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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

RADESCU, General Nicolae

OSS #41891
Caserta, 10/28/44

Subject, Chief of Staff of the Rumanian Army, will head the new Gov't. The form of his gov't will be mainly political, as men from the National Liberal and National Peasant parties will head seven departments and members of the Social Democrat and Communist parties will head five departments.

cs
Dr. SILBER, important Communist, considers subject a "nice old man who has the point of view typical of the Rumanian upper class of 20 years ago, and is without any particular significance."

(62-7-0-45)
A-45556
Sources: 2
B-2 10/27/44

cs
"Gov't reformed and sworn in 6 Dec. result last-minute change attitude Communist toward Gen. RADESCU whom they had been attacking. Most local observers say due pressure Russians who want stable gov't, continued production. Only important changes gov't Gen. RADESCU as Prime Minister and Minister Interior and Gen. NEGULESCU Minister of War, also Gen. IONSTESCU under-secretary police and Siguranta under-minister interior."

aj/af
IN-27618
12/7/44

Subject replaces SANATESCU as Premier.

OWI Intel. Digest, NUM. RADIO

mh

See State Dept photostat card on subject. Copy made 12/20/44
201-200-70

In 1945 subject made scathing denunciation of "the traitors who sold out to the occupiers, -- Anna PAUKER, PATRASCANU, etc." He succeeded in leaving Rumania by air, arrived on the island of Cyprus in the middle of June, on his way to Paris. It is said that he is the bearer of important messages and instructions from the leaders of the Rumanian opposition.

aj/af
JRX 3837
6/ /46

The "terrorist" organizations being investigated by the Ministry of Interior were encouraged by subject. See card: TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS, also M.N.R. IN 39958 P/26/46

Subject is wanted by the Rumanian police.

IN 39958
7/26/46

Sentenced in absentia to 2 yrs. imprisonment for not denouncing the plot against the state - of which he knew.

N.Y. Times
11/12/46

According to info received from the former Rumanian charge d'affaires in Lisbon (Brutus COSTE), there will soon be another high-ranking member of the Rumanian opposition in Lisbon. The reference is to Subject, Minister in the Government between the Armistice and the present GROZA gov't. Upon the advent of the present gov't., Subject fled from Rumania (June 16) and

KPL-64
9 Dec 46
CONT-2

took refuge on the island of Cyprus, and has remained there under British auspices ever since. Subject is described as a military man, not a politician, one who accepted a cabinet post only because the politicians convinced him that he was serving his country best by lending the support of his name to the movement headed by MANIU. According to source, he is a great admirer of MANIU personally, and feels that the only solution for Rumania is a government of the type offered by the Peasant Party. His purpose in coming to Lisbon is as yet undisclosed. The formalities of his exit from Cyprus and his entrance into Portugal are being handled by the former charge mentioned above. So far he has been unsuccessful in making the necessary arrangements, but the Portuguese Foreign Ministry, nervous about the forthcoming discussion of Portugal in the UNO, has asked him to keep the matter secret to the utmost.

mpd

RADESCU's arrival (KPL-249 of 29 March) has changed aspect. Local Rumanian situation to extent that no answer recur KPL-198 of 27 Feb causing embarrassment and may eventually strain relations. Definite answer would avoid this. Please advise.

mpd

Ref KPL-198. Extension pouch facilities to COSTE inexpedient. Ref #LISB 014 (IN 12153). Desire info on RADESCU's activities and contacts. Does nephew Barbu NICULESCU accompany him. RADESCU spent many months Cyprus. Probably British controlled.

mpd

q/mf
IN 12153
9 Apr 47
014

#WASH 1275
11 Apr 47
To

Document is in our files.

mh

Dec. 6, 1944

Resigned with his entire cabinet, 2/28/45.

ca

PRESS SURVEY
New York Times, 3/1/45

Subject asked and received refuge from the British Embassy in Bucharest. He was under attack from Moscow, and sought refuge from his political opponents.

mh

PRESS SURVEY, 3/1/45
N.Y. Times.

