

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

**Chicago, Illinois**

**June 12, 1979**

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2001 2008

**VINCENT RUSU**

	TRAVEL PROGRAM
	ABSTRACT
REF/MS	INDEX
	RYBAT REST. CODE FOR COMET DOCUMENT
SG/MS	CODE
	RYBAT REST. CODE FOR NON-COMET DOCUMENT
CG/CFS	FILE CHARGED TO CG/CFS

owner of **Russ's**

FILE CHARGED TO  
DIVISION OF STAFF

On October 27, 1978, Vincent Rusu, owner of Rusu's Shoes, 4421 Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, was contacted at his request by representatives of the FBI. Rusu stated that as an American citizen of Romanian heritage he was very much concerned about the recent increase in activity by members of the Iron Guard in the United States. Rusu stated, by way of background, that the Romanian Iron Guard is a fascist movement that was active in Romania prior to World War II, was sympathetic to and associated with the Nazi movement in Germany during World War II and its leaders went into exile after the communist takeover in Romania -- end of World War II. (C)

He named Horia Sima as the leader of the worldwide Iron Guard movement who is currently in exile in Spain and further named a Romanian Orthodox bishop in Detroit, Michigan, Viorel Trifa as one of the main leaders of the Guard movement in the United States. He further indicated that Dr. Alexander E. Ronnett is the main leader of the Iron Guard movement in the Chicago area. Rusu stated the Iron Guard is traditionally strongly anti-semitic, anti-democratic and authoritarian in its philosophy and he has recently become quite concerned that this movement appears to be once again actively recruiting new members and Rusu sees them as a danger to freedom and liberty. Rusu stated he initiated this contact with the FBI to express his concern and hoped an investigation of this group could be initiated, to which Rusu would gladly lend his assistance and furnish any information he could. (C)

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**Classified and Extended by 1148**

Reason for Extension FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2 (2&amp;3)

Date of Review for Declassification June 12, 1999

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On January 31, 1979, CG T-1, a source of unknown reliability, advised as follows:

Source stated it appears the Romanian Government is almost obsessed with the task of bringing the Romanian Churches located in the United States under the control of Bucharest. He explained the reason for this is should the churches be controlled by Bucharest, the Romanian emigre community in the United States would fall under its control. (C)

Source continued that during the summer of 1978 Rev. Viorel Sasu was in the Chicago area visiting various Romanian Orthodox churches. In Bucharest Sasu holds the position as Inspector for the Diocese, which is an official government position and not a church position. (C)

During Sasu's visit he served at St. Mary's, Romanian Orthodox Church located in Chicago and was well accepted by a small group of the parishioners. This small group wants Sasu to emigrate to the United States and take over the church after the retirement of Father Dino, who is the present pastor and due to retire in early 1980. (C)

The parishioners of the church who are in favor of Father Sasu's appointment as pastor are headed by Vincent Rusu who was born in the United States but lived for approximately ten years as a child in Romania before returning to America. Rusu is well known in the Romanian community for having strong ties with the Romanian Embassy officials in Washington and is considered to be an agent of the Romanian Government. (C)

On May 11, 1979, CG T-2, a source who has provided reliable information in the past, advised that Vincent Rusu is a well known communist sympathizer in the Romanian Orthodox Church in Chicago. Source stated he has heard the shoe store which Rusu operates is or was supported by the Romanian Government and in fact they provided the shoes which he sold in the store upon opening. Source also stated he believes Rusu is in frequent contact with members of the Romanian Embassy, Washington, D.C., but could provide no specifics. (C)

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On May 30, 1979, Rusu was recontacted by representatives of the FBI, at which time he furnished the following documents:

1. An envelope containing three issues of the "United Israel Bulletin" dated November, 1971, February, 1972, and June, 1972, all of which contained articles concerning Bishop Valerian D. Trifa and allegations of Trifa's leading and participating in anti-Jewish pogroms in Bucharest in 1941. (C)

2. Three xerox copies of articles from "The Justice" concerning Bishop Trifa's activities in the past and at the present, and the text of a complaint filed in U.S. District Court in the Eastern District of Michigan, Civil Division, charging Trifa with making false statements on his naturalization petition. (C)

3. A 31 page booklet in the Romanian language entitled "Tara Si Exilul" with notation on page seven at the top which Rusu stated should be translated and read. A translation indicates a passage under the heading "In Chicago" relates to a requiem held December 3 in Chicago by Ion Simicin in remembrance of those who were murdered 40 years ago, calling them heroes and martyrs of the Romanian nation. Rusu stated this booklet, an Iron Guard publication from Madrid, Spain, published November-December, 1978, is typical of the propaganda and activities being carried out today by the Iron Guard to present the Guardists as heroes and martyrs, although Rusu stated it appears very clear that the Guardists were little different than the German Nazis. (C)

4. Paperback book entitled "Romanian Nationalism; The Legionary Movement" by Alexander E. Ronnett, MD., published 1974 by Loyola University Press, Chicago. (C)

5. Green booklet entitled "Commemoration of the Unification of Romanian Principalities (Jan. 24, 1859)." This booklet sets out the program for a banquet to be held June 24, 1979. Rusu pointed out that Ronnett is to present awards at this banquet sponsored by the Romanian-

