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REPORT MADE AT: DATE: 7 June 1964

Base:

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SUBJECT: GENERAL: Iron Guardist movement

SPECIFIC: Iron Guardist movement in Italy

SOURCE: NK 71

REFERENCE: NK 4371

Comments.

1. In this report NK 71 offers his own version of the history of the Iron Guardist movement. A list of its leaders in Italy is given.
2. The Iron Guardists maintain that the present conditions in Central Europe in general and particularly in Romania justify the ideology of the movement. They are confident that the political situation is ripe for action.
3. It is safe to assume that they will operate Italy as an operational base. The arrival of FNU and the renewed presence of Boris SIMA in Italy are indicative of their renewed activity there.

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DISPATCH: PLAN TRANSMISSION
SUBJECT: PLAN TRANSMISSION

1. The Iron Guard movement as such is no longer a force to be reckoned with in Rumania proper, where the "Legionaries" (members of the Iron Guard) have either joined other extremist groups, such as the Communists, or ceased activity altogether, or else fled the country.

2. The Iron Guardists are scattered throughout Europe. Eleven or twelve thousand Rumanians are living in British, French, and American occupied zones of Germany and Austria — among them many officers, Iron Guardists and intellectuals. They have refused to return to Groza's Rumania. A great many have entered and are still entering Italy. They are divided against themselves in the sense that various groups do not accept Horia SIMA as CODREANU's successor and leader of the movement. There are several hundred Iron Guardists in Italy, who keep in close touch with one another and accept Dr. Emil BULESCU as their "minister".

3. Historically, the Rumanian Iron Guard movement sprang up among university students after the first World War, and was a reaction against Semitism in Rumanian institutions and against the government of King Carol II and his clique. Under the leadership of Corneliu Zilinski (romanized as "Zelean") CODREANU, who was of Slav origin, moderately intelligent, good-looking and a persuasive speaker, the movement invaded all the schools and universities and even scored some electoral victories, before King Carol began his campaign of extermination. The first attempt at repression came under Prime Minister DUCA, who was promptly assassinated. Reprisals ensued that were internecine — a vicious round of suppression and reaction. CODREANU was tried and sentenced to prison. After King Carol's meeting with Hitler, CODREANU was murdered (1938). The Iron Guardists retaliated with the elimination of Prime Minister Armand CALINESCU. Executions were the result, and Gen. ANTONESCU, who refused to carry out orders to execute Iron Guard leaders, was imprisoned. When the King was overthrown in the fall of 1940, Gen. ANTONESCU formed a government, calling in the Iron Guard, and Horia SIMA, who had set himself up as CODREANU's successor, was appointed vice-president of the Council. This opened one of the ugliest chapters in Rumanian history. Gen. ANTONESCU tried in vain to restrain Iron Guard terrorism, and relations between him and the Iron Guard became ever more strained until they broke in the January 1941 rebellion. The Iron Guard leaders were arrested; but Horia SIMA and others were taken by the Germans as hostages, as a constant threat to Gen. ANTONESCU, lest he fail to follow German orders.

4. Horia SIMA had been the evil spirit of the Iron Guard movement, ruthless, ambitious, violent; during the German occupation the movement divided into two groups — those who still followed him and the dissidents. At the time of the Rumanian Armistice, in August 1944, the Germans called upon the Iron Guardists to set up a government, in order to give some semblance of legitimacy. The leaders had to choose between becoming soldiers or politicians, and thus the Rumanian "National Government" was formed in Vienna, with Horia SIMA as prime minister, and Vissarion Puiu as vice-president. The "National Government" served a short term, and then the Iron Guard movement ceased to exist.

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54. Members of the Romanian Government who fled to Vienna

- a. Dr. Emil BURESCU, Minister of Education in Milan.
- b. Octavian BOGU, Iron Guard commander, in Milan.
- c. Eugen COCEANU, journalist, with the Corriere Lombardo, in Milan.
- d. CLAIN, former member of the Romanian Academy, in Rome.
- e. Ilie GANDEATA, former "commander" of the movement.
- f. Petre INOALE, teacher of Romanian at University of Palermo.
- g. Constantin VIGOL, teacher of Romanian at University of Bologna.
- h. Grigore MANOIILESCU, former Iron Guard minister.

6. The dissidents are:

- a. Prof. Dimitru GAZDARU, Rome.
- b. Prof. Vasile MUSI, Rome.
- c. Prof. Dinu ADAMESTEANU, Rome.
- d. Prof. OLTEANU, Rome.

7. It is rumored that Horia SIMA arrived clandestinely in Italy. Source has not yet been able to ascertain his whereabouts.

8. Visarion PUTU, Bishop of Bucovina, who fled from the Russians to Vienna and was subsequently a member of the SIMA government, is now in a convent in Italy, under the protection of the Vatican. In Romania he has been condemned to death.

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*not for carrying -
this group is
also Iron Guard -
although they do
not recognize
SIMA as
leader.*