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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

SECRET

REPORT MADE AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN	DATE WHEN MADE 2/4/54	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 11/30/53; 1/7-6/54	REPORT MADE BY J. PAUL W. MILLER
TITLE VINCENT TRIPA, was.		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - R	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: Subject continues to reside at Vatra, Grass Lake, Michigan, and to occupy himself as Bishop-Vicar of Rumanian orthodox episcopate. Information concerning Subject's historical background and Iron Guardist activities contained in "Cheamra", "Solia", and "Credentia" set forth. - P -			
DETAILS: <u>1. SOURCE OR INFORMATION:</u> <u>2. Birth Data:</u> Rel, of known reliability, another governmental agency which conducts security type investigations, advised, on November 30, 1953, that VINCENT TRIPA was born June 28, 1911, at Campen Township, Iragailmea Province, Rumania, to MICHAIL TRIPA, nee V. T. A. and ELIZABETA TRIPA. <u>3. Citizenship Status:</u> Rel. enjoys permanent United States residence. The above informant indicated, on noted date, that Subject, on May 25, 1950, made application for a visa before the United States Displaced Persons Commission at Naples, Italy; that he arrived on the S. S. General Taylor via the port of New York, on July 15, 1950, nominal roll number 513, passenger number 265. <u>4. Employment and Residence:</u> Informant further advised that Subject VINCENT TRIPA was			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
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indicated to Informant that he had engaged in the following occupations during noted periods:

1731-35	University Student, Iassi, Rumania.
1935-39	Religious Newspaper Administrator, Sibiu, Rumania.
1939-40	Student (Philosophy) Berlin, Germany.
1940-41	Journalist, Religious Paper, Bucharest, Rumania.
3/41 -12/42	Forced Laborer, German Gestapp, Germany.
12/42-8/44	Political Prisoner, German Concentration Camp, Germany.
8/44-11/44	Unemployed; Vienna, Austria. (Detained by Russian troops).
11/44-3/45	Refugee, Austria.
4/45-5/25/50	Member and Religious Order ("S.S."), Pesaro, Italy.

II. THE IRON GUARD:

In September 11, 1953, T-2, of known reliability, furnished a booklet entitled, "Blood Bath in Rumania", published in the "Record", a news bulletin, by the United Rumanian Jews of America, 110 West 40th Street, New York, New York.

The booklet is concerned with the massacre of thousands of Jews by the Iron Guardist in January, 1941.

T-2 pointed out that on page 15 of instant booklet, there appears a photograph of the Subject, VINCENL TRIFA, receiving the oath of allegiance from the Iron Guardists. This photograph identified TRIFA as being the 5th individual from the right.

In September 23, 1953, T-3, of unknown reliability, who is well acquainted with the Subject and the Rumanian Orthodox Church activities in the United States, furnished a booklet, dated September 1, 1951, entitled, "Chamarea". Pages 24-27 of instant booklet contained an article entitled, "Ai Mintit Doamnei Trifa", written by H. S. GUYFA, which reflected, in gist form, that in the July 15, 1951 issue of "Solis" the Subject was referred to as both Bishop and Vicar. Vicar, according to the author, is defined as a substitute; for whom, the author desires to know, is TRIFA substituting?

It will be noted that "Solis" is the official organ of the Rumanian Orthodox Bishopsate.

This article continues that TRIFA, following his election to the Bishopric, gave a speech in which he "spoke hesitantly, lied unsharply, and begged forgiveness with a revolting lack of dignity"; then admitted being a Nationalist (from the Iron Guardist) at the age of 20 years advising

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that he had not engaged in politics, however, for the 12 years since he had left his country.

... advised that on page 1-a of "Lelia", noted above, TRIFA relates that he was born in 1914. According to WERA, TRIFA, then, in 1941, would have been 27 years of age.

The article then continues that in 1941, TRIFA was President of the Fascist Students; "and, in this capacity, launched manifestos describing the Anglo-Americans as 'Masonized-Jews'; and, points out that "what the students did under Mr. TRIFA's leadership is well known and doesn't require any further explanation. It is enough to say that their president was forced to flee the country because the tribunal had sentenced him to hard labor for life."

