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DATE 2003 2006



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D.C. 20535
April 16, 1980

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

SECRET

VIOREL TRIFA
FOREIGN COUNTERINTELLIGENCE - ROMANIA

A confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past and who is in a position to know of the workings of the Foreign Intelligence Center (CIE) of the Romanian Intelligence Service (RIS) advised as follows concerning Viorel Trifa, Bishop of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America: (S)

Viorel Trifa is a target of the CIE of the RIS in that it is an ongoing concern of the CIE to either win Trifa's support for the communist government of the Socialist Republic of Romania, or to destroy his control over the Romanian church which he heads. (S)

Intelligence Officers (IOs) who were trained for intelligence service in the United States during the early 1970s were advised that two Romanian churches exist in the U.S. One of these churches is headed by Bishop Victorian Ursache and is controlled by the Romanian government. The other church is headed by Viorel Trifa who was referred to as a Legionnaire (Legionnaire is a term generally used in referring to members of the Iron Guard, a fascist organization which originated in Romania). (S)

Trifa was contacted by Mircea Capatina-Rata, former Second Secretary, Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Romania (ROEMB), Washington, D.C. (WDC), in an effort to recruit him to the support of Romania's government. When recruitment attempts failed, Capatina-Rata was directed to get Trifa on trial for supplying false information concerning Nazi activity upon application for entry into the U.S. The objective of this measure was to create pressure on Trifa to support Romania's government or in the alternative to insure his removal as head of the church. (S)

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Justice
DOJ-00059
16 APR 80
100-008-0916

RECORDED
INDEXED
MAY 1 1980
FBI - WASH DC

SECRET
Classified and Extended by 197
Reason for Extension: FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2 (2,3)
Date of Review for Declassification April 16, 2000

RECORD COPY 181

DOJ - 0000159

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VIORTEL TRIFA

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After reaching the decision Trifa could not be recruited, efforts were concentrated on destroying his influence. Toward this end materials were provided to the U.S. government indicating Trifa's involvement in Nazi activities. Also, Nicolae Horodincea, former Third Secretary, ROEMB, WDC, was instructed to agitate for Trifa's prosecution among his contacts on Capitol Hill. These measures to expedite Trifa's prosecution, and resulting deportation if found guilty, were not sincere. The Romanian government had no desire to have Trifa extradited. Their only aim was to disrupt and disorganize his church in the hopes of gaining some of his parishes to come under the control of the Romanian government. The unofficial information passed among IOs was there is absolutely no desire to place Trifa on trial in Romania. (S)

Alexandru Tanasescu, former Second Secretary, ROEMB, WDC, once showed to the source documents containing anti-Jewish rhetoric which were allegedly signed by Trifa. He gained the impression Tanasescu received these particular documents from an unknown American. (S)

The source stated he has no personal knowledge of Trifa's alleged Nazi activities. He noted any reports favorable to Trifa would be poorly received and their author would be challenged as to whose interest he is serving. (S)

Based upon available information and/or investigation, Mircea Capatina-Rata, Nicolae Horodincea, and Alexandru Tanasescu are considered to be connected with the CIE of the RIS. (C)

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