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Documente

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Document summaries

1

1939 July 12. Ministry of Cults and Arts. Decision no. 31.999/1939. There are three religious associations authorized in Romania: the Baptist religious association, the Seventh-day Adventist religious association and the Brethren religious association. A religious association can only function after receiving an authorization from the Ministry of Cults and Arts. The functioning rules of the authorized religious associations are set based on: the number of members of a local association, its headquarters, preachers, leadership, the prohibition of religious proselytism, publications etc. By this decision the Baptists are degraded from the status of a cult to that of a religious association.

2

1940 February 6. Ministry of Cults and Arts. Decision no. 5.657/1940, approving the Statute of the Christian Baptist Cult in Romania. This decision acknowledges the cult status of all Baptists living in Romania.

3

1940 February 24. Ministry of Minorities, Cultural Section. Report regarding the organization of the Christian Baptist Cult in Romania. It presents the arguments behind the Ministry's decision no. 5.657 of February 6, 1940, which confirmed the Baptists as a religious cult (*doc. 2*).

4

1940 September 9. Ministry of Cults and Arts. Decision no. 42.352/1940. The Romanian state, "which has become nationalist, Christian and totalitarian," authorizes on its territory only the functioning of the "historical cults": the Romanian Christian-Orthodox cult, the Romanian Greek-Orthodox (Unite) cult, the Catholic cult (of Latin, Greek-Ruthenian and Armenian rite), the Reformed cult (Calvinist), the Lutheran Evangelical cult, the Unitarian cult, the Armenian-Gregorian cult and the Mohammedan cult (art. I). Regarding the Mosaic religion, "the Romanian State takes note of a de facto existence of the Mosaic confession, which shall manifest according to the later dispositions of the Ministry" (art. II). The religious associations and all sects have been abolished: "Art. III. Except for the cults that have been acknowledged in art. I of this decision, no other religious associations or sects may exist any longer. They shall be abolished de jure and de facto starting with the issuing date of the present decision." (See also *doc. 5*.)

5

1940 September 9. Ministry of Cults and Arts. Decision no. 42.353/1940. All religious associations authorized by decision no. 31.999/1939 (*doc. 1*) shall cease their activity. The buildings belonging to the religious associations and sects transfer to state ownership. (See also *doc. 4* and *doc. 6*.)

6

1940 September 9. Ministry of Cults and Arts. Decision no. 42.355/1940. The members of the religious associations and sects that have been recognized, authorized, tolerated or forbidden until September 9, 1940 – the day when the Minister's orders no. 42.352/1940 and 42.353/1940 (*doc. 4* and *doc. 5*) have been issued –, shall be considered a-confessionals.

7

1940 September 10. The Town Hall of the commune Cincul, Făgăraș County, to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Document accompanying two minutes regarding the closing of two houses of worship (one Adventist and one Baptist) in the commune Cincul. (See also *doc. 16* and *doc. 17*.)

8

1940 September 11. The Union of the Evangelical Seventh-day Adventist Communities in Romania to General Ion Antonescu, the State Leader. Memorandum regarding decisions nos. 42.352 and 42.353 from September 9, 1940 from the Ministry of Cults and Arts forbidding the activity of religious associations (*doc. 4* and *doc. 5*). It demonstrates the injustice of these measures and speaks about the adventists' contribution to the moral and religious regeneration of the country. It asks for the withdrawal of the two decisions and the recognition of the Adventist denomination as a cult, "in order to be sheltered from such unjustified measures in the future." (Similar protests: *doc. 9*, *doc. 11*, *doc. 15* and *doc. 20*.)

9

1940 September 12. The Union of the Evangelical Seventh-day Adventist Communities in Romania to the Minister of Cults and Arts. The Adventist leaders declare their amazement at the Ministry's decisions nos. 42.352 and 42.353 from September 9, 1940 (*doc. 4* and *doc. 5*). They request that the decisions should not apply to their denomination or be allowed to postpone the application of these decisions so that they could discuss this situation with the Ministry. (Similar protests: *doc. 8*, *doc. 11*, *doc. 15* and *doc. 20*.)

10

<1940 September (before 14)>. The Union of the Evangelical Seventh-day Adventist Communities in Romania. Note to the preachers and presbyters. It includes instructions regarding the way believers must behave under the new circumstances when the authorities take measures to forbid the activity of the Adventist communities.

When the houses of worship are closed they are asked to submit petitions to the State Leader signed by all community members. In the coming weeks, until the problems are solved, the Shabbat must be for fast and prayer.

11

1940 September 15. The Romanian Baptist Community of Brăila to General Ion Antonescu, the State Leader. It protests against the Ministry's decision no. 42.353 of September 9, 1940 (*doc. 5*). "By closing the houses of worship, the Christian Baptist believers are deprived of their most elementary right: their freedom to pray to God according to their beliefs" and "an unjustified persecution has started aiming against tens of thousands of Romanians who are honest, loyal and count among the best children of the country, who just happen to be of Baptist faith." It asks to withdraw this decision. (Similar protests: *doc. 8, doc. 9, doc. 15 and doc. 20.*)

12

1940 September 19. Ministry of National Education, Cults and Arts. Decision no. 43.931/1940. The implementation of the Ministry's decisions no. 42.352 and no. 42.353 of September 9, 1940 (*doc. 4 and doc. 5*) is suspended, "until the definitive legal regulations by the regime of the religious associations and communities in the country."

13

1940 September 19. Ministry of National Education, Cults and Arts, Cults Direction to the Minister of the Interior. It sends the Ministry's decision no. 43.931 of September 19, 1940 (*doc. 12*). It asks the Minister of the Interior to order the subordinate authorities to immediately implement the measures of this decision. (See also *doc. 14.*)

14

1940 September 20. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the royal residents, county prefects and the Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Cable. It announces that, the Ministry's decisions nos. 42.352/1940 and 42.353/1940 (*doc. 4 and doc. 5*) have been suspended by decision no. 43.931/1940 of the Ministry of National Education, Cults and Arts (*doc. 12*). It orders the revocation of all measures taken under the two Ministry's decisions. (See also *doc. 13.*)

15

<**1940 September (before 21)**>. A group of Adventists from the commune Chirnogeni, Constanța County, to General Ion Antonescu, the State Leader. They protest against Ministry's decision no. 42.353 of September 9, 1940 (*doc. 5*). "General, we are peaceful citizens, we have served our country, we pay our taxes, we love our country and nation; hence, we do not understand why we are treated like this." (Similar protests: *doc. 8, doc. 9, doc. 11 and doc. 20.*)

16

1940 September 23. The Praeture of the Cincul District, Făgăraș County. Minutes regarding the re-opening of the Baptist house of worship in the commune Cincul, based on the Ministry's decision no. 43.931 from September 19, 1940 (*doc. 12*). This house of worship had been closed on September 9, 1940 as a result of the Ministry's decisions nos. 42.352 and 42.353 of that day (*doc. 4* and *doc. 5*). (See also *doc. 7* and *doc. 17*.)

17

1940 September 24. The Town Hall of the commune Cincul, Făgăraș County, to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of National Education, Cults and Arts. Accompanying note of two minutes regarding the opening of the Adventist and Baptist houses of worship in the commune Cincul. (See also *doc. 7* and *doc. 16*.)

18

1940 September 24. The city of Alexandria, Teleorman County. Minutes regarding the reopening of the Adventist house of worship as a result of decision no. 43.931/1940 of the Ministry of National Education, Cults and Arts (*doc. 12*). The house of worship was closed on September 10, 1940.

19

1940 September 24. Special Information Service. Informative note related with the comments made in some superior Orthodox church circles regarding the problem of religious sects. Forbidding sects' activity by the Ministry's decision no. 42.353 from September 9, 1940 (*doc. 5*) is considered appropriate and the reconsideration of this decision (see *doc. 12*) is regretted. It is considered necessary to regulate the sects' situation, not through the Ministry's decision, but through a law-decree passed by the state's leadership.

20

1940 September 25. A group of Adventists from the commune Bărcănești, Ialomița County, to General Ion Antonescu, the State Leader. They protest against decision no. 42.353 of September 9, 1940, that abolished the religious associations and closed the houses of worship (*doc. 5*). "General, God has called you to lead our country, so we ask you to be just and protect us." (Similar protests: *doc. 8*, *doc. 9*, *doc. 11* and *doc. 15*.)

21

1940 October 3. Ioan Avram, leader of the Baptist community of the commune Tășad, Bihor County, to the Minister of National Education, Cults and Arts. He asks for the seal on the Baptist church in Tășad to be removed. The church had been sealed by the chief of the gendarme precinct, as a result of the

Ministry's decisions no. 42.352 and 42.353 of September 9, 1940 (*doc. 4* and *doc. 5*). Since these decisions have been annulled, the believers have the right to enjoy the freedom of practicing their cult. (See also *doc. 31*.)

22

1940 October 5. Ministry of National Education, Cults and Arts, Cults Direction, to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It asks to warn the gendarmerie to permit the practice of the Baptist cult in all the country. This demand was made "as a result of the intervention of the German Legation in Bucharest." (See *doc. 23* and *doc. 24*.)

23

1940 October 15. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. It asks to pass orders to the subordinated bodies and allow free practice to the Baptist cult. (See also *doc. 22* and *doc. 24*.)

24

1940 October 15. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the Ministry of National Education, Cults and Arts, the Department of Cults. It informs that it transmitted orders to the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie to allow free practice to the Baptist cult (see *doc. 23*). (See also *doc. 22*.)

25

1940 October 21. The Praeture of the Radu-Negru District, Muscel County, to the Prefect of the Muscel County. Report regarding the reopening of the house of worship of the Brethren in the commune Lerești. In 1938, at the order of the Prosecutor's Office, the house of worship had been closed and sealed off. In February 1940, the Ministry of Cults and Arts has allowed the functioning of the local Brethren assembly. Nonetheless, the Prefecture of Muscel county has so far not ordered the house of worship to be reopened. It suggests for the sectarians to address the Prosecutor's Office in order to reopen their house of worship.

26

1940 November 11. Ministry of National Education, Cults and Arts, Cults Direction to the Minister of Internal Affairs. It sends the decision no. 42.355 of September 9, 1940 (*doc. 6*) and asks for the civil registry offices to record the persons affected by this decision as being "a-confessional."

27

1940 November 19. The Town Hall of the commune Cârpeștii Mari, Bihor County. Minutes regarding the closing of the house of worship in the locality. The Ministry's decision no. 42.353 from September 9, 1940 (*doc. 5*) is invoked although no longer in force.

28

1941 January 13. Gendarmes Legion Făgăraș. Informative note regarding the religious sects on the legion's territory (the Tudorist sect and the Brethren religious association).

29

<1941 (after January 15 – before February 26)> . The Union of the Romanian Baptist Communities to the Ministry of National Education, Cults and Arts. It forwards the protest issued by the Baptists in the commune Balaci, Teleorman County. On January 15, 1941, the praetor of the Balaci district has requisitioned the local house of worship to house German soldiers. The amount of 3,740 Lei paid by the commander of the German troops for the 22 soldiers cantoned at this location has been appropriated by the praetor and the mayor. It asks for the German troops cantoned in the house of worship to be evacuated and this case to be investigated in order for the guilty parties to be punished.

30

1941 January 26. Gendarmes Legion Neamț. Informative note. On January 6, 1941, a Seventh-day Adventist family from the commune Călugăreni, Neamț County, reconverted to Orthodoxy. This reconversion was performed "as a result of the advice given by the local priest, as well as of the police measures taken following the existing legal regulations."

31

1941 February 13. Ministry of National Education, Cults and Arts, Cults Direction to the Prefect of the Bihor County. It informs that the Baptist house of worship in the commune Tășad is about to be reopened. (See also *doc. 21.*)

32

1941 February 18. Gheorghe Rădoi, the president of the Evangelical Seventh-day Adventist Communities in Bacău, to the Prefect of the Bacău County. It asks for the Adventist houses of worship to be reopened in the county and the city of Bacău.

33

1941 February 19. Gheorghe Alexandrescu, delegate for the county of Muscel of the Brethren Association, to the commander of the Gendarmes Legion Muscel. He protests against the action undertaken by the authorities on February 16, 1941 when the believers gathered in their houses of worship in the city of Câmpulung and the communes Schitu Golești, Pietroșița and Bădești were arrested and sent to the Garison and the Gendarmes Legion. He asks that such abuses cease and the believers be allowed to practice their faith acknowledged by the state.

34

1941 March 9. Ioan Lăzărescu, a Baptist preacher from the Romanian Christian Baptist Circle in Clopotiva, Hunedoara County. Declaration regarding the event that took place on March 9, 1941 in the commune Breazova, Hunedoara County. The commune mayor, the teacher, the chief of the gendarme precinct and the chief of the Gendarme Section Sarmisegetuza marched into the Baptist house of worship while the believers were praying. Here the chief of the gendarme section hit two of the believers with his sword and brought some of them to the gendarme precinct, where he seriously injured one of them by once again hitting him with the sword. He drew up minutes of their arrest and sent their documents to the Court Martial in Sibiu where they were to be judged. (See also *doc. 40*, *doc. 53* and *doc. 59*.)

35

1941 March 25. Special Information Service. Note regarding a series of circular letters sent by the Union of the Evangelical Seventh-day Adventist Communities to the believers.

36

1941 March 28. Gendarme Precinct Susani, Arad county. Informative note regarding the Pentecostal sect. In February 1941, 24 Pentecostals in the commune Susani changed over to the Baptist sect; as did the Pentecostals from other communes. It considers the switching to Baptism (a tolerated confession) as a formal act, since these people keep on practicing their Pentecostal faith.

37

1941 April 4. Special Information Service. Note regarding the religious service held on March 30, 1941 in the Seventh-day Adventist house of worship located in Bucharest, 116 Mitropolitul Ghenadie st., during which Pastor Dumitru Florea referred to the Legionary rebellion of January 21-23, 1941.

38

1941 April 4. Some Baptists from the commune Costișa, Rădăuți County. Declaration regarding the events of March 16, 1941 and the following days. The Baptist believers have been arrested while they were attending a religious service and brought to the town hall and the gendarme precinct. From there, they were moved from one gendarme precinct to another until the Gendarmes Legion in Rădăuți and then the Prosecutor's Office of the Rădăuți Court of Law set them free. At the gendarme precincts where they were brought, they had to chop wood and scrub the floors. One of the women went into labor and gave birth. They have been tortured for three days, while their children had to stay home without food. They ask for the reauthorization of their house of worship and for them to be allowed to gather freely. (See also *doc. 39* and *doc. 48*.)

39

1941 April 10. The Union of the Christian Baptist Communities in Romania to the chief of the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. It forwards the declaration of the Baptists from the commune Costișa, Rădăuți County (*doc. 38*). It asks for the punishment of the persons guilty for these illegal acts and the Baptist believers not to be harmed again. (See also *doc. 48*.)