This article by G.W.M. further states that TRIFA had condemned the Masons in January, 1941 and that "...the same man who in 1941 condemned free masonry today approves it. I have arrived at this conclusion because Mr. TRIFA's election took place in a Masonic Temple...".

The author continues that "what is even more serious is the fact that Mr. TRIFA did not reveal to the Congress his participation in the rebellion nor the fact that he had been sentenced to hard labor for life... however, neither his participation in the rebellion nor his sentence to hard labor for life disqualify the new Vicar, but the hiding of these deeds and his recourse to lies do. Mr. TRIFA said, literally, that he was a Nationalist only at 20, when he actually, in 1941, was 27 years of age."

... A continues that in 1939 TRIFA contends that he was a student at the University of Berlin but returned to Rumania when the war began; that TRIFA further contends that during the war he had been forcibly detained as a civilian prisoner for two years at a place near "Fuersten Walde"; then, in 1942, was transferred to Dachau Concentration Camp for two more years at the completion of which he was then transferred to Vienna.

... then advised, in rebuttal, that TRIFA did not state why he returned to Rumania when war broke out in Germany nor why he later returned to Germany. TRIFA, he contends, was released from Dachau in the summer of 1944 or August, 1944 to be exact and advised that "if we deduct two years we arrive at August 24, 1942—the approximate date on which all Legionnaires in Germany were interned in the camps at Buchenwald, Dachau, etc...". Thus according to G.W.M., the "tale of the two years spent at Fuersten Walde is an invention. I ask: who has heard of this concentration camp?"

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It will be noted that T-1 advised that TRIFA indicated that he had been at the following places during noted periods:

1939-40	Student (Philosophy) Berlin, Germany.
1940-41	Journalist, Religious Paper, Bucharest, Rumania.
3/41-12/42	Forced Laborer, German Gestapo, Germany.
12/42-8/44	Political Prisoner, German Concentration Camp, Germany.
8/44-11/44	Employed, Vienna, Austria. (Liberated by Russian Troops).

In 1944, according to G V MA, TRIFA contends, in his "Curriculum Vitae" that he was transported to Dachau at Vienna because of the Gestapo demanding that he join the German Army to fight against the Communists and to collaborate with a government in the process of being formed.

TRIFA, according to G V MA, claimed to have refused above because he was a Democrat against the Germans, also, categorically affirming, "I was anti-Communist". That kind of anti-Communist, G V MA demands, refuses to fight against the Communists.

The author, G V MA, continues that it is true that TRIFA had previously refused to enter the German Army but claims that this was not because he was a Democrat but because he was a Mexican.

It will be noted that the Mexican was a faction of the Iron Guardist Movement.

This article then reflects that in TRIFA's capacity, as a Mexican, he had become secretary to the Metropolitan Visarion, BORIA SIMA, and had attempted to convince the latter to form a new government in which he, TRIFA, would be accepted. At SIMA's refusal, according to G V MA, TRIFA plotted, with fellow Mexicans, to overthrow SIMA.

The author then contends that the only reason the Germans, who were at war with TRIFA's country did not intern TRIFA was because the latter was Secretary of the Visarion whom the Germans approved as the Pastor of the Affairs of the Rumanian church.

G V MA then contends that TRIFA's attempt to convince BORIA SIMA to form a new government was certainly a political act: advising that TRIFA was then not 20 but 30 years of age.

G V MA then concludes, challenging TRIFA to sue him, and stating, "The new Vicar asserted before the Congress that he was a Nationalist only at the age of twenty, and that for a period of 12 years, which he spent abroad, he did not engage in politics. Is this not a bald lie?"

T-2 also furnished, on September 23, 1953, a pamphlet entitled, "Vatra", dated December, 1952, published in Rome, Italy. Page 10 of this pamphlet contains comments, from various countries, concerning the

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program of Bishop Nicolai TRIFA:

"U. - Canada: with reference to the article - 'Modern Apostolate' - against the bishop Valerian Trifa, I join completely in the vehement protest expressed by the gentlemen together with the majority of readers and subscribers to 'Vatra' in Canada. I regret the article in this case. For Heaven's sake give him at least one year to carry out his program.

