must be thrown over the border. I also favor the forced migration of the Ukrainian element, which has nothing to seek here at this time.

Even the Romanians who let themselves be led into error or had entered the wave of anarchy and darkness of Bolshevism, even they will be annihilated without mercy. You must be merciless... I do not know when, after how many centuries, the Romanian nation will again enjoy this total freedom of action, with the possibility for ethnic purification and national revision. This is the hour when we are masters on our territory. Let it be used! I do not mind if history judges us barbarians. The Roman empire performed a series of barbarous acts against contemporaries, and yet it was the greatest political establishment. There are no other favorable moments in our history. If need be, shoot with machine guns, and I say that there is no law. We shall make special laws but in no way desist in the face of legal dispositions which we could introduce today and be the first to violate tomorrow. Therefore, without any formalities, complete freedom! I take full legal responsibility and I tell you, there is no law!

Source:

Ansel Jean, “The Romanian way solving the Jewish Problem in Bessarabia and Bukovina, June-July 1941,” *Yad Vashem Studies*, 19, Jerusalem 1988, p. 189-190.