40

1941 April 10. The Union of the Christian Baptist Communities in Romania to the chief of the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. It forwards the declaration of the Baptists from the commune Breazova, Hunedoara County regarding the event of March 9, 1941 (*doc. 34*). It asks for the parties guilty of these illegal and barbaric acts to be punished and that the gendarmes be warned not to disturb again the Baptists in the practice of their cult. (See also *doc. 53* and *doc. 59*.)

41

1941 April 14. Ministry of Instruction, Education, Cults and Arts, Cults Direction to the minister of the Interior. The Ministry received numerous complaints sent by the religious associations, which claimed that they were not allowed to gather freely, under the pretext that in their functioning authorization was not mentioned the owner of the house of worship. The members of these religious associations may gather freely in the houses of worship in the localities where the headquarters of the organization lies. (See also *doc. 44* and *doc. 45*.)

42

1941 April 14. Ministry of Instruction, Education, Cults and Arts, Cults Direction to the Prefect of the Bihor County. It informs him of a petition sent by the Union of the Christian Baptist Communities in Romania regarding the situation in the village of Tărcăița, commune Tărcaia, Bihor County, where the district notary refused to issue a construction authorization for a house of worship, by invoking legal restrictions. The Ministry states that these restrictions – the community should have at least 50 members, the house of worship should be placed at a distance of at least 200 meters from the churches of other cults – do not apply to the Baptists, since, by decision no. 5.657/1940 (*doc. 2*) they do not have to comply with the decision no. 31.999/1939 (*doc. 1*). (See also *doc. 46* and *doc. 60*.)

43

1941 April 15. Special Information Service. Note regarding the Union of the Evangelical Seventh-day Adventist Communities of Romania, which asked the headquarters in Bern (Switzerland) for supplementary financial aid.

44

1941 April 17. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the county prefects. It informs of the decision taken by the Ministry of Instruction,

Education, Cults and Arts, according to which the members of the authorized religious associations may gather freely in the houses of worship of the localities where the headquarters of the organization lies (*doc 41*). (See also *doc. 45*.)

45

1941 April 25. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the county prefects etc. Circular order. The Law no. 142/1941 regarding public meetings is implemented by certain authorities in ways “that have not been intended by the lawmaker” ; in some places, these authorities won’t even allow the recognized religious associations (Baptists, Seventh-day Adventists and Brethren) to gather in their house of worship and the believers who are found there praying are submitted to various military prosecutor’s offices. It underlines that these religious associations are to be allowed to gather freely on condition that the respective house of worship have a legal authorization issued by the Ministry of Cults. (See also *doc. 41* and *doc. 44*.)

46

1941 April 25. Prefecture of the Bihor County, Administrative Service to the praetor of the Beiuș district. It communicates the order of the Ministry of Instruction, Education, Cults and Arts regarding the situation in the commune Târcaia, Bihor County (*doc. 42*) and orders it to become legal. (See also *doc. 60*.)

47

1941 April 25. Gendarme Precinct Nădrag, Severin County. Informative note regarding the Baptists from the village Crivina de Jos. It requests for a deceased Baptist to be erased from the register. Only 30 Baptists remain in the commune. (See also *doc. 49*.)

48

<**1941 May 5**>. Gendarmes Legion Rădăuți. Report containing the results of the investigation concerning the complaints of some Baptists from the commune Costișa, Rădăuți County (*doc. 38*). It maintains that the precinct chief intervened according to military laws and that “the attitude of the gendarmes towards the transferred people was correct.” (See also *doc. 39*.)

49

1941 May 5. Gendarme Precinct Jabăr, Severin County. Informative note. It asks for a Baptist woman who has moved to another commune to be erased from the register on “political and social currents.” (See also *doc. 47*.)

50

1941 May 5. Gendarme Precinct Dubova, Severin County. Informative note. The population from the commune of Dubova is worried because it does not have an Orthodox priest, although such requests have been made to the Bishopric of Caransebeș. Some locals “said that they would switch to the Baptist sect because here the preacher would be chosen from their midst.” (See also *doc. 57*.)

51

1941 May 6. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the county prefects etc. It asks them to warn the subordinate authorities that only the Ministry of Cults may order the closing of the houses of worship belonging to the authorized religious associations (Baptists, Seventh-day Adventists and Brethren). This specification was needed since there were numerous complaints issued by these religious associations stating that the chief of the gendarme precinct would close the houses of worship arbitrarily.

52

1941 May 9. The notary public of the commune Ciupercenii-Noi, Dolj County, to the praetor of the Calafat district. He reports that the house of worship of the commune's Adventists was closed since it did not have a functioning authorization. After the Military Headquarters provided them with an authorization and established a specific day of the week when they were allowed to gather (Saturdays), the notary has allowed the house of worship to function.

53

<1941 (after May 9)>. Gendarmes Legion Hunedoara. Report containing the results of the investigation of the claim made by the Baptists from the commune Breazova, Hunedoara County (*doc. 34*). The report mentions the fact that the chief of the Gendarme Section Sarmisegetuza hit Moise Orha and Petru Kerl with his sword. The two of them have sued the station chief for hitting them. It suggests to punish the respective gendarme (See also *doc. 34* and *doc. 59*.)

54

1941 May 12. Special Information Service. Note regarding the itinerant book-selling of the Union of the Evangelical Seventh-day Adventist Communities of Romania.

55

1941 May 12. Special Information Service. Note regarding the religious service of May 7, 1941 at the Baptist house of worship in Bucharest, 56 bis Basarab st. Within the sermon, Pastor Constantin Adorian has alluded to the anti-semitic measures taken in Romania.

56

1941 May 13. Special Information Service. Note regarding the Union of the Evangelical Seventh-day Adventist Communities of Romania, which received a letter from the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, South Europe Division.

57

1941 May 13. Gendarmes Legion Severin. Informative note regarding the tendency of some sectarians to switch to Baptism. This is, nevertheless, a formal act, for

the sectarians to benefit from the status of the Baptists, who are a tolerated sect. As for the situation in the commune Dubova, Severin County, where there is no Orthodox priest, the Legion has intervened at the Bishopric of Caransebeş and the reply was that only a refugee priest can be appointed to this position. It asks for interventions to be made in this respect, "for the spiritual peace and for the population to be prevented from switching to the Baptists." (See also *doc. 50.*)

58

1941 May 16. Ministry of Instruction, Education, Cults and Arts, Cults Direction to the Union of the Evangelical Seventh-day Adventist Communities. It certifies on request the legal situation of the Seventh-day Adventist religious association.

59

1941 May 19. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service, 2nd Section. Report regarding the case of March 9, 1941 from the commune Breazova, Hunedoara County. It continues the information contained in the report drawn up by the Gendarmes Legion Hunedoara (*doc. 53*). (See also *doc. 34* and *doc. 40*.)

60

1941 May 22. Prefecture of the Bihor County, Administrative Service to the praetor of the Beiuş district. It asks for the order of April 25, 1941, concerning the case from the commune Tărcaia (*doc. 46*) to be executed immediately. (See also *doc. 42*.)

61

1941 May 23. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the county prefects etc. At the intervention of the Ministry of Instruction, Education, Cults and Arts, it asks for measures to be taken in order for the civil registrars to obey the law and enact the citizen's requests for confession changes.

62

1941 May 26. Prefecture of the Dolj County, Administrative Service to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction. It communicates the result of the investigation performed by the archpriest of the Dolj County regarding the Seventh-day Adventists from the communes Ciupercenii Noi and Ciupercenii Vechi, as a result of the priest of Ciupercenii Noi asking this cult to be banned. The archpriest asks for the Ministry's decisions no. 42.352/1940 (*doc. 4*) and 42.353/1940 (*doc. 5*) to be reenforced.

63

1941 May 27. Victor Marinescu, Orthodox priest in the commune Viişoara, Constanţa County, to General Ion Antonescu, the State Leader. He accuses the followers of religious sects of playing into the hands of the foreigners and the enemies

of the country and of serving the interests of the communist cause. He demands the dissolution by law of all religious sects and for all ethnic Romanian sectarians to be brought back to Orthodoxy. (See also *doc. 70*. Another petition of this priest: *doc. 488*.)

64

1941 June 2. The Metropolitan Bishopric of Oltenia, Râmnic and Severin, Cultural Direction to the Minister of Internal Affairs. It shows the plans of the Metropolitan Bishopric to invigorate the pastoral, missionary and cultural activities of the clergy. As for the missionary activity, it also includes the missionary circles "existing in the parishes that had been contaminated by the sectarians" while the program of this circle aims that "the people be protected from the bad foreign influences, worldly parties and mainly through catechization to be immunized against any sectarian and anti-national propaganda." The Metropolitan Bishopric has already formed a series of missionary teams.

65

1941 June 5. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction to the Minister of Internal Affairs. In some regions, the circular order no. 2.038 A of April 25, 1941 (*doc. 45*) is interpreted wrongly and the gendarme precinct chiefs set on their own the day when the members of the religious associations may gather and pray in their houses of worship. It asks for measures to be taken so that the order is respected. (See also *doc. 67*.)

66

1941 June 10. The Romanian Baptist Church Community of Arad to the Minister of Internal Affairs. Report regarding the persecution of the Baptist believers. In some places, the communal authorities have arrested and brought to justice the Baptists claiming they have gathered in their houses of worship without having a special authorization, although such an authorization was not necessary, since on April 25, 1941, the Ministry of Internal Affairs exempted the Baptist gatherings from Law no. 142/1941 (see *doc. 45*). In the Hăteș region there is a series of such situations. On June 2, 3 and 4, 1941, the War Council in Sibiu has sentenced to jail several Baptists. It asks the Minister to intervene so that these people are removed of criminal charges and those sentenced pardoned and set free. Moreover, it asks for him to issue a circular order for the local authorities to know about the status of the Baptists and, therefore, to stop the persecution. (See also *doc. 68*.)

67

1941 June 16. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. It orders for measures to be taken so that the gendarmerie to follow exactly the provisions of circular order no. 2.038 A of April 25, 1941 (*doc. 45*). (See also *doc. 65*.)

68

1941 June 30. The Romanian Baptist Church Community of Arad to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction. It asks to be

informed about the results of the investigation of the facts reported in the note of June 10, 1941 (*doc. 66*) concerning the Baptists that were sentenced for having violated Law no. 142/1942, although the Ministry had exempted the Baptists from its provisions.

69

1941 July 1. Special Information Service. Note concerning some Stylists from the commune Bodești-Precista, Neamț County who switched to the Adventist religious association.

70

1941 July 5. Ministry of National Culture and Cults to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Regarding the petition of the priest Victor Marinescu from the commune Vișoara, Constanța County (*doc. 63*), who appreciates that it cannot be taken into consideration when drawing up a potential new law regarding the cults. It considers that “the cults have always been the dissolving germs of our national solidarity” ; they “pulverize both our religious unity and our Romanian spirit.”

71

1941 July 18. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Cabinet. It forwards a copy of the magazine *Credință, viață și religie (Faith, Life and Religion)*, no. 2/1941, edited by the Union of the Evangelical Seventh-day Adventist Communities of Romania. This publication does not contain anything illegal, yet “it entertains a rebellious spirit against the authorities that «deter from the free preachings of the Holy Gospel» and tries to show its readers that they are persecuted, indirectly prompting them to uncomplainingly put up with their «persecution».” It asks for measures to be taken for this publication to no longer be sent to the administrative authorities and the gendarmerie.

72

1941 July 30. City Hall of the city of Caracal, Administrative Service to the Minister of National Culture and Cults. It informs about the results of an investigation in the case of local Adventist community, counting eight members. It proposes that this sect be dissolved and “put under the watch of the state security agencies since the members of these communities are at present factors of social disaggregation.” The report drawn up at the Ministry as a result of this informative note rejects all accusations.

73

1941 July 31. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction the county prefects. Circular. The prefect is asked to order the civil registrars to not allow anyone to switch from the historical cults to aconfessionalism until new regulations are given.

74

<**1941 August (after-1)**>. State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts, Cults Direction to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Bureau for

Bessarabia. It asks to intervene to the delegates of General Ion Antonescu in Bessarabia and Bukovina, that they “forbid any sectarian activities in these regions and to stop, until new orders are given, the functioning of religious associations. We consider this to be necessary for the inner peace of the believers in these liberated territories.”

75

1941 August 5. Gendarme Precinct Borlova, Severin County. Informative note regarding the festivities organized by the Baptist community in the commune Borlova on August 3, 1941.

76

1941 August 12. Special Information Service. Note regarding the activities of the religious associations from a series of communes in the county of Hotin. Measures have been taken to identify the propagandists and to bring them to justice.

77

< **1941 August (before 13)** >. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction. Report regarding the magazine *Farul Creștin* (*Christian Lighthouse*) and the situation of the Baptist cult in Romania. It speaks of the “a-national, sectarian and propagandistic character of this magazine, as well as of the entire Baptist movement.” It asks for: “a) The suspension of the magazine *Farul Creștin* because of its sectarian activities and its total lack of spiritual adherence to the great historical events of the Romanian nation; b) The revision of the legal regime of the Baptist cult in Romania, since it does not fit the spiritual, national and Christian character of our nation and cannot comply with the imperatives of the current political regime in Romania.”

78

1941 August 13. The Union of the Evangelical Seventh-day Adventist Communities in Romania to the Minister of Internal Affairs. The Union complains about the abuses suffered by the Adventist believers from the local authorities, which forbid their religious gatherings by wrongfully understanding the provisions of Law no. 142/1941. It asks for the local authorities to be informed about circular order no. 2.038 of April 25, 1941 of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which allows all recognized religious associations to gather freely (*doc. 45*).

79

1941 August 25. The leadership of the Seventh-day Adventists of Northern Bukovina and Bessarabia. Letter to the believers. Among others, it expresses the joy regarding the liberation of Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina from the Soviet occupation. The Sabbath of September 6, 1941 is proclaimed Thanksgiving Day and the believers are asked to pray “for His Majesty, King Mihai I, for the high officials and for the welfare of the country we live in.” (See also *doc. 103*.)

80

1941 September 1. Gendarme Precinct Nădrag, Severin County. Informative note regarding the baptism ceremony that took place in the village Crivina de Jos on August 31, 1941, when ten persons were baptized. The list of individuals baptized is included. (See also *doc. 82.*)

81

<**1941 September (before 2)**>. Emilian Niculescu, secretary of the Evangelical Seventh-day Adventist Communities from the organization Northern Moldavia and Bukovina, to the Prefect of the Bacău County. The house of worship from the city of Moinești was closed by the local authorities on July 5, 1941. The leadership of the Moinești community informed the Ministry of Internal Affairs about this situation and the Ministry's reply was communicated to the Prefecture of the Bacău County on July 24. It asks to be informed of the decision taken by the Ministry in this case. (See also *doc. 96* and *doc. 100.*)

82

1941 September 11. Gendarme Precinct Nădrag to the Gendarmes Legion Severin. Report regarding the Baptists living on the territory of the precinct. On August 31, 1941 in the village Crivina de Jos, took place a baptism ceremony. Out of the ten people that have been baptized on this occasion nine came from Baptist families and one was originally of Orthodox faith. (See also *doc. 80.*)

83

1941 September 12. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the county prefects etc. It informs that the Ministry of National Culture and Cults has forbidden the Baptist brass bands.

