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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

### SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

CLEVELAND

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT <b>CLEVELAND</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>7-1-52</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>6/5,6,12,13,18, 19,20,25/52</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>JOSEPH W. MONTEFIORE mls</b>
TITLE <b>CHANGED: VICHEL TRIFA, wa., Bishop Valerian</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - RU</b>	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS <p>Informant advised that subject was head of League of National Students of Rumanian Iron Guard from Oct. 1940 to Jan. 1941. Subject reported prominent member of terroristic faction in Rumanian Iron Guard. Judge GRIM, U.S.D.C., Philadelphia, issued injunction on 4-25-52 restraining the consecration and ordination of subject as Bishop of Rumanian Orthodox Church of America. TRIFA consecrated Bishop on 4-27-52 in Philadelphia. Subject cited for criminal contempt of court on 4-30-52, by Judge GRIM. Pending litigation in U.S.D.C., Cleveland, concerning Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate versus TRIFA et al. TRIFA presently residing 6901 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland, O.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- P -</p> <p>The title in this case is being changed to reflect the additional alias Bishop Valerian since the subject is known by this name since his consecration as Bishop on April 27, 1952.</p> <p>Confidential Informant T-1, of known reliability, advised on April 4, 1952 that during the period of October, 1940 to January 21, 1941, the party in power in Rumania was</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
5 - Bureau (105-14006)(RM) 1 - INS, Cleveland 2 - Chicago (105-951) 2 - Detroit (105-478) 2 - New York (105-3634)		2 - Philadelphia (105-968)(RM) 2 - San Diego (105-244)(RM) 1 - Washington Field (105-2153)(RM) 3 - Cleveland (105-419)	
<b>SECURITY INFORMATION - SECRET</b>		This is an FBI Investigative report and contains no recommendations for issuance or disapproval.	

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the Garda De Fer (Iron Guard) or commonly referred to as the Guardist. This group was headed by HORIA SIMA and was composed of three parts as follows:

1. The Professional or Intelligentsia, called in Rumania "Rasiati", headed by V. IASINSKI.
2. Students or League of National (or Christian) Students, headed by VIOREL TRIFA.
3. Worker or Working Body, headed by PETRU GROZA (not identical with the present premier, PETRU GROZA).

Informant advised that ANTONESCU and SIMA soon began quarreling and this finally resulted in the revolution in Rumania on January 21, 1941. T-1 stated that the quarrel between ANTONESCU and SIMA resulted in the issuance of a manifest by VIOREL TRIFA on January 19th or 20th, 1941. This manifest was an attack against England, the Jews and the Antonescu Government. The TRIFA Manifest was widely distributed and there followed a revolution on January 21, 1941. ANTONESCU, backed by the German Army, won out and retained power in Rumania. T-1 said that TRIFA fled the country.

T-1 also stated that during the October, 1940 to January 21, 1941 period, TRIFA appeared in the Iron Guard uniform with SIMA. T-1 is of the opinion that pictures of TRIFA in the Iron Guard uniform should exist.

T-1 also stated that TRIFA sought refuge in Italy either through use of a false passport or where he obtained a false passport. This passport may have been Albanian. T-1 stated that TRIFA did not use his own name, but used an alias during this time.

Confidential Informant T-2, another Government Agency which conducts security type investigations, advised on December 18, 1951 that VIOREL TRIFA was a leading Iron Guardist in Rumania and is reported to have been a prominent member of the Terroristic Faction within that organization. T-2 also advised that there are indications that the subject is still involved in internal Iron Guard Politics and that his candidacy for Bishop in the United States has

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been fostered by the Iron Guard operating in its clandestine state.

T-2 also advised that the subject was president of the National Union of Rumanian Christian Students in Chisinau, Rumania, an organization of the Iron Guard while this group was still in power.

Information from various sources indicate that the subject participated in large scale massacre of Jews and Masons in Rumania during that period, notably the burning and looting of the Dudesti and Vacaresti sections of Bucharest in 1941.

T-2 also advised that a report of a speech made by the subject on January 19, 1941 before a group of university students appeared in the January 21st issue of the Rumanian newspaper, "Universul". According to the article, the subject appeared in his role of president of the National Union of Rumanian Christian Students and the meeting opened with the singing of various Legionnaire (Iron Guard) songs, after which TRIFA made his speech. In the beginning of his speech, TRIFA points to an alleged "English-Judeo-Masonic Combination for the Conquest of Nations". TRIFA then goes on to state: "In Italy a man has brought up a youth, the youth has grown up to be a movement, and the movement has created an empire.....and this youth of the duce soon received a friendly hand from across the Alps, National Socialist Germany had arrived. A painter with his healthy spirit is raised to confront Judaism and Masonry from London. Thus has appeared the idea of race.....In the new European community, each participates according to his power.....Because of the Legionnaire Movement, Rumania is part of the new system.....".

Confidential Informant T-3, who is considered reliable by T-4, another Governmental Agency, advised on February 6, 1952 that the subject was elected Archbishop of the Rumanian Orthodox Church in the United States in July, 1951, the election taking place in the United States. T-3 stated that at that time the subject had not yet been installed since the installation had been postponed from time to time.

T-3 made available a letter received on December 11, 1951 from T-5, of unknown reliability, but who supposedly knew the subject

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while the subject was in Rumania. T-5 stated in his letter that he had heard that a new Bishop named VIOREL TRIFA had been elected. T-5 described VIOREL TRIFA as a Legionnaire Beast (Iron Guardist) and the one who instigated the January, 1941 rebellion.

T-3 stated that the subject came to the United States about two and one half years ago as a displaced person and it is T-3's belief that in view of TRIFA'S well known political ideology and anti-semitism that disclosure of TRIFA'S presence in the United States would cause possible political repercussions.