"F. - France: on the other hand, the article about Valerian was a surprise. After you described with pleasure his consecration in one of your numbers last summer, now you judge him! This means that after 'Vatra' created a current of public opinion it sustains him just as an objective and with a risk of gaining even more the public opinion.

"C. - Canada: The article, 'Modern Apostolate' of 'Vatra' (October, 1952) I believe unjust - if not basically, at least in its prematurity. Give the man several months time to breathe after his 'battle' with his rivals and his difficulties with respect to the 'consecration' then if he does not perform you can profane him. Maybe you are better informed than we are here, who are embittered by the fact that the former head of the Nationalist Christian Students should accept to be elected as a Bishop in a Masonic Temple, and after his election, to tolerate all the arguments and scandal between his entourage and those who do not desire him as a Bishop, and then after his consecration to accept the donation of an automobile purchased with the complete lack of Christian modesty and humility, by the sale of subscriptions. Around here it is said 'that he is lost to the Legionnaire Cause', which to our way of thinking cannot be an accusation unless he denies his past, of which he can be proud, because after all Cordeanu (non sic: Celes Codreanu) made of the little known Theologian TRIFA, the successor of Furdul."

The October, 1953 issue of "Credinta", contained an article entitled, "For the Information of all Rumanian Americans", which, in the form of questions, reads as follows:

It will be noted that "Credinta", The Faith, is published monthly by the Rumanian Orthodox Church Abroad, 1871 East State Fair, Detroit, Michigan.)

The donation of the Rumanian patriarchy of one million old leis (Rumanian currency) made to the Monastery at the Vatra in 1951, was sold for the sum of three thousand leis and not one hundred thousand leis, as announced by TRIFA (probably JOHN TRIFCA) and TRIFA in the newspaper 'Molot'.

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"The sum of three hundred leis obtained from the one million old leis donated by the patriarchy for the monastery at Vatra, was invested by Bishop ANTONIO LE-VAN at the Vatra as shown by the records of the Comptroller ALBERTO M. COSTA."

The article continued by pointing out that the person who benefited from this donation and sale was TRIPA, as he sold all the livestock and agricultural implements in order to buy himself an automobile and live in luxury.

Page 2 of the above issue carried an article in the Rumanian and English languages entitled, "Without Delay; We want to know from the so-called 'bishop' VALERIAN TRIPA." These articles were of full-page length, in the form of questions, and read as follows:

1. How many years of High School did you complete, the High School where you graduated and the year you graduated?
2. What Theological University did you attend and in what year?
3. Is it true that the Most Rev. Metropolitan, NICOLAE BALAN, excommunicated you as a layman, for always?
4. Is it true that your Uncle JOSEPH TRIPA, former priest, was excommunicated from the priesthood, by Metropolitan BALAN?
5. Is it true that both of you were excommunicated because of your introduction of the sect 'Army of the Lord' in the Rumanian Orthodox Church?
6. Is it true that you were hunted by the Jandarms for the political movement of the Iron Guard, in 1937, for conspiring against the Rumanian Government, by publishing movement of the Iron Guard, in collaboration with fellow conspirators?
7. Is it true that in 1937, to avoid arrest, you went to the city of Iraj to see the Greek-Catholic (Uniate) Archbishop NICOLAE POP, making an appointment through Rev. GHEORGHE BALAN, to be converted to a Greek Catholic, at which time you changed your religion?
8. Is it true that in 1938, the Jandarms from the village of Campeni, hunted you with a warrant for your arrest, for your crimes against Rumanian government?
9. Is it true that in 1938, you were sent by the Iron Guard Party, for scholastic instructions in the school of Gestapo, from where you graduated as the best marksman with the revolver?

