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### ASSEMBLY OF CAPTIVE EUROPEAN NATIONS

The meeting which the ACEN held in Strasbourg in July 1955 provided the first opportunity to observe the Assembly in action. According to the American Consul in Strasbourg, many of the delegates were overly optimistic regarding the impending liberation of the Satellites. The main cause of this optimism appeared to be their belief that the USSR is weaker than is generally thought and that continuous pressure from the West would force a Soviet withdrawal from Eastern Europe. 1/

The Assembly's official position rejecting neutralization of the Satellite area and demanding freedom of choice for the Eastern European countries did not seem to be reflected in the thinking of individual delegates. The American Consul estimated that, if the USSR were to offer neutralization of the Satellite area coupled with free elections in exchange for the neutralization of all of Germany, few of the delegates would be unconditionally opposed. Almost all delegates officially rejected war as a solution of the problem on the grounds that there would be little left to liberate in Eastern Europe after an atomic conflict, and therefore they placed the date of liberation rather far in the future.

Although some delegates announced that "those who have shared their suffering will be the future leaders" of the captive nations, rather than the emigres, many members (particularly Auer of Hungary and Dimitrov of Bulgaria) privately spoke of their rapidly approaching return as political leaders. The ACEN meeting was reported in most Western European newspapers, generally without much comment. The general attitude at the Council of Europe toward the ACEN could best be described as one of sympathy and moral support mixed with the realization that little can be done to help the cause. The American Consul estimated that the anti-Communism of the ACEN delegates at times tended to blur their objectivity.

The ACEN held its second annual meeting in Strasbourg in April 1956. According to the American Vice Consul in Strasbourg, 2/ the consensus of the meeting was that the USSR was in the midst of a serious crisis and that the West must immediately press for concessions. Many delegates

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believed that the Soviet Union is on the verge of collapse and even seemed convinced that the USSR could be forced into the position of allowing free elections in the Satellites which would result in their return to power.

Some delegates showed less optimism in private conversations, but many seemed sincerely to believe that the Soviet Union is indeed facing revolt in its midst and if the United States were to press its considerable advantage much could be done to bring about the disintegration of the Communist empire. The American Vice Consul further commented that the various national and political differences which separated the ACEN delegates before they fled their native countries continued to exist and their union in anti-Communism has had the unfortunate tendency to break down when former or stronger nationalistic aspirations came to the fore. Nevertheless, the Assembly was successful in getting the publicity which it felt to be essential. 3/

### THE ROMANIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE\*

The RNC, which had a following but no organizations in West Germany, planned in 1955 to send an official representative to Bonn who would act as a liaison officer with the West German Government and Rumanian emigre organizations in West Germany. Mircea Carp, a Free Europe Press employee in New York, was presumably slated to get that assignment.

In the meantime, the RNC tried to influence Rumanian emigre developments in Germany through its European representatives in Paris, and especially through Romulus Boila, the Catholic editor of La Nation Roumaine, which is published in Paris under Free Europe Committee subsidy. Boila was apparently trying to work out an understanding between the RNC and the League of Rumanian Associations in West Germany (UARG), but it appeared that his efforts had very little success.

In late 1955 it was reported that the Iron Guard planned to form a coalition group of all those Rumanian exiles who were opposed to the Rumanian National Committee. The first issue of the newspaper Legea, a mouthpiece of the Iron Guard, was published in Munich in October 1955. Its initial editorial indicated that the publishers will refuse to cooperate with the Rumanian National Committee. When Prince Nicolae arrived in Munich from Madrid the following month, he declared that there would soon be published in Madrid a new French-language newspaper, the Faule, which will oppose the RNC publication, La Nation Roumaine. Prince Nicolae's main purpose in coming to Munich was to unite various Rumanian emigre groups behind a joint protest to the Department of State against US support of the Rumanian National Committee.