Rumanian government has assured British that if subject is released he will not be further molested. This comes in response to British request. They also agree to call off secret police which has watched British Legation since subject has been there. Both agreements promised in writing, and British have requested similar assurance from Russian Gen. VINOGRADOV, who has promised same. British will release subject on receipt of letter.

mh

q/mf
IS-10845, B-2
Bucharest
4/20/45

Subject returned home from his refuge in the British mission headquarters on 5/8/45, according to TATARESCU. The government and ACC assured him that he had nothing to fear and TATARESCU asked him not to undertake any political activity for several weeks and not to see MANIU or BRATTIANU.

SC

q/mf
A-56232, GR-581
Rumania, Z, C-3
5/10/45

RADESCU, Nicolae (General)

Card-4

PORTUGAL

Ref #WASH 1275; RADESCU accompanied by Barbu NICULESCU. RADESCU, ^{Niculescu} NAFESCU (sic), COSTE driving to Switzerland next week RADESCU to see physician in Lausanne. ^{copy} However believe they will also contact GAFENCU. Upon return RADESCU plans to remain in Lisbon for an undetermined period. Three British sources report: a) RADESCU journey here facilitated by their aid and also assisted in obtaining police permission to stay. b) Both head British SIS and CE received definite instructions not to contact RADESCU/ c) Considered him a political back number and also of no intelligence interest. d) By giving him assistance mentioned above consider him fully paid off and only interest now purely objective. mpd

IN 12603
16 Apr 47
022

Control

Subject is expected in Lisbon 20 March 47. The preceding week he spent in Madrid. mpd

KPL-249
29 Mar 47

When Brutus COSTE leaves for Switzerland to join the inner circle of GAFENCU's aides and advisers, plans are now to have his place in Lisbon taken by Dr. Gheorghe MUNTEANU, former Press Attache in Madrid and Lisbon; these plans may be changed if either Subject or FARCASANU decides to stay in Lisbon, in which case MUNTEANU would probably assist either or both. mpd

copy
KPL-231
19 Mar 47

Subject, former Rumanian premier who was replaced by GROZA, is en route to Lisbon. At present he is in France where he will remain for perhaps another week. arriving in Lisbon before the end of March. mpd

KPL-230
19 Mar 47

RADESCU, Nicolae

Card-5

Since subject's arrival, efforts have been made to cultivate Barbu NICULESCU, who is subject's personal secretary and consequently better informed concerning the party's activities. NICULESCU is source of following:

KPL-341
23 May 47
F-2

Control

Source seemed anxious to clarify the position of subject's party vis a vis the British. He explained that on 6 Mar 45, subject was ousted as Premier of Rumania on orders by VISHINSKI. British offered subject asylum in Br. Embassy. Subject accepted and was under Br. protection until about 20 Jun 45. British then told him there was no danger and 2 or 3 days after he left Br. Embassy in Bucharest was arrested in his home. ^{then} attached to Am. Mission in Rumania, asked to see subject. Shortly after their meeting, subject was released by authorities, but promptly put under house arrest when left Rumania. NICULESCU was arrested and upon his release in Feb. 46, got in touch with subject and they began to plan their escape. On 15 June, a successful escape was made by plane. Destination was Turkey, but they were forced to stop in Cyprus. The British authorities received them cordially and due to plane difficulties they stayed. British informed that they would make arrangements for them to leave Cyprus in few days. After much difficulty, subject got in touch with his followers in France. Subject and NICULESCU received their Portuguese visas without British aid and left for Marseilles by boat, went to Paris, Madrid and finally Lisbon. In Paris, they were contacted by British and told that Br. Embassy in Lisbon would get in touch with them on arrival. NICULESCU stated that the only British representatives they had seen since

their arrival in Lisbon have been Col. R.H.C. Drummond-Wolff, the MA, and N.C. Trench, 2nd Sec.