84

1941 September 16. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service. Information bulletin. "The Jews from the city of Cernăuți have started to get «baptism certificates» from various communities of the authorized religious associations so they can avoid wearing a distinctive mark and more easily leave the city to prevent being concentrated in ghettos." The Brethren community from Cernăuți has issued such certificates with dates before June 28, 1940.

85

1941 September 17. Gendarmes Legion Arad. Informative note. On August 31, 1941, the Baptists from the commune Seleuș, Arad County have organized a baptism ceremony in the village river; they have gone through the village in a group without receiving a permit from the local authorities. The Baptist leaders have been brought before the Court Martial of the 4th Army Corps.

86

1941 September 23. Lucian, Bishop of Roman, to the Prefect of the Bacău County. He informs him that in the commune Răcăciuni, Bacău County, there is a house of worship that does not have a functioning authorization and where, the local Adventists gather on Saturdays. The bishop asks for measures to be taken by the police and security agencies against “this movement that goes against the State’s interests.”

87

1941 September 26. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction to the Prefect of the Bihor County. It announces that the Censorship Office has intercepted a letter written by the Baptist Petru Macroș from the commune Tămașda, Bihor County, which was addressed to the Union of the Christian Baptist Communities in Romania in which he complained about the fact that the local authorities do not allow the local community to congregate in a home rented temporarily until the restoration of the house of worship is finished. The Ministry asks the Prefecture to order the local authorities to forbid the functioning of all houses of worship that do not have an authorization issued by the ministry.

88

1941 September 26. The Prefect of the Teleorman County to the Ministry of Instruction, Education, Cults and Arts, Cults Direction. Report regarding the project of the Adventist teacher Iosif Ranea from Brașov, who wanted to open an Adventist elementary school in the city of Alexandria. He has a permit that was issued by the Ministry on January 18, 1941. The Prefecture has ordered the Police of Alexandria City not to allow the opening of this school, thereby hindering the Adventist proselytism, especially considering that this teacher was an “ardent and dangerous propagandist.” He asks the Ministry to approve this measure.

89

1941 September 29. Zamfira Puha from the commune Bilca, Rădăuți County to the mayor of the commune. She asks that her conversion from the Orthodox religion to the Baptism is recorded. (See also *doc. 132* and *doc. 135*.)

90

1941 September 30. Prefecture of the Bihor County, Administrative Service to the praetors, the City Hall of Beiuș, the Gendarmes Legion Bihor and the Police Questure Beiuș. It informs about the order of the Ministry of National Culture and Cults of September 26, 1941, which forbids the houses of worship which have not been authorized by the Ministry to function (*doc. 87*).

91

1941 October 18. Gendarmes Legion Bălți. Informative note. The Baptists from Bucharest sent postcards to the Baptists from the Bălți County urging them not to abandon

their faith and to act to win over new members. The Legion has intervened at the post offices in order for these postcards to be stopped and asked the gendarmes to supervise this situation.

92

1941 October 27. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service to the Gendarmes Inspectorate Timișoara. It asks for explanations regarding the decrease in the number of Baptists in the statistics for the 1st trimester of 1941 in comparison with the year 1939. (See also *doc. 95.*)

93

1941 October 27. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service to the Gendarmes Legion Botoșani. As a result of comparing the data of the religious associations from the Dorohoi County for the year 1939 and the 1st trimester of 1941, the number of the Brethren has increased from 573 to 940. It asks for measures to be taken in order for these believers to be identified and prosecuted if they did not follow the legal regulations. The Legion needs to explain to the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie the causes that led to an increase in the number of Brethren. (See also *doc. 98* and *doc. 102.*)

94

1941 October 28. Gendarmes Legion Iași. Informative note. The patients at the sanatorium in Bârnova read a booklet entitled *Cartea mânturii (The Salvation Book)*, edited by the Brethren. The gendarmes legion investigates whether the booklet was not distributed in other localities as well.

95

1941 November 4. Gendarmes Inspectorate Timișoara to the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service. Report regarding the number of Baptists in the statistics for the 1st trimester of 1941. As a result of the Ministry's decision no. 5.657/1940 (*doc. 2*), by means of which the Baptists have been recognized as a religious cult, the Inspectorate has erased them from their logs and no longer keeps any records on them. The 44 Baptists recorded for the 1st trimester of 1941 within Arad County are members of the "independent Baptists" cult. (See also *doc. 92.*)

96

1941 November 12. Police Commissariate Moinești to the Prefecture of the Bacău County. Report concerning the Adventist house of worship in the city of Moinești that was closed on June 15, 1941. (See also *doc. 81* and *doc. 100.*)

97

1941 November 13. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction to the Minister of Internal Affairs. It ascertains that the members of the religious associations are still proselytizing and asks for measures to be taken to stop these actions. (See also *doc. 104.*)

98

1941 November 14. Gendarmes Legion Botoșani, 2nd Gendarmerie Bureau to the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service. It explains why the number of Brethren reported by the Legion was greater in the first semester of 1941 than in the year 1939. The surplus can be explained by: 1) the number of “aconfessionals” from the commune Salcea (who have been registered as Brethren, after the failure of the year long attempts of the commune authorities – priest, teacher and gendarmes – to bring them back to Ortodoxism); 2) the inhabitants of the commune Vlădeni who, in 1939, switched to the Pentecostal sect and now, as a result of the persecution of the Pentecostals, have become Brethren; 3) the newly identified members of the Brethren sect from a series of different communes; 4) the children of all these people, who, in the documents, registered as having the religion of their parents. (See also *doc. 93* and *doc. 102.*)

99

1941 November 17. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. Informative note. In the last year, in Muscel County, 483 “Tudorist” sectarians, who could no longer practice their cult freely, converted to the “Brethren” association which was legal. This way, the number of Brethren in the county reached 560.

100

1941 November 17. Prefecture of the Bacău County to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction. It informs that on June 15, 1941, the house of worship of the Adventists from the city of Moinești has been sealed, not by the local authorities, but by the Bacău Police and by the headquarters of the 3rd Army. (See also *doc. 81* and *doc. 96.*)

101

1941 November 17. Police Questure Chișinău. Minutes regarding the closing of the house of worship of the Baptist association in Chișinău. This operation was based on the Ministry’s decisions no. 42.352 and no. 42.353 of September 9, 1940 (*doc. 4* and *doc. 5*). Nevertheless, these decisions were no longer in force.

102

1941 November 18. Gendarmes Legion Dorohoi to the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service. It explains why the number of Brethren reported by the legion has increased in the 1st semester of 1941 as compared to the year

1939. The difference is explained by the fact that, initially, some stations registered only the heads of families. Only later were the rest of the family members included on these lists. (See also *doc. 93* and *doc. 98*.)

103

<1941 November (before 20)>. The leadership of the Seventh-day Adventist Conference Bukovina and Bessarabia. Letter to the believers from the two provinces. It appeals to them to donate winter clothing to the soldiers; to this purpose, each family must make or buy a wool flannel. The action is coordinated by the Conference and will end on November 20, 1941. (See also *doc. 79*.)

104

1941 November 20. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the county prefects etc. It informs about the report issued by the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction on November 13, 1941 (*doc. 97*) and asks for measures to be taken in order to hinder all proselytizing manifestations or actions.

105

1941 November 26. Ministry of Internal Affairs, General Secretary's Office to the Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Cabinet. Marshall Ion Antonescu, the State Leader, has ordered for measures to be taken in order for "all sectarians to be discovered and judged." "Most of the sectarians are communists, who use this religious mask in order to promote communist ideas." (See also *doc. III*.)

106

1941 November 30. Gendarmes Legion Bacău. Informative note. The Seventh-day Adventists make intense propaganda amidst the Orthodox population. A means of propaganda is the magazine *Semnele Timpului* (*Signs of Time*) which they send for free to many inhabitants of the Bacău County. The Legion has ordered the gendarmes to block the distribution of this publication.

107

1941 November 30. Ana Sabadas, Liuba Țurcan and Natalia Gherman from the village of Opinca, commune of Glingeni, Bălți County, to Marshall Ion Antonescu, the State Leader. Cable. They inform him that their husbands have been arrested and sent to a camp simply because they were Baptists and did not want to become part of the Orthodox cult.

108

<1941 December>. Gendarmes Inspectorate Chișinău. The statistics of the members of the subversive currents on the Inspectorate's territory. Here communists, Legionaries and religious sects are included.

109

1941 December 1. The Prefect of the Ismail County. Appeal to the commune administration regarding the religious sects. The issue of the religious sect is “one of the painful legacies of the past regimes.” “I ask all commune authorities to help me to convince all these sectarians that it is in their best interest, as well as the country’s interest, to return to the faith of their forefathers.” (See also *doc. 110* and *doc. 119*.)

110

1941 December 1. Prefecture of the Ismail County to the Gouvernement of Bessarabia. Forwarding note of an order concerning the religious sects from this county (*doc. 109*). “I thought that it is our duty to address this problematic issue, in order to profit from the current favorable situation...” (See also *doc. 119*.)

111

1941 December 2. General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction to the police inspectorates. Cable. “By the order of Mr. Marshall Ion Antonescu, we ask you to immediately take measures for all sectarians to be revealed and judged.” Exceptions from this measure include the members of the “sects” (religious associations) authorized by the Ministry of Cults. (See also *doc. 105*.)

112

1941 December 8. Gendarme Section Câmpulung to the Gendarmes Legion Câmpulung. Report regarding the Seventh-day Adventist association from the commune Fundul Moldovei, Câmpulung County. This association has infringed on the law and has been sued a number of times by the commune’s gendarme precinct. It asks for an intervention by the Ministry of Cults and Arts suggesting to order the closing of this house of worship.

113

1941 December 10. The Gouvernement of Bessarabia, General Secretariate to its subordinate authorities. It forwards the note of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of November 26, 1941 (*doc. 105*), including the order of Marshall Antonescu for all sectarians to be identified and brought to justice.

114

1941 December 10. Gendarmes Inspectorate Chişinău to the Gouvernement of Bessarabia. Informative note. The population of Cahul County is very displeased because of the sectarians (Seventh-day Adventists and Baptists). The inhabitants say that these sects undermined the Orthodox faith in the past, bringing Tzarist Russia to ruin.

115

1941 December 11. Gendarme Precinct Cladova, Severin County. Informative note. The inhabitants of the commune Cladova are on bad terms with the Orthodox priest,

who treats them with disrespect. Consequently, “nowadays most of the commune’s inhabitants have stopped going to church and all of them are about to switch to the Pentecostal sect.”

116

1941 December 12. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the county prefects etc. Order for all town halls to register the newborns of the members of the authorized religious associations with their parents’ religion. Many civil registrars usually register these newborns by default, as being of Orthodox faith.

117

1941 December 16. The Gouvernement of Bessarabia to its subordinate authorities. It informs about the order issued by the Governor of Bessarabia stating that “all sectarians who are caught making propaganda are to be written up for internment in camp.”

118

1941 December 16. The Gouvernement of Bessarabia to the Bishopric of Bălți. It announces that it ordered all sectarians caught making religious propaganda to be interned in a camp (see *doc. 117*). It asks for information about the measures taken by the bishopric for fighting the sects.

119

1941 December 23. The Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Administrative Affairs Directorate, Information Service. Appeal regarding the religious sects, which it considers to be a “nuisance” for Bessarabia. It asks to be taken measures for the sectarians to be brought back to the Orthodox faith. It offers the example of Ismail County, where approximately 100 sectarians have returned to the ancient faith. Annex: “The statistics of the religious sects by county in Bessarabia.” (See also *doc. 109* and *doc. 110*.)

120

1941 December 31. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Cernăuți, Security Service to the General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction. Report related to the detection of a Baptist in Hotin town, who was distributing Bibles to some believers and to a raid made in the Baptist church in the locality.

121

1942 <end>. General Direction of the Police, Detective Corps, 2nd Division. The study *History of the Religious Sects in Romania*, written by the commissary C. I. Mazilu. He divides the religious sects into: Western sects “of a rationalist character” (Baptism, Adventism and the Brethren), sects “of a mystical-rationalist character” (Stundism) and “sects with Oriental philosophical traits” (Theosophy, Spiritism,

Tolstoyism). Chapter V (“The Sects and the State”) deals with the religious policy of the Romanian state starting with the 1930s.

122

1942 January 8. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the county prefects etc. It asks for the subordinate authorities to be ordered to record each time they notice that somebody has illegally switched from a historical cult to a religious sect.

123

1942 January 23. Ministry of Public Works and Communications, General Direction for Post, Telegram and Telephone Services, Direction of Exploitation to the General Direction of the Police. It sends several confiscated written materials. These are Adventist propaganda materials printed by the Bucharest publishing house „Cuvântul Evangheliei” (The Word of Gospel) and sent to some inhabitants of the counties Bihor and Neamț.

124

1942 January 24. Gendarmes Legion Iampol, Transnistria. Informative note regarding the sectarians living in this county. Most of them are “Evangelists” (Brethren) but there are also some “Millenists” (Jehova’s Witnesses). It gives data by communes: the number of sectarians, the name of their leader etc. During the Soviet era, the Evangelists had been persecuted. Now they are coming to the Prefecture to ask for authorizations to enable them to open houses of worship. (See also *doc. 126.*)

125

1942 January 26. Gendarmes Legion Hunedoara. Informative note. The Bucharest publishing house “Cuvântul Evangheliei” (The Word of Gospel) has started to distribute Adventist booklets and magazines. The colpolteurs who have been caught have been brought in front of the court martial.

126

1942 February 5. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service to the Gendarmes Legion Iampol, Transnistria. It states that the Brethren sect is authorized to function according to the Ministry’s decision no. 31.999/1939 (*doc. 1*). The Gendarmes Legion Iampol must verify whether there are followers of some forbidden sect (Inochentists or “Millenists”) posing as “Evangelists.” If this is the case, legal regulations must be enforced. (See also *doc. 124.*)

127

1942 February 13. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service, 2nd Section. Circular order. No authorization of a religious association or a preacher is valid, if it is not the original one issued by the Ministry of National Culture

and Cults. With respect to Bessarabia and Bukovina, measures have been taken for all authorizations to be withdrawn, including those issued by the Ministry.

128

1942 February 16. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service, 2nd Section. Information order. It draws the attention to the fact that the members of the authorized religious associations and especially those of the forbidden sects continue with their propaganda.

129

1942 February 20. Ministry of National Culture and Cults. Decision no. 10.091/1942, regarding the Baptist cult in Romania. The decision no. 5.657/1940 (*doc. 2*) is annulled and the provisions of decision no. 31.999/1939 (*doc. 1*) are reinforced for the Baptists. Therefore, the Baptists have been degraded from the status of a cult to that of a religious association. (See also *doc. 140* and *doc. 142*.)

130

1942 February 21. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction to the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service, 2nd Section. It informs the provisions of the decision no. 10.091/1942 (*doc. 129*). It orders that all of the authorizations for houses of worship and Baptist preachers be verified.

