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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT**

REPORT MADE AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN	DATE WHEN MADE 9/30/53	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 8/4, 27; 9/1, 4, 9, 10/53	REPORT MADE BY PAUL M. E. STERNER	886
TITLE VIOREL TRIFA, wa.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY-RU	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject still resides at the Vatra, Cross Lake, Michigan. Subject reportedly was booed and spat upon by parishioners of Reverend GOUD's Russian Orthodox Church, Detroit, on August 30, 1953 when Holy Synod voted in favor of independence from TRIFA and MOLDOVAN factions. Subject reportedly organizer of the American-Russian Orthodox Youth. Evidence of Subject's former membership in Russian Iron Guard set forth.

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DETAILS:

I. PRESENT ACTIVITIES

A. Residence

Confidential Informant Detroit T-1, of unknown reliability but who is well acquainted with the Russian Orthodox Church activities in the United States, stated on August 4, 1953 that the Subject is still residing at the Vatra, Cross Lake, Michigan, where he is serving as Bishop of the Russian Orthodox Church for North and South America.

According to T-1, the Vatra is located near Jackson, Michigan and consists of properties and buildings belonging to the Russian Orthodox Church in the United States.

Confidential Informant Detroit T-2, of unknown reliability but who is well acquainted with the Vatra and its residents, stated on August 4, 1953 that one JOHN W. TOCCHETA is one of the permanent occupants of the Vatra and is reported to be the Secretary to Bishop TRIFA. T-2 stated that TOCCHETA is the man who does the ordering for the Vatra, pays the bills for same and seems to be in charge of the Vatra.

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T-2 stated that the following individuals are residents at nearby Wolf Lake and are associated with the occupants of the Vatra:

TRAIAN MADAL, 1079 Lakewood Street, Detroit and 3946 Burkhardt Road, Route #7, Jackson, Michigan;
JOSEPH GOMBELEA, 8547 Sussex, Detroit and Route #7, Jackson, Michigan;
STEFAN V. TRAMU, 119 Winona, Highland Park, Michigan and Route #7, Jackson, Michigan;
HENRY S. G. SIN, Wolf Lake, Michigan;
GEORGE KALIA, Wolf Lake, Michigan;
DAVID KALIA, Route #7, Jackson, Michigan;
VAL PETRO, Wolf Lake, Michigan
B. Iron Guard

T-1 stated that the Subject was stopped by the Canadian authorities upon his entrance into Canada on April 25, 1953 to attend a celebration at the Saint George Rumanian Orthodox Church, Pierre Street, Windsor, Canada. According to T-1, the majority of the parishioners of this church are displaced persons and former members of the Rumanian Iron Guard. The priest, Reverend N. NICOLA, according to T-1, was a Lieutenant in the Iron Guard serving under the Subject.

Confidential Informant Detroit T-3, another Governmental Agency that conducts security type investigations and whose original sources are unknown, stated on July 1, 1953 that Reverend WESTONIAN GICALA of the Rumanian Orthodox Church in Windsor, Ontario, Canada has as his assistant the Archimandrite, MARTINIA IVANOVICI, former head of the Rumanian Orthodox Church in Paris. According to T-3, the Archimandrite IVANOVICI was appointed to the Paris post in 1948 by the Rumanian Ministry of Cults under the auspices of the current Rumanian Communist regime. It was stated that at the time of this appointment he had received the support of EMIL BODNARAS, present Minister of Defense, who was then head of the Rumanian S.S.I. (Intelligence Service). It is alleged, according to T-3, that on January 24, 1948, with the Rumanian Legation staff present at the church service, IVANOVICI swore allegiance to the Rumanian People's Republic making certain changes within the liturgy. Archimandrite IVANOVICI was later removed after much internal strife by a Provisional Parish Council in Paris on charges of improper practices and maintaining contact with the Rumanian Legation.

C. Current Split in the Rumanian Orthodox Church

Confidential Informant Detroit T-4, of unknown reliability but who is well acquainted with the Subject and the Rumanian Orthodox Church

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activities in the United States, stated that he had learned from the parishioners of Reverend ALEXANDRE CIUCU's Church, 1003 Seyburn, Detroit, that following the church services on August 30, 1953, a Holy Synod was held at which time the Synod voted 75 to 21 to be completely independent from Bishop T. IFA and Bishop ANDR... MOLDOVAN factions. According to the Informant, the Subject was present at this Synod and when he arose to speak, he was booed and spat upon by those present.

Confidential Informant Detroit T-5, of known reliability, corroborated the foregoing information but stated that the vote was 99 to 21. T-5 could furnish no information regarding the rejection of the Subject by the members of the Holy Synod.

According to T-5, Bishop ANDR... MOLDOVAN is the opposing Bishop to the Subject in the current factional split in the Rumanian Orthodox Church. MOLDOVAN was consecrated a Bishop in Communist Rumania in 1950 and was later deprived of his ecclesiastical title and church properties at the Vatra by a court order issued in 1952.

