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FBI

Station number of document : FBI

Date of document : 21 May 1948

Title of document : Nicolae MALAXA

Document to be filed in : []

Cross-reference form to be filed in : [] serial

Excerpt of pertinent information:

P. 16--This informant stated that Malaxa had been successful in converting Davila and General Nicolae Radescu to his plan for a strong Rumanian resistance movement. In other words, the informant stated that Malaxa was not in accord with Buzesti and was, therefore, trying to gain control of the Rumanian Peasant Party Resistance Movement in the United States and, by so doing, hopes that strong men like Davila and General Radescu will be of assistance to him. This informant related that during February, 1948, General Radescu was in London endeavoring to win support for the Rumanians in that country.

P. 41-3--Malaxa's Association with General Nicolae Radescu

This is to advise you that on May 5, 1948, Special Agents of the FBI interviewed General Nicolae Radescu, former Prime Minister of Rumania, at his residence located at 164 East 72nd Street, New York, New York. Radescu stated that he had no personal knowledge concerning Malaxa's activities inasmuch as he had met Malaxa for the first time in December of 1944, and he credited his knowledge of Malaxa to "public knowledge." General Radescu stated that he became Prime Minister of Rumania in September, 1944, and that he observed that the transportation industry

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was in a bad condition. He investigated and found that this condition was due to the intense rivalry between Rumania's leading industrialists, Malaxa and Max Ausnit. In December of 1944 he interviewed Malaxa and Ausnit and succeeded in getting them to cooperate.

Radescu explained the apparent discrepancy between his statement that Malaxa was in possession of his factories in December, 1944, with the fact that the decree granting Malaxa control over his works was not signed until April 12, 1945, by stating that both Malaxa and Ausnit assumed control of their factories shortly after the Armistice in September, 1944. He stated that he was unaware of the decree of October 9, 1943, which gave back to Malaxa his rights of ownership over his property. General Radescu advised that he also charged his Minister of Agriculture to study the question of reimbursing Malaxa for the use of his factories by the Rumanian Government during the time the Germans were in control and the return of these factories to Malaxa's control. He also stated that the Russians had seized a tube mill belonging to Malaxa contrary to the provisions of the Armistice dealing with reparations, and reimbursement for this seizure was also under consideration. Radescu pointed out that although the decree which returned Malaxa to control of his factories and reimbursed him for the use of his factories by the Rumanian Government and the seizure of the tube mill by the Russians was signed after he was deposed as Prime Minister, he was responsible for its inception. He also pointed out that although the pro-Communist Government of Peter Groza was in power at the time, they did not have complete control and there was still a semblance of democratic procedure. He was unable to explain why this decree called for reimbursement to Malaxa in foreign currency.

General Radescu stated that after his interview with Malaxa in December, 1944, he did not see him again until April 26, 1948. However, he stated that several incidents have convinced him that Malaxa is opposed to Communism. When Radescu was deposed as Prime Minister on March 6, 1945, he fled to the British Legation in Bucharest for sanctuary and remained there several months. While there, Enachescu, a mutual friend, visited him and said that Malaxa was placing himself at Radescu's disposal if Radescu would try to oust the pro-Communist Government. Radescu stated that the possibility of a coup existed at the time inasmuch as the Rumanian people were still behind him and wanted him to take action to throw the pro-Communist Government out of office. In December, 1947, Malaxa sent word to Radescu that he wanted to assist Maniu and Mihalache, imprisoned leaders of the Peasant Party, if Radescu knew of any way to do so. Sometime later Malaxa again sent an emissary to Radescu and offered to back him to the limit against the Communists. On this occasion the emissary pleaded with Radescu not to reveal Malaxa's anti-Communist activities inasmuch as Malaxa feared for the safety of his wife and child in Rumania if this became known. General Radescu stated that now that Malaxa's wife and child have escaped to Switzerland, he no longer will remain quiet about his anti-Communist views and activities.

General Radescu had no personal knowledge concerning the question of why Malaxa was permitted to leave Rumania. He stated that Malaxa probably pretended that he was not opposed to the Communists and paid a

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large sum to Bodnarash in order to leave Rumania. He explained that Bodnarash, a Russian citizen, is Minister of War and Head of the Secret Police in Rumania and makes certain that he is well paid when anyone with money wants to leave Rumania. Mr. Radescu stated that Malaxa probably has given quite a bit of money to the Communist members of the Rumanian Legation in this country as an added measure of protection for his wife and child. Radescu mentioned that within the past week he voluntarily submitted an affidavit on Malaxa's behalf to the State Department because he needs Malaxa's assistance in delivering Rumania from Communist control.

Your attention is also directed to a memorandum from Mr. Jack D. Neal, Chief, Division of Foreign Activity Correlation, Department of State, dated May 10, 1948, entitled "Rumanian Resistance Groups," which memorandum furnished a copy of the text of two papers designated as Attachment No. L and Attachment No. LL, concerning (1) Rumanian resistance groups and (2) the possibility of using Rumanian refugees in the United States Armed Forces. The State Department memorandum indicated that this material was furnished to an officer of the Department of State on April 27, 1948, by General Nicolae Radescu, former Rumanian Premier and a leader of the Rumanian opposition in exile. Copies of these papers are understood, according to the Department of State, to have been submitted to General Wedemeyer, Department of the Army.

The State Department memorandum indicates that copies of this material were being furnished to your Agency.

It has been determined that Nicolae Radescu has executed a sworn affidavit at New York City on behalf of Nicolae Malaxa, which affidavit is undated but is believed to have been prepared during April of 1948. This affidavit is as follows:

The affidavit has been classified into this dossier as []

This is all of the pertinent information on subject in this document.

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