131

1942 February 21. The Bishopric of Hotin to the Governor of Bessarabia. It presents the successes recorded in the missionary "anti-sectarian" offensive. 419 sectarians have returned to the Orthodox Church (a list with the names of these people is attached). Two Baptist houses of worship have been turned into Orthodox churches while two others have been transformed into elementary schools.

132

1942 February 23. Zamfira Puha, originally from the commune Bilca, Rădăuți County. Declaration. She withdraws her request to convert from the Orthodox religion to the Baptist one, made on September 29, 1941 (*doc. 89*). (See also *doc. 135*.)

133

1942 February 24. Constantin Ionescu, the parish priest of the church "Sf. Voievozi" of Bacău, to the Police Questure Bacău. He complains about the fact that the sectarians (Brethren) gather each Sunday morning in a private home. He states that this house is "a revolutionary nest that aims at national disintegration." He asks for measures to be taken. (See also *doc. 144*, *doc. 145*, *doc. 172* and *doc. 176*.)

134

1942 February 25. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service, 2nd Section. Circular order. It forwards the regulations of the Ministry of National Culture and Cults no. 2.534/1942. The Ministry orders for all houses of worship belonging to the authorized religious associations that do not meet the legal provisions as provided by decision no. 31.999/1939 (*doc. 1*), to be shut down and their authorizations withdrawn.

135

1942 February 27. Prefecture of the Capital City Police, Security Police Service. Minutes. Called at the police and asked if she maintains her request to convert from the Orthodox religion to the Baptist cult (*doc. 89*), Zamfira Puha, originally from the commune Bilca, Rădăuți County, made a declaration whereby she withdrew the request (*doc. 132*).

136

1942 March 2. Gendarmes Inspectorate Chișinău. Informative note regarding the Baptists from the village of Buzduganii de Sus, the commune Valea Mare, Bălți County who refuse to obey the rule of the authorities. Some of them have been interned in the camp in Târgu-Jiu because of their attitude during the Soviet occupation. The house of worship has been confiscated and handed over to the local elementary school.

137

1942 March 4. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction to the Prefect of the Bihor County. It announces that the Ministry has approved all measures taken by the administrative and police authorities from Bihor County, which have closed the Baptist houses of worship from Batăr, Talpoș, Ciumeghiu, Sudrigiu, Cusuș and Hinchiriș. The Union of Christian Baptist Communities of Romania has protested against these measures. It orders for these houses of worship to be kept closed. It asks for a general assessment of the sects present on the territory of the county. (See *doc. 174*.)

138

<**1942 March (before 5)**>. Gendarme Precinct Bran, Brașov County. “The History of the Seventh-day Adventist Religious Sect” on the precinct’s territory. (See also *doc. 139* and *doc. 308*.)

139

<**1942 March (before 5)**>. Gendarme Precinct Bran, Brașov County. “The History of the Brethren Religious Sect” on the precinct’s territory. (See also *doc. 138* and *doc. 308*.)

140

1942 March 5. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the county prefects etc. It sends the decision of the Ministry of National Culture

and Cults no. 10.091/1942, regarding the Baptist cult in Romania (*doc. 129*). It asks for it to be made known to the subordinate administrative and police authorities. (See also *doc. 142*.)

141

1942 March 5. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Informative note regarding the conference of Professor Vasile Ispir, entitled „Sects – a national and social danger,” held at the Dalles Foundation, in Bucharest. In the audience were Church representatives, led by Patriarch Nicodim. The lecturer asked for a “new religious politics” to be adopted by forbidding sectarianism.

142

1942 March 6. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the county prefects etc. It informs about the decision of the Ministry of National Culture and Cults no. 10.091/1942, regarding the Baptist cult in Romania (*doc. 129*). It asks for measures to be taken for this decision to be implemented.

143

1942 March 7. Gendarmes Legion Vlașca. Informative note. Eight inhabitants of the commune Frasinu have abandoned the Orthodox faith and have gone over to the Tudorist sect. It considers that the Orthodox priest, who was not involved enough with the business of the church, was also responsible for this problem.

144

1942 March 8. Iftimie Gavriiliuc, preacher of the Brethren from Bacău. Declaration. The believers have gathered in a house that serves as their house of worship without having an authorization from the local authorities. (See also *doc. 133*, *doc. 145* and *doc. 172*.)

145

1942 March 8. Mihai Schmidt, leader of the Brethren from Bacău. Declaration. The believers have gathered in a house that serves as their house of worship, without having the authorizations required by Art. 7 of the Ministry’s decision no. 31.999/1939 (*doc. 1*). (See also *doc. 133*, *doc. 144* and *doc. 172*.)

146

1942 March 8, 1942 April 14. Police Questure Bacău. Two minutes. Investigation regarding the complaint made by priest Constantin Ionescu, the priest of the church “Sf. Voievozi” (*doc. 133*). It ascertains that the meetings of the Brethren are legal since they belong to a “sect” that is recognized and authorized.

147

1942 March 12. Prefecture of the Bihor County, Administrative Service to the praetors and the mayor of the city of Beiuș. It asks for a list to be

drawn up for all counties with data regarding the religious associations and sects. (See also *doc. 151.*)

148

1942 March 12. Prefecture of the Bihor County, Administrative Service to the praetors and the mayor of the city of Beiuș, the Gendarmes Legion Bihor and the Police of Beiuș City. It informs of the decision no. 10.091/1942 of the Ministry of National Culture and Cults regarding the Baptist cult (*doc. 129*).

149

<1942 March (before 15)>. The publishing house “Cuvântul Evangheliei” (The Word of Gospel) of the Seventh-day Adventists. Appeal to its clients and subscribers. It calms its subscribers who complained about the fact that they did not receive their magazines on time or at all, showing that this situation was “due to a serious error in interpreting an order regarding the sects that were outlawed by the Ministry’s decision no. 31.399/1939 and who were not allowed to print and distribute their products.” It upholds that the literature they have printed during the past 20 years “does not go against the security of the state, the public order, good will or the military interests.” (See also *doc. 155.*)

150

1942 March 16. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. Informative note. As a result of the rumor that the “sectarians will be taken like the Jews and sent to camps in Ukraine,” most sectarians in the Clișcăuți region, Hotin County stopped working and sold their goods in order to be ready to leave at any moment.

151

1942 March 17. Praeture of Beliu District, Bihor County, to the notary publics. It asks each notary office to draw up a list of all associations and sects in its area of jurisdiction. (See also *doc. 147.*)

152

1942 March 22. General Direction of the Police. Note regarding five members of the Pentecostal sect arrested in Craiova.

153

1942 March 22. Gendarmes Legion Prahova. Informative note regarding the discovery of a religious meeting of 23 participants in a house from the commune Băicoi. The participants have been brought in front of the Court Martial in Ploiești.

154

<1942 March (before 24)>. Prefecture of the Capital City Police, Security Police Service. Informative note. The Censorship Office in Iași has intercepted a letter

that Eugen Jurencu, preacher of the Baptists in Bălți sent to Johann Fleischer, President of the German Baptist community in Bucharest. In the letter, he highlights the persecutions the Baptists are subject to in the city and county of Bălți. (See also *doc. 175.*)

155

1942 March 24. Gendarmes Legion Brașov. Informative note regarding a series of inhabitants visiting the house of worship of the Brethren in the commune Zărnești. These inhabitants have not switched to this cult. Moreover, a sectarian from the commune Vlădeni received a booklet published by the publishing house “Cuvântul Evangheliei” (The Word of Gospel) in Bucharest. (See also *doc. 149.*)

156

1942 March 24. Gendarmes Legion Brașov. Circular order regarding the identification of the religious sects and their followers by the gendarmes section and precinct. Detailed instructions are included regarding this operation.

157

1942 March 25. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. Note. A series of inhabitants of the commune Blăjel, Târnava Mică County, who are members of the Pentecostal religious association, which is forbidden, have been found praying in a house. They have been brought in front of the Court Martial in Sibiu.

158

1942 March 26. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the county prefects etc. It asks for the activities of all religious sects to be closely monitored by the administrative and police authorities. Any deviations shall be immediately and severely repressed.

159

1942 March 31. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Chișinău, Security Service to the Governor of Bessarabia. The Police of Chilia Nouă City arrested Alexandru Gavrușenco as he was about to transport Adventist booklets and magazines to the commune Hagi-Curda, Ismail County.

160

1942 April 1. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. The sectarians from Bukovina and Bessarabia continue their activities despite the interdiction and measures taken by the authorities. It suggests the following: the houses of worship are to stay closed “until every believer is verified in view of his/her attitude during the Soviet regime”; “those who have been incarcerated are to be sent home and the confirmed men are to be sent to the front”; “The Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church is asked to present the most efficient means necessary to stop the sectarian movements from spreading.” It announces that the Ministry is preparing a new decision regarding the regulation of the religious associations. (See also *doc. 163.*)

161

<1942 April (after 1)>. The Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Military Cabinet. Report regarding the suggestions of the Ministry of National Culture and Cults of April 1, 1942, regarding the sectarians from the liberated territories (*doc. 160*). It agrees with some of these suggestions, although not with all of them.

162

1942 April 2. Ministry of National Culture and Cults to the General Staff of the Army, 2nd Section. It communicates the fact that it has informed the Presidency of the Council of Ministers regarding the growing number of sectarians in Bukovina and Northern Bessarabia. (See *doc. 160*.)

163

1942 April 2. Ministry of National Culture and Cults to the President of the Holy Synod. As for the religious sects, it considers that "the urgent solutions that have been requested are the following: on one side, all confirmed sectarians are to be sent to the front; on the other side, the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church has to point out the most efficient measures in order for the sectarian movements to be stopped." (See also *doc. 160*.)

164

1942 April 2. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service. Circular order. It orders measures for the monitoring of religious sects, including the Pentecostals, among others.

165

1942 April 2. The president of the Baptist community of Dușești, Bihor County, to Marshall Ion Antonescu. He asks to reopen the Baptist churches from Bihor County that have been closed by the gendarme precincts.

166

1942 April 3. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cabinet Direction to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. It asks for explanations regarding the situation of the authorized religious associations and the forbidden sects.

167

1942 April 3. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service to the Prefecture of the Capital City Police, Social Police Service. It informs of the activities of the youths Mircea Moraru and Anghel Bastoreală of Bucharest, who distributed booklets printed by the Adventist publishing house "Cuvântul Evangheliei" (The Word of Gospel). It asks for this case to be investigated and suggests that the two youths be drafted and sent to the front.

168

1942 April 9. Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Cabinet for the Administration and Organization of Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transnistria to the Governor of Bessarabia. It sends the note of the State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts of April 1, 1942 regarding the sectarians in the liberated territories (*doc. 160*). At the same time, it informs that it agrees with the suggestions made in the above mentioned note.

169

1942 April 14. The Romanian Baptist Church Community of Arad to the Minister of National Culture and Cults. It complains about a situation that has occurred in the commune Secusigiu, Timiș-Torontal County, in which the Orthodox priest officiated at the burial of a Baptist woman, thereby breaking the law. The priest's action was favored by the local and gendarmerie authorities. "Given the above mentioned facts, as well as the information we have received from our community, we are forced to believe that all of this has been inspired by orders we are not aware of and that a plan is being followed that is completely against us." It asks for measures to be taken. (Another request, with similar content, was sent to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, on April 22, 1942: *doc. 176*.) (See also *doc. 185*, *doc. 186*, and *doc. 362*.)

170

1942 April 15. Prefecture of the Bihor County, Administrative Service to the praetors, the mayor of the commune Beiuș, the Gendarmes Legion Bihor and the Police of Beiuș City. It orders the closing of all houses of worship of the Baptist, Seventh-day Adventist and Brethren religious associations which do not possess functioning authorizations issued by the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, according to its decision no. 31.999/1939 (*doc. 1*).

171

1942 April 15. General Direction of the Police. Note regarding the actions of a group of Adventists who distributed Adventist propaganda materials in the Piatra Neamț hospital on April 6, 1942.

172

1942 April 17. Police Questure Bacău to the First Prosecutor of the Bacău Court of Law. It forwards the files of Mihai Schmidt (see *doc. 145*) and Iftimie Gavriliuc (see *doc. 144*), leaders of the Brethren sect, who have not followed Art. 7 of the Ministry's decision no. 31.999/1939 (*doc. 1*). (See also *doc. 133*.)

173

1942 April 18. Ministry of National Defence, Military Justice Direction. Note. The Court Martial of the 5th Army Corps reported that on the occasion of the trials regarding the sectarians, it has been ascertained that in the counties of Dâmbovița, Prahova, Buzău, Râmnicu-Sărat, Putna and Bacău, the number of inhabitants who have switched

to different sects was very high and that the fines they received have been immediately and completely paid. This means that the fines were paid from the funds of the sectarian organizations. It thinks that the Ministry of National Culture and Cults should be informed about this in order to take necessary measures. (See also *doc.* 327.)

174

1942 April 18. Prefecture of the Bihor County, Administrative Service to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction. It forwards a list on the situation of the religious associations in the county. It informs that most of the Baptist associations do not have a functioning authorization issued by the Ministry according to decision no. 31.999/1939 (*doc.* 1) and, therefore, the Prefecture has taken the measures to close these houses of worship. (See *doc.* 137.)

175

<1942 April (before 19)>. The Christian Evangelical Baptist Community in the city of Bălți to the Governor of Bessarabia. Memorandum regarding the persecution suffered by the Baptists. It shows the persecutions, thefts, harassments, beatings, death threats etc., to which the Baptists, including their children, were subjected. "The authorities ask the Baptist believers by all means to abandon their Baptist faith and switch to the Orthodox cult, otherwise they will be threatened with internment in the camps." The Baptist churches are being taken over by force or are being closed, some of them even being transformed into Orthodox churches. It asks for these "terrible persecutions" to stop. (See *doc.* 182.)

176

1942 aprilie 22. The Romanian Baptist Church Community of Arad to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Complaint regarding the situation from the commune Secusigiu, Timiș-Torontal County. It asks for measures to be taken. (Another request, with similar content was sent to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, on April 14, 1942: *doc.* 169.) (See also *doc.* 185, *doc.* 186 and *doc.* 362.)

177

1942 April 24. Ioan Staniș, assistant preacher from the commune Râpa, Bihor County, to the praetor of the Tinca district. He asks for the commune's Baptist house of worship to be reopened. The house had been closed in March 1942. (See *doc.* 194.)

178

1942 aprilie 24. Union of the Evangelical Seventh-day Adventist Communities to Marshall Ion Antonescu, the State Leader. Memorandum. It presents the work of moral regeneration and social assistance undertaken by the Adventists. It mentions the "baffles and persecutions" faced by them lately and asks for their cessation. It asks for the recognition of the Seventh-day Adventists, by a decree-law, as a cult of the religious association, thereby guaranteeing the freedom for this cult to preach the gospel and print religious literature. (See also *doc.* 235.)

179

1942 April 26. Praeture of the Domnița Maria District, Bacău County, to the Prefect of the Bacău County. It asks the Prefecture to order the City Hall of Bacău to close “the sect’s house of worship,” since the sectarians from the commune Domnița Maria visited one in Bacău, after their house of worship had been closed.

