

S E C R E T

Memo: PIRA-1165

7 August 1947

TO : Washington  
FROM :  Italy  
SUBJECT : GENERAL:    
SPECIFIC: Constantin POPESCU  
SOURCE :    
EVALUATION : B-2  
DATE OF INFO: July 1947  
ORIGIN :

1. Constantin POPESCU a short time ago arrived with his wife in Italy from Rumania. POPESCU is a native of Moldova-Noua (Banat), and ethnologically his origin is Stab German. He is 25 years of age, has red hair, green eyes, slender build, 5'9" tall. During the war he was a member of the "blood group" of the SS, and carries the tattoo mark on the left side of his chest, near the shoulder.
2. POPESCU's real name is Carl STURMER, but in order to escape Rumanian authorities by obtaining a passport to come to Italy, it was necessary for him to change his name. When he came to Italy he established residence in Bologna and enrolled at the law university of that city. He is in possession of a letter of recommendation from Emil GHILEZAN, leader of the Peasant Party (MANIU) of the district of Severin, Rumania, and a member of the Directorate of the Party. The letter is addressed to Professor Augustin POPA (PIRA-608), and it requests that assistance be given to POPESCU in every possible way.
3. After the occupation of Rumania by the Russians, POPESCU was in contact with GHILEZAN, for whom he gathered information. It was then passed on to the Allied authorities in Bucharest. Since the Rumanian Communist Party learned of his activities during the war, POPESCU was interrogated and he was forced to leave Rumania in order to avoid arrest.
4. Comment: POPESCU stated that the story of the attempted flight of Ion MIHALACHE and other members of MANIU's Party was an invention of the Rumanian authorities to justify the arrests, and to involve MANIU in the affair so that he also could be apprehended.
5. POPESCU gave Source information on the organization of the Communist Party in Rumania, which will be reported separately.

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