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Station number of document : HR-4-2416 (SO 37585)

Date of document : 16 March 1950

Title of document : Background and Activities of General
Constantin Petre-Lazar, Aide to
King Mihai

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* Excerpt of pertinent information :

3. The ardor which General Nicolae Radescu had displayed in his numerous attempts to form a Rumanian National Committee according to his own views had had no positive results until King Mihai's departure from Rumania. At the beginning of 1948, all of Radescu's hopes were centered around the King and his group of advisers and aides, whom he wanted to win over to his views on the formation of the Rumanian National Committee. On 12 February 1948, Radescu was certain that the program for Rumanian activities abroad which he had drawn up with the assistance of his close advisers, would be wholly approved by the King without question. At that time, Radescu was certain of the support of the King's aides to his program, as can be judged from his statement: "The only obstacle which I will have to overcome is Mircea Ioanitiu, who has been won over by Niculescu-Busesti; I rely much, however, on the support of General Lazar, who is a serious man." At that time General Petre-Lazar, who had left Rumania only a short time before, shared the views on Radescu of every non-Communist Rumanian in Rumania and knew little if anything about the detailed activities of Radescu abroad. General Petre-Lazar was, therefore, inclined to support Radescu.

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4. Radescu's point of view on the formation of the Rumanian National Committee, such as it was explained to King Mihai by Radescu on 15 February 1948 at Lausanne, in the presence of General Petre-Lazar and Mircea Ioanitiu, did not meet with the King's approval as the King had heard earlier, on the same day, the views expressed by Niculescu Buzesti and Mihail Farcasanu, representatives of the National Peasant and National Liberal Parties. The three men, however, accepted the arbitration of the King for establishing the steps which were to be taken for the formation of the Committee.

5. The obligations which were assumed during those audiences as well as during subsequent discussions between the King and the three men, were eluded and distorted by Radescu to such an extent that neither the King nor his advisers General Petre-Lazar, Vergotti and Mircea Ioanitiu could any longer support Radescu's plans, as he desired to impose a committee of a certain composition by any means, avoiding the recommendations which had been made by the King.

6. That situation led immediately to a campaign of defamation which was initiated and directed by Radescu and his circle of close friends and advisers against the King's aides and especially against General Petre-Lazar who was accused of "having been bought by the political parties" and of being "in Cretzianu's pay." In October 1948 at Villegrance, in Southern France, where Radescu had another audience with King Mihai, Radescu offended General Petre-Lazar in the King's presence. On his return to Paris after that interview, Radescu publicly stated that he "would do everything within his power to remove subject from the King's household." Since then, many accusations were brought against subject (Petre-Lazar). Naval Captain Arpad Gherghel, who is in very close contact with subject, repeated often to friends in Paris that "Radescu did not miss a single occasion in his attempt to discredit subject and resorted to the basest tricks."

7. . . The anti-monarchic current and especially the defamation of General Petre-Lazar, whom part of the Rumanian emigration considers to be morally responsible for the failure of both General Radescu and of the Iron Guard (whose pressure on the King was repelled by Lazar), were continually developed either under cover or overtly both by the Radescu and by the Legionnaire groups. . . .

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

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