

2200
1100
2804
1500
2807

ITEM No 14915/52

LL
2 Dec
XI - 686

RUMANIA

PERSECUTION

Anti-Zionist Drive Accelerated

SOURCE ATHENS: No information.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: September 1952.

* * * *

The anti-Zionist campaign in Rumania seems to have accelerated around the end of September 1952, according to a number of reports received by well-informed sources. The Communist regime's fury appears more and more to be striking at Jews as such, regardless of whether they are known as pro- or anti-Zionist. Thus, a BUCHAREST rabbi, Dr. ROSEN (fnu), well known for his collaboration with the Communists, is said to have been arrested on the last Saturday in September, while he was preaching an anti-Israel sermon. The incident occurred when a group of militiamen burst into the synagogue during the sermon to arrest some members of the congregation. Apparently forgetting his role of collaborator, the rabbi berated the militiamen from the pulpit for their profanation of the temple and lack of respect for religion. The militiamen thereupon also arrested the rabbi and took him along with them, according to the report received by our source.

Likewise, the BUCHAREST lawyer SCHWEFELBERG (fnu), another ostensible collaborator with the regime, was arrested, as was SCHWARTZ Marcu, an ex-president of the local chapter of the Communist-sponsored "Committee of Democratic Jews" in GALATI.

The same source reports that during September 1952 a number of Jewish technicians, engineers and workers were dismissed from the oil industry. It is believed by the source that they were dismissed because they had applied for permission to emigrate to Israel.

Another fragmentary report tells of the tragedy of a BUCHAREST Jewish family named NACHINSOHN, four members of which committed suicide by turning on the gas jets of a kitchen stove. The family had received an order from police to vacate their home. They left a letter for relatives in which they lamented that they had escaped the Nazi gas chambers only to be driven by despair into

(Over)

(cont'd)

choosing the same kind of death in the Rumanian "Popular Democracy."

An increasing number of Jewish private traders are being arrested and deported to forced labor camps as a result of their inability to pay the heavy special taxes imposed upon them. GOLD Bercu, a former merchant of IASI, died in September 1952 while working on the Danube-Black Sea canal.

Two big synagogues in BUCHAREST - the "Grand Temple" of Strada Arena and the "Sfanta Unirea" of Strada Mamulari - are now closed down.

EVAL. COMMENT: ROSEN Moses is chief rabbi of the Mosaic Cult. Arrest of the mentioned leaders is UNCONFIRMED here. See for reference item no. 3711/52.