

POOR QUALITY DOCUMENT
SEE [REDACTED] OLDER FOR HARDCOPY

SECURITY INFORMATION

FORD MEMORANDUM NO. 709

SELECTLY CONFIDENTIAL

June 22, 1953

Copies of the attached letter and political statement signed by
General Nicolas Radescu were recently received by the Joint Fact Finding
Mission, General Radescu's nephew.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

Handwritten initials

ABSTRACT	INDEX
<i>Handwritten initials</i>	
DATE 26 JUN 1953	

Dear Barbu:

I entrust you with the custody of My Political Testament which I have signed today. I charge you with its publication after I am gone. With the Liberation Manifesto it sets the course which I believe those who follow me should pursue.

It is my wish, when the day of liberation comes, that my remains be returned to my native land and interred in our family burial grounds near Galimnesti. I charge you with this as your last personal service to me.

All property and assets which I may have in Romania shall be distributed to my next of kin according to the applicable laws of our country. You will advise my relatives that this is my desire. You will attend to all details in connection with my death and burial.

May God bless you for your years of love and dedication to me and to the Cause for which I have fought. May HE spare you to carry on the battle for our country's liberation.

This is the last prayer of one who has loved you as a son.

To:

Barbu Nicolae

General Nicolae Radeanu

May 15, 1953

POLITICAL TESTAMENT

of

NICOLAE RADNESCU

Beloved Friends, Loyal Associates in the Fight for Romanian Liberation, and
Fellow-Countrymen:

When you read these words I shall be no more. When that day will be I do not know. While my heart is strong and my mind is clear, Death may be a matter of months or it may be a matter of days, or even of hours. I am in the hands of God.

In this moment of my life I am conscious of a last paramount duty to my beloved country and its people — enslaved and in exile. That duty is to inscribe my final words of counsel and advice to those who will succeed me in the leadership of the Cause of our country's liberation. I do so with the profound humility and in all the integrity and candor that the insistence of Death commands.

II

At my advanced age I had no hope of living to see the day of our country's liberation. My only hope was to achieve the vital objective of establishing a sound basis from which the fight for liberation can be conducted by others. For that purpose God has spared me.

In the LEAGUE OF FREE ROMANIANS I leave you the organism through which the vital energies, the talents and the genius of the Romanian forces in exile can be mobilized into a purposive movement of national solidarity and unity dedicated to the Cause. Today, the League is a functioning reality, a network of associations of Romanian exiles throughout the Free World. It is democratically representative in its organization; is responsive to democratic control; and is fired with a sense of sacred mission!

The principles on which the League was founded and the purposes of its organization were broadcast to Romanians everywhere in my LIBERATION MANIFESTO issued on the eighth anniversary of the Communist seizure of power in our native land. Their response to the Manifesto leaves no doubt that these principles and purposes are clearly understood and approved by the overwhelming majority of Romanians in exile as the League's mandate of future attitude and action.

III

All of this is only the beginning of a struggle which will be hard and long. The hopes of our unfortunate country-men behind the Iron Curtain depend in great measure on the spirit of integrity, solidarity and sacrifice with which all Romanians in exile rally to the Cause. This is the sacred trust which Destiny has placed upon them. The supreme task of my successors in leadership will be to maintain this spirit as a vital principle of action.

It is my hope that my successor to the leadership of the League will be chosen from among four of my old friends:

GEORGE GATWICH, the distinguished former Foreign Minister of Romania;

GENERAL GUNNARSSON, one of our most brilliant soldier-statesmen;

KEMAL PASALAN, a distinguished and able political leader; and

VIGOR V. TITEL, a leading personality in our country's public life.

Each of these men by his record of service to our nation and by his talents, is qualified for the exalted tasks of leadership. Each in his field is well-known to the governments of the Free World and their leaders. Each is dedicated to the principles of democracy.

Whether he selected, it is my solemn request that the others give him their unreserved and loyal support in the supreme cause of our country's liberation.

IV

There is one solemn thought which above all others, I wish to leave not only with my successors but with all of my countrymen. The years of Nazi domination and of war, followed by the Germanite enslavement of our people, have destroyed the image of our native land as we know it before World War II. Our old people are starved, bitter, and utterly devoid of hope by tyranny, privation and betrayal. The ranks of our middle-aged men have been decimated by war. Many perished in concentration camps and torture chambers.

It is our **YOUTH** who must hold high the torch of Romanian freedom. My successors in leadership must realize that they are but the trustees of a new generation's hopes and aspirations for the future. The first bold outlines of that future have been nobly etched by the outlines of the enslaved countries of Central and Eastern Europe in the Philadelphia and Williamsburg Charters.

These charters of hope have captured the imagination of our **YOUTH** -- enraptured and in exile. The future of liberation in Eastern Europe -- to cherish, to expand, and to hold. No liberation movement of outline can succeed without them; none is worth striving for that does not have their confidence, and trust, and above all their vital participation.

