

AH
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RUMANIA

PERSECUTION OF FOREIGNERS
Foreign Diplomatic Representations

Treatment Of Italian Legation And Con-
sular Employees.

SOURCE ROME: confidential source

DATE OF OBSERVATION: current period

EVAL. COMMENT I: Very interesting and prompt report on new measures taken by the Communist authorities against the indigenous personnel of foreign legations in Rumania.

See for reference Item No 13738/52 (An average day of a dependent of the Italian Legation in BUCHAREST.) The part dealing with the restrictions imposed on the personnel of foreign legations in Rumania even surpasses the fact referred to by U.S. Ambassador KENNAN in BERLIN.

The announcement of a trial of employees of the Italian Legation and Consulate in BUCHAREST recalls the sad case of Eraldo PINTORI, a teacher assigned to the Italian Colony of the Rumanian Capital depending on the Office of the General Direction of Italians Abroad (a branch of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) who was arrested in April 1951 (See Item No 8299/51,) implicated in the PACHA trial and sentenced to a life term and a fine of 14 million Lei (pre-currency reform) on 17 September 1951.

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The Rumanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs ceased to recognize the diplomatic passports issued by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to all the Italians who have been working at the Italian Legation and Consulate in BUCHAREST for some 10 or 15 years and had been hired directly in Rumania. In consequence the food ration cards issued to these Italians until November 1952 were withdrawn by the Ministry.

In January 1953 all foreign citizens residing in Rumania who are not in possession of the diplomatic

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passports, were required to present themselves to the Office for the Control of Aliens, in order to have the permits of sojourn prolonged. Also the above-mentioned employees presented themselves regularly to obtain the required extensions.

But nevertheless, two weeks later, they were summoned to the Rumanian Tribunal and were informed that they had violated the laws of the Office for the Control of Aliens since they had not presented themselves to that Office within 3 days after the date on which they had been informed that their diplomatic passports were no longer considered valid. In other words, the Tribunal considers these Italian employees just like all other foreigners who, according to Rumanian laws, are required to present themselves to the Control Offices within 3 days after their entry into Rumania.

The trial against these Italian Legation and Consulate employees will take place in March. This infringement of the laws is punishable with 30 days until 1 year of prison. Or, in case the penalty is commuted by the Tribunal, the persons concerned will have to pay heavy fines.

End.