

AIR POUCH  
PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL  
(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE

766.00/11-2956

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM AmLegation Bucharest 219  
DESP. NO.

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

November 29, 1956

REF Legtel 330 of November 24, 1956

EUR INDEX

For Dept. U.S. Only	ACTION	DEPT.				
	REC'D	INFO	OTHER			
	EUR-5	RNR-2	OL-8	P-1	UOR-1	U-1
	72-6	CIA-15	OCB-1	USIA-10	ARMY-4	
				NAVY-3	MR-3	

SUBJECT Student Caller at Legation

As happens from time to time, a person called at the Legation the afternoon of November 23, requesting to speak privately with the Minister. The receptionist said the usual thing, that the Minister was busy but that Mr. Segall, an American who speaks some Rumanian, would talk with him if he so desired.

His story, as outlined in the Legation telegram under reference, was as follows: He is twenty-three years old and in his last year of medical studies at the University of Cluj. There has been continuing student unrest at Cluj, but this feeling took active form only during the Hungarian uprising. At that time, two or three weeks before he called at the Legation, several small groups of students met to voice their complaints, and to decide whether anything could be done about them. These groups included students of Hungarian and German nationality as well as Rumanian. (The caller was Rumanian.)

These meetings centered on the following grievances: (1) Insufficient allowances for food and books. "At present students have barely enough to keep from starving." (2) The obligation that all students become proficient in Russian must be abolished, and the teaching of Marxism-Leninism must be limited to social science majors and not be forced on the professions. (3) The secret police. He believed that at least one of ten students at Cluj were forced to be informers, or were coaxed, cajoled or scared into doing so. He himself was requested to turn informer about eighteen months ago, with the promise that if he provided "interesting" information, he would have more money to spend. He said he had not taken advantage of this offer. Students, he continued, live a life of terror. There is no chance for an informal get-together to discuss anything. Everything is controlled, and nobody keeps his mouth shut.

As might have been expected, he went on, word of protest meetings reached the authorities. There was

EE Segall:vac  
REPORTER

CONFIDENTIAL

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

This Document Must Be Returned to  
RNR  
Central  
766.00/11-2956

HBS

RECEIVED  
DEC 1 1956  
FBI  
FILED

CONFIDENTIAL FILE

Page 2 of  
Desp. No. 219  
From AmLegation Bucharest

CONFIDENTIAL  
(Classification)

Page \_\_\_\_\_ of  
Encl. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Desp. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
From \_\_\_\_\_

up of students and some fifty were retained and severely beaten to make them give the names of other "counter-revolutionaries." He escaped the first arrests, but feels certain that someone has broken under torture and his name is on a secret police list.

Fearing arrest he left the university and came to Bucharest where he has a better chance of avoiding capture. He came to the Legation to ask for help in leaving the country. He wanted to get into Yugoslavia--via someone's luggage compartment if necessary. In answer, he was told clearly that this was impossible.

In the brief subsequent discussion which followed, he expanded his earlier remarks on student unrest to include the universities of Timisoara, Tirgu Mures, Bucharest and Iasi. He had heard that about 300 students at Timisoara were arrested for holding protest meetings. He did not know how many were arrested at other universities but had heard that the numbers were considerable. At present reprisals are continuing. He expected that these recent outbreaks of student unrest will result in greater repression. As he put it, so long as the present leaders rule Rumania there is no hope of improvement.

He and all Rumanians--except the top echelons in the party--were completely let down by the lack of purposeful UN and US action in Hungary. The students at Cluj had banked on that help and hoped it would extend to Rumania and the other satellites. As an ironical aside, he suggested that the money now being spent on radio programs beamed to eastern Europe might better be used in explaining to the American people how people live under Soviet domination. After relieving himself of this criticism, he said he had to leave. Before going he asked if he might take one or two of the paper-bound books that were on shelves in the Legation's reception room. He chose two copies of This Is America, one copy of Moby Dick and was on his way.

When people call at the Legation on "confidential" business, it is believed that at least nine out of ten of them are "plants." In all such instances, the caller is treated sympathetically, but quickly informed that the Legation can offer no assistance--money or otherwise. The information proffered is listened to, but there has been no attempt at questioning--especially during this sensitive period. (See Minister Thayer's despatch No. 210 of November 27, 1956, for a description of possible attempts at provocation.)

The information received from this student is being transmitted mainly because it tends to confirm previous reports of

CONFIDENTIAL

Page 3 of  
Desp. No. 219  
From Am Legation Bucharest

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
(Classification)

Page \_\_\_\_\_ of  
Encl. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Desp. No. \_\_\_\_\_  
3027 From 30

of student unrest and describes student grievances in fairly specific terms. Whether or not this particular student was a "plant," his remarks are good commentary on the Rumanian state of mind at the present time.

For the Minister

*Edwin E. Segall*  
Edwin E. Segall

Second Secretary of Legation

**CONFIDENTIAL**

*H/SZ*