180

<**1942 April (before 27)**>. Union of the Evangelical Seventh-day Adventist Communities to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. Memorandum regarding the situation of the Adventists in Bessarabia and Bukovina. The local authorities informed the Adventists from the two provinces that they are to be sent to labor camps or drafted and sent to the front. In its opinion, the order regarding the labor camps, which refers to the “sectarians,” does not include the Seventh-day Adventists, who are members of a legal religious association. It asks that the order of sending the Adventists of Bessarabia and Bukovina to camps – if such an order exists – be annulled. (See also *doc. 187*.)

181

1942 April 28. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie etc. It sends for information and consistency decision no. 10.091/1942, of the Ministry of National Culture and Cults (*doc. 129*) and two reports of the Ministry on the issue of religious sects (*doc. 163* and *doc. 166*).

182

1942 April 29. Gendarmes Legion Bălți. Report regarding the investigation concerning the complaint made by the Baptist community from the city of Bălți (*doc. 175*). The report denies most of the accusations, yet confirms some of them. In the end, it asks that Eugen Jurencu, the secretary of the community and the one who drew up the complaint, be imprisoned in a camp, since this person kept the Baptist idea alive in the city and the county.

183

<**1942 April (before 30)**>. Police of Botoșani City. Informative note. On April 19, 1942, in the city of Botoșani a clandestine gathering composed of 13 participants of the religious sect of the Brethren was discovered. They were brought to the Court Martial in Iași. (See also *doc. 184*, *doc. 191*, *doc. 193* and *doc. 197*.)

184

1942 April 30. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Iași, Security Police Service to the General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction. It reports the discovery in the city of Botoșani, on April 19, 1942, of a clandestine gathering of the Brethren sect with the participation of 13 persons. They were brought to the Martial Court in Iași. (See also *doc. 183*, *doc. 191*, *doc. 193* and *doc. 197*.)

185

1942 April 30. Ministry of Internal Affairs, Cabinet of the Sub-Secretary of State to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cabinet. It informs about the complaint made by the Romanian Baptist Community of Arad regarding events that took place in the commune Secusigiu, Timiș-Torontal County (*doc. 169*). It asks for the case to be investigated and for measures to be taken. (See also *doc. 176*, *doc. 186* and *doc. 362*.)

186

<1942 (after April 30)>. Leon Blaga, the Orthodox priest of the commune Secusigiu, Timiș-Torontal County, to the Eparchial Council of the Romanian Orthodox Bishopric of Timișoara. Report on the funeral of a Baptist woman Vioara Stoiconescu. In the end, the priest states that “in these times, when the Romanian blood, sanctified by our faith, is being sacrificed, anyone who is against the sacred Christian faith must be considered an enemy.” (See also *doc. 169*, *doc. 176*, *doc. 185* and *doc. 362*.)

187

1942 May 2. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Secretariate to the Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Cabinet. It sends a copy of the memorandum drawn up by the Union of the Evangelical Seventh-day Adventist Communities of Romania (*doc. 180*).

188

1942 May 2. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Chișinău, Security Police Service to the Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Military Cabinet. It informs that the Baptists of Tighina have opened their house of worship before Easter, as a result of a cable they addressed to Marshall Ion Antonescu. The president of the Baptist community in Chișinău also sent a cable to Marshall Antonescu, in which he asked for the house of worship in Chișinău to be opened.

189

1942 May 4. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. Circular order. The State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts has forbidden the printing and distribution, by all means, of all sectarian booklets and publications, except in the cases when this department has studied and approved them beforehand. It orders “the confiscation of all sectarian booklets and publications that go against the current laws.” (See also *doc. 195*.)

190

1942 May 4. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service, 2nd Section. Circular order. The illegal activity of the religious associations in the rural areas has become more and more intense. It orders for measures to be taken against those who do not follow the legal regulations.

191

1942 May 6. Military Cabinet of the State Leader to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It forwards the informative note regarding the discovery of a sectarian organization in the city of Botoșani (*doc. 183*) and communicates Marshall Ion Antonescu's order: "They are to be immediately sent to the labor camps on the Bug River. This measure shall be applied to all sectarians. They are to be warned by means of a communiqué." (See also *doc. 184*, *doc. 193* and *doc. 197*.)

192

1942 May 7. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction to the Minister of Justice. It informs that the Ministry of National Culture and Cults has decided to not permit one from switching from a historical cult to aconfessionalism or to a religious association. It asks the Ministry of Justice to order all notary publics to not authenticate, during the entire war period, any declaration of changing from a historical cult to aconfessionalism or to a religious association (Baptism, Seven-day Adventism and Brethren). (See also *doc. 200*.)

193

1942 May 7. General Direction of the Police. Note regarding the unauthorized meeting of some Brethren in Botoșani. These 13 persons have been brought before the Court Martial in Iași. (See also *doc. 183*, *doc. 184*, *doc. 191* and *doc. 197*.)

194

1942 May 7. Prefecture of the Bihor County, Administrative Service to the praetor of the Tinca district. It orders that Ioan Staniș from the commune Râpa, who has asked for the local Baptist house of worship to be reopened (*doc. 177*), be informed that his request cannot be approved, since the community does not have a functioning authorization issued according to decision no. 31.999/1939 (*doc. 1*).

195

1942 May 8. Gendarmes Legion Brașov. Circular order. It informs of the circular order issued by the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmery on May 4, 1942 (*doc. 189*) which orders the confiscation of all sectarian booklets and publications that go against the law.

196

1942 May 8. Gendarmes Legion Brașov. Circular order. Lately, the activities of the religious associations in the rural areas have intensified. It orders for the monitoring of the activities of the religious associations and severe measures to be taken against those who do not follow the legal regulations.

197

1942 May 9. Ministry of Internal Affairs, Cabinet of the Sub-Secretary of State to the General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction.

It asks to be informed of the names of the members of the religious sect included in order no. 5.721 of May 6, 1942, of the Military Cabinet of the State Leader (*doc. 191*), in order to send them to Transnistria. (See also *doc. 183*, *doc. 184* and *doc. 193*; see also *doc. 209*, *doc. 211*, *doc. 212* and *doc. 213*.)

198

1942 May 10. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. Note. The Baptists from the commune Moșaneț, Hotin County have collected 232 kg of bread and 600 eggs to help the Baptists imprisoned at the Court Martial in Cernăuți. They were caught while they were transporting the food to the prison.

199

1942 May 11. Special Information Service, Information Section, Eastern Front Agency, Center no. 1. Note. On May 6, 1942, the Police of Herța town arrested six members of the “Brethren sect.” They found religious literature on them.

200

1942 May 13. Ministry of Justice, Juridical Direction to the chiefs of the county courts of law. It informs about the intervention of the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, which ordered not to authenticate any declaration of changing from one of the historical cults to aconfessionalism or religious associations (*doc. 192*). The Ministry of Justice orders for this decision to be implemented right away.

201

1942 May 15. Praeture of the Beiuș District to the Prefect of the Bihor County. Report regarding the execution of the Prefecture’s order of April 15, 1942 (*doc. 170*). Out of the six Baptist houses of worship existing on the territory of this district, three have been closed since they did not meet the requirements of the Ministry’s decision no. 31.999/1939 (*doc. 1*), while the other three have been allowed to function. (See *doc. 202*.)

202

1942 May 19. Prefecture of the Bihor County, Administrative Service to the praetor of the Beiuș district. It states that only those houses of worship that have received an authorization from the Ministry of National Culture and Cults according to decision no. 31.999/1939 (*doc. 1*) may function and no other kind of authorization previously issued. (See *doc. 201*.)

203

1942 May 20. General Direction of the Police. Note. The measure ordered by Marshall Ion Antonescu, the State Leader, that all unauthorized sectants be sent by the Ministry of Cults to Transnistria (see *doc. 191*) will be communicated to the population by means of a communiqué.

204

1942 May 23. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction to the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service. It informs that the Ministry has ordered the cancelling of the functioning authorization and the closing of the Seventh-day Adventist house of worship from the commune Gherghița, Prahova County.

205

1942 May 23. Gendarmes Legion Brașov. Circular order. A list shall be drawn up by all gendarme sections to include all houses of worship belonging to religious associations authorized according to the Ministry's decision no. 31.999/1939 (*doc. 1*). This list shall contain information about the house of worship, the believers, the preacher etc.

206

1942 May 29. Gendarmes Legion Teleorman. Informative note regarding a group of 16 Seventh-day Adventists from the village Plopi, commune of Beuca, who were found in a house of worship on Saturday, May 23, 1942. This situation violates the orders and regulations regarding agricultural labors. These people have been brought to justice.

207

<1942 (before May 31)>. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts, Cults Direction to the Governor of Bessarabia. It informs that the Ministry maintains its decision not to tolerate any sectarian activity in the liberated provinces until further notice.

208

1942 May 31. Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Cabinet for the Administration and Organization of Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transnistria to the Governor of Bessarabia. It asks to be informed about the regulations regarding the sectarians received by the Gouvernement from Marshall Ion Antonescu, as well as the measures the Gouvernement has taken in this respect. (See *doc. 216*.)

209

1942 June 1. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Sub-secretariat. "I am honored to ask you to be so kind as to publish an official communiqué announcing the decision of Marshall Antonescu to send to Transnistria all sectarians who continue to manifest themselves and ignore the legal regulations. After issueing this communiqué and informing the respective people, the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie must implement the measures ordered." (See also *doc. 211*, *doc. 212* and *doc. 213*.)

210

1942 June 1. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Sub-secretariat. It communicates the result of the investigation regarding Varvara Czupor, an Adventist woman from the commune Cricău, Alba County, who stated that “a cousin of Marshall Antonescu is also an Adventist and he protects [the Adventists].” It suggests that this woman be interned in a camp for a short period of time.

211

< **1942 June (after 1)** >. Ministry of Internal Affairs, Cabinet. Note regarding the decision of Marshall Ion Antonescu that “all sectarians who neglect the legal regulations are to be sent to the labor detachments on the Bug River.” (See also *doc. 209*, *doc. 212* and *doc. 213*.)

212

< **1942 June (after 1)** >. Ministry of Internal Affairs. Communiqué. “The activities of all sects are forbidden all over the country.” “The sectarians who shall neglect the regulations regarding the sectarian regime in Romania shall be sent to the labor detachments on the Bug River.” The Ministry of Internal Affairs has instructed the police and gendarmerie agencies in this respect. (See also *doc. 209*, *doc. 211* and *doc. 213*.)

213

1942 June 4. Prefecture of the Muscel County. Communiqué. “Mr. Marshall I. Antonescu, the State Leader, decided that all members of the religious sects are to be immediately sent to the [labor] organizations on the Bug River.” The town halls and the gendarme precincts will draw up urgently lists with all sectarians that will be forwarded to the prefecture; the latter will send the lists to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, which will take measures for sending the sectarians to Transnistria. (See also *doc. 209*, *doc. 211* and *doc. 212*.)

214

1942 June 10. The Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Military Cabinet to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It communicates that a series of individuals have been interned in the camp of Oneștii Noi, Lăpușna County, “for communist, Baptist and anti-religious propaganda, all of them considered dangerous to the public order and security of the State.”

215

1942 June 10. Gendarmes Inspectorate Chișinău to the Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Military Cabinet. It reports that in the commune Chioselia, Cahul County, there have been 63 Baptists who have formally switched to Orthodoxy. However, becoming part of the Orthodox faith is not possible, since the village does not have an

Orthodox priest. The village's priest is on the front and the priest from the neighboring commune Coștangalia refuses to hold the religious service in Chioselia.

216

1942 June 11. The Gouvernement of Bessarabia to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Civilian-Military Cabinet. Report regarding the measures taken by the Gouvernement of Bessarabia in the matter of the sectarians. It lists the regulations received from Marshall Ion Antonescu and the orders given by the government. (See also *doc. 208.*)

217

1942 June 15. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service. Information order. The leadership of the Pentecostal religious associations, with its headquarters in Arad, has ordered its branches in the country to continue their activities by conducting their meetings during the night. It orders that this information be verified and measures be taken "in order for any sectarian manifestation to develop only according to the present laws and regulations." (See also *doc. 220.*)

218

1942 June 15. Civil Registry Office of the city of Câmpulung-Muscel to the Minister of National Culture and Cults. After the Prefecture of Muscel County has posted, starting on June 4, 1942 in the city of Câmpulung, as well as in the entire county of Muscel, a communique "by means of which Marshall Antonescu's decision is made known, for all religious sectarians to be sent to the Bug," the Civil Registry Office receives daily sectarians who ask to return to Orthodoxy. The office asks whether it can register these actions, considering that the Ministry has forbidden all switching from the historical cults to aconfessionalism, without saying anything about switching from aconfessionalism to the historical cults. (See also *doc. 219.*)

219

<**1942 June (after 15)**>. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts, Cults Direction to the Civil Registry Office of the commune Câmpulung-Muscel. Cable. "All sectarians and members of the Baptist, Brethren and Seventh-day Adventist religious associations may return to Orthodoxy (a historical cult), without needing to fulfil any requirements but those provided by the law." (See also *doc. 218.*)

220

1942 June 19. Gendarmes Legion Brașov. Circular order regarding the activity of the Pentecostal sect. (See also *doc. 217.*)

221

<**1942 June (before 26)**>. Presidency of the Council of Ministers. "Note about the situation of the sects in Romania." Information about the juridical regime, the number of members, the organization and the activities of the sects.

222

1942 June 27. Gendarmes Legion Teleorman. Informative note regarding the mayor of the commune Florica, Radu Raicu, who “does not follow any police instructions regarding the fight against the sectarians.” His wife and his children are Seventh-day Adventists. He and his family do not work on Saturdays.

223

1942 June 28. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. Note. The Adventists from the commune Mălușteni, Covurlui County won’t work on Saturdays. They have been brought to justice for not respecting the provisions of the law regarding the agricultural mobilization.

224

1942 June 30. The Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Military Cabinet to the Prefecture of the Lăpușna County, Censorship Office. In the commune Buțeni, Lăpușna County, Adventist propaganda materials have been found originating from Cernăuți. It asks the Prefecture to stop such materials being sent in the future. (See also *doc. 225.*)

225

1942 June 30. The Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Military Cabinet to the Prefecture of the Cernăuți County, Censorship Office. The Adventists from Cernăuți have sent to the Adventist preachers and believers from Bessarabia propaganda circulars. It asks the Prefecture to stop sending such materials in the future. (See also *doc. 224.*)

226

1942 July 1. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin related to the development of religious services in the house of worship of the Seventh-day Adventists on 38 Popa Tatu St. (on Saturday, June 27), in the house of worship of the Brethren on 48 Carol Davila St. and in the house of worship of the Baptists on 56 Basarab Blvd. (the latter two on Sunday, June 28, 1942). “Generally, sectarians are nervous about the rumours that are heard about the government intending to suppress all religious sects and forbid their gathering, with the punishment of interning them in camps. They are all determined to keep their faith.”