T-6, of unknown reliability, but who is in the position to give valuable information concerning the subject, advised T-4 on April 8, 1952 that the group backing TRIFA for consecration to the Bishopric of the Rumanian Orthodox Church first went to the Greek Archbishop MICHAEL in New York City to seek Greek support for the consecration of TRIFA. T-6 stated that Archbishop MICHAEL refused his support and referred TRIFA to the Russian Church. T-6 believed that the real reason for the Greek refusal was that they could not afford to antagonize the patriarch of Moscow.

T-6 further advised that the TRIFA group requested support from the Syrian Church, but this church refused to become involved in the matter.

T-6 further stated that the TRIFA Group then went to METROPOLITAN LEONTY of the Russian Church and presented this question to his Council of Bishops. The council agreed to assist at the consecration provided that TRIFA after his ordination would become a Bishop within the Council of Bishops within the Russian Church and that the Rumanian Church would pay a certain amount of money to the Russian Church and also submit a report of their activities every six months to the Russian Church. T-6 said that these conditions became known to Bishop Moldovan's Group who notified Patriarch JUSTINIAN in Rumania, who in turn notified ALEXEI in Moscow. T-6 said that ALEXEI protested to LEONTY and everything was cancelled. T-6 said that the TRIFA Group then went to Ukrainian Metropolitan Theodorovich of Cynwyd, a suburb of Philadelphia. THEODOROVICH presented the question of consecration to his consistory and they agreed to assist at the consecration.

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T-6 stated that TRIFA had never been ordained but possessed the Degree of Doctor of Theology. T-6 said that TRIFA must first be ordained a subdeacon, then a deacon, then a priest and finally become an archimandrite. T-6 further stated that the date of consecration was to be on April 27, 1952.

The April 22, 1952 issue of the Rumanian language newspaper, "America", which is published in Cleveland, Ohio, contained an article entitled, "The Consecration of Theologian VIOREL TRIFA Into Bishop". This article announced that the subject was to be consecrated to Bishop on Saturday, April 26, 1952. The article also reflected that the consecration ceremony was to be performed by the Ukrainian Metropolitan IOAN assisted by a group of Bishops and was to be held in the Rumanian Orthodox Church, Descent of the Holy Ghost, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

T-7, of known reliability, advised on April 25, 1952 that Judge GRIM, United States District Court, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, issued an injunction on April 25, 1952 ordering VIOREL TRIFA, IOAN TRUZA, Metropolitan IOAN and others to restrain from conducting the consecration and ordination of the subject as Bishop of the Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate of America on April 26th and 27th, 1952 in Philadelphia.

T-7 further advised on April 26, 1952 that the United States Marshal served the injunction but the Rumanian Orthodox Church officials stated that they were going through with the ordination of TRIFA since that service was not good because the Plaintiff ANDREI MOLDOVAN failed to put up bond.

The Philadelphia, Pennsylvania newspaper on April 29, 1952 carried the story that Bishop TRIFA had been installed despite Federal Court ban. The article further states that Judge GRIM issued an order restraining the ordination of TRIFA on a petition from Bishop ANDREI MOLDOVAN of Detroit, Michigan. The article also reflected that a court hearing was scheduled for April 30, 1952.

The April 30, 1952 issue of the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin reflects that United States District Court Judge GRIM cited VIOREL TRIFA of the Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate of America for criminal contempt of

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court. The judge also cited others and the article states that the judge gave the defendants ten days to answer the citation.

The May 4, 1952 issue of the "Solia", a Rumanian Language newspaper published in Cleveland, Ohio, carried an article which reflected that on Sunday, April 27, 1952, in the Rumanian Orthodox Church of the Descent of the Holy Ghost in Philadelphia, the Reverend Archimandrite VIOREL TRIFA was consecrated into Bishop and will henceforth be known as Bishop VALERIAN.

T-8, of known reliability, advised in June, 1951 that the case of the Rumanian Orthodox Missionary Episcopate of America through his Grace Bishop ANDREI MOLDOVAN vs. VIOREL TRIFA, IOAN TRUTZA and others was filed in the Federal District Court, Cleveland, Ohio on December 19, 1950. This suit was for the purpose of obtaining control of church funds and properties and the church newspaper, "Solia".

T-9, of known reliability, advised on June 9, 1952 that the pending litigation of the law suit brought by MOLDOVAN in the United States District Court, Cleveland, Ohio will have its final hearing on the merits of the case on June 29, 1952. T-9 further advised that the hearing will be before Judge EMERICH B. FREED of the United States District Court, Cleveland, Ohio. T-9 also advised that there was a conference between attorneys of both sides and Judge FREED on June 3, 1952 and the attorneys related to the Judge that they hope that the case would be decided soon, because the MOLDOVAN faction was going to hold a Congress and Election of Church Officials at the Vatra, Grass Lake, Michigan on July 4th, 5th and 6th, 1952. T-9 also stated that the attorneys said that the Anti-MOLDOVAN faction led by VIOREL TRIFA and IOAN TRUTZA are also planning to hold a Congress and Election at the Vatra on the same dates as mentioned above. The attorneys believe that if both factions held their Congress at the same time there might possibly be a great deal of trouble.

T-8 advised on June 20, 1952 that VIOREL TRIFA is presently residing at 6901 Detroit Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio. T-8 said that the subject since his consecration as Bishop in April, 1952 is also known as Bishop VALERIAN. T-8 said that the subject will be installed as Bishop of the Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate on July 4th at the Vatra,

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Grass Lake, Michigan. T-8 is of the opinion that there may be some trouble between the TRIFA faction and the MOLDOVAN faction during this Congress at the Vatra.

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