Comment: It is highly probably that Brutus COSTE arranged for subject's and NICULESCU's Portuguese visas.

ojd

Attached to doc. is a biographical sketch of subject, prepared by the general himself. Also attached is a summary of it in English, prepared for the American Ambassador in Lisbon. 3 Jul 47

Following facts from biography: General does not give date or place of birth. Admits to being 70. Entered World War I with rank of major. By 1918 had rank of colonel. 1918-25 in service of royal household, adjutant to Queen Marie. 1926-28 Military Attache in London, became general. 1928-33 in command of a division; active service. 1933-40 left active service, took up political activity in support of General AVERESCU. 1940-44 on Carol's abdication tried to persuade ANTONESCU to alter tendencies opposed to will of people; started a strong anti-German propaganda campaign. Sent to concentration camp, remained there a year, and released at insistence of MANIU and BRATIANU; had to leave country, going to Great Britain to engage in propaganda. 1944-46 after armistice recalled to army as Chief of General Staff; accepted only at insistence of Soviet authorities. Two months after armistice asked to form a Government to replace the Armistice Gov't of Gen. SANATESCU. Despite opposition from Soviet authorities subject's Gov't lasted until Mar 46, at which time Vyshinski came from Moscow to order King LIIHAI to replace Gov't with one whose orientation was closer to Moscow and proposed GROZA as successor to subject. 1946-47 accepted asylum in Brit. Leg in Bucharest for 2 months; this followed by house arrest decreed by Soviets. June 1946 escaped to Cyprus; came to Lisbon 2 April 47.

Subject was delayed en route to Portugal in Madrid and arrived in Lisbon on the morning of 2 April. To the Rumanians in Lisbon his coming is a happy event, representing a hope of possible change. Altho Subject is a man of seventy and never a great politician, he carries with him the position he once held. He will hardly be called upon to offer leadership; he is rather slated to become the point around which the more active Rumanian oppositionists can rally. He came to Lisbon prepared to stay, bringing with him a man about 35-40 years old who has served as his personal secretary for years. (NICULESCU) Brutus COSTE, as the leader of the Rumanian oppositionists in Lisbon, invited the few Rumanians in Lisbon to meet Subject at a cocktail party on the afternoon of 2 April.

mpd

Subject's secretary, NICULESCU, was prior to the advent of the Antonescu gov't a career foreign service officer. When Antonescu came to power he returned to Bucharest immediately. Shortly afterwards he accepted his present situation as Subject's secretary. NICULESCU contributed a great deal towards Subject's escape from Bucharest.

mpd

Unofficial Conference Rumanian exiles Geneva 6 to 9 May with GAFENCU, DAVILA, TILIA, CARANFIL, NICULESCU BUZESTI and VISOLIANU, Subject unable to get Swiss visa and followed proceedings from Annency, France. Result of Conference unanimous support of MANIU.

mpd

KPL-258
7 Apr 47

KPL-260
8 Apr 47

KPL
IN 14847
18 May 47

RADESCU, Nicolae

Card 6

• KPL-458
30 July 1947
B-1

On 25 July subject requested a visa for himself and suite (one secretary, Barbu NICULESCU; and two aides, Brutus COSTE and Gheorghe MUNTEANU). When subject arrived in Portugal in April, he intended to stay as long as the Portuguese authorities would allow him. His change in plans is due to two causes:

- a. The ready acceptance granted by State Dept. officials to Ferenc NAGY, whose position in Hungary RADESCU likens to his own in Rumania, and
- b. The recently unleashed drive in Rumania proper against oppositionist elements, including the jailing of MANIU.

hft

Opinion of RADESCU Group towards OIE Rumanian Language Broadcasts.

• KPL-26
18 Aug 47

RADESCU feels that the OIE broadcasts in Rumanian are defeating their own purpose because announcers are trying to present the present Rumanian Government as a government in accordance with the Rumanian people's wishes. This has made subject's followers feel that the announcers, NEACOE and CEHAN, must be classified as communists.

hft

(suppl to KPL-458) In addition to the names mentioned above, subject's request to take his group to the U.S. includes applications for the following, not in Portugal: Grigore Niculescu BUZESTI, Constantin VISOIANU, Mihai FARCASANU, Augustin POPA. It is believed the Rumanians can qualify for a non-immigrant visa and will probably leave in November if they get the visa.