227

1942 July 3. Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Cabinet for the Administration and Organization of Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transnistria to the Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Military Cabinet. It specifies that the order given on April 9, 1942 regarding “releasing the sectarians from prisons” (*doc. 168*), has been cancelled by a cable sent on April 15, 1942.

228

1942 July 3. The Archbishopric of Chişinău, Cultural Direction to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction. The situation of the sects in the Archbishopric of Chişinău containing data received from the parishes on June 30, 1942. "The action of the sectarians from all parishes is paralyzed and the priesthood works intensely in order to remove their damaging actions. In many places, they managed to return the lost souls to their ancestors' Orthodox Church."

229

1942 July 8. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service, 2nd Section to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Cabinet of the Sub-Secretary of State. It sends statistics regarding the members of the religious associations identified in the rural areas. These statistics are organized by sect and county. In annex : 4 colour cartograms.

230

1942 July 8. Gendarmes Legion Cluj-Turda. Informative note. During the first trimester of the year 1942, important variations in the numbers of the members of different religious sects have been ascertained. It forwards separate reports containing data on the religious sects (Baptists, Seventh-day Adventists, Brethren, Jehova's Witnesses, Pentecostals and "Millenists"). (See also *doc. 234.*)

231

1942 July 10. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service. Circular order. The Pentecostal sect has not been authorized and legal measures are to be taken against its members, "since their doctrine and practice infringes on the state's organization laws and decent behavior."

232

1942 July 10. Gendarmes Legion Arad to the gendarme sections and precincts. It orders them to verify again the functioning authorization of the Baptist house of worship. Should some of these houses of worship not meet all conditions contained in decision no. 31.999/1939 (*doc. 1*), they are to be closed immediately.

233

1942 July 14. Victor Diaconescu, Director of the Bible Institute in Braşov-Stupini, to the director of *Tribuna* newspaper in Braşov. On the date of July 13, 1942 the newspaper published an article entitled "A Dangerous School : 'Bible Institute' in Braşov-Stupini, A Nest of National Dissolution and Hatred against the Church," denigrating this institution and the Seventh-day Adventists. Diaconescu discounts the accusations that were made in the article. He shows that in the building of the Bible Institute there had been a military hospital running for more than a year, to which the Adventists offered needed personnel ; that the Institute had donated money for the improvement

of food for the wounded; a list of teachers and students of the Institute who fought or are fighting on the front was provided etc. The institute director asks for moral repair by publishing this letter in the same place and with the same letters as the mentioned article. (See also *doc. 236*.)

234

1942 July 15. Gendarmes Legion Cluj-Turda. Informative note. During the first trimester of the year 1942, changes have occurred in the number of the members of the Baptist sect from the communes of this county. Figures are given for each commune. (See also *doc. 230*.)

235

1942 July 21. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Minority Cults Direction. Report on the memorandum of April 24, 1942 of the Union of the Evangelical Seventh-day Adventist Communities to Marshall Ion Antonescu (*doc. 178*). Recognition as a cult cannot be made because the Adventist organization does not have “a historical past with deep roots in the soil of our State,” and the Adventists are “uprooted from the country’s traditions and past; they do not feel solidarity with their brothers of the same blood and have a natural aversion to the state organization of our nation.”

236

1942 July 23. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Bucharest to the General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction. It reports the results of an investigation into the matter of the denigrating article on the Seventh-day Adventists, published in *Tribuna* newspaper in Braşov on July 13, 1942. Items asserted in the article are not confirmed. (See also *doc. 233*.)

237

1942 July 23. Gendarmes Inspectorate Transnistria. Informative note. In the commune Alexandrovca, Odessa County four members of the Brethren sect have been identified. They are strictly monitored.

238

1942 July 23. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin. The Adventist, Baptist and Tudorist leaders are concerned with measures restricting the sects’ activity which are taken in the later period. They consult their trustworthy members during religious services on Saturdays and Sundays. Up to this moment, there is no coordination with the leaders of the three authorized religious sects.

239

1942 July 24. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Informative note. The rumor that the government intends to take measures against sectarians, “measures that will include the internment [of these people] in camps in Transnistria,” caused concern

among them. Numerous Tudorists and Adventists asked to be received back within the Orthodox Church.

240

<1942 July (before 24)>. State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. "In order to execute the orders of Marshall Antonescu, the State Leader [...], aiming at sending the sectarians to Transnistria," it asks for the gendarmerie and police authorities from the entire country to fill out two forms containing information regarding the cults and the authorized and unauthorized religious associations. Instructions are given regarding the way these forms are to be drawn up. Given the urgency of this project, the local authorities shall forward these forms directly to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults. (See also *doc. 241* and *243*.)

241

<1942 July (after 24)>. General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction to the police regional inspectorates. It sends two forms that must be filled in with information regarding the situation of the cults and religious associations (authorized and forbidden) and sent by August 13, 1942. These materials are requested "for the purpose of general measures that the government is to take regarding religious sects and sectarians." (See also *doc. 240* and *doc. 243*.)

242

<1942 July (before 27)>. Gendarme Precinct Camena, Cernăuți County. Informative note. In the labor colony of the Cernăuți Prison located in the commune Camena, three quarters of the 120 prisoners are Seventh-day Adventists. On Friday nights and on Saturdays they are released. On Saturdays, they hold their religious gatherings, in which people visiting them (relatives and friends from the counties of Cernăuți and Hotin) participate as well. The Adventists are not allowed to gather in their own villages, yet they can do this in the Camena labor detail. The guards have declared that the director of the prison knows about this and allows it to take place. (See also *doc. 261*.)

243

1942 August 1. Gendarmes Legion Arad to the gendarme sections and precincts. Circular order. It transmits the order of the State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts regarding producing two statistical lists regarding the cults and the religious associations in the rural areas (*doc. 240*).

244

1942 August 10. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. Note. A series of locals from the commune Cepeleuți, Hotin County have been brought to justice because of their sectarian activities. The court martial has asked them to return to Orthodoxy and to present the certificates issued by the commune's parish priest attesting to this. Nevertheless, the priest has requested 100,000 Lei from each person in order to issue these certificates. Complaints have been made against him in front of the court of law.

245

1942 August 10. The Romanian Orthodox parish of Coronini, Caraș County, to the Archpriestship Răcășdia. It complains that the Baptists living in this commune continue to gather secretly and make propaganda. It names seven Baptist leaders, who “fight ardently against the State’s orders and peace.” (See also *doc. 255*, *doc. 264* and *doc. 330*.)

246

1942 August 11. Ministry of Internal Affairs, Cabinet of the General Secretary to the General Direction of the Police. Following Marshall Antonescu’s order, only the members of the Inochentist religious sect are to be “interned” in Transnistria at this time. There are approximately 2,000 of them. Regulations regarding the deportation operation. (See also *doc. 247*.)

247

1942 August 11. Ministry of Internal Affairs, Cabinet of the General Secretary to the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service. Following Marshall Antonescu’s order, only the members of the Inochentist religious sect are to be “interned” in Transnistria at this time. There are approximately 2,000 of them. Regulations regarding the deportation operation. (See also *doc. 246*.)

248

1942 August 14. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin regarding comments made among the sectarians. The decision taken by the State Leader “to suspend the deportation beyond the Bug” of the religious sects members, whether authorized or not, calmed the sectarians’ spirits, “who had prepared their luggage and were waiting for the dispatch order at any moment.” The decision is explained by most sectant leaders as being the result of the interventions made by the leaders of the German Baptist community in Bucharest by the German Legation.

249

1942 August 17. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Cernăuți, Security Police Service to the General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction. Report regarding the sectarians in the region. Sectarians who came back to the Orthodox faith are calm. “Sectarians who remained faithful to their sect do not perform any activity and they are concerned, waiting to be evacuated.”

250

1942 August 20. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the county prefects etc. It informs about the restrictive measures regarding the activities of the acknowledged religious associations adopted by the Ministry of National Culture and Cults. It asks for the administrative and police authorities to closely monitor the sects’ activity.

251

<1942 August 22>. Minister of Internal Affairs to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults. Marshall Ion Antonescu, the State Leader, decided to keep the Ministry's decision no. 31.999/1939 (*doc. 1*) unchanged and, as a result, the authorized religious associations (Baptists, Seventh-day Adventists and Brethren) can continue their activities. "For the forbidden sects, they will take evacuation measures, step by step, in Transnistria starting with the Inochentists."

252

1942 August 24. Gendarmes Inspectorate Chişinău to the Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Military Cabinet. Report regarding the sectarians interned in the Oneştii Noi camp, Lăpuşna County. The cultural and religious propaganda actions carried out among the internees have had results, yet some of the sectarians – especially the Baptists and the Inochentists – won't give up their faith. The camp's commander has made a series of suggestions, including the annulment of any prospect for liberation for those who repeatedly refuse to sign the declaration in which they give up their sect, as well as the suggestion that "all refractory sectarians be concentrated in special camps outside of Bessarabia and are forbidden to contact their families and society in general." (See *doc. 276*; see *doc. 256* and *doc. 265*.)

253

1942 August 24. Gendarmes Legion Tulcin in Transnistria. Informative note regarding the "Evangelist" sect (the Brethren). In the county of Tulcin, there are also some other cults besides the Brethren: Seventh-day Adventists, Baptists and *Bezpopovtsy*. It recommends "sending good priests, perfect missionaries in all localities and the restoration and reopening of the [Orthodox] churches."

254

1942 August 24. Gendarmes Inspectorate Transnistria. Informative note. In the commune Freudenthal, Ovidiopol County, 19 Baptist families have been identified.

255

1942 August 24. The Romanian Orthodox parish of Socolari, Severin County, to the Archpriestship Răcăşdia. It draws attention to the fact that on August 23, 1942, a Baptist funeral took place in the village, which "was no different from the funerals performed when their house of worship was still open and they were allowed to practice their faith." (See also *doc. 245*, *doc. 264* and *doc. 330*.)

256

<1942 August (after 24)>. The Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Military Cabinet. Note to the report of the Gendarmes Inspectorate Chişinău from August 24, 1942 (*doc. 252*). It synthesizes the content of this material. (See *doc. 265*.)

257

1942 August <(before 27)>. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Chişinău, Security Service to the General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction. In the issue from July 5-12, 1942 of *Raza* newspaper, which appeared in Chişinău, a communiqué was issued whereby the population is informed that the “persons who continue to practice within the unauthorized religious sects will be immediately sent to the labor camps on the Bug.”

258

1942 September 3. Gendarmes Inspectorate Chişinău to the Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Military Cabinet. It forwards a file containing 45 preachers' permits and functioning authorizations for houses of worship withdrawn from the Baptist sect's leaders. These authorizations are to be cancelled. (See also *doc. 266.*)

259

1942 September 3. Gendarmes Inspectorate Chişinău to the Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Military Cabinet. Report regarding the situation from the commune Logăneşti, Lăpuşna County, where many locals are Adventists. A reason behind this is the village's Orthodox priest, who is old and lacks any talent to convert the Adventists; he continuously threatens the Adventists with internment in camps and deportation across the Dniester River. It asks for the government to intervene and to send a missionary. (See also *doc. 262.*)

260

1942 September 5. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Bucharest to the General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction. The press publication of the provisions of the Ministry of Cults which forbid proselytizing by all means, by threatening to send the guilty to the Bug, caused concern among the Seventh-day Adventists, Brethren and Baptists, who thought that the measure for deportation included them as well. Their spirits are now improved. They are confident that after the war they will get their religious freedom back.

261

1942 September 7. Gendarmes Legion Cernăuţi. Informative note. In the labor detail of the Cernăuţi Prison, located in the commune Camena, Cernăuţi County, there are a large number of Seventh-day Adventists, who continue manifesting their faith and who are released on Saturdays. In return, they have to work on Sundays. On Saturdays, they are visited by their relatives and by sectarians from the neighboring villages. It is suspected that all this takes place with the knowledge of the guards. The case has been brought to the attention of the prison's administration. (See also *doc. 242.*)

262

1942 September 9. The Governor of Bessarabia to the Archbishopric of Chişinău. He informs about the situation from the commune Logăneşti, Lăpuşna County,

where the priest, by being completely inactive, has caused many locals to leave the Orthodox Church. He asks for a more energetic priest to be sent to this commune. In his opinion, "the sectarian movement won't be stopped until the priests adopt a righteous attitude and embrace this problem with a true missionary spirit, which does not only affect the Church, but the State itself." (See also *doc. 259*.)

263

1942 September 11. General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Sub-secretariat for Police. Apart from the 13 persons who, by the order of Marshall Ion Antonescu, were taken to the Bug by the Police of Botoșani City, there were no other sectants deported to Transnistria.

264

1942 September 19. The Bishopric of Caransebeș, Eparchial Council to the Minister of National Culture and Cults. The bishopric has asked the priests to inform it of any kind of sectarian propaganda. It sends two reports with content compiled by priests from the communes Coronini and Socolari, Caraș County (*doc. 245* and *doc. 255*). It asks for "measures to be taken to call to order the recalcitrant, including the possibility of punishing them." (See also *doc. 330*.)

265

1942 September 21. The Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Legal Sub-direction to the Governor of Bessarabia. Note accompanying the report of the Gendarmes Inspectorate Chișinău from August 24, 1942 (*doc. 252*). It approves some measures suggested by the Inspectorate, yet has a different opinion in other cases. The "concentration" of the Baptist and Inochentist sectarians in special camps outside of Bessarabia is a complicated process, since it is the Ministry of Internal Affairs' jurisdiction. The government shall submit to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, by means of a special report, a proposal regarding the establishment of special camps in Transnistria for the internment of Baptist and Inochentist sectarians. (See also *doc. 256*.)

266

1942 September 22. The Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Legal Sub-direction to the Governor of Bessarabia. Note regarding the authorizations issued by the Ministry of Cults to a series of Baptist communities, which have been withdrawn by the Gendarmes Inspectorate Chișinău (see *doc. 258*). These authorizations have been canceled and must be archived or destroyed.

267

1942 September 22. Special Information Service. Note regarding the religious sects. Sectarians do not seem to be active anymore. "This is due to the fact that they were informed that those who are part of the Army reserve will be sent to the front and those who are old or unsuitable for the front will be taken to concentration camps."

268

1942 September 23. The Gouvernement of Bessarabia. Ordinance no. 89, regarding the regime of the religious cults in Transnistria. Out of the 24 articles, three discuss the religious sects. Art. 3 states that “all religious sects are strictly forbidden.” “*Art. 16.* All sectarians who shall manifest or propagate by any means their religious ideas shall be punished with imprisonment between 1 and 5 years. Moreover, the houses of worship, the movable and immovable property, as well as the objects of the cult or the forbidden sects or religious associations shall be confiscated for the benefit of the Gouvernement.” “*Art. 17.* Those who tolerate, hide, help or encourage by any means the forbidden sects or religious associations shall be punished with internment for a period between 1 and 3 years.”

269

1942 September 25. General Direction of the Police. Note regarding the agitation created among the Adventists in Bucharest, “provoked by the information regarding certain governmental projects aimed against the sectarians.”

