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 NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
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FILE NO.	SOURCE	DATE OF DOCUMENT	ANALYST	
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SUBJECT			DATE	
The Church in Rumania The Case of Visarion PUTU			9 Mar. 1953	
<b>SECRET</b>				
PERTINENT INFORMATION				
<p>Autostat excerpts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>From page 3 and 6</i></p> <p>According to very reliable information, when Visarion Putu was brought to Paris, he was brought at the arrangements of <u>Cardinal Tisserant</u> who had a series of discussions with the various Iron Guard groups, and he sent a special emissary to Paris, the President of the Rumanian Welfare Committee of Rome, <u>Mr. Ilie Olteanu</u>, who belonged to the Iron Guard group, and was converted to the Roman Catholic Church and is now the main emissary of the Vatican in dealing with all Iron Guard groups in Europe. He is a most responsible person and has plenty of money which he distributed amongst various Rumanians in Western Europe. The Vatican however was induced in error, both by Olteanu and Cardinal Tisserant, as far as the situation of the Rumanian Church was concerned. <u>Montini</u>, who I understand is the Secretary of the Vatican, was very much affected by Tisserant's and Olteanu's activities in connection with Visarion Putu in Paris, and the Iron Guard people, as the Visarion Putu affair was fixed up with the French Foreign Affairs Ecclesiastical Section. All of them were very much annoyed by the new situation created by Visarion and by the tactless behaviour in all the conflict that he created in Paris. Montini sent word to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Paris to take care and see what could be done in order to better the situation. But they were facing Tisserant's stubbornness who wanted very much that Visarion should get hold at once of the Rumanian Church in Paris, and if that could not be done, he should go to the United Church in Paris. As the French Authorities</p> <p>closed the Church at the request of Martinian, both the Archbishop of Paris as well as the Foreign Affairs Ecclesiastical Section, made the necessary interventions to open the Church, but they had to face the French Law which protected Martinian and the former parish Council. As the situation got quite serious the Vatican decided to send a special emissary to Paris, <u>Cardinal Montini</u> who was due to arrive in Paris on the 20th Sept., a kind of superior official mission to Paris to find out if there was any chance for Visarion Putu to get hold of the Rumanian Church and to announce within a week or two the union of Visarion's Rumanian Western Metropolitanate of Paris with Rome. If this could not be done and if the situation was getting too serious, he had a mission to take Visarion Putu to Madrid where he would be the guest of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Madrid. There he would be kept as long as they thought it necessary, and then would be brought back to Paris again.</p>				
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