• WPLA-4
18 Aug 47

hft

The imminent arrival of former King Carol II will cause embarrassment for subject. They know each other well, but have always been political enemies and subject dislikes him personally. It was due to the General's open objection to the King's dictatorial measures that he was forced out of the army; RADESCU will not forgive this. News has reached Lisbon from Rio that Carol wants to see subject while both are in Lisbon. It is believed that the General will refuse to see the King.

• WPL-28
19 Sept 47
B-2

hft

A report from Rumania to subject says the communists, disturbed by the world reaction to Petkov sentence, plan to avoid possibility of similar reaction by not allowing trial to continue. A demonstration is being arranged to storm the courtroom, during which MANIU will be killed. Subj., NICULESCU and COSTE sailing for NY today on S.S. Nea Hellas.

• WPL-28
30 Oct. 47
141

hft

Gen. RADESCU may become head of Rumanian Resistance Committee; would receive position solely because of having been Prime Minister. Guidance and council would be furnished by NICOLESCU-BUZESTI, CRETZIANU and VISOIANU. Leaders of the Rumanian resistance are aware that subject possesses no political ability and is impulsive to an extreme.

Pouch from FBP
to Lisbon
6 Nov. 47

st

(N. J. HERESCU card for rpts on activities of RADESCU groups in Europe) HERESCU was introduced the day of RADESCU's departure to US as his representative in Lisbon.

4/1/47
• IN-27924
147
8 Nov-47

hft

RADESCU, Nicolae

In July, GAFENCU, MARANFIL, TILLEA, RADESCU sent Michael messages telling him he should leave Rumania at any cost, anytime, and not return.

hft

Ex-King Carol spoke highly of RADESCU's character and integrity but said "he is very old".

hft

State Doc.
31 Oct. 47
no. 239

Stefan GEORGESCU OLENIN, Iron Guardist, came to Lisbon during November to effect an agreement with subj and his group. Since subj had left Portugal, he arranged a meeting with GEORGESCU said that only the Iron Guard could give subj the necessary internal support to bring about a successful revolution to drive out communism from Rumania; until such time as a revolution could be staged he could offer RADESCU security in communication with Rumania and a means of ingress and egress for secret agents. His view is that, despite the incompatibility between the totalitarian cast of the Iron Guard and the democratic principles which RADESCU's group supported, everybody interested in the recovery of Rumanian independence should work together.

hft

The hopes RADESCU had, when he left Portugal, of presenting a united Rumanian opposition, which would be almost the equivalent of a government-in-exile, have not been realized, and he and those members of his suite who left Lisbon with him are very discouraged. There is disagreement within the leadership of the opposition.

hft

RADESCU, Nicolae

Subject, Rumanian, born at Bucharest on 11 March 1876, army officer, was granted a U.S. visa to come here for one year on business. Issued non-immigrant visa no. 55 on 21 Aug. 1947. VEJARANO and NICULESCU were also granted visas that day.

hft

Vintila BRATIANU, nephew of BRATIANU who is the leader of the National Liberal Party, escaped from Rumania and went to Paris. There, one of his first acts was to seek out the representatives of the RADESCU group and ask to become a member. Subject interprets this action as showing clearly that now all active opposition to the present government is concentrated within his group.

hft

Niculescu says there has been an agreement among subject's followers to establish a governing committee which could be changed over at will to a government-in-exile. RADESCU is the chairman of the committee and among the other members are TILLEA (London), CARANFIL (Paris), GAFENCU and NICULESCU-BUZEANU in Switzerland.

hft

Shortly after subject received his US visa, he received an invitation from the British govt to go to the U.K. He flatly refused and interpreted it as a gesture to regain his favor as he was not pleased with the treatment given him by the British while he was in Cyprus.

hft

copy
2-18-2023
50
13 Nov 47

copy
WPL-85
B-0

WPLA-115
17 Dec. 47

copy
WPLA-10
25 Aug 47
visa list

copy
WPL-21
12 Sept 47

WPL-27
18 Sept 47
B-2

WPLA-20

RADESCU, Nicolae

Card 8

IN-34711

186
rec. 48

Subj still in Paris, as unable to get Swiss visa. [] may go to Paris to consult with subj and then proceed to Switzerland to see Michael on subj's behalf.
hft

Purpose of Radescu's trip is to contact Michael, explain situation vis-a-vis himself and other Romanian opposition leaders in exile and have Michael decide what course they should follow. Hopes all groups will then abide by Michael's decision. Radescu intends to return to the U.S.A. as soon as this matter is settled.

