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2300

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24 Nov
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RUMANIA

PRISONS
Atrocities

Arrest, Inquiry, and Prison.

SOURCE ISTANBUL : A refugee of foreign origin
who left Rumania in 1950.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 1949.

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Here is our source's account in his own
words:

We quote:

" In September 1949, at 0200 hours a jeep stopped in front of our house, and out stepped two Security officers, a civilian agent, and two soldiers. They were from the office of General Security. After assigning the two soldiers to guard the entrances of the house, the two officers and the civilian agent ran up the stairs and pounded impatiently on the door. When we greeted them, they entered the house with guns in hand and ordered the whole family to assemble in the living-room.

We were then told that they had been informed that we were hiding a quantity of gold coins and that, moreover, we carried an account in a Swiss bank. My father immediately denied the allegations. In answer they shouted the accusation once more, threatening to put the whole family in prison. After my father had once again told them that they were mistaken, they unnerved us further by beginning a search of the house, digging into everything indiscriminately. While we remained huddled together under

(Over)

the surveillance of the civil agent, they searched all the corners of the house, even breaking the frames of the doors.

After two hours of fruitless search, they commanded my father to prepare for departure within fifteen minutes, after which they departed with my father in great haste, leaving no trace of their destination.

Three months later my father was released, after promising not to reveal any of his observations of the prison plant, the prison regime, and the inquiry which he had undergone.

On the night of his arrest he was taken to the building, Niculescu Dragomir Cales VICORIEI, belonging to the Ministry of the Interior where he was confined in a sixth story room and interrogated by a captain (NU.) During the following three months he was questioned each night. He was practically deprived of sleep as he was taken to the interrogation room at all hours. For the first month he was constantly tortured because he refused to give his persecutors any information. During one week he was taken each night to the basement of the Prefecture where he was beaten on the back and on the feet with boards until he was completely immobilized. In spite of his sufferings my father did not give his torturers the information they desired as he was actually innocent of the charges. Instead of freeing him, they removed him from his cell to the Dragomir NICULESCU building where he was kept one month, until the wounds that he had suffered during the torture periods were healed. Then, after pledging himself to secrecy about the ordeal which had been inflicted upon him, he was released. After we had begged him to tell us of his experiences, he finally gave us the above account of his adventures."

EVAL. COMMENT: Consistent with similar accounts.