

*The Fragility of Goodness*

Protocol No. 9, 6 June 1943, on King Boris's Speech to the Small Cabinet of the Holy Synod

Meeting of 15 April 1943

'... The reason [for this meeting],' [the king] said, 'is indeed the letter from His Eminence the Grand Vicar and chairman of the Holy Synod, accompanied by a letter from the entire Synod and by a proposal to amend certain articles in the Rules of the Exarchate pertaining to the election of the chairman of the Curia. If I did not know His Eminence as well as I do, this letter might have pained me. But I have long been aware of his benevolent feelings towards me and his ecclesiastical zeal. That is why I accord all due respect to the ideas presented in his letter which clarify the matters also contained in the Holy Synod's exposition. It is for these reasons that I thought it appropriate to assemble the directors of the supreme power of the state as well as those of the Church so that these problems can be debated and further clarified. I will begin with a few words on the first problem treated in that letter, that of the Jews.'

And His Majesty began with these 'few words' which lasted more than a half-hour . . . He emphasized, in his speech, the enormous harm inflicted on humanity for centuries by the profiteering spirit of the Jews. This spirit has created hatred, loss of faith, moral degeneracy, and treason among men everywhere. This spirit of profiteering and negation has created and still creates discontent, quarrels, conflicts, wars, and calamities among peoples and societies. The present

global cataclysm is in large measure the fruit of this profiteering spirit. It is true that some great powers have been able to turn to their own advantage the wealth that the Jews have accumulated thanks to this profiteering spirit. But other European nations have been convinced that Jewish profiteering has been a fatal obstacle to their spiritual, cultural, national, and economic development. These peoples are mature enough to understand that the sooner they rid themselves of Jewish influence and exploitation, the sooner they will be able to strengthen and consolidate their sense of nationhood and their patriotism. This objective cannot be attained unless the various economic, financial, commercial, and industrial enterprises held by the Jews are taken, by law, from Jewish hands. Throughout Europe, legislation to this effect has been enacted and is being enacted still. Here in our country as well, such a legislation has been enacted – the Law for the Defence of the Nation. Our Orthodox Church, known for its patriotism, cannot in this instance hold a contrary opinion.

The meeting was adjourned, due to the lateness of the hour.

[Signed by the members of the Holy Synod]