Available information on RNC activities in other areas is as follows:

\* Information on the activities of the RNC in Germany is

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a. Switzerland

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4/ Virgin Veniamin, a RNC representative in Paris, was active in organizing a responsible defense of the group of anti-Communist Rumanians who had attacked the Rumanian Legation in Bern. On 20 January 1956 Veniamin was empowered by the RNC, as well as by the Council of Democratic Parties, to represent these two organizations before the Swiss authorities on matters dealing with the indictment of the four Rumanian attackers. The four-man group had already given a mandate for their defense to Mihail Parcasanu of the League of Free Rumanians, but later agreed to the organization of a joint defense.

b. Turkey

The RNC representative in Istanbul, Aurel Decel, was reported by the American Consulate General 5/ to have organized a celebration of the Rumanian National holiday on 10 May 1955. Mr. Decel was described as the leader of the local Rumanian community and his following appeared to consist mostly of Monarchists.

c. Spain

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contacts among Iron Guardists, 6/ the RNC actively opposed Mr. Niki Dimitrescu, the Rumanian Minister in Madrid, who nominally represents the Rumanian crown. The RNC did everything possible to replace him or at least to get the Spanish Government to withdraw its recognition, but as of August 1955 these efforts were unsuccessful. The RNC allegedly was also indirectly responsible for the suppression of the Vatican Mission in the Rumanian community. This was supposedly accomplished through the influence of Augustin Popa among the Uniate priests. The RNC representative in Madrid, Mr. Gheorghe Antoniadu, is described by the same source as follows: "Very retiring ... Interested in commercial affairs ... Avoids Rumanians in Madrid, frequenting only the American Embassy and other foreign diplomatic missions.... Supposedly keeps the foreign legations abreast of activities within the Rumanian community in Madrid."

**d. Argentina**

The Rumanian "Peronista" group, sponsored by the Argentine Government as of spring 1955, was prepared to work in close contact with the Rumanian National Committee, according to a usually reliable source. U

Because the Rumanian National Committee is personally backed by King Michael, the views and activities of the latter relate directly to the effectiveness of the RNC. According to a usually reliable source, 8/ King Michael planned in early 1956 to attempt to unite the various Rumanian exile political groups with the Rumanian National Committee. As part of this effort, King Michael has given instructions to sound out the leaders of the Iron Guard as to their willingness to arrive at some compromise with the RNC. The Iron Guard leaders reportedly were anxious to arrive at an agreement with King Michael, through whom they hoped to obtain political accreditation. The King also intended to contact the League of Free Rumanians in France.

King Michael's activities in support of the RNC raise the question as to the degree to which his political views coincide with the current policies of the United States Government. In a candid conversation which he held with two US officials last year, 9/ King Michael expressed his opposition to the support of National Communism in the Satellite area. He specifically suggested that Yugoslav exiles be admitted as members of the ACEN on the grounds that Yugoslavia is a captive nation regardless of its independence of the Kremlin. He did not believe that the distinction between a Kremlin-controlled and a National Communist government was meaningful and indicated that he views both as equally undesirable.

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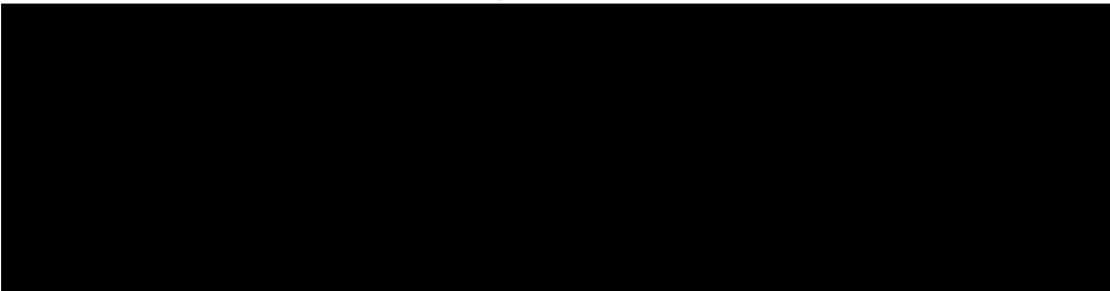
SOURCES

1. State despatch 11, 9 Jul 55, Confidential.
2. State despatch 196, 17 Apr 56, Official Use Only.
3. Mr. James McCargar, FEER Representative in Paris, was one of the speakers at the Assembly.



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5. AmConGen, Despatch 452, Istanbul, 17 May 55, Official Use Only.



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9. Memorandum of Conversation of King Michael with Roy M. Melbourne (Deputy Director, OCB) and Charles E. Mulick, Jr., (Assistant Operations Planner), 12 Jun 56, Confidential.