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INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. 11 June 1948

SUBJECT Arrest of Members of the
Iron Guard

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. During the recent wave of political arrests a considerable number of Iron Guardists were taken into custody. One source estimates that approximately 200 legionnaires were seized. Members of all legionnaire factions, including that of Nicolae Patrascu, were involved. 25X1X
2. Nicolae Patrascu has favored strict adherence to the agreement reached by the Iron Guard with the Groza Government in 1945. Members of his group placed under arrest are said to include only those forming a faction opposed to Patrascu, who is reported to have advised his followers to avoid any action against the present regime as long as the outbreak of war and the ultimate victory of the United States was uncertain. The fact that only a few of his supporters have been arrested has increased Patrascu's prestige within the Guard.
3. Although Patrascu is said to feel that legionnaires who have been arrested deserved their fate because they had failed to follow his instructions, some mistrust of Patrascu's group now exists among the authorities. Patrascu has been reproached for having knowingly tolerated opponents of the Government. His contention that such individuals were considered unreliable and had not been given any tasks of importance has not dispelled this mistrust. It appears that Patrascu was earlier warned by the Rumanian authorities against those members of his group who were recently arrested. Patrascu is represented as believing that those of his adherents who have been seized would not be too harshly dealt with since his group, although opposed to Soviet domination of Rumania, had begun to collaborate with the Groza Government and, should the world situation change, would be willing to work with the USSR.
4. The authorities are said to have directed their recent activities particularly against groups of intellectuals among the Iron Guardists led by former ministers, Dr. Bidiamu, Vasile Noveanu and Radu Budisteanu. These intellectuals are distrusted because it is believed that they support the Western Powers and oppose Patrascu's policy of collaboration with the present regime.
5. Prior to the recent political arrests, leaders of the Iron Guard had received information indicating that the Rumanian authorities were divided in their opinion of the proper policy to be pursued toward remnants of that organization. In February 1948 Professor P.P. Panaitescu, Bidiamu and a

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certain Comanciu conferred on the situation facing the Guard. Panaitescu reported that Emil Bodnăraș, Minister of National Defense, favored denunciation of the agreement of 1945 and the arrest of members of the Guard. The Ministry of Interior, according to Panaitescu, defended the loyalty of legionnaires belonging to labor unions and the Rumanian Workers' Party, and opposed arrests. It was thereupon decided to do nothing for the present but to prepare for large-scale arrests of Iron Guardists in the event such action should be deemed necessary. Panaitescu had favored an approach to the authorities, in order that assurances might be exchanged. Bidanu and Comanciu, however, opposed this action on the ground that no immediate action would be taken against Iron Guardists. It was recognized that, in the event of war, the Soviet authorities would harass members of the Iron Guard, so that any agreement with the Groza Government would be meaningless.

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