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23 July 1951  
N 93RUMANIARESISTANCE

A strong partisan movement is operating in the Rumanian province of Banat. The peasants of this region escaped to the mountains in great numbers, to avoid collectivism and Soviet rule.

General DAMACEANU, son of the former mayor of Banat's capital TIMISOARA, and former officer of the Austro-Hungarian army, about two years ago organized the crowds of fugitives in a military unit. In the meantime, he received reinforcements from the severely persecuted Serbian minority group in the Banat.

Hiding in the mountains, the group has resisted until now all attempts of destruction.

In 1950, 12 prominent members of the group were caught and sentenced to death or long term imprisonment. They were charged with attacks against several rural police posts and Rumanian military units, and with having executed three Communists. They had gained such an influence in the KARANSEBES region that the production of RESITA, center of Rumanian heavy industry, was in danger of disorganization. The underground group had also planned to blow up the important railway ARAD-TIMISOARA-LUGOS-KARANSEBES-TURNU SEVERIN-BUCHAREST, and to occupy KARANSEBES.

Since spring 1951, the activities of the resistance movement in Banat have blazed up again.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: July 1951

EVAL. COMMENT:

Source : fairly reliable;  
Information: partly confirmed by other sources.