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RUMANIA

SOVIET ARMY

It is reported that the Soviet military command in CONSTANTINA has some troubles as there are signs of corruption undermining the discipline and morale of the Russian troops there. A number of Russian soldiers and some officers recently had to face court martial for blackmarket offenses. These Russians buy food and clothing at very low prices in the shops which are reserved for them, and resell them to Rumanian blackmarketeers. Even food from the military canteen, in the former building of an industrial boys' college was sold on the black-market.

It seems that on the demand of Russian military authorities, Rumanian police has increased its activity. Many raids took place in different parts of the town; many civilians were arrested, and taken either to the prison of Rumanian political police at Stalin street (formerly Carol I street,) or to the Soviet military prison, in order to trace the contacts between the guilty Russian soldiers and Rumanian blackmarketeers.

It is reported that the general behavior of the Russians and of their families in CONSTANTINA shows the effects of this corruption: Drunkenness among the men and overdressing among the women.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period

EVAL. COMMENT: Source : reliable;
Information: confirmed by other sources.

Similar aspects of life have been reported from other Russian garrisons in BUCHAREST and GALATI. However, not sufficient material is on hand to estimate the extent of these otherwise inevitable conditions in an occupied country.