D. The American-Rumanian Orthodox Youth

T-4 stated on September 1, 1953 that the Subject is leader and organizer of the American-Rumanian Orthodox Youth and, as such, considers him to be a highly dangerous individual. T-4 pointed out that the Subject, as a leader of the youth movement of the Rumanian Iron Guard, reportedly instituted the massacre of thousands of Rumanians.

II. PAST ACTIVITIES

A. Iron Guard

T-5 stated that he observed the Subject on January 20, 1941 (Monday) leading a group of students (branch of the Iron Guard) in a march down Bratianu Boulevard in Bucharest, Rumania. According to T-5, the Subject was dressed in his Iron Guard uniform and the Subject received his commission directly from CORNELIU CODREANU, the leader of the Rumanian Iron Guard.

T-1 stated that he recalled seeing the Subject in Rumania on several occasions wearing the uniform of the Iron Guard and that he has seen numerous pictures of the Subject dressed in the uniform of the Rumanian Iron Guard.

T-1 furnished the Reporting Agent with Pages 3 and 4 of the June, 1953 issue of the "Credinta", a newspaper published in Detroit by Reverend

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GLICHERIE MORARU, sympathetic toward Bishop ANDREW MOLDOVAN. This issue contains an article on Page 4 entitled, "Rumanian Nazi Murderer of 6,000 Jews Now Rumanian Bishop in USA". This article was taken from the February 9, 1953 issue of "The Day", Jewish journal, and states in part as follows: "VIOREL TRIFA was one of the most extreme Nazis and Jew-baiters in Rumania. Thanks to his hate-campaign he was leading among the Rumanian population, the Jews in Bucharest were massacred on the days of January 21-23, 1941-Over 6,000 Jews. He was the one who gave the signal that the Iron Guard should start the Pogrom".

"The Pogrom started with the arrests and fights, then continued with fires in Synagogues, Jewish institutions and ended with the robbing of Jewish properties".

This article continues by explaining the terrible slaughter of the Jewish people and goes into great detail to explain how the Jews, after being massacred, were hung on butchers hooks with signs reading "Karne Kosher" or "Kosher Meat" displayed on the dead bodies.

The article continues by stating that when General ANTONESCU quelled the revolution, TRIFA was Subject to arrest, but with the aid of the German High Command, he escaped to Vienna where he participated in the Government in exile and agitated against the United States and her Allies.

T-4 stated that in 1937 he traveled from the United States to Temesver, Rumania with his young son where he resided at 6 Tapia Street after being refused return passage to the United States after the outbreak of the war.

T-4 stated that in January, 1945 after the so-called "liberation" of Rumania by the Russians, a group of Russian soldiers and doctors traveled by train from Leningrad to Odessa where they changed trains and then traveled on to Temesver, Rumania. T-4 stated that one Major NICOLAI NICOLIOVICH, two female doctors, MARIA and ANTONINA, and an individual by the name of VIOREL, requisitioned rooms from him at his residence on Tapia Street. T-4 stated that VIOREL was the engineer in charge of the train from Odessa who was appointed to this position by the Rumanian Government.

T-4 stated that after VIOREL had resided at his residence for a period of approximately 4 days, he went on an errand to the Temesver Bank for the two female doctors with the understanding that he would exchange their rubels for Rumanian lei and return in an hour. According to the Informant, VIOREL informed

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the two doctors that his uncle was the Director of the Bank and that he would have no difficulties.

T-4 stated that two days later he received a card from VIOLE stating that VIOLE would soon return with the money for I. and AN-TONIA. The Informant stated that on January 29, 1945 he received a second letter from VIOLE in which VIOLE stated that he was in Bucharest at the Commissioner's and that he would return as soon as possible to Temesvar.

T-4 stated that in the spring of 1945 VIOLE appeared at his home in Temesvar dressed in rags and that VIOLE informed T-4 that he had been tortured and persecuted by the Communists. T-4 stated that he asked VIOLE at that time if he was a member of the Rumanian Iron Guard and that VIOLE answered affirmatively.

T-4 stated that since he returned to the United States he has seen the Subject VIOLE in person and has also seen numerous pictures of him in Rumanian Orthodox publications. T-4 stated that he positively identifies the Subject as being the same individual to whom the foregoing story relates.

Confidential Informant Detroit T-6, another Governmental Agency that conducts security type investigations, stated that the Subject fled Communism in Rumania in 1946; spent six years as a Displaced Person in Paris, France and that he entered Canada on July 4, 1952.

T-6 further stated that the Subject had been a Commissar (officer) of the Rumanian police in Bucharest prior to his fleeing Rumania and prior to that had spent four years in a seminary studying to be a priest in the Rumanian Orthodox Church. T-6 stated that he had never met VIOLE personally but through Rumanian newspapers and police information knew him to be a member of the Iron Guard. T-6 stated that he had never heard of the Subject ever committing any kind of crime.

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