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ITEM NO. 11593/53

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18 Nov  
XI - 1013

RUMANIA

PERSECUTION

ARMED FORCES

Army

Personalities

PRESS

CLASS DISCRIMINATION

Arrest Of Retired Colonel.

SOURCE ATHENS: Letter received from BUCAREST by a Greek-Romanian repatriate in ATHENS who is known by the RFE correspondent to be reliable.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: September 1953

EVAL. COMMENT: According to the Telephone Directory, the address of Elisabeth MARGARITOPOL was 95 a, Boulv. 6 Martie. No confirmation is available here, regarding the arrest of Colonel MARGARITOPOL.

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The retired Colonel MARGARITOPOL (fnu), aged 70 and almost blind, was arrested two months ago by the Securitatea as he was leaving his home in BUCAREST to visit the cemetery in which his wife is buried, according to a letter from the Rumanian capital received early in November by a Greek-Romanian repatriate in ATHENS. The letter said that the venerable officer must "disappeared" after leaving his house; it was not until some time after that it became known that he had been arrested. The reason for his arrest and the place of detention is still unknown. His wife, of English birth, died a month before his arrest, according to the letter.

Greek-Romanian circles in ATHENS said that the Colonel had distinguished himself in the first World War and had been awarded the order of "Mihail Viteazu" - the highest decoration of pre-Communist Rumania. After his retirement from the army and before the advent of the Communists, he was co-director of the journal "Ordinea."

End.