

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Confirmed Arrests of Members of the Iron Guard

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1. During early July the Rumanian authorities began to arrest leaders of the moderate faction of the former Iron Guard. Among those taken into custody were Dr. Bidiamu, of Sibiu, and Vasile Noveanu, both of whom are former ministers. Dr. Bidiamu is reportedly accused of maintaining contacts with the U.S. Legation in Bucharest.
2. The arrests of former Iron Guardists in recent months has spread confusion and defeatism in their ranks. Professor P.P. Panaitescu, the former Rector of the University of Bucharest who played a principal role in the negotiations between the Iron Guard and the Communists in 1945, and who is still at liberty, is inclined to place the responsibility for the legionnaires' difficulties on Nicolae Patrascu. According to Panaitescu, Patrascu should have kept the agreement he made with the Rumanian Communists. Before his arrest, Bidiamu reproached Patrascu for maintaining relations with Horie Sima when there could be no doubt that information concerning his activities would sooner or later be given to the authorities. Bidiamu was inclined to doubt reports that Patrascu maintained contact with Sima through the Uniate Church, but appeared convinced that Sima worked closely with the Americans. In the opinion of Bidiamu, however, Patrascu's alleged contact with Sima merely provided a pretext to harass the legionnaires. He believed that the Communists had made an agreement with the Iron Guardists so as to free themselves to deal with the National Peasants. Having disposed of the leadership of the National Peasant Party, the Communists were now prepared to dispose of the legionnaires and all other Rumanians who retained any nationalist sentiments.

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