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Clemency For Beraud Hit By French Left.

## CLEMENCY FOR BERAUD HIT BY FRENCH LEFT

By Wire to THE NEW YORK TIMES

PARIS, Jan. 13—Gen. Charles de Gaulle's commutation of the death sentence imposed on Henri Béraud, anti-British, anti-Semitic and anti-democratic contributor to the Gringoire, provoked unfavorable comment from the extreme leftist press today.

The Socialist Populaire said that the step would have far-reaching repercussions and that "popular common sense will neither understand nor approve. \* \* \* Henceforth those who have deliberately served the enemy's cause may entertain every hope. All they need do is plead 'good faith.'"

The Parisien Libéré, which is not extremist, commented: "Mercy is not justice. The point is whether the commutation is to be considered an exception or whether it foreshadows mercy for Charles Maurras [editor of the Action Française about to be tried in Lyon for denouncing patriots] and then for Pierre Laval himself. If this commutation does not reflect a frame of mind, we must, although regretting it, bow before that supreme authority that remains the prerogative of the head of the Government. But only in that case and still without giving our approval do we agree to respect the reasons—obviously secret—that prompted his indulgence."

Unconfirmable rumors said that British circles had intervened on behalf of Béraud so that it might not be supposed that his Anglophobia alone had influenced the court.

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