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10. Is it true that on January 19, 1941 you issued a command, through your personally signed manifest for the Massacre of the Jewish people from the districts of Tudesti and Vacaresti in the city of Bucharest, killing over 6,000 Jews?
11. Is it true that for the uprising which you provoked in Bucharest, the government of your own party (Iron Guard), through the military Tribunal in August, 1941, condemned you to the sentence of life and hard labor in the salt mines?
12. Is it true that you escaped then in Germany, to become a fugitive of justice, to avoid your jail sentence?
13. Is it true that in Germany, during World War II, you were serving under the Gestapo, as a guard, in concentration camps to torture American, English and Allied soldiers?
14. Is it true that by false information and lies you came to America as the Editor of the newspaper, 'America', through the Union and League without the knowledge of anyone except TRUTIA, J. CRACIUN and J. DRUGOCHIU?
15. Is it true that together with TRUTIA, you created disunity and schism in Rumanian Orthodox Church in America, by offering yourself to become a Bishop in contradiction with the Canon Laws of our Church?
16. Is it true that you begged, together with TRUTIA and Rev. MATIAS, of New York, all the Canonical Orthodox Bishops in America to consecrate you, but you were refused by all?
17. Is it true that through lies, schism and for the price of money you became bishop, through the Ukrainian sect by one I. ANTONIUCU, another non-ordained rebel bishop, who is not recognized by any Orthodox Bishop in the entire world?
18. Is it true that on July 4, 1952, you tore down the gates, cut the telephone wires at the Vatra, assisted by your employees, who were drunk, and who busted windows with clubs, at the Episcopate's residence taking possession by force with a drunken mob?
19. Is it true that at the Vatra you sold the property of the parishes, that is cows, farm implements, farm machinery and anything that you could make money on, for yourself while the getting was good?
20. Is it true that you ransacked his Grace Bishop ANDEI'S belongings, actually stealing his Bishop's Scroll, Service books, Corporals, Bishops' vestments, money and personal belongings?
21. Is it true that the Federal Court of Philadelphia, is still holding you in Criminal Contempt and are still awaiting the result?
22. Is it true that you have a wife in Rumania, in the city of Iasi, from whom you hold no legal separation?

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23. Is it true that you ran away from Austria to Rome and there you were converted to the Roman Catholic religion, and there you were engaged by the Roman church to read stories to war orphans in one of the monasteries there?
24. Is it true that the Commentator WALTER FINCHAM in his broadcast of September 9, 1951, denounced you as a Nazi agent and murderer?
25. The clergy and laity of the United States, Canada, and South American Diocese wishes that the Dr. TRIFA, pretending bishop, should answer to the above questions and to prove that he is truly a bishop as he pretends to be, and if he has the canonical succession.

Furthermore, to clarify to us, which of the canonical bishops in the entire world, recognize him, and also we want to know if he is recognized by the Holy Patriarchates of Constantinople, Jerusalem, Antioch and Alexandria, as a canonical bishop through the ordination that he received from the schismatic Bishop PAVEL TROSTIANICH and MYSTILAV/SKRIPNIK, two Ukrainian rebel partners."

T-4, of unknown reliability, a priest in the Rumanian Orthodox Church, Detroit, Michigan, familiar with Subject's activities, related on December 30, 1953, that VIOREL TRIFA is a long time leader and member of the Iron Guard; that the Holy Synod, at Bucharest, Rumania, had forwarded their "file on Trifa" to this Informant and that this latter contains photographs of TRIFA marching to the pogrom at the head of the Legionnaire students.

The following physical description and historical description of Subject was obtained from T-1:

Name	(Reverend) VIOREL TRIFA
Aliases	VALENTIAN TRIFA
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date and Place of Birth	6/28/11, Campeni, Transylvania, Rumania
Citizenship Status	Alien. Enjoys permanent U. S. residence.
Education	8 years grammar; 4 years high school; 5 years college, names of institutions and dates attended, unnoted.
Marital Status	Single. Reportedly formerly married, details unknown.
Military Record	Reportedly former official in Rumanian Iron Guardist Movement; Rumanian Section of Legionnaires.
Height	5' 8"

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Weight	175 lbs.
Build	Heavy
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Complexion	Dark
Scars and marks	none known.
Linguistic ability	speaks, reads, and writes: Rumanian, Italian, German, French
Naturalization	5A-781939C
Certification (record)	
European Case File No.	161072
Parents	DIWONIE TRIFIA and ECCHINICIA TRIFIA nee MOIDRA. ... Vicar of Vatra, See of Rumanian Orthodox Episcopate in America, Grass Lake, Michigan.
Employment and Residence	

ENCLOSURE

To the Bureau

Two (2) photographs of Subject receiving pledge
of Iron Guard.

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