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ITEM No. 10068/52

AH
5 Aug
XI/593

RUMANIA

ARMED FORCES
Soviet Forces

PERSECUTION
Deportation

DESCRIPTION OF COUNTRY
Towns

Interview With Emigrant From
Galati

SOURCE ATHENS: a former factory owner from GALATI
who left Rumania in mid-June 1952.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: June 1952

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The food shortage in GALATI is acute, and the citizens are compelled to queue up for everything they need. One of the reasons for the shortage is the large number of Soviet troops stationed in GALATI, accommodated in shacks, and barracks. New barracks are being constructed. The Soviet also occupy the GALATI military hospital; Rumanian army personnel needing hospital treatment are sent to the town's municipal hospital.

A large building is being erected next to the Jewish cemetery. According to an emigrant from GALATI who formerly owned a brick and tile factory, about a million bricks have so far been used on the edifice; the emigrant was unable to say whether the building is destined for military purposes or not.

Mass arrests were made in GALATI in April 1952. The victims comprised all the former prefects and mayors, and many other prominent Rumanian citizens, including the lawyers VULPEA (fnu) and IGNAT (fnu).

The "Santierele Navale Romane" is a large shipyard in GALATI, employing 3,000 workers. Their low wages and harsh working conditions are made harder to bear by the frequent compulsory propaganda gatherings held after working hours, sometimes as late as 11 p.m.

RUMANIA
(cont'd)

Although Rumanians realize the destructive consequences a war would have for their country, they all hope for an outbreak of hostilities, according to the source. They regard an eventual conflict between East and West as their only chance of liberation from the Communist yoke.

When the rearmament of Germany was announced, Rumanians exulted, the emigrant said. The Rumanian citizen has a great respect for the efficiency and strength of the German army.

EVAL. COMMENT: In line with present living conditions in Rumanian ports. The shipyards are working mostly for the Soviets. See Items 8086/51, 6637/51, 8739/51, 9031/52 and the statement of a Greek merchant who arrived in Greece on 1 February 1952. The mentioned arrests and other details UNCONFIRMED here.