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Subject: Status of Horia SIMA
Vis-a-vis the Iron Guard

Report No: OFP/707 FAJO/237

Date of Information: February 1954

Place Acquired: Paris

Date Acquired: 22 February 1954

Evaluation: C/3

Date of Report: MAR 1954

Source: (with the exception of information in para four which was obtained from an unidentified Legionnaire informant, who is unaware of Source's activities)

1. The February edition of "Vatra" published the "dossier" of Horia SIMA, disclosing the entire affair which allegedly brought about the present revolt within the SIMA Iron Guard group.

2. The facts are old (1948 - 1949): Horia SIMA reportedly took advantage of the confidence of a Legionnaire comrade, having been sheltered at his home, and allegedly had a child by the Legionnaire's wife. The family in question is currently in Argentina. The "Vatra" dossier contains an exchange of letters between the wife and husband, on one hand, and between Horia SIMA and BOROBARU¹, on the other. There are also a few letters from a Legionnaire in Argentina, Nicolae POPA, to SIMA and to PASINSKI, with the latter's replies. SIMA's messages appear as insincere perspectives, appeals for discipline and promises of subsequent explanation. In addition, Nicolae POPA's letter alludes to threats of death pronounced against him by two other Legionnaires of Argentina, the Legionnaire Commandant, Ionel ROSU, and Ion POPA.

3. The affair recently has come to light again²: Nicolae POPA warned Horia SIMA that he, seeing the inefficacy of SIMA's efforts, felt obligated to warn all the Legionnaire "commandants" by sending them copies of the dossier. POPA proposes at the end of his letter that SIMA abandon his position as commander-in-chief so that the Legion henceforth be led by a group formed of all the old high ranking members of the Legion. SIMA retaliated by dissolving the Argentine "garrison".

4. The date of these latter two documents does not appear in "Vatra". Informant asserts that the decision to divulge this scandal (which allegedly occurred in Paris in 1948) preceded the news of the October disaster. The informant accompanied this assertion with emphatic attacks against the methods used by the Allied Services. He then violently related details of the HAIUDUC case: the latter was reported to have been recruited by Colonel PETRU and sent into Rumania, where he apparently remained several weeks. Entering by way of ARAD, he accomplished his mission and fled via Turmu-Severin after innumerable fortunate breaks. Allegedly, he brought back a message from Rumania. The Allied Services, however, wished him to return to Rumania. Colonel PETRU threatened him with a pistol, but HAIUDUC managed to escape, though losing his suitcases, money and motorbike.

Classification

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FORM NO. 51-58
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DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2002 2006

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5. Source feels that SIMA's position is most precarious and that he will be able to retain but a handful of faithful followers. All (sic) of the former Legionnaires who played a role in Rumania are presently against him:

Elias
Constantin - ~~GARNEATA~~, with the "Mexicans"
~~PAPANACE~~, in Italy
~~PROTOPOPESCU~~, (Professor) former Minister of Industry
Vasile - ~~STURDZA~~, (Prince) former Minister of Foreign Affairs
~~IASINSKI~~

6. (Dr.) ~~Vasile ANDREI~~, chief of the "garrison" in France, is also alleged to have dropped SIMA at the same time as three major "chiefs" of Germany:

~~APOSTOLESCU~~, ~~Virgil POPA~~ and ~~Laurian TALNARIU~~.

7. The principal "garrison" heads were, until recently:

Vasile
~~Micu IANCU~~, Brazil
~~Vasile ANDREI~~, France
~~APOSTOLESCU~~, Germany
~~Vasile POSTEUGA~~, Brazil
~~IORAS~~, Argentina
~~IASINSKI~~, Spain
~~Puiu TRAIAN~~, Austria

1 Field Comment: This individual is probably identical with ~~Traian HOROBARU~~, one of SIMA's trusted lieutenants.

2 Source Comment: It is remarkable that the secret of this affair has been so well kept for five years, with those individuals in Argentina continually hoping, in true Legionnaire spirit and discipline, that SIMA was going to find a solution, that he was going to retire. The basic principles of the Legionnaire movement (creation of a "new man", guided by Christian ethics, etc.) must be known in order to understand the Legionnaires' confusion. ing of this affair when confronted with the Commandant's shame.

3 Bucharest trials

4 Source Comment: Without insisting too much, I told my informant that this story appeared somewhat absurd, especially since I was acquainted with HAIUC and knew him as a drunken and not too stable person. Aside from the naivete of my informant, it appears to me that the explosion of the Horia SIMA scandal, known by a certain number of Legionnaires for five years, must be linked with the downfall of the Legionnaire teams inside Rumania and the diverse reactions which this event has stirred up among the Legionnaires.

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5 Source Command: These two with no publicity, broke away about two years ago.

- With regard to the HAIJUC case, Headquarters will recall his early association with the SHEEPHOOK Team. See particularly OFPA-878, 12 February 1953.

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