

EHRI Online Course in Holocaust Studies  
LVVA, R 69/1a/19, fol. 64-67.  
Ghettos under Nazi Rule – The German Administration  
Translation: A08 Regulations for Ghettos in the Baltics

Decree (secret) of the RKO (department finances H 1356-29 Tgb.Nr. 1409/42g), signed Dr. Vialon, Riga, to the [Generalkommissare] in Riga (received 12.9.1942), Kauen and Minsk of the 27.8.1942 (transcription)

Subject: Administration of the Jewish Ghettos.

Enclosure: ... prints [Nebenabdrucke] for the involved district commissioners [Gebitskommissare].

In Riga, Kauen, Wilna and Minsk bigger Jewish Ghettos are set up, in some other places (location of district commissioners) smaller ones. The administration of Ghettos is not consistently regulated. In particular the financial organizing institution is still open, too. The [Generalkommissare] have to proceed according to the following guidelines. A binding to all details will not be announced, since the local conditions are often different. It is to differentiate between the administration of the Ghettos and the property management of the Ghetto, but only in terms of physical damage (demolition of doors etc.), which arose while Ghetto operations. The damages have to be estimated, the replacement amount has to be paid out to the owners or trustees not until the damages are indeed removed or can be removed immediately. If single owners received replacement houses in the meantime and want to return to their own property, which meanwhile excreted from the Ghetto, it is to be proceeded similarly.

5. Regardless of the fact that the department of politics of the [Generalkommissare] are in charge of the questions about formation and size of the Ghettos, it is recommended to the [Generalkommissaren] to transfer the financial supervision to their financial departments.  
II.

1. The administration of the real estate in the Ghetto will be performed temporarily by the Ghetto administration, not by the real estate companies or the trustees. In case of a complete or partial closure of the Ghetto the houses and estates as well as the property outside the Ghetto will be cultivated by the responsible authorities or the owners.

2. Subject of the trust administration is hereafter primarily the existing personal property. On this the exploitation of the Jewish labor force comes along, which is implemented as arising capital.

The administration of this capital is to be given to the financial departments by the [Reichsminister für die besetzten Ostgebiete], which will comply with this task directly or by the help of the city and [Gebiets-] commissioners. It is desirable that the city- or [Gebiets-] commissioner executes the administration of capital instead of the [Generalkommissar] for common reasons as well, so the [Generalkommissar]'s tasks are limited to surveillance.

The occurring personal property is to be recorded and saved at once. Objects, which could be worth considering for equipping offices or official residences, are to be offered to the procurement department. For other use of the occurred capital guidance are promised by the [Reichsminister für die besetzten Ostgebiete]. There are no objections to the selling of objects, which are needed urgently in any place. Only the equivalent value is worth considering as a charge. Instalments may not be allowed. All gold and silver goods are to be recorded exactly, described closely and provided to me by sending to the [Reichskreditkasse]

in Riga. A duplicate of the inventory has to be presented to me. The handover to the application site in Berlin will be executed centrally by Riga. The textile products arising have to be offered to the competent local central office of the Ostlandfaser GmbH as far as they are not taken by the procurement department.

3. By selling objects the equivalent value has to be given to the responsible office cash desk immediately. The earnings go to the budget [Einzelplan] of the financial administration of the establishment of the [Reichskommissar]. It is prohibited to set up special conditions on the amount of payment for skilled workers and untrained ones. It must be avoided that entrepreneurs gain any further advantage in hiring Jews.

7. The administration of the Ghetto will check if and which workshops inside or outside the Ghetto may be brought up as state-run enterprises. Workshops of tailors, cobblers, carpenters, locksmiths, electrical installation and others come into question. Primarily they have to meet the missions of the Wehrmacht, secondly the needs of the German departments and the Reichsdeutschen. The profits go to the budget of the Reichskommissar as well as the profits of hiring Jews to private entrepreneurs. Existing workshops have to be given to the administration of the Ghetto unmodified. This regulation pertains not for trustee firms working with Jews.

*Translated by Paul Bowman*