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TO : Chief, EE

Attn:

DATE: 6 February 1952

FROM : Chief of Station, Frankfurt *e/jst*

SUBJECT: GENERAL— Operational

SPECIFIC— Congress of Chiefs of Catholic Missions for Rumanian Refugees

Attached for your information is a report Subject Congress, prepared by from information submitted by One copy of a photograph of the participants is also attached.

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Report on Congress of Chiefs of Catholic Missions
for Rumanian Refugees held in Rome

1. The information requested below was procured from [redacted] in Munich on 22 January 1952. [redacted] had obtained the information from Rev. Dr. Ion Florian MUELLER who had attended the congress and whom he had met in Innsbruck on his return therefrom.
2. As previously reported, the congress was held in Rome between 12 or 13 and 16 January 1952, under the chairmanship of (Msgr) John D. KIRK. It was attended by the following Catholic clergymen:

- Rev. Fr. MARGINEANU, of Rome;
- Bonaventura MORARU, a high-ranking Franciscan Monk of Rome;
- Rev. Dr. Ion Florian MUELLER of Salzburg, Chief of the Catholic Mission for Rumanian Refugees in Austria;
- A Spanish Jesuit priest who has been trained by the Vatican to officiate religious services for Rumanians - both Roman and Greek-Catholics. He speaks Rumanian perfectly and has special permission from the Vatican to officiate also for Greek-Orthodox Rumanians;
- Rev. Carol CAPROS, who has just resigned as Head of the Catholic Mission in Paris;
- Rev. Flaviu POPAN, Chief of the Catholic Mission in Munich;
- Msgr. Alois TANTU of Rome;
- Rev. Fr. BARBAT of Rome. He is a Rumanian from Transylvania and lives at the Greek College of the Vatican.
- Rev. Octavian BARLEA, Chief of the Rumanian Section of the Catholic Mission in Germany;
- Rev. Don Alex. BURCEA of Rome;
- Msgr. John D. KIRK, Chief of the Catholic Mission in Spain, residing in Madrid;
- Rev. Fr. BARLEA (no relation to Octavian) of Madrid, Spain. He is a Rumanian from the Banat.
- Rev. Georges COSMA of Rome, Head of the Catholic Mission for Rumanian Refugees in Italy;
- Rev. Fr. CARANTAN, of Paris;

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(Rev. Em. ABON of Paris, Member of the Executive Committee of the National Peasant Party;
(Rev. Em. MURCKA of Rome;
(Rev. Em. POPA of Rome, who works at Radio Vatican;
(Rev. PANTALEONATI of Rome, Rumanian commentator at Radio Vatican and member of the IS of the Vatican;
An Italian priest formerly of Craiova, Rumania, presently of Rome.

The participants in the congress appear in this order (from right to left) in the attached photograph, with (Cardinal) Alexandre TISSERANT in the middle. TISSERANT is head of the Congregation of the Oriental Church of the Vatican. The picture was taken when the participants in the congress visited the cardinal during the congress. The two clergymen wearing glasses, M's U, and appearing on the second row in the far left of the picture are two Belgian Jesuit priests who are in the same category as the Spanish Jesuit priest mentioned above.

3. The congress discussed the following topics:

- a. Spiritual assistance to the Rumanian refugees;
- b. Material assistance to the Rumanian refugees;
- c. Attitude of the Catholic Missions for the assistance of Rumanian refugees toward the various Rumanian political groups.

Concerning the spiritual assistance, Rev. CAPROS and Msgr. TANTU proposed to give assistance only to Catholics so as not to come in conflict with the Rumanian Orthodox Church. The congress decided the opposite, however, namely, that spiritual assistance shall be given by the Catholic Missions to the Orthodox, too, if they request it or if there are no Orthodox priests in the centers where the missions are located. It was also decided that the sacraments should not be given to the Orthodox, except in cases of emergency.

Regarding the material assistance, the congress decided that it shall be given without discrimination of faith to all the Rumanian refugees, whether they be Catholic or Orthodox (no other faiths were mentioned).

The congress voiced criticism of certain missions, particularly of the work of the Mission in Italy (located in Rome), headed by (Rev. Georges) CAPROS. He was taken to task for having failed, up to the present, to found a Catholic Mission in Trieste. Also, for not having attended to the assistance of Italian repatriates from Rumania, most of whom are married to Rumanian nationals. It was mentioned that the majority of the Italian repatriates are so completely Rumanianised that in a great number of cases the only Italian characteristic which they still possessed were their Italian passports.

All the chiefs of missions pointed to the inadequacy of their funds and requested rises in their budgets. Msgr. KIRI promised to approach the National Catholic Welfare Conference and try to obtain additional funds.

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KIRK spoke to the congress about his plans and achievements in Spain. He stated that he wishes to concentrate in Spain all the intellectual elites of the Rumanian emigration.

Field Comment: [] states that the next transport for Spain will include, according to Rev. MYELLER, such "intellectual elites" as Traian POIU of Salzburg, a Legionary Commandant, and Alexandru RANDA, an Austrian Legionary and a Protestant. This transport is scheduled to include approximately 40 "elites", 12 of whom will be Volksgerman colonists (not refugees) and Volksgerman students from Graz University.

Concerning the political attitude of the Catholic Missions, Msgr. KIRK said that the missions should stand aloof from political groups and parties. He quoted Cardinal TISSERANT that "in yesterday's Rumania the Catholic Church was too attached to the National Peasant Party, so much so that at times this led to confusion; that from this close association the Church had always lost. This situation will not be repeated, especially in exile, where the Catholic Church should take care of every refugee, indiscriminately, even of the Orthodox, who have almost no priests abroad. The Catholic Church will not favor the Iron Guard, despite the fact that the guard shows great sympathy to Catholicism".

After this "clarifying quotation", MYELLER and ZAPARTAN accused CAPROS of having persecuted the Legionaries (Iron Guardists) in Paris and of having turned the Catholic Mission in Paris into a National Peasant Party Headquarters. CAPROS voiced again his resignation as head of the mission - on which no action has yet been taken - on the grounds that he could no longer stand the atmosphere of intrigue and scandal in Paris. Concerning the accusation brought against him, CAPROS said that he had helped and offered hospitality in Paris to all kinds of needy refugees from Rumania, including Jews.

CAPROS' succession was discussed by the congress. MYELLER proposed Rev. Octavian BARLEA, but no decision was made.

KIRK requested that a Rumanian priest be appointed to serve under him in the mission in Madrid, in place of the Spanish ORDUNA and MURILLO, and suggested Alexandru MIRCEA and Pamfil CARMATIU. No decision was made.

4. The participants in the congress decided to meet again in Rome at the end of January 1952, in order to find solutions for the problems which had been brought up. It would then be decided what to do with the Catholic Mission in Austria, located in Salzburg, as MYELLER, its chief, intends to close it up after he will have directed several more transports of refugees to Spain.

5. [] is under the impression that MYELLER would like to take over BARLEA's position in Germany, with a particular interest in Trieste, i.e., he would like to control from Germany the mission which would be opened in Trieste. [] suspects that this interest is in conjunction with the channeling of Legionary refugees or prospective Legionary converts into Spain for increasing the Iron Guardist ranks there.

According to [] Rev. Octavian BARLEA, head of the Rumanian Section of the Catholic Mission in Germany, has been very interested lately in historical research and might resign his position soon. BARLEA is presently visiting libraries and gathering material for writing a book on the history of the Rumanian Church (Catholic and Orthodox).

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