270

1942 September 26. General Direction of the Police, Detective Corps, 2nd Division. Note regarding the discontent among the Brethren, caused by the fact that the Ministry of Cults refuses to give back to Tudor Popescu, the former priest of St. Stephen “Cuibul cu Barză” church from Bucharest, the preacher’s permit.

271

1942 September 27. General Direction of the Police. Note regarding the arrest in Deva of an Adventist who was found carrying publications edited by the company “Cuvântul Evangheliei” (The Word of Gospel).

272

1942 September 30. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Gendarmerie Service. Request for information. The sectarians seem to be rather calm and, in some parts, their numbers have decreased. This is due to the fact that they have been informed that young people who are reservists will be concentrated and sent to the front, while the elderly will be interned in camps.

273

1942 September 30. General Direction of the Police. Notes regarding the trial of a group of 18 inhabitants of the commune Lascăr Catargiu, Covurlui County, who are members of the Pentecostal sect, which took place at the Court Martial in Galați. In 1941, they switched to the Baptist faith in order to be able to function legally. These people were arrested because they did not want to baptize their children in the Orthodox faith. While in prison, they switched to Orthodoxy and their children were baptized in the Orthodox faith. In the trial, all defendants were acquitted, except for Voicu Rusin, who refused to switch to Orthodoxy and was sentenced to 25 years of forced labor and charged 500 Lei for the cost of the trial. (See also *doc. 296* and *doc. 336.*)

274

1942 October 6. The Hungarian Baptist Community of Timișoara to the Minister of National Culture and Cults. It asks to receive a functioning authorization and forwards the documents necessary to this respect. (See also *doc. 321*, *doc. 324* and *doc. 332*.)

275

1942 October 7. Ministry of National Culture and Cults. Decision no. 53.808. The second to last paragraph of Art. 7 of the decision no. 31.999/1939 (*doc. 1*) is eliminated. This paragraph exonerated houses of worship that were working on July 14, 1938 and had at least 50 believers and were located at a distance of at least 200 meters from the closest church. (See also *doc. 281*.)

276

1942 October 9. The Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Military Cabinet to the Gendarmes Inspectorate Chișinău. The Governor of Bessarabia agrees that the sectarians who are recalcitrant should receive a doubled period of internment and their family visits eliminated. It orders that all cases of sectarian activity which are discovered be brought to justice. (See also *doc. 252*.)

277

1942 October 9. Special Information Service to the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. Note. In the rayon Copai-Gorod, Moghilău County, in Transnistria, the number of sectarians is small. They are mostly “Evangelists” (Brethren). In the commune Berleatca, out of 567 inhabitants, 100 are Brethren.

278

1942 October 12. Prefecture of the Bihor County, Administrative Service to the district praetors. It informs that the Ministry of Internal Affairs has agreed that, until a definitive solution for the Baptist houses of worship closed in the county of Bihor is found, they are to be used as cultural centers and classrooms. It orders that the locations of the houses of worship be turned into cultural centers or schools. The praetors along with the local authorities shall establish these locations. The take over shall be made based on the minutes and those who take over these properties shall ensure the proper maintenance of the building and the furniture.

279

1942 October 16. Gendarmes Legion Brașov. Circular order. Lately, it has been ascertained that the sectarians started to switch over to Orthodoxy. “This is mainly due to the measures taken by the Ministry of Cults to send them all to Transnistria, as well as to the sentencing of some sectarians who did not want to work on Saturdays.” It orders for “sectarianism to be fought against with all energy.”

280

1942 October 20. Prefecture of the Bihor County, Administrative Service to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction. It presents the case of the Baptist preacher Teodor Vicaș, from the commune Batăr, Bihor County, who makes religious propaganda and encourages the Baptists to resist the conversion activities of the Orthodox Bishopric of Arad. It asks for him to be either interned in a camp until the end of the war or for the Ministry of National Defence to intervene so he can be drafted. (See also *doc. 290*, *doc. 346* and *doc. 367*)

281

1942 October 22. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Minority Cults Direction to the county prefects. It informs that the Ministry's decision no. 31.999/1939 (*doc. 1*) has been modified by decision no. 53.808 of October 7, 1942 (*doc. 275*). It explains these modifications and asks for the administrative, police and gendarmerie authorities to investigate the circumstances of the local organizations of the religious associations and the houses of worship and to take appropriate measures.

282

1942 October 23. General Direction of the Police. Note regarding the arrest in Mediaș of two minors of Hungarian origin who were found with Baptist propaganda. They have been sent to the Court Martial in Brașov.

283

<1942 October (before 31)>. Ministry of National Culture and Cults. Draft of a "Decree-Law for the amendment and annulment of several provisions of the law regarding the general regime of the cults." Art. 1 provides the modification of Art. 24 of the Law regarding the general regime of cults of 1928. In its new version, Art. 24 states the following: "The religious sects may function only if it is in the interest of the Romanian people and if it is based on a previous authorization received from the Ministry of National Culture and Cults. / This permit may be revoked without any reason, this measure being considered as a government act." Art. 3 stipulates that "[t]he existing religious associations (sects) de jure and de facto are and remain abolished," while Art. 4 states that "[t]he immovable goods listed [...] in the name of one of the religious associations (sects) abolished by Art. 3 of the present Law, their funds and their archives shall be taken over by the State." (The explanatory report to this law project: *doc. 284*. The final version of the law – Law no. 927 of December 28, 1942: *doc. 304*.)

284

<1942 October (before 31)>. Ministry of National Culture and Cults. Explanatory report to the draft of "Decree-law for the amendment and annulment of several provisions of the Law regarding the general regime of the cults" (*doc. 283*). It justifies the measure of abolishing the sects and transferring their assets to the state. "The religious associations and sects must disappear from Romania, since they are anachronistic remains of a democratic ideology, nowadays completely obsolete considering the new structure of the national and totalitarian Romanian State."

285

1942 November 2. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Bucharest to the General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction. Report regarding the three authorized religious sects (Seventh-day Adventists, Brethren and Baptists). Some houses of worship were closed because they did not comply with the conditions requested by the Ministry's decision no. 31.999/1939 (*doc. 1*); it was ascertained that there was a cessation of proselytising activities and a reduction in the itinerant religious bookselling.

286

1942 November 3. Aurel Popa, State Secretary for Cults and Arts, to Mihai Antonescu, Vice-president of the Council of Ministers and ad-interim Prime Minister. He forwards the reports he has drawn up following the orders of Marshall Ion Antonescu, "in order to realize a better spiritual and legal order inside the Church." The reports have been presented to Marshall Antonescu on October 31, 1942 and are to be presented to the Holy Synod in a short time, "for information and final settlement." Among these documents: "Report no. 57.651/1942 regarding the problem of religious associations (sects)." This report has three attachments: an "Account of the sects in Romania," the draft of the "Decree-law for the amendment and annulment of several provisions of the law regarding the general regime of the cults" (*doc. 283*), accompanied by the explanatory report (*doc. 284*). (See also *doc. 287*.)

287

1942 November 5. Presidency of the Council of Ministers, General Secretariat, Direction for Interdepartmental Relations. Note. The State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts has presented a series of reports "concerning issues of interest for the reorganization of our church life." Among these documents is a report concerning the problem of the religious associations (sects) accompanied by the draft for a decree-law regarding their abolishment. (See also *doc. 286*.)

288

1942 November 9. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. Note. Several inhabitants from the communes Marginea, Holovăț and Bădeuți, Rădăuți County, members of the Pentecostal religious association, which is banned, have decided to become part of the Greek-Catholic cult. "[T]heir aim is to continue their sectarian activity under the umbrella of the Greek-Catholic church."

289

1942 November 12. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Cernăuți, Security Police Service to the General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction. Report regarding the religious sects. It is ascertained that there is a decrease in the number of sectarians, but most of them have kept their faith. They avoid gathering in large groups and have family prayer time. The most fanatic are the Pentecostals, "who baldly declare that they would not leave their faith even if they were deported."

290

1942 November 27. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts, Minority Cults Direction. It sends documents from the file of the Baptist preacher Teodor Vicaș. (See also *doc. 280, doc. 346* and *doc. 367.*)

291

<**1942 November 28**>. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Council of the General Inspectors of Cults. Observations concerning the draft of the law for preparing the state for the war. Among others, it suggests that, “considering the interest of the spiritual [unity] of our nation, all sectarian associations must be abolished.”

292

1942 decembrie 9. Gendarmes Sector Predeal. Informative note. Several Brethren, who have gathered in a house in Predeal, without having any legal permits: three locals, a soldier from the 1st Road Battalion in Predeal and a Jew from the Detachment for Jews in Predeal. The case has been submitted to the the Court Martial in Ploiești. (See also *doc. 295.*)

293

1942 December 10. Special Information Service. Note. Lately, many of the sectarians of Rădăuți County have switched to Catholicism or Protestantism (Lutheranism). Within their propaganda, the sectarians also refer to the arbitrary taxes which some of the Orthodox priests levy, as well as their deficient conduct. (See *doc. 269.*)

294

1942 December 14. Special Information Service. Note regarding Ioan Pinteia, of the commune Simeria, Hunedoara County. He produces Baptist propaganda and is closely involved with the local orphanage where the children are educated “in the Baptist spirit.” (See also *doc. 335, doc. 369, doc. 371, doc. 454* and *doc. 460.*)

295

1942 December 15. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. Note regarding the Brethren gathering discovered in Predeal. (See *doc. 292.*)

296

1942 December 17. Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Secretariat Direction to the Ministry of National Defence, Military Justice Direction. It forwards the request of the parish of the commune Lascăr Catargiu, Covurlui County, asking to pardon some locals who were sent to prison for producing sectarian propaganda. (See also *doc. 273* and *doc. 336.*)

297

1942 December 19. Council of the General Inspectors for Cults. It does not allow the *Calendarul Gospodarului* (Farmer's Calendar) to be published, since it does not contain the religious holidays. It considers this to be "a new method used by the Seventh-day Adventists in order for them to insinuate themselves into the hearts of the Country's citizens and drive away all our ancestors' traditions."

298

1942 December 21. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts, Minority Cults Direction to the Metropolitan Bishop of Bukovina. It forwards a copy of the note drawn up by the Special Information Service of December 12, 1942 (*doc. 293*). It asks the Metropolitan Bishop to do everything in his power to increase the conversion of the sectarians, as well as to eliminate the reasons that are exploited by them against the Orthodox Church.

299

1942 December 21. Police of Cetatea Albă City, Security Police Bureau. Counter informative report regarding the events that took place on the territory of the Cetatea Albă Police during the month of December 1942. Within the chapter "Religious Sects," it lists 20 persons of Baptist faith who have been sent to the court martial for organizing a religious association and gathering every Sunday without a permit from the Ministry of Cults as well as for making religious proselytism.

300

1942 December 22. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Cernăuți, Security Service to the General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction. It reports that the Adventists have stayed true to their sect and that their switching to Orthodoxism or to other authorized cults was a sham.

301

1942 December 22. Gendarmes Section Onești, Bacău County. Minutes regarding the investigation of the situation of the Adventist religious association of the village Poiana Nucleului, commune Râpile, Bacău County.

302

1942 December 24. Ministry of National Defence, Minister's Cabinet to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction. It informs that it investigated the notification of the Romanian Orthodox Bishopric of Arad, according to which an active member of the Baptists, Teodor Dârlea worked as an office head at the Ministry of National Defence. The result of the investigation showed that a clerk with such a name did not work at the Ministry of National Defence or at the Ministry of Army Supplies. (See also *doc. 329*.)

303

1942 December 27. The commune Corjeuți, Hotin County. Minutes signed on the occasion of “the meeting of the Cultural Center,” which took place in the house of Petre Mațuc. On this occasion, several locals were baptized and brought back to Orthodoxy, including among others, Petre Mațuc and his family. (See also *doc. 325*, *doc. 365*, *doc. 366* and *doc. 382*.)

304

1942 December 28. Ministry of National Culture and Cults. Law no. 927/1942 (“Decree-Law for the amendment and annulment of several provisions of the Law regarding the general regime of the cults”). In essence, this law states the following: “*Art. II.* The existing religious associations (sects) are and shall remain abolished. *Art. III.* The immovable goods listed in the land registries or in the court transcript registries in the name of one of the abolished religious associations (sects), as well as the funds and the archives of these associations pass de jure into state ownership.” This measure also refers to the Baptist, Seventh-day Adventist and Brethren religious associations. The decree-law is accompanied by an explanatory report.

305

1942 December 30. State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts to the county prefectures. Cable. It asks for immediate measures to be taken in order for Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*) to be implemented. (See also *doc. 307*.)

306

1942 December 31. Ministry of Internal Affairs to the county prefectures. Cable. It orders for the provisions of cable of December 30, 1942 of the State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts (*doc. 305*) to be enforced. (See also *doc. 307* and *doc. 310*.)

307

1942 December 31. Prefecture of the Arad County, Administrative Service to the Gendarmes Legion Arad, Police Questure Arad and the district praetures. It informs about the telegraphic order of the State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts regarding the abolition of religious associations (*doc. 305*). (See also *doc. 310*.)

308

<1943>. Gendarme Precinct Bran, Brașov County. The history of the religious sects on the precinct’s territory. (See also *doc. 138* and *doc. 139*.)

309

<1943 (beginning)>. The Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Military Cabinet. Note summarizing the orders regarding the sects given by the Gouvernement of Bessarabia in December 1942. It mentions that in the camp in Oneștii Noi, where 82 sectarians have been interned, 17 have already been released.

310

1943 January 2. Prefecture of the Arad County, Administrative Service to the Gendarmes Legion Arad, the Police Questure Arad and the district praetors. It forwards the telegraphic order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of December 31, 1942 regarding the property of the abolished religious associations (*doc. 306*). (See also *doc. 305* and *doc. 307*.)

311

1943 January 2. Commissariate of the 1st Police Circumscription in Arad. Minutes. Inventory and sealing of the movable and immovable property of the Seventh-day Adventists' house of worship in Arad, 11 Ferdinand Blvd. (See also *doc. 312*, *doc. 313*, *doc. 314*, *doc. 315* and *doc. 316*.)

312

1943 January 3. Commissariate of the 3rd Police Circumscription in Arad. Minutes. Inventory and sealing of the movable and immovable property of the Baptist church in Arad-Pârneava, 25 Dorobanților st. Attached: the inventory of this property. (See also *doc. 311*, *doc. 313*, *doc. 314*, *doc. 315* and *doc. 316*.)

313

1943 January 3. Commissariate of the 4th Police Circumscription in Arad. Minutes. Inventory and sealing of the movable and immovable property of the Baptist church "Speranța" (Hope) in Arad, 13 Bihorulului st. Attached: the inventory of this property. (See also *doc. 311*, *doc. 312*, *doc. 314*, *doc. 315* and *doc. 316*.)

314

1943 January 3. Commissariate of the 6th Circumscription in Arad. Minutes. Inventory and sealing of the movable and immovable property of the Baptist church in Arad-Gai, 107 Bisericei st. Attached: the inventory of this property. (See also *doc. 311*, *doc. 312*, *doc. 313*, *doc. 316* and *doc. 316*.)

