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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

14 Aug 74

In Reply, Please Refer to
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In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
New York, New York

AUG 14 1974

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o Bishop Viorel Trifa
The Romanian Orthodox Church In America
Internal Security-Romania

NY T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that Doctor Charles Kremer, a retired Romanian dentist residing in New York City; Constantin Antonovici, a Romanian sculptor residing in New York City, and Constantin Milovan, 353 West 53rd Street, New York, New York, have been gathering material against Bishop Viorel Trifa, head of the Romanian Orthodox Church in America. It has been the lifetime dream of Doctor Kremer that Trifa be prosecuted for being a member of the Romanian Iron Guard in Romania, and for the alleged atrocities he committed against the Jews.

In an effort to gather material on Trifa, Kremer has recruited Antonovici and Milovan who are mentioned above.

NY T-1 advised Doctor Kremer has been a long-time resident of the United States, and, to his knowledge, Doctor Kremer was not in Romania during the alleged atrocities which were committed against the Jewish people. For a number of years Doctor Kremer has been gathering materials against Bishop Trifa and has gained much publicity in the "New York Times", the "New York Daily News", the "United Israel Bulletin" and in the "Jewish News" regarding his fight against Bishop Trifa.

NY T-1 advised that he has known Antonovici since 1957, but it was not until 1962 when Antonovici observed his French born wife depart the residence of the Reverend Florian Galdau in the early morning hours that Antonovici requested that Bishop Trifa investigate the activities of the Reverend Galdau, and Trifa honored Antonovici's request by sending a Father Surducan to investigate Galdau.

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Bishop Viorel Trifa
The Romanian Orthodox Church In America

According to Antonovici, Surducan recommended that Galdau be removed by Trifa, but Trifa did not follow the suggestion of Surducan.

Antonovici advised that Father Galdau was not removed inasmuch as Galdau and Trifa were business partners in a motel in Florida and in a hotel in Niagara Falls, New York. It was Antonovici's opinion that the Reverend Galdau was blackmailing Trifa for reasons unknown to Antonovici. Source has advised that Antonovici has prepared a manifesto making accusations against Trifa and claimed that he witnessed some of the activities of Trifa during the early 1940's in Romania.

NY T-1 advised that one of the puzzling characters to him is Constantin Milovan. Milovan is now an American citizen who visited Romania during the Summer of 1973 and came back to the United States praising the advances being made by the Romanian Communist regime. It is the source's opinion that Milovan made many friends in Romania and became very sympathetic to their cause. It is the source's opinion that Milovan actually received some type of instructions from the Romanian Intelligence Service.

NY T-1 advised it would probably be clearer to the American authorities if he furnished some additional information regarding the three individuals mentioned above. It is the source's opinion that the attack against Bishop Trifa is not only being engineered by the Romanian Government, but is a Jewish conspiracy. Source advised that Doctor Charles Kremer visited Romania in 1969, and was highly decorated by the Romanian Patriarch Justinian Marina. Doctor Kremer was quite proud of this decoration and during the Christmas season of 1969 he sent Christmas cards to many of his friends and this Christmas card contained a picture of Doctor Kremer posing with the Romanian Patriarch.

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The Romanian Orthodox Church In America

NY T-1 advised that in March, 1974, Doctor Kremer accompanied by Constantin Antonovici visited the Immigration and Naturalization Service in Washington, D. C., but they received a cold reception in Washington, D. C., and Doctor Kremer commented to Antonovici that they would go to the director of immigration in New York City, and they will listen to their story because the director is Jewish.

NY T-1 learned that Antonovici in preparing his papers against Bishop Trifa will not allow Doctor Kremer to translate any of his writing from Romanian into English. Antonovici has made the statement that Doctor Kremer would add to his statement and some of the statements would be extraordinary lies.

