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In Reply, Please Refer to
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
New York, New York

APR 4 1974
100-201

Valerian Trifa also known as
Viorel Trifa []

On March 22, 1974, a source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that in relation to the current attack on Bishop Viorel Trifa, head of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, it has come to his attention that a recent item in the "New York Times" charging Bishop Trifa with participating in atrocities against the Jews in Romania had been documented by Doctor Charles H. Kremer, a retired dentist in New York City, and Mr. Constantin Antonovici, a Romanian emigre who is well-known as a sculptor.

In the recent past, a Doctor Dumitru Marin has advised that Doctor Kremer had brought pressure on his employers at the Jewish Memorial Hospital to bring about his dismissal because of Doctor Marin's opposition to the charges brought against Bishop Trifa. The director of the hospital also mentioned he had received a telephone call which he believed originated with the Romanian Embassy and which was intended to achieve the same result.

Our initial source above related that on March 19, 1974, a group including Doctor Kremer, Constantin Antonovici, Emil Onaca (a businessman from Los Angeles who suffered at the hands of the Romanian communists and is now willing to do business with them), and Doctor Ovidiu Marina (the son of the Patriarch of the Romanian Orthodox Church) gathered for discussions at dinner.

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Valeriu Trifa

Among the matters discussed was the projection of a visit by Doctor Kremer and Mr. Antonovici, accompanied by others, to the headquarters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Washington, D.C., on March 25, 1974, the purpose of the visit being to request an inquiry into the background of Bishop Valerian Trifa, with the aim of causing him to be deported from the United States.

Doctor Kremer has engaged in a long term project to achieve that result and in the opinion of the source he is doing what the Romanian Government would want done.

Concerning Constantin Antonovici, the source related that he is not politically motivated, but is against Bishop Trifa because the latter refused to dismiss the Reverend Florian Galdau from his position as the priest of the Romanian Orthodox Church of St. Dumitru in New York. According to what Antonovici claims, he divorced his wife because she was unfaithful to him. He says that when an estrangement developed between them he grew suspicious of her activities. He claims to have observed her departing from the church premises, which are also the residence of the Reverend Galdau, at two o'clock in the morning. He brought charges against the Reverend Galdau on these grounds and also for mishandling the church funds. The Bishop appointed an investigator to look into the matter and then refused to remove the Reverend Galdau on the basis of the findings.

Antonovici further claimed that people in Romania told him in 1948 that the Reverend Galdau was employed in the Romanian Office for Recovery of Stolen Articles, which was engaged in the recovery of property taken from Romanians during Russian occupation. Much property was recovered and the Reverend Galdau is alleged to have sold some of it and kept the money. Government officials became aware of his activities and were about to arrest him when he left his office and went directly to the railroad station, without going home, and took the next train to Yugoslavia.