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SECURITY INFORMATION

27 January 1953

SSS-53-42

TO: Chief, CEBR/DD
From: []
Subject: MALAXA, Nicolae
Reference: Your request CG-4490, Secret.

1. Nicolae MALAXA, former prominent Romanian industrialist, now a political exile, has been the subject of a great many reports. One typical document described him as a "slippery, fence-rider, who plays both ends against the middle for personal reasons." (U.S. Army WD-90064, 14 Dec 44, Confidential). Another called him the "most perfidious man in Romania," stated that "while claiming to be anti-Russian and anti-Communist in certain circles, at the same time, he reports all conversations with the British and Americans to the Russians and Romanian Communists." (OSS WD-016836, 30 May 45, Secret.) His cunning was exemplified by the apparent ability to get along with the Communists following World War II, after having supported the Iron Guardists as well as ex-King CAROL.

2. The following biography of Subject was prepared by the U.S. State Department and represents a good summary of all material available: (OIR # 5538, 8 Oct 51, Confidential.)

MALAXA, Nicolae

Personal data: Born December 10, 1884, Husi; of Greek origin. Wife and son, Constantin, arrived in U.S. in 1948. Daughter, Irene, ("Lulu") once romantically linked with MIHAI, also in U.S. Son-in-law, George Palade, often represents MALAXA's business interests in U.S.

Languages: German, French, Greek; spoke no English at time of arrival in U.S.

Emigre Activity: A principal shareholder of Franco-American Corporation which seeks to acquire 60% participation in Roehling Steel Works, Valklingen, Saar.

Political Orientation: Will finance any movement which will serve him; supports chiefly RADESCU's group.

Location: New York; entered U.S., September 29, 1946. Came to U.S. with Romanian commercial delegation; did not return to Romania.

Citizenship: Deprived of Romanian citizenship, October 1948.

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Career:

1923	Established small locomotive repair factory, Bucharest
1928	Founded N. Malaxa Locomotive Works
1931	Member, Board of Directors, Resita
1939	Interests reorganized into: N. Malaxa Company, N. Malaxa Tubes and Steel Plants, N. Malaxa Tohamul Vechiu.
1940	Negotiated with Albert GOERING for German participation in his interests.
1941-1943	Plants expropriated on grounds of excessive profiteering on state contracts; companies, renamed "Rogifer Co.", leased to Germans
1943	"Rogifer Co." liquidated; new corporation formed in which MALAXA regained half his interests.
1945	All properties restored by decree of April 12; was awarded \$2,460,000 in compensation for rolling mill confiscated by Soviets.
1946	Member, Romanian commercial delegation to United Kingdom and United States, departed from Bucharest, June 17; Engaged in promoting plan for development of Romanian industry by joint American (represented by Kaiser-Frazer), Romanian and Soviet participation.
c.1946-48	President-Treasurer, Romanian American Trading Corporation; inoperative as result of impasse in U.S.-Romanian relations.
1947	Obtained unblocking by Treasury Department of funds totaling \$1,271,142.

Remarks:

Opportunistic and unscrupulous, MALAXA has sought to make all influential politicians his man regardless of party. Through bribery and corruption of Romania's leading political figures, he has amassed a fortune variously estimated from a few millions to half a billion. Although his power and fortune were forces to be reckoned with even during the 1920's, his big opportunity came when CAROL returned to the throne in 1930 and he succeeded in bribing his way into the royal inner circle. During the next decade he gave financial backing to the Iron Guard, while simultaneously splitting his enormous ill-gotten profits with CAROL. When CAROL was forced into exile in 1940, MALAXA drew even closer to the Iron Guard. He is said to have been the real leader of the abortive Iron Guard rebellion in 1941 for which he underwent several months' imprisonment. After the war he achieved

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one of his greatest personal victories in regaining his expropriated properties, allegedly through lavish bribery of high Communist officials. Upon arriving in the U.S. in 1946, he sought to control the Romanian Legation in Washington and reportedly paid off anyone there who could service his purpose. Since breaking with the Communist regime in 1948 (or 1947), he has been frequently mentioned as contributing financially to various emigres. His financing of General RADESCU, then Chairman of the Romanian National Committee, was exposed in an FBI report read at the Cplon trial. Some of his contributions have gone to establish scholarships for "meritorious Romanian students" in Paris.

MALAXA is personally frugal, hard working, and intelligent. A man of considerable personal charm, he prefers a very quiet home life and seldom participates in social activity.

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