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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT DETROIT

11: 58197

REPORT MADE AT CHICAGO	DATE WHEN MADE 11-18-55	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/10, 19/55	REPORT MADE BY AUGUST J. BAUMGARTNER AJB:NLB
TITLE VIOREL DONISE TRIFA		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - RU	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: <p>GEORGE MUNTEAN interviewed 10/19/55 and furnished signed statement regarding subject's activities. MUNTEAN described subject as student leader and Iron Guard member at the University of Bucharest between 1937 and 1941. MUNTEAN states subject responsible for assassinations of prominent Rumanians between 1939 and 1940. MUNTEAN in 1/41 witnessed a student demonstration in Bucharest led by the subject wherein subject denounced the Allied powers and called upon the assembly to support the Axis powers. Subject reportedly responsible for the wholesale killing of Rumanian Jews. MUNTEAN states that in 1/41 he witnessed testimony indicating that TRIFA gave orders for outrages committed on various Rumanian citizens. TRIFA reportedly sentenced to life imprisonment by the Axis Military Court and reportedly in hiding in Spain or Italy prior to his entry into the United States.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">- R U C -</p> <p>DETAILS:  <p>GEORGE MUNTEAN, 424 West Belden Avenue, Chicago, prepared an article pertaining to the subject which was subsequently printed in the June, 1955 issue of "Credinta" (The Faith) a Rumanian language newspaper, published in Detroit, Michigan. This article pertains to the subject's activities in Rumania prior to subject's arrival in the United States and is extremely critical of the subject. MUNTEAN was interviewed on October 19, 1955 at his residence, at which time he furnished the following signed statement:</p> </p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
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"Chicago, Illinois  
October 19, 1955

"I, George Muntean, make the following voluntary signed statement to Richard H. Nachtsheim and August J. Baumgartner who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I first met Viorel Trifa in 1937 while we were both attending the University of Bucharest at Bucharest, Rumania. Trifa, at that time, was studying law and I was enrolled in the school of business. Trifa, in 1937, was active as a student leader and was also a leader in the Rumanian Iron Guard. In 1939 Trifa was President of the student organization at the University of Bucharest. As President of the student organization, Trifa, in 1939, issued a manifest requesting all students in Rumania to join the Iron Guard stating that the Iron Guard was destined to become the strongest organization in Rumania. In 1939 the Prime Minister of Rumania, Armand Calinescu, ordered the Iron Guard dissolved and three months later he was assassinated. The man who was arrested for this assassination, one Theodorovich, testified in court that he was ordered by Trifa and Sima to carry out this assassination. This information became public knowledge in Rumania since it appeared in the press and on the radio. Following the assassination Trifa disappeared for approximately six months during which time the police were seeking him. He reportedly was in hiding in Germany. In 1940 the political party supporting the Iron Guard won the election in Rumania and Trifa returned to the University of Bucharest to complete his education. He again served as President of the student organization.

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*Trifa*  
In late 1940 Nick Irga, President of the Historical Academy of University of Bucharest, Virgil Madgearu, Secretary of the National Party of Rumania, and Gabriel Marinascu, Chief of Police of Bucharest, were assassinated. These assassinations were investigated by the axis military government. Two of the assassins testified in June of 1941 that the Iron Guard was responsible for the assassinations and that the assassinations were specifically ordered by Iron Guard leaders Horia Sima and Viorel Trifa. I have no first hand knowledge of Trifa's complicity in these assassinations but I was present in court when the assassins testified that Trifa had given the orders for the assassinations. The results of this trial was made public through the Rumania press and the radio.

"Between January 15 and January 20, 1941, while in Bucharest, Rumania, I witnessed a student demonstration lead by Trifa in front of the German Embassy in Bucharest. I heard Trifa speak in praise of the axis powers calling upon the assembly to kill American and British soldiers. Trifa, in his speech, referred to the Americans as Capitalists and gangsters. Trifa, in concluding his speech, stated that the Iron Guard knew what to do next. Following this speech on January 21 through January 24, 1941, the Iron Guard, in a last attempt to regain power,

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started a rebellion which resulted in the wholesale killing of thousands of Rumanian Jews. I did not see Trifa actively participating in the killings but I saw newspaper photographs of Trifa standing among the bodies of the victims. I saw the results of these killings where the bodies of the Jewish Rumanians had been hung in the city abattoirs in Bucharest. In February of 1941 the German Government in Rumania outlawed the Iron Guard and in a hearing held by the axis military government in June of 1941 Trifa was sentenced to life imprisonment by the court as a result of his activities in the January rebellion. I was present in court in June of 1941 when a member of the Iron Guard testified that he had been ordered by Trifa to cut out the tongue of one Cohan, a Jewish tailor, who allegedly failed to carry out Trifa's orders promptly. I was also present in court when testimony was given that Trifa had ordered that one Bines, a dressmaker, and one Bianco, a hatmaker, have their eyes put out and their tongue cut out. I saw movies wherein human skin was used in the making of lamp shades and heard testimony that this was done upon the orders of Sima and Trifa. Trifa had left Rumania prior to these trials and was reportedly in hiding in Italy or Spain.

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"I last saw Trifa on the streets of Cleveland, Ohio, in approximately March of 1953. At this time I approached him and accused him of being a murderer of Rumanian citizens. Trifa at that time told me to forget it stating that people here in the United States are not as intelligent as they are in Rumania. Trifa instructed me to be quiet and not to mention any such thing again. I have since heard that Trifa holds a leading position in the Rumania Orthodox Church in Detroit, Michigan, but have had no further contact with him.

"I have read this statement consisting of this and three other pages and have initialed each page and any corrections appearing thereon. This statement is correct and true to the best of my knowledge.

"/s/ George M Muntean

"Witnessed:

"/s/ August J. Baumgartner  
Special Agent F.B.I.

"/s/ Richard H. Nachtsheim  
Special Agent F.B.I."

GEORGE MUNTEAN currently resides at 424 West Belden Avenue, Chicago. He is married and the father of a three year old son. MUNTEAN was born June 20, 1919 in Fremont, Ohio. In 1921 he was taken by his parents to Rumania where he resided until 1948, at which time he returned to the United States. MUNTEAN claims derivative citizenship in the United States in that his parents were American citizens. He is currently employed

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by the Welby Corporation, Clock Manufacturers, at 833 West Jackson Boulevard in Chicago. MUNTEAN indicated that he would be willing to testify to information contained in the signed statement.

The Chicago files contain no information pertaining to GEORGE MUNTEAN.

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