NY T-1 learned from Antonovici that in April, 1974, Antonovici testified at a hearing in New York City against Bishop Trifa. Antonovici was again contacted on June 21, 1974, by two immigration inspectors and he again related his knowledge regarding Bishop Trifa. Source learned from Antonovici that Bishop Trifa and other individuals who have committed atrocities against the Jewish people would be tried in Washington, D. C., and arrangements were being made to have a Jewish judge preside. On a later date, Antonovici advised our source that the trial was now to be held in Detroit, Michigan.

NY T-1 learned the Romanian language newspapers in Israel had made an appeal for all individuals who have knowledge of the alleged crimes committed by Bishop Trifa to come forward and furnish their information to the American authorities. There is also a campaign in Western Europe to locate individuals who can furnish information on Bishop Trifa.

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The Romanian Orthodox Church In America

NY T-1 learned that Doctor Kremer has been making statements that Bishop Trifa is also wanted in West Germany on criminal charges, but source advised he could not state what these charges are. To source's knowledge, he had not heard at any time that Bishop Trifa was wanted in West Germany.

NY T-1 advised that in 1969 many individuals who were parishioners of St. Dumitru's Orthodox Church in New York City broke away from St. Dumitru's and founded their own church in New York City. It is the source's opinion that the Romanian-Jewish community had much to do with the break away and he based his opinion on the fact that many of the Jewish members of the community were present at the inauguration of the new church. He could not recall whether Doctor Kremer was one of them.

NY T-1 advised that St. Simon's Romanian Orthodox Church, 920 West 7 Mile Road, Detroit, Michigan, has claimed its independence from Bishop Trifa. Source did not know all the details. The source furnished the Federal Bureau of Investigation with a copy of a manifesto prepared by the St. Simon Romanian Orthodox Church which gives their side of the dispute with Bishop Trifa. Copy furnished by the source to the Federal Bureau of Investigation was directed to Doctor Charles Kremer as being a dear friend.

NY T-1 advised that Constantin Milovan, sometime in March, 1974, claimed that he had sent a letter to Romania to an unknown colonel whom the source believes was in the Romanian Intelligence Service. Milovan asked this colonel to furnish all the information he could concerning the activities of Bishop Trifa during the early 1940's, and to furnish him with all the information concerning the Iron Guard. Just recently the source learned that Milovan received information regarding the Romanian Iron Guard from his brother who resides in Romania, but Milovan was very disappointed that he received no information concerning Trifa. Milovan had requested that he receive a copy of Antonescu's book on the Romanian Iron Guard. Source feels that this book was probably destroyed by the present Romanian regime.

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The Romanian Orthodox Church In America

NY T-1 advised that he has no information that Milovan actually knows a colonel in the Romanian Intelligence Service, but he learned that Milovan's brother may have some problems in Romania. Inasmuch as Milovan's brother had attempted to obtain materials which were probably destroyed by the present regime, the Romanian Intelligence Service became suspicious of him. The brother has written to Milovan that he will not attempt to obtain any additional information for him.

NY T-1 advised that at a recent party in the Romanian community Milovan became inebriated and made a statement which indicated that if he does not get the necessary material from Romania regarding Bishop Trifa he would, on his next trip to Romania, personally contact Nicolae Ceausescu, the present leader of Romania. He would demand that Ceausescu turn over to him all the information regarding Bishop Trifa.

NY T-1 advised that on June 2, 1974, Milovan had attended a meeting of the Avram Iancu, a cultural society in New York City, and had caused quite a disturbance. Present at this Avram Iancu society was John Popescu, the leader of the Romanian Union and League Society which has its headquarters in Detroit, Michigan. Source advised that Popescu has been under fire in Detroit, and Milovan took this opportunity to question Popescu not only about the Union and League, but about Bishop Trifa. It is the source's opinion that Milovan is being guided by the Romanian Government, and his activities are such that he is disturbing the Romanian community.

NY T-1 advised that Milovan is not gainfully employed but he publishes a monthly newsletter. The current letter continues to be more vicious against Bishop Trifa.

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NY T-1 advised that in addition to the three members above, Moses Rosen, the Chief Rabbi in Romania, has visited the United States and has written and given several speeches against Bishop Trifa. Rosen first came to the United States in 1952 and accused Trifa of being a war criminal and a murderer. In July, 1957, Rosen had stated that life was good in Romania, and that all the people enjoyed freedom. It was at this time in 1957 that Rosen received the nickname "The Red Rabbi".

