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12 April 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR:
Office of General Counsel

FROM:
Chief, PCS/Litigation Branch

SUBJECT: U.S. v. Trifa

REFERENCES (a) C/PCS/LB Memorandum, 28 December 1978
(b) OGC 78-8535, 28 December 1978
(c) OGC 78-7989, 1 December 1978

1.. References reflect the long-standing Department of Justice (Special Litigation Unit) request for information on Mr. Viorel (Valerian) Trifa, who is the subject of an investigation by the Department of Justice which is expected to lead to quasi-criminal denaturalization proceedings in Detroit in May 1979.

2. This is to document for record purposes that C/SE/BB, briefed Messrs. Martin Mendelsohn, Chief, Special Litigation Unit, and Eugene Thirolf, trial attorney in the same unit, orally on Trifa and Rabbi Moses Rosen, Chief Rabbi of Rumania. Information on Trifa and Rosen is in the possession of Mr. Ion M. Pacepa, former State Secretary of the Rumanian Ministry of the Interior, Deputy Chief of the DGIE of that Ministry, and Presidential Counselor to President Ceausescu. Also present at this 11 April 1979 briefing held at CIA Headquarters was yourself, representing your office, and the undersigned.

3. Mr. Mendelsohn indicated that he did not require a written report on our information.

4. At the conclusion of the briefing, Mr. Thirolf requested that General Pacepa be asked to comment on the authenticity of a photograph which the Department of Justice had received from official Rumanian sources and which allegedly

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shows Trifa with a drawn pistol in his hand riding in the sidecar of a motorcycle with two other males on the attached motorcycle who also have guns in their hands. [] had previously indicated that it was usual for the Rumanian intelligence service to recreate documents which tended to show Trifa's wartime Iron Guard connections. Mr. Thirolf left a copy of the photograph to show to General Pacepa and to ask if the photograph was a recreation, as well.

5. The Department of Justice representatives expressed appreciation for the Directorate support of their requests.

6. We will advise you in the near future of the results of our inquiry to General Pacepa on the authenticity of the photograph.

(signed) [] [] []

C/PCS/LB [] kaj (1542)

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