IN 34903

183

rec. 48
[201-235-38]

hft

Grigore NICULESCU-BUZESTI has agreed to fall in line with other members of the Rumanian Opposition Group. Composition of committee includes among others RADESCU, NICULESCU-BUZESTI, GAFENCU, Viorel TILIA and DAVILA.

of/inf.
IN-35077

188

12 Feb. 48
B-2

hft

On 10 Feb. 1948 subj wrote source from Paris that agreement had been reached among the leaders of the Rumanian opposition group abroad. Previously 13 Feb. 48 the greatest barrier had been the attitude of NICULESCU-BUZESTI, who insisted on trying to dominate the formation of an action committee which would operate under subj's leadership. The committee agreed on has no name yet and will take no independent action without previous consultation with Washington, London and Paris. The committee is ready to act as an action group, resistance group or a government-in-exile in

WPL-135

B-2

RADESCU, Nicolae

Card 9

WPL-168

15 March 48

B-2

NICULESCU-BUZESTI, although he had planned to return to the U.S. has gone to Cannes where he is biding his time and will try to outwait King Michael's true followers, such as subj, and those mentioned in cable 195 of 4 March 48.

hft

Alexander TOTIESCU, Rumanian Charge d'Affaires in Lisbon, is in touch with Subj and hopes to be appointed representative here of the Rumanian Govt-in-Exile if and when it is set up.

11 March 48

State cable

Lisbon

hft

Affidavit drawn up by Subject on March 18, 1948 in New York on behalf of W. Malaxa. * See document in Malaxa's file - Rumanian desk files.

Memo to Lisbon, dated 6 Nov. '47, states "Genl. Nicolae Radescu (Qv) may become head of Rum. Resistance Committee. Radescu would receive position solely because he has occupied the position of Prime Minister. He will not be permitted to act independently, but will be more or less a figure-head. Guidance and counsel will be furnished by such individuals as Grigore Nicolescu-Buzesti (QV), Alexander Crezianu and Constantin Visolam (QV)." Source to above given as person who occupies high position in Rumanian resistance movement.

WPLV-72,

6 Nov. '47

Source: Nicolescu

Buzesti.

Source

to above given as person who occupies high position in Rumanian resistance movement.

According to "Curierul Roman," opposition paper published in Paris. Translation of periodical issue #1, May '48. Gen. RADESCU promised ELIADE, Mircea, he would arrange for scholarships for "meritorious Rumanian students" in Paris. (Feb. 1948) On the general's return from N.Y. he stated scholarships of 6,000 fr. each had been granted to 20 students. **NOTE:** Source claims ~~xxx~~ ELIADE acts as paymaster for Nicolae MALAXA who has contributed the funds mentioned above. (April 1948)

Addresses for past five years, given by RADESCU on Immigration and Naturalization document information (12 July 1948 - A-7057911)
Clopotarii Vechi 4, Bucharest
Pedre Antonio Vieira 17, Lisbon Menandrou 5, Nicosia, Cyprus
164 E. 72 St., N.Y.C.
2501 Calvert St. N.W., Wash. D.C.

*** For excellent and lengthy biography of RADESCU, see

MEMA-07958
20 December 1951
Source: PATCH and UNISON

Subj. led the split in 1950 in the Rumanian Nat'l Committee in the U.S. which CRETZIANU (qv) and VISOLIANU (qv) headed the Committee of CRETZIANU and VISOLIANU has the support of King MIHAI (qv) who is antagonistic toward Subj.

