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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. 17 Aug 1954

SUBJECT The Churches of Rumania

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE ACQUIRED

[Redacted]

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NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

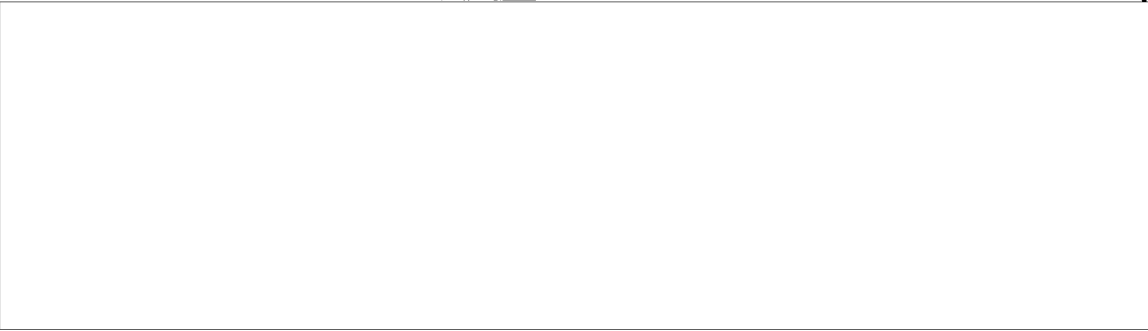
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- Up to 1946, the churches of Rumania were the Orthodox Church which served approximately 75 per cent of the population; the Greek Catholic Church, 10 per cent; the Roman Catholic, Protestant, Evangelical, Lutheran, Calvinist, Moslem, and Baptist Churches, the remaining 15 per cent. These latter were the religions of the minorities: Hungarians, German, Turkish, etc. Everyone was free to choose a religion recognized by the state.
- In general, religion was transmitted from father to son. Everyone belonged to his religion according to tradition. For example, if two Rumanian citizens, he an Orthodox and she a Greek Catholic, married and had children, the male children would follow the Orthodox religion, and the female children the Greek Catholic religion.
- The state subsidized only two of the churches, the Orthodox and the Greek Catholic. The entire "Church clergy" was paid by the state. The priests received salaries like all other state employees.
- The Orthodox Church, largest in Rumania, was organized as follows. The church was headed by the Patriarch of Rumania, with residence in Bucharest. He was considered the supreme head of the church and was completely independent of all other Orthodox Churches in the world. He was the leader of the Rumanians in Rumania proper, as well as those of the Serbian Banat, Montenegro, and the Timoc Valley. The country was divided into administrative regions each with a chief church representative subordinate to the Bucharest Patriarch.

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The Metropolitanate
of Muntenia [Ungro-
Vlahiei] (Bucharest)

The Metropolitanate
of Moldavia (Iasi)

The Metropolitanate
of Bucovina (Cernauti)

Bishopric of Craiova
Bishopric of Bannicul Valcea
Bishopric of Curtea De Arges
Bishopric of Targoviste

Bishopric of Roman

Bishopric of Husi

The Metropolitanate
of Bessarabia (Chisinau)

The Metropolitanate
of Transylvania (Sibiu)

Bishopric of Chisinau

Bishopric of Cluj
Bishopric of Maramures (Sighet)
Bishopric of Oradea-Mare
Bishopric of Arad
Bishopric of the Banat

The bishoprics were in turn divided into dioceses, and these into parishes.

5. There were also monasteries, ancient retreats of monks situated at the foot of the Carpathian Mountains. Each monastery had its own lands and cultural institutions and was a haven of spiritual relaxation for the faithful seeking shelter there in times of invasion or during their holidays. Each monastery was headed by an abbot (stareti) who was in charge both of the properties and the religious services. The monastic regions were also subordinate to the Bucharest Patriarch.
6. The members of the priesthood ranked as follows: patriarch, metropolitan, bishop, archbishop, arhiereu (with the same rank as a bishop but with no bishopric), archimandrite, protopope, priest, archdeacon, deacon, and monk. There is also an Orthodox Army bishop whose see was at Alba-Iulia. The present incumbent is Bishop Vasile Ciopron. Only archdeacons, priests, and protopopes are allowed by canon law to marry, but if they are widowed, they could not remarry.
7. To become a priest, a candidate had to have eight years of high school, the baccalaureate, the four years of study at a theological school or seminary. There are three of the latter, in Bucharest, in Sibiu, and in Cluj. The theological schools were located in Oradea Mare, Arad, Timiscara, Craiova, Iasi, and Cernauti.
8. The Greek Catholic, or Uniate Church as it was called in Rumania, had its main seat in Blaj. The Metropolitan See of Blaj was an important cultural and theological center. The theological school in Blaj trained Greek Catholic priests for the entire country. From the religious point of view (dogma) there is no difference at all between the Greek Catholics and the Orthodox. However, Greek Catholics formerly belonged to the Church of Rome and did not recognize the Bucharest Patriarch as their head.
9. Among the important clerics in the Orthodox Church [redacted] Metropolitan Nicolae Balan, a great patriot, whose see was at Sibiu and who was [redacted] metropolitan of Transylvania, Crisana, and Maramures. [redacted] he was a man of action and staunch defender of the ancestral faith. He sat in the councils of government up to 1944 and played an important part in the events which led to the union of Transylvania with the mother country in 1918-1920.

Bishop Nicolae Colan of Cluj, a highly cultivated man and a staunch defender of Orthodox Christianity.

Dr. Liviu Munteanu, Rector of the Cluj Theological Seminary, belongs to the same elite group as the other two. He was a great admirer of the US. His daughter was killed in 1949 by the Communists.

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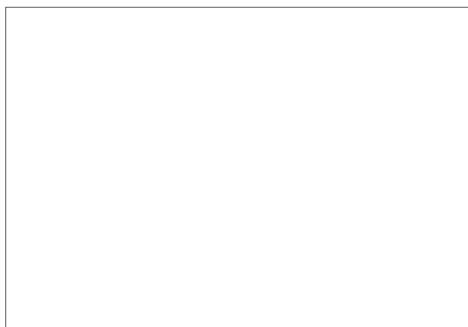
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25X1 10. Conditions changed completely in 1946 when the Communists imposed a
25X1 new rule of behavior on priests. From the start, the Communists tried
25X1 to make the priests their political tools. They tried forcing them to
25X1 accuse such statesmen as Juliu Maniu, George Bratiann, (fnv) Mihalache,
25X1 and Professor (fnv) Petrovic in their sermons and asking that they be
punished for having led the people against the Communists.
in a church in November 1946 a note was brought
by a Communist and the priest was forced to interrupt the service and to
read the government note asking for "the death of Juliu Maniu and George
Bratiann as traitors of the people". The church was full of people and
they began to laugh saying they would not accept such things and Communists
had no business in church.

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