On November 27, 1961, Moses Rosen authored an article against Bishop Trifa in the "Long Island Press" requesting that Representative Sam Helpern conduct some type of investigation against Bishop Trifa. Apparently Moses Rosen had no success in influencing Helpern.

NY T-1 advised in the Spring, 1974 issue of the "United Jewish Bulletin" a story which reflects a speech made by Moses Rosen to the Anti-Defamation League. In this speech Moses Rosen, Chief Rabbi of Romania, promoted Trifa as a criminal. Rosen recalled how he had personally witnessed the massacre and pogrom in Bucharest in January, 1941, which he said was instigated by Trifa who, at that time, was reported to be the leader of the Legion of the Archangel Michael, a youth wing of the Iron Guard. Source advised that he would not be surprised if Doctor Kremer attempted to influence the United States Government and allowed "The Red Rabbi" to testify at any hearings concerning Trifa.

NY T-2, contact with whom has been insufficient to determine the reliability of the information he furnishes, but who is a well known leader in the Romanian Jewish community in New York City, furnished the following information to a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation:

NY T-2 advised that he has had several conversations with Doctor Kremer regarding Kremer's fight against Bishop Trifa.

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Bishop Viorel Trifa
The Romanian Orthodox Church In America

Source advised that Doctor Kremer has been in the United States since 1919, and has told Doctor Kremer "You were not there in Romania so why are you carrying on this fight." Approximately six or seven years ago there was dissension in the Romanian Orthodox Church in New York City, and a new church was founded. Doctor Kremer was present at the inauguration and the Romanian Ambassador to the United States attended this meeting as the guest of Doctor Kremer.

NY T-2 advised that several years ago Doctor Kremer visited the Romanian Patriarch Justinian Marina in Bucharest and brought back several significant objects which he got from the Patriarch. Source questioned Kremer at this time about Bishop Trifa by stating that "This is not your task to carry on this fight against Bishop Trifa inasmuch as you have not been in Romania in 50 years and why do they need your intervention." "Why do you rub shoulders with them?" Despite what NY T-2 had stated to Kremer, source advised that Doctor Kremer carries on a relentless fight to have Bishop Trifa removed and deported from the United States.

NY T-3, who has furnished both reliable and unreliable information in the past, advised that Constantin Milovan has admitted to him that he has had meetings with Dumitru Rosu, Second Secretary, Romanian United Nations Mission in New York City. Source does not know the details regarding these meetings, but there is no doubt in the source's mind that Rosu is guiding Milovan in disrupting the Romanian community.

NY T-4, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that for a long period of time starting Easter, 1973, until the Fall of 1973, Milovan constantly

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telephoned him attempting to have the source visit his home or to go on picnics with the family. Milovan told the source that he is conducting all these activities because he is against the Facists.

NY T-4 advised that he is a well known figure in the Romanian community, and he knows for a fact that one other official named Nicolae Irinoiu, Second Secretary, Romanian Embassy, Washington, D. C., has attempted to arrange for a luncheon meeting with the source. Irinoiu is very open that he would like to make the acquaintance of the source. Based on the fact that Nicolae Irinoiu wanted to meet with him, and the fact that for a long period of time Milovan attempted to meet with him. There is not doubt in his mind that Milovan is being guided by the Romanian Intelligence Service.

Based upon available information and/or investigation, Dumitru Rosu and Nicolae Irinoiu are considered to be connected with the Romanian Intelligence Service.

The Romanian Iron Guard was a political movement founded after World War I for the purpose of strengthening the economic conditions, eliminating Semitism and foreign influence, achieving educational reform, boycotting industrial and government interests and promoting interest in peasantry. The movement was pro-monarchy, pro-Germany, and anti-communist, and was active in the 1930's and early 1940's when the pro-Nazi regime was ousted by the Communist. The leadership presently exists in Madrid, Spain.

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