

THE REIGN OF THE EMPEROR NICHOLAS I

1830 yr.

**208.** -- June 10. **The Highest approved *Polozheniye* [provision] of the Committee of Ministers, registered in the decree of the Senate on July 31.--**

*About the measures for the resettlement of Jews from Sevastopol and Nikolaev.*

The Governing Senate listened to the report of the Mr. Minister of the Interior – that in the Nominal His Imperial Majesty's Decree, given on November 20th, 1829, \*) on the name of Mr. Admiral Greig, the Military Governor of Nikolaev and Sevastopol, there were ruled the following measures on the account of those Jews who settled in the cities - Nikolaev and Sevastopol, stating: 1) Jews should not have [neither] permanent residence in Sevastopol and Nikolaev, nor institutions for the conduct of their rites of faith, and equally they cannot ascribe themselves to the local municipal communities there. 2) Jews who currently live in Sevastopol and Nikolaev, or those who are only assigned to these cities, in the course of one year must re-register in other cities which are open to the permanent settlement [for Jews].

265

3) Jews who are being lead out from Sevastopol and Nikolaev, but who have houses, lands, shops and other real estate there, should be allowed to sell them in the course of two years; but if they do not sell their estates in the continuation of this period, then it is necessary to evaluate them (estates) by the government and sell them within three months at a public auction [with profit] in favor of the owners of the property. 4) Prior to the sale of a real estate, that is, during the two years, Jews, who own it, can remain in Sevastopol and Nikolaev with their families, but for the last year in no other way as with the new passports of the city to which - after the expiration of the first of the year - they are reassigned [to move]. 5) The final expulsion of Jews from Sevastopol and Nikolaev should be conducted: after expiration of the 2 years, for those who own real estate, after the expiry of one year for those assigned to these cities, but not possessing such property, and after expiry of 6 months since the issuance of these regulations for those [Jews] living there without attribution (registration) to them (these cities). 6) Jews who have some obligations to the treasury in the cities mentioned above, should be allowed to remain there until the end of their obligations. 7) The Jews may, temporarily, as for their needs, visit Nikolaev and Sevastopol but not otherwise, as on the exact basis of the rules, issued for the temporary arrival of Jews to the cities of Russia. In this case, the local Authorities are obligated to execute without any indulgences all the above-mentioned regulations. And 8) all these measures should not refer to the Jews-Karaites, who are not at all forbidden to live and own property in Sevastopol and Nikolaev on the same basis as heretofore. After that [report of the Mr. Minister of the Interior], Mr. Admiral Greig, the Military Governor of Nikolaev and Sevastopol, informed him, Mr. Minister of the Interior, that the Jews of the 1st Merchants' Guild of Nikolaev, Serebrenniy and Rafalovich, and the Merchant's son Zelenskii, from Poltava, who was living

there [in Nikolaev] in his own house, in the submitted to him, the Admiral, petitions explicated the difficulties they encountered in fulfilling their official (to the treasury) obligations under contracts and deliveries, for reasons of the approaching and determined by the Highest Decree on Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1829, term of the expulsion from Nikolaev of those Jews who are staying there for the service-matters, occupying different positions in their commerce duties and in domestic services; thus, upon these petitions, it was entrusted to the Nikolaev City Police, together with the Magistrate and the Duma, to get ascertained with the validity of such described circumstances, and apprise: by what measures such difficulties could be averted; and that this presence - in the report to the temporary administrative Committee, explaining that the circumstances presented by the petitioners are indeed fair, and that inevitably they would have to turn out faulty (failing) in fulfilling their obligations with the treasury, if they would be deprived of those servants, with whom they hitherto have been provided, besides it was reported, that for the prevention of such consequences, the collegial assembly (committee) does not find any other means, except for the same Highest/Supreme Authority, according to Whose decree the resettlement of the Jews has been taken into directive. Such a conclusion from the committee of the municipal Collegial Assembly, Admiral Greig recognizes as absolutely thorough and deserving special attention of the Government; for reasons of the same circumstances, he from his side presented (the following): 1) that not only Jews who have obligations to the treasury but also others who have residency in Nikolaev