State Disp. #3470
from: Paris
4 June 1951
(29-8-3-263)

RADESCU, Nicolae

accordance with the advice it receives from the three great powers. Members are:

Radescu, who as a former premier is the undisputed head,		
Gefencu	N. Herescu <i>Par</i>	M. Eliade <i>Par</i>
Tilea	Antoniade	A. Cretianu
Visolianu	A. Popa	Badaru
Niculescu-Buzesti	V. Bratianu	Brutus Coste <i>U.S.</i>
Caranfil	M. Farcasanu	Cornel Biamu

hft

Radescu is en route to the U.S. by ship. He will make a statement when he arrives supporting Michael's declaration (Michael plans to make a declaration in Paris early in March). This was agreed when subj visited Switzerland.

hft

Ex-king Carol thinks any Rumanian govt in exile should be broad - not exclusive, and that is why he is so distrustful of RADESCU's entourage. Carol said the obvious starting point for any govt in exile was subj, who was the last legal prime minister of Rumania. But subj has serious disadvantages - his very advanced age and being surrounded by persons whose motives are open to question. These are listed with comments by Carol.

hft

• TM-26390
194
3 March 48
B-2

all info IN-38144
State Lisbon
15 March 48

**POOR QUALITY DOCUMENT
SEE [REDACTED] FOLDER FOR HARDCOPY**

RADESCU, General p.2 **PORTUGAL ROMANIA** *off/inf.* GRX-624
 AH/002, MI-5
 Bucharest, 3/31/45

While Subject was at the British Embassy, taking refuge there, NKVD agents were constantly on the lookout for him with the intent to kidnap him. If the plot succeeded, Teohari GEORGESCU (qv) had arrangements for shipping him to Moscow.

mh
 See document.

dlk
 See document.

st
 See document.

Prime Minister of Rumania, Dec. 1944 to Mar. 1945. Arrested for violation of fiscal regulations. See document. *JZX 5744*
off/inf. 1/4/46

See document for biography of subject. Subject is free now, and it is rumored that he has secret meetings with MANIU and BRATIANU. *off/inf.* GRX 1371
 4/16/46

RADESCU, Nicolae (Gen.) card 10. **ROMANIA**

Subject died in New York City on 16 May '53. Subject asked that his successor as president of the "League of Free Rumanians"(qv) be chosen from the following old friends: Grigore GAFENCU, Gen. Ion GHEORGHE, Mihail FARCASANU, Vitarel V. TILIA(all carded) The following(carded) individuals were remembered in Subject's will and appreciation for their services were mentioned:

a) In the United States:
 POPESCU-BOTOSANI, Gheorghe
 CARSTOIU, Ion
 IVANOVICI, D.(Col.)
 MUSI, Vasile

b) in Europe:
 BUSUIOCIANU, Alexandru
 COMANICIU, Horatiu
 CONSTANTINESCU, Constantin
 DUMITRESCU, Vasile
 ELIADE, Mircea
 MATESCU-FRANCU, Alexandru

NICULESCU, Barbu
 PALADE, George (Dr.)
 TEODORU, Constantin (Dr.)
 VALEANU, Caius

ZAHARIA, Florin
 ISOPESCU, Claudiu
 MANZATTI, Nellu(MANZATU)
 NITESCU, Traian
 POPESCU, Oreste
 RAUT, Gheorghe
 SCHEINER, Herwart

Nicolae MALAIA(qv) is given special mention by Subject for services rendered. Report contains details of litigation in the Swiss Courts pertaining to a fund of money claimed by the Rumanian Govt., Constantin VISOIANU(qv), Alexandru CHETZIANU(qv) and Subject; also contains developments in the factional disputes among the Rumanian emigres set up.

RADESCU, Nicolae (General) *off/inf.* GRX-624
 AH/002, MI-5
 Bucharest, 3/31/45

Rumanian. former Premier, head of Rumanian National Committee. Rather exhausted physically, has limited intellectual talents, equally limited political experience. Does not enjoy much prestige among members of Committee. Various factors may be seen him appear to have no personal resources. Does not appear fitted to accept any post in U.S. to earn money. Is not in immediate need. Does not know English. (Registry file 100-134-5.61)

Rumanian President of Association of Free Rumanians in U.S. (5008-32977, 5 Jan. 1951). Political affiliation: Non-Party. Former President of Rumanian National Council, now dissolved. Monthly stipend paid directly by NCFE: \$400.00 (NCFE). (See bio. data file)