It is my fervent prayer that the elders of the Cause will begin building the future leadership under the eagle of our **YOUTH** at the earliest moment. It is my hope and fervent wish for my country that the young patriots of proven records in the Resistance Movement should assume a major role in the leadership of the Cause. I am addressing myself particularly to **BARBU HIRTISSCU**, **LEON TIRIA**, **CONSTANTINESCU**, **VASILE DOLITZCOU**, **ANULIANA GORONCO** -- and to other Romanian young men and women of similar courage and outlook. It is as such as they that the future of our native land depends.

My political torment would not be complete without an acknowledgment of loyal and dedicated service in the Cause by my fellow-countrymen in the United States and elsewhere. To my friends listed below and each of them, I leave the memory of an old soldier's thanks and blessings, and the enduring gratitude of their enslaved countrymen.

In the United States:

NICOLAE BACIU, POPESCU ROTUNDARI,
ION CHERVOD, COL. DANIEL IVANOVICI,
VASILE MIHAI, BAKUS KIDULESCU,
DR. GEORGE PALANE, MR. OSMER. TROGNER,
GAIUS VALEANS, FLORIN ZARNEA.

Outside the United States:

ALEXANDRU MESTROGIANI, MORAYU COMANICIU,
LEONTEIN CONSTANTINESCU, VASILE DRUTINESCU,
MIDONIA ELIANE, ALEXANDRU FRANCU,
AURIANA GHEORGESCU, EFTIMIE GHERMAN,
ALEXANDRU GEORGICIAN, NIKOLAE HIRINESCU,
VIRGILIA HOLIA, CH. NICU IANESCU,
CLAUDIU IONESCU, N. MARZAVITI,
TRAIAN KINESCU, OSMER FURTESCU,
GEORGE RAUTU, HERMANT SCHNEIDER.

Whatever I have been able to accomplish for the Cause was made possible only by the consistent, generous and unswerving financial support of our efforts by NIKOLAE MALAYA. Over the past six years, this outstanding Romanian patriot and towering figure in the industrial life of our nation, has never failing to respond to our many demands on his private resources, from Romanian cities have sought to impute ignoble motives to his support of the Cause. I, who have counted him as a close friend of many years standing, have faith that time will prove what I personally know -- the people of our enslaved country have had no friend more loyal and generous than NIKOLAE MALAYA. In their behalf I record the gratitude that is his due, and I earnestly bespeak his continued support of the League and its work in the critical period which lies ahead.

On behalf of my enslaved people I express profound gratitude for the magnificent work in the Cause of European liberation of the NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR A FREE EUROPE, and for its voice of liberty and hope to the unfortunate peoples beyond the Iron Curtain -- Radio Free Europe. Beyond this, I offer my deepest thanks for the moral, material and spiritual aid which it has extended to us.

For Mr. Frederick E. DeLoeure, Vice-President of the National Committee for a Free Europe, who gave sympathetic understanding to our problems, I wish to express my warm regard and thanks.

+

VII

My fellow-exiles and I have been fortunate in receiving aid and wise counsel from distinguished Americans. Among those whom we count as friends of the Liberation Cause are Generals A. S. Wedemeyer, William J. Donovan, Robt. Schuyler, and Admiral Roscoe Hillelshetler, Governor John M. Lodge and Mr. Allen Dulles. In Mrs. Franklin Mott Gantner, the widow of the United States Minister to Rumania from 1937 to 1941, our Cause has had a dedicated and understanding friend.

In the United States Congress we are deeply indebted to Senators Ferguson and McCarthy, and to Representative Kersten, for their abiding and courageous advocacy of the Cause of European Liberation.

On behalf of my countrymen, enslaved or in exile, I leave with all of these benefactors the assurance of our profound appreciation.

I wish to record my deepest indebtedness to Mr. J. Anthony Fennell for the invaluable advice and counsel which he gave freely and generously, and for his faith in the integrity and sincerity of our purpose. I earnestly bespeak his wisdom, courage, and above all his friendship, for the guidance and inspiration of my successors.

VIII

I have been blessed in the devotion of my young friends. For my young countryman, DR. GEORGE PALADE, I wish to record a gratitude beyond words, for his professional care and filial devotion in my last illness. To my constant companion and trusted friend, BARNU NIKULESCU, who many years ago sacrificed a brilliant career to join me in the fight against tyranny, I owe my life. May God spare and protect him for the restoration of our native land after liberation.

IX

And now, an old soldier whose life has been spent in the service of his country and its people, bids farewell to the land he loves and will never see again. Farewell and Hope -- to his countrymen enslaved behind the Iron Curtain. Farewell and Courage -- to those who fought by his side against Nazi and Communist tyranny, and who will continue the struggle for Liberation.

For you who remain, particularly our YOUTH, there is the promise of a brighter tomorrow -- a tomorrow when our country and its people will be freed of the Powers of Darkness. That is an ideal worth living and fighting for. To you I leave my unfulfilled hopes, dreams and prayers for its realization.

GOOD-BYE! GOD BLESS YOU ALL AND GUIDE YOU IN THE BATTLE WHICH I MUST LEAVE!

General Nicolae Radescu

Doctors Hospital
New York, N. Y.

May 15, 1953