266

and Sevastopol, if they will lose their fiduciaries (trustees, confidants) and domestic servants due to this short term (which has come in May of this year) for the expulsion of all nonresident Jews, they themselves would face a complete impossibility to stay in their homes, even for permitted two-years period, which is allowed for the sale of their properties; because without helpers in commercial turnover and without domestic servants, neither the first nor the last can get by. 2) According to the local Provisions (regulations) in the cities of Nikolaev and Sevastopol, it is possible to foresee with all probability, that the proposed sale of many Jewish real estate at the same time would either not be possible at all because of the lack of bidders, or the bidders would give offers/prices that are far lower from the real value of the purchased properties, which would cause the greatest losses even for the prosperous Jews, and as for the poor artisans, petty traders and others like that, it would be a complete devastation; because these (poor) ones would not have any opportunity to purchase any properties in other cities of their new dwelling, nor even have ways/means to provide subsistence for themselves and their families; and therefore, for the sake of fulfillment of the Highest behest, and for the avoidance of such consequences, there remain no other means but to pay the money/value at the rate from the treasury for the homes and other estate/establishments, owned by the Jews, if those would not be sold by/through free bargain (auction). 3) Widows and orphans, belonging to the Jewish communities, deserve equally special respect/concern of the Government. 4) By all means, all that the current Jewish owners remain due/owing to the treasury/capital, belonging to the city of Nikolaev, more than 100 thousand rubles, and what was determined for the sale of their properties (real estate) within the present short period of time, would not be enough to pay them, and there could not be expected any proceeds and reimbursement of this amount from public sales of their estates. 5) At the

present time in the city of Nikolaev, the Jewish society consists of 24 families of merchants of various guilds and 691 of burgers/townsmen, in addition 424 more are assigned to this city, and that in general there are 1,115 male-folk/population, and all of them have so far participated, depending on their position/condition, on a par with other citizens, in the service of a military standing, with which the city is utterly burdened; as well as in the maintenance of the city's *Prisutstvennoye mesto* (Collegial Seats), the Housing Commissariat/Committee and other duties. With the relocation of the Jews, these burdens will fall on many townspeople of only the Christian faith, who will unlikely be able to perform/carry out them all, and besides, in such case the city of Nikolaev will be deprived of almost all the artisans of its own, such as: tailors, shoemakers and others, as these crafts and other arts/trades are mostly fulfilled by the Jews. As by the aforementioned Highest decree it was strictly ordered as a duty to the local Authorities to fulfill, and so that while this decree is being executed, in order to avoid by any pretext, any oppression/offence for the Jews, thus, Admiral Greig presented for further examination all the above-mentioned circumstances. According to the affiliation of the cities of Nikolaev and Sevastopol, in which the military ports are located, to the jurisdiction of the Naval Authority, he, the Ministers of Internal Affairs (of the Interior), directed to report to the Head of the Marine Staff of His Imperial Majesty, Mr. General Adjutant, Prince Menshikov, about all the above-mentioned circumstances for his preliminary consideration, who (Prince Menshikov), wishing to avoid all reproaches to the Government in the devastation of the Jews, considered the following:

- 1) For those Jews

267

who have immovable property in Sevastopol and Nikolaev, determine the deadlines for their deportation from these cities on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1832. 2) To allow Jews, whose stay in these cities is allowed for a certain period of time, to keep servants from the Jews at all this time as long as needed. 3) The Jews, who have entered into obligations with the treasury, should be allowed to keep the necessary number of stewards and advocates up to the end of their obligations, and 4) For the Jews who do not have the registered residency in Sevastopol and Nikolaev, should be set up the final deadline for their stay in these cities until May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1831. By agreeing to the Adjutant-General Prince Menshikov's proposition for the resolution of the issue, he, the Minister of Internal Affairs, in his turn presented it to the Committee of Messrs. Ministers, and to this added from himself: a) The consent for the Hebrews to have stewards and trustees/advocates could be permitted only with the order to the local Authorities to have the strictest supervision, so that under this pretext in Nikolaev and Sevastopol would not remain those Jews who do not have the right to use this permission; b) and the expulsion of the Jews, by the expiration of the time/terms appointed for their stay in Nikolaev and Sevastopol, must be carried out without any indulgence; and immovable property of them, in cases if it remains unsold past this time, should be subjected to public sale through the local Authorities.

The Committee of Messrs. Ministers resolved that: this proposition explained in the proposal of the Chief of the Marine Staff and the conclusion of the Minister of Internal Affairs, should be approved. On June 10<sup>th</sup>, it was announced to the Committee that the Emperor deigned to give His Highest affirmation to the proposition of the Committee. On such the Highest Approved Provision of the Committee of the Messrs. Ministers, the Military Governor of Nikolaev and

Sevastopol, Mr. Admiral Greig, was informed for the proper execution of it and further regular report to the Governing Senate. Thus was ordered: about this Highest Approved Provision of the Committee of Messrs. Ministers for record/accession and a required appropriate in this case performance, should be notified by the decrees (the local authorities): Messrs. General Governor of Novorossiysk and Bessarabia, the Minister of Finance, the Provincial Governments and the Treasury Chambers of those Provinces (Gubernias), in which permanent residence is permitted for Jews; about that also should be notified with decrees Messrs. Military Governor of Sevastopol and the Minister of Internal Affairs; all the same, to all Departments of the Governing Senate should be sent notifications (*V.P. S. Z. vol. V, No. 3,703*).

\*) See No. 201, p. 257.

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