

(Extract from CO-B-1024-49, 11 February 1949)

SOURCE: Former Rumanian citizen who fled Bucharest in October 1947 because of his anti-Communist sympathies and is now a student at a large U.S. university. He graduated from law school and worked for a US press organization in Bucharest until he left Rumania.

"I have the following comments to make on the article which appeared in the New York Times on 14 January 1949 concerning the arrest of Soviet agents in Vienna on 13 January 1949:

"a) Bruno SLETSKY, identified in the article as a Pole, was a very important figure in Rumania in 1931. At that time, he was Skoda's representative in Bucharest and obtained a huge armament contract from the Rumanian Government. The National Peasant Party was then in power. In 1931 or 1932, when that party lost its leadership of the Government, the new Party tried to repudiate the contract by accusing Seletsky and the leaders of the National Peasant Party of making an armament deal for their private benefit. This and similar accusations, along with official investigations by the Rumanian Government, were part of the then notorious "Skoda Affair". It was generally understood but not publicly stated that Nicolae MALAXA, who never held public office in Rumania, was the power behind the Government's investigation of the Seletsky deal. MALAXA now lives in New York City and my wife has heard he received about two million US dollars from the present Rumanian Government because of nationalization of his industries in which he had an interest."

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