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RUMANIADESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTRYReport On The Village Of SASA (TARGU JIU.)

SOURCE TRIESTE: A Rumanian refugee who fled from Rumania to Yugoslavia on 26 September 1951. He was a corporal in the 3rd Regiment Frontier Guard in the village of IAM on the Rumanian-Yugoslav border.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: September 1951

The village of SASA, located three km from TARGU JIU (GORJ Province,) has a population of about 400 persons. Most of them are peasants, but there are some workers employed in the factories of TARGU JIU (jam, cigarette and textile factories.)

No kolkhoz has been organized as yet in the village. The richest farmers own about 50 hectares of land and are considered "kulaks," but their lives are almost as hard as those of the poorest peasants who own from five to six hectares. The peasants' hardships are caused by the exaggerated quotas fixed by the State; for example, for each sheep owned, the peasant must hand over a kilo of wool per year. During the month of March 1951, some 60 peasants of the village were denounced for not having handed over the quantities of milk asked by the State. In order to avoid being sentenced, most of the peasants were forced to buy butter on the black market and to hand it over as a substitute for the milk. All peasants, both rich and poor, are fed up with these methods, and for this reason Communist propaganda has no effect on them.

The Communist Party of the village now has less than 10 members. As a result of the purge during 1951, some 15 members of the Party were expelled because they were found unworthy of membership. Among these was the school-teacher BANARU (fnu) who was one of the most fanatical Communists, but who was expelled because he was originally from Bessarabia and had fled the region in 1941 when it was occupied by the Soviets. For this reason he was considered a suspicious element.

The most fanatical Communists of the village are:
 CIOGAZAN Ion, president of the popular council of the village, and Securitatea informer;
 BORDEI Alexandru, secretary of the popular council;
 SIMIONESCU Ion, forest trooper. He terrorizes the peasants and denounces them for the least little thing. In 1950 he denounced the peasant SOROP Ion, and SOROP was sentenced to 18 months in prison where he still is;
 CARSTOIU Ion, president of the village cooperative;
 POPESCU Bebe, accountant for the surrounding cooperatives.

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He is the son of the Orthodox priest, POPESCU Ion, who is a convinced anti-Communist. Ion has been arrested four times, once in 1951 when his own son denounced him to militia for having maltreated him. Bebe became a fervent Communist during his one year's stay at the BUMBESTI-LIVEZENI work yards and, despite his father's disapproval, continues his activity within the Party, and what is even more, is an informer for the Securitatea. His father wants nothing to do with him inasmuch as he has been in prison four times, once at the hands of his son. In 1950, the priest was denounced by one DOBRINCIU (fnu) of the village of BARZA, and was arrested for having mentioned King MICHAEL's name during a Mass, rather than the name of the President of the Presidium.

In the spring of 1951 the appearance of a group of partisans near the village set the peasants astir. They met the forest trooper, SIMIONESCU Ion, and perhaps because they had heard that he was a fanatical Communist, they treated him harshly. They undressed him and left him half-naked in the forest, warning him that he would be "eliminated" if he continued to molest the peasants.

During February 1951, the wife of one BICAN Constantin received two letters the one short after the other, from her husband from whom she had heard nothing for seven years, as he had been reported missing in the USSR during the last war. BICAN wrote to his wife that he was in a prison camp in the USSR and that he expected to be repatriated. The poor woman, who is suffering from TB and who has a nine-year-old child, waited in vain for further word from her husband, but nothing more came. She turned to the Communist authorities for aid asking that her husband be repatriated, but they did not intervene. In desperation, the woman wrote a letter to PAUKER Ana but never received an answer.

All the villagers anxiously await a change in the regime and hope that a war will soon break out between the Soviet Union and the West, as their only hope for liberation. In order to be free of the Communist yoke they are willing to suffer the horrors of war. There are no radio-sets in the village because they have all been confiscated. Therefore, when someone comes from the city of TARGU JIU, the first question the villagers secretly ask is: "What do the Americans say on the radio?"

EVAL. COMMENT: No confirmation available.