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American National Congress, 55 East Washington, Suite 2085, Chicago, Illinois. Rusu pointed out further that although the Romanian-American National Congress (RANC) is not necessarily an Iron Guard organization, the group is becoming more and more heavily influenced by known Iron Guardists and their sympathizers. Rusu pointed to the fact that for the first time the cover of the booklet is green, which corresponds to the green shirts which were the symbol of the Iron Guard in Romania, just as the brown shirts symbolized the Nazis and the black shirts symbolized fascists in Italy. Rusu stated this celebration is to be held at St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church in Chicago, which church is supportive of Bishop Trifa and Rusu is of the opinion there is a group within the church of former Guardists who are trying to revive the Guard. Rusu stated he felt the pastor at St. Mary's, Rev. George Zmed, was connected with the Iron Guard before coming to the United States. (C)

6. Bulletin of the RANC dated December 15, 1977, in the Romanian language, a translation summary of which follows:

Article by Dr. Alexander Ronnett in disagreement with the awarding of a gold Peace medal to Soviet Premier Brezhnev by United Nations Secretary Waldheim.

Article by Ronnett denouncing the visit of John C. Coman (President of the Union and Leagues of Romanian Societies) to Romania. Ronnett claims the visit was political in nature and signifies Coman's friendship with the Romanian communist government.

Article by Paul Chiriac concerning a miners strike in Romania.

News briefs by Paul Chiriac concerning 29,000 freed from jail in 1977, various Romanians seeking asylum in England and Paris.

Article by Ioan C. Madincea about Romanian refugees being forced to work for the Romanian Government while living abroad. A description of Madincea's personal experiences with the Securitate before leaving Romania, including their attempts to recruit Madincea to report on Romanian emigre activities in the United States.

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Article entitled "Truth and Right Overcome"  
concerning church elections.

A letter from Emil Brad, President of the Romanian Cultural and Beneficial Society concerning the actions of John C. Coman and delegation on visit to Romania. The letter condemns Coman's actions and disavows any connection with Coman. (C)

Rusu explained that the documents enumerated above indicate to him a strong resurgence of Iron Guard influence and domination over Romanian immigrant communities in the United States, Canada and everywhere Romanians are living in any number and associated together. Rusu stated he sees this as a danger in that many Romanians, especially younger ones who have had no first-hand experience with the Iron Guard, are being duped into believing that the Iron Guard represents a purely Romanian nationalistic group when its history clearly shows it is a strongly anti-semitic, totalitarian, Nazi-like organization, although these negative aspects are downplayed in their propaganda. (C)

Rusu stated he felt these Iron Guard elements presented a greater danger to freedom and liberty among the Romanian community and to the United States in general than does the Romanian Government. Rusu stated he does not believe there are any Romanians involved in intelligence or espionage activities in the United States and that the Romanian Government represents no threat to the United States and has little interest in obtaining intelligence from among Romanian immigrants in the United States and elsewhere. Rusu indicated he is not at all supportive of the communist government in Romania and feels the communists and those who are in power represent only a small minority of the Romanian people and this government, which has been dominated by Soviet Russia, will not last for very long. Rusu stated he further felt that Iron Guards do not typically represent Romanians, but that their nationalistic and anti-communist propaganda is fooling a lot of people into joining their ranks, people who are not aware of the Iron Guard's true character. (C)

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Rusu stated he was not aware of any actual or planned acts of violence by any people associated with the Iron Guard movement, but pointed out several passages in the above literature which referred to Iron Guardists carrying sidearms in the past and the necessity for being armed. He stated he is aware of a Romanian Hunting Club that exists in the Chicago area, whose leadership is dominated by Iron Guard sympathizers or leaders. He stated this club, according to what he has heard, is very likely similar to the Croatian Hunting Club on the south side of Chicago, which was recently raided and dynamite was seized and is widely reputed to be a front for Croatian terrorist activities. Rusu was unable to provide further particulars, but stated he understands this group meets clandestinely at one of several bars in the Chicago area. (C)

Rusu advised his concerns as expressed above are completely his own and were not prompted by any encouragement of anyone else such as representatives of the Romanian Government. Rusu stated he has had no contacts with any representatives of the Romanian Government in many years. He stated he was not aware of any representatives of the Romanian Embassy visiting in Chicago for at least three-four years. (C)

Rusu stated he could not specifically state the membership or leadership of Iron Guardists in the Chicago area, but stated he suspected many of the priests in Bishop Trifa's Romanian Orthodox Church to be former Iron Guardists or current supporters and organizers. Rusu pointed out a list of Chicago-area Romanians in the booklet concerning the June 24, 1979, memorial observance as supporters of the observance as people he considered to be past members of the Iron Guard or current supporters:

Vasile Ardelean  
Ion Bora  
George Covaci  
Ion Craiovean  
George Cutean  
George Deian  
Octavian Iovanescu

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Kernel Landon, Sr.  
Livius Majogan  
Ion Neamtu  
John Nedelcu  
Ion Nedin  
Stefan Oltean  
George Oprea  
Petru Oprea  
Afanasie Predescu  
George Stanil  
Ion Subici  
John Tolcea  
Traian Vintan  
Dan Volonciu (C)

Rusu also pointed out the speakers and people on the program are generally considered as Iron Guard supporters or members, especially Dr. Alexander Ronnett who is acknowledged to be the leader of the Iron Guard in the Chicago area. Others listed on the program are as follows:

Parish priest at St. Mary's -The Reverend  
George Zmed  
Reverend Paul Lindstrom  
Nicolae Tecau  
Alexandru Ionescu-Lungu  
Ion Funariu (C)

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