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ITEM No 3676/52

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18 Mar  
NL-378

RUMANIA

FOREIGN TRADE  
Expropriation  
Viniculture

SOURCE: A woman refugee who left Rumania in November 1951, previously employed in the below-described establishment.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Fall 1951

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A recently arrived refugee reports that the beautiful property in the CIUMESTI village, 20 km north of PITESTI, former department MUSCEL - now ARGES region, which formerly belonged to the most eminent BUCHAREST lawyer and former Minister of Justice NICESCU Istrate, has been confiscated and converted into a factory. NICESCU himself was arrested a long time ago and disappeared in prison; it is rumored that he has since died in AIUD.

The above-mentioned factory produces the Rumanian vodka called "Tzuica" and works for the State Monopoly. The whole production, amounting to about 5,000 liters per year, is exported to Soviet Russia. The Soviets - our informant states - take 50 wagons of "Tzuica" from Rumania every year.

EVAL. COMMENT: Correct, confirmed by other sources; see Item 11136, 11051 6674.