315

1943 January 4. Commissariate of the 2nd Police Circumscription in Arad. Minutes. Inventory and sealing of the movable and immovable property of the Baptist church in Arad, 35 Episcop Grigorie Comșa st. Attached: the inventory of this property. (See also *doc. 311*, *doc. 312*, *doc. 313*, *doc. 314* and *doc. 316*.)

316

1943 January 4. Commissariate of the 5th Police Circumscription in Arad. Minutes. Inventory and sealing of the movable and immovable property of the Baptist church in Arad, 28 Constantin Brâncoveanu st. Attached: the inventory of this property. (See also *doc. 311*, *doc. 312*, *doc. 313*, *doc. 314* and *doc. 315*.)

317

1943 January 5. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Sub-secretariat for Police and State Security to the county prefects. It informs of the contents of Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*). It asks for the measures that are mentioned in the cable sent to the prefectures by the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction, on December 31, 1942 (*doc. 305*) to be implemented.

318

1943 January 5. Praeture of the Ineu District, Arad County to the town halls. It asks for measures to be taken so that the provisions of Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*) are implemented: closing the houses of worship, forbidding any kinds of gatherings of members of the abolished religious associations, taking into custody the property of the above-mentioned associations.

319

1943 January 7. The Town Hall of the commune Vârfurile, Arad County. Minutes of the take over of Baptist property from the respective locality. Annexes: the inventory of the movable goods and a list with the immovable goods. (See also *doc. 345*.)

320

1943 January 10. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. Informative note. On January 2, 1943, Dumitru Ene from the commune Policiori, Buzău County was caught producing sectarian propaganda. He was sent to the Court Martial in Ploiești. (See also *doc. 359*.)

321

1943 January 10. Police Questure Timișoara. Minutes containing the results of the investigation of the case of the Hungarian Baptist Community of Timișoara. The information provided by the community is true. "The members of the Baptist Community of Timișoara have not infringed upon the morals, order or security of the state." (See also *doc. 274*, *doc. 324* and *doc. 332*.)

322

1943 January 11. Priest Constantin Sârbu from the Orthodox parish Bumbăcari in Bucharest, to the Minister of National Culture and Cults. It asks for the Bumbăcari parish to be granted the right to use the nearby Baptist house of worship as an Orthodox chapel until the church founded by Marshall Ion Antonescu is finished.

323

1943 January 12. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin regarding the religious sects. Sectarrians claim that the measure of dissolving all religious sects by Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*) was taken as a result of pressures exercised by the Orthodox priests. They are afraid that other persecution measures would be taken.

324

1943 January 12. Police Questure Timișoara, Security Police Bureau to the State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts, Minority Cults Direction. It announces that it granted a functioning permit to the Hungarian Baptist Community of Timișoara. (See also *doc. 274*, *doc. 321* and *doc. 332*.)

325

1943 January 13. Petre Mațuc, from the commune Corjeuți, Hotin County. He asks to be pardoned from being drafted “to the front” since he had given up the Baptist sect and was baptized, along with his children, in the Orthodox religion. (See also *doc. 303*, *doc. 365*, *doc. 366* and *doc. 382*.)

326

1943 January 13. The Orthodox parish of Hăpria-Română, Alba County, to the Minister of National Culture and Cults. It asks that the state donate the local Baptist house of worship to the Orthodox parish. The house of worship shall be turned into an Orthodox church.

327

1943 January 16. The State Prosecutor at the Galați Court of Law to the Minister of Justice. Report regarding its investigations on the issue of religious sects from the counties of Bacău, Râmnicu-Sărat and Putna. He considers the sects a “conscious usurper of the Orthodox faith, serving – for money or with conviction – anti-social and anti-national purposes.” He proposes that all religious sects be forbidden by law. As for the return of the lost to Orthodoxy, he suggests that “the priests and the administrative and school authorities take all necessary measures in order to convince [the lost].” (See also *doc. 173*.)

328

1943 January 19. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Minority Cults Direction to the county prefects. It asks for measures to be taken for the property of the religious associations abolished by means of Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*) to be taken over by the state. It asks for lists with all immovable goods, movable goods and funds owned by these associations. Their archives are to be sealed and kept in storage until further notice at the town hall. (See also *doc. 338* and *doc. 339*.)

329

1943 January 20. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction to the Romanian Orthodox Bishopric of Arad. It informs that there are no Baptist clerks working at the Ministry of National Defence as the bishopric claimed. It asks for precise information regarding this person. (See also *doc. 302*.)

330

1943 January 22. Prefecture of Caraș County, Administrative Service to the Minister of National Culture and Cults. It announces the result of the investigation in the cases raised by the Orthodox priests from the communes Coronini and Scolari (*doc. 245* and *doc. 255*). Regarding the commune Coronini, it considers that it is useless for the Baptists to be investigated, "since they did not infringe upon any current legal regulations." As for the commune Socolari, the Baptist leaders have been given indictment papers because of their propagandistic activities. (See also *doc. 264*.)

331

1943 January 22. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin. The Baptist are unhappy with their leaders whom they accuse of not having known how to present the Baptists' real situation to the authorities. Consequently this cult was forbidden. The Baptist leaders reassured the believers that they intervened to the Ministry of Internal Affairs where they presented a list with more than 300 Baptists who had died on the front and they were reassured that Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*) would be modified.

332

1943 January 25. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts, Cults Direction the the Police Questure Timișoara. Explanations regarding the property of the abolished religious associations (sects) that passed into state ownership. (See also *doc. 274*, *doc. 321* and *doc. 324*.)

333

1943 January 26. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the county prefects. It asks for lists to be urgently prepared containing the property of the religious associations that were abolished as a result of Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*).

334

1943 January 26. Special Information Service, Information Section, Ardeal Agency, Sibiu Residence. Note. The German Baptists in Sibiu addressed the German ethnic group in Romania to intervene with the Romanian government for the cancellation of Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*). They also refer to a memorandum that a famous member of the Baptist sect sent to Marshall Ion Antonescu.

335

1943 January 26. Ioan Rusu, representative of the Christian Baptist Community of Alba Iulia, to the Minister of National Culture and Cults. He asks the Minister to provide a temporary provision for the Baptist orphanage in Simeria, Hunedoara County to continue to operate (See also *doc. 294*, *doc. 369*, *doc. 371*, *doc. 454* and *doc. 460*.)

336

1943 January 26. Orthodox Parish of the commune Lascăr Catargiu, Covurlui County. Certificate. The inhabitant Andrei Moscu, a former member of the Pentecostal sect switched to the Orthodox faith with his whole family. (See also *doc. 273* and *doc. 296*.)

337

<**1943 January (before 27)**>. Ministry of National Culture and Cults. Draft of a “Decree-Law for the annulment of some provisions of the law regarding the cults and for the abolishment of all religious associations (sects).” The draft of the decree-law is accompanied by an explanatory report drawn up by the Minister of National Culture and Cults, Ion Petrovici. (See also *doc. 340*, *doc. 341* and *doc. 342*. The final form of the law – Law no. 431 of June 28, 1943 : *doc. 434*.)

338

1943 January 27. Prefecture of the Arad County, Administrative Service to the Gendarmes Legion Arad, the Police Questure Arad, the praetures and the communes in the county. It transmits the order of the Ministry of National Culture and Cults of January 19, 1943 regarding the state confiscation of the property of the abolished religious associations (*doc. 328*). (See also *doc. 339*.)

339

1943 January 27. Prefecture of the Hunedoara County, Administrative Service to the praetors etc. It orders the preparation of tables listing the property belonging to the religious associations abolished by Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*). The archives shall be sealed and kept until further notice by the town halls. (See also *doc. 328*, *doc. 338* and *doc. 344*.)

340

1943 January 27. Presidency of the Council of Ministers, General Secretariat, Legal Direction. Note regarding the Draft of a “Decree-law for the annulment of some provisions of the law regarding the cults and for the abolishment of all religious associations (sects)” (*doc. 337*). This law shall abolish all religious sects, as well as all civil or commercial associations that serve the purposes of the sects. Their property shall be seized by the state. The Legal Service of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers has rewritten the draft of the Ministry of National Culture and Cults by introducing two new provisions : 1) the obligation of all sect members to return to the cults they or their ancestors previously belonged ; 2) taking harsh measures against those who infringed the law. (See also *doc. 341* and *doc. 342*.)

341

1943 February 2. Marshall Ion Antonescu, the State Leader. Resolution on the draft for a “Decree-law for the annulment of some provisions of the law regarding the cults and for the abolishment of all religious associations (sects)” (*doc. 337*). He considers

the draft as not serious enough. "Sects must be abolished. Their property must be passed into state ownership. [...] Drastic measures need to be taken." He asks that this draft be reviewed by Minister Ion Petrovici. (See also *doc. 340* and *doc. 342*.)

342

1943 February 2. Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Secretariate Direction to the Minister of National Culture and Cults. Regarding the draft of a "Decree-law for the annulment of some provisions of the laws regarding the cults and for the abolishment of all religious associations (sects)" (*doc. 337*), it communicates the solicitation of Marshall Antonescu (*doc. 341*) to review the text of the draft by stating that "all sect members must return to the cult they or their ancestors previously belonged," as well as by including a provision that sanctions those who won't respect the law. (See *doc. 340*.)

343

1943 February 3. Police of the Bacău City. Minutes containing the property of the Adventist association of the Șerbănești neighborhood. Inventory of the goods. (See also *doc. 361*.)

344

1943 February 5. Praeture of the Petroșani District to the notary publics. It communicates the order of the Prefecture of the Hunedoara County of January 27, 1943 (*doc. 339*).

345

1943 February 5. Zarand (Brad) Court of Law. Presidential ordinance. All property of the Baptist association of the commune Vârfurile, Arad County is to be handed over to the state according to Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*). (See also *doc. 319*.)

346

1943 February 6. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Minority Cults Direction to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction. It asks that legal steps be taken to intern Teodor Vicaș, a Baptist preacher from the commune Batăr, Bihor County since he was found "guilty of making sectarian proselytism in the neighboring communes," as well as of practicing this profession without having an authorization. (See also *doc. 280*, *doc. 290* and *doc. 367*.)

347

1943 February 9. Prefecture of the Arad County, Administrative Service to the Ministry of Cults and Arts. The Cooperation Council of Arad County discussed in its session of January 29, 1943, the issue of using the Baptist houses of worship that were taken over by the state. It suggests that these buildings be used as : classrooms – in those communes lacking school rooms ; in the rest of the communes, for the theoretical training of paramilitaries on Sunday mornings, while in the afternoons, Orthodox priest should hold their Sunday schools in these venues.

348

1943 February 12. Praeture of the Petroșani District to the notary public of the commune Uricani, Hunedoara County. It asks that measures be taken to reserve the Baptist houses of worship for the needs of the local Orthodox Church. (See also *doc. 350*.)

349

1943 February 12. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin. The Baptist leaders sent to Marshal Ion Antonescu a delegation of war invalids to show that the Baptists fought on the first lines of the front, therefore proving that the reason invoked by those who made Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*) that the sectarians won't fight is not true. Adventists and Brethren also decided to send similar delegations.

350

1943 February 13. The Town Hall of the commune Uricani, Hunedoara County, to the praetor of the Petroșani district. It asks that the Baptist house of worship of Uricani that was taken over by the state be used as a school building. (See also *doc. 348*.)

351

1943 February 15. Elementary school of the commune Balaci, Teleorman County, to the School Inspectorate of Teleorman County. It asks to be granted access to the building of the local Baptist sect, now abolished, to organize a school workshop.

352

1943 February 17. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Minority Cults Direction. Report on the study "The Baptist Movement in Romania," written by the teacher Ion Balaban from the commune Buteni, Arad County. The report takes some of the teacher's statements and makes a series of suggestions, meant to contribute to the actions of fighting these sects. Among others, he proposes that "action be taken to bring back these unfortunates to the true faith; this mission is more useful than bringing them to justice or taking more drastic measures which only hardens them and makes them feel like martyrs."

353

1943 February 17. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin. The Union of the Christian Baptist Communities in Romania, with its head office in Arad sent couriers to the country's main cities, in order to find out the Baptists' disposition and to encourage them to keep their faith. Couriers were authorized to tell the believers that the government would soon reopen the Baptist houses of worship. The President of the Baptist Community in Bucharest, Constantin Adorian convened a meeting for this purpose with the preachers in Bucharest.

354

1943 February 17. Parish Berești II of the commune Berești-Tazlău, Bacău County to the Bacău Archpriestship. It forwards the inventory of the movable and immovable property of the Adventist community which were taken over by the state. It makes suggestions regarding the destination of these goods. (See also *doc.* 358.)

355

1943 February 18. Girls' Highschool "Doamna Elena Cuza" in Iași to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction. It informs that no staff from the highschool had ever been part of a religious sect.

356

1943 February 19. Parish Nadișa, Bacău County, to the Bacău Archpriestship. It forwards the inventory of the Adventist association taken over by the state. It proposes that the building taken over by the state be converted into a cultural center and the headquarters of the Patronage Service. The parish priest of Nadișa had already made a similar proposal in 1940 and 1942. (See also *doc.* 358.)

357

1943 February 19. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. Note. Baptists in the communes Batăr, Tăut and Talpoș, Bihor County would not declare newborns at the town halls, except with the remark that they were Baptist, which was forbidden by law.

358

1943 February 22. Archpriestship Bacău to the Prefecture of the Bacău County. It forwards the reports sent by the parishes Șerbănești (*doc.* 361), Berești-Tazlău (*doc.* 354) and Nadișa (*doc.* 356), regarding the property of the local Adventist associations that had been abolished by law. It asks for these goods to be given to the destination suggested by the parishes.

359

1943 February 22. Military Prosecutor's Office of the Court Martial in Ploiești to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction. Dumitru Ene from the commune Policiori, Buzău County has been brought to justice for Adventist propaganda. At this time, the defendant is incarcerated at the Ploiești Prison. (See also *doc.* 320.)

360

1943 February 24. Central Press Censorship Office, Foreign Press Censorship Department to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Minority Cults Direction. It informs that it has ordered the districtual censorship services, as well as those subordinated to the governments of Bessarabia, Bukovina and Transnistria

to stop printing any kind of written materials belonging to the religious sects. It recommends for it to contact both the chiefs of the Internal and the External Correspondence Censorship Offices in order for them to prevent the distribution of the booklets belonging to the different religious sects by mail and those arriving by mail from abroad. (See also *doc. 390*, *doc. 400* and *doc. 404*.)

361

1943 February 26. Archpriestship Bacău to the Prefect of the Bacău County. It forwards the minutes listing the movable and immovable property of the Adventist association from the Șerbănești neighborhood (*doc. 343*) and of the Brethren association from the CFR neighborhood in Bacău. It makes suggestions regarding the destination of these goods. (See also *doc. 358*.)

362

1943 February 27. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts, Cults Direction to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Cabinet of the State Sub-secretary. It informs of the abolishment of the Baptist religious association. It cannot verify the complaint made by the Romanian Baptist Community of Arad about the case happened in the commune Secusigiu, Timiș-Torontal County (*doc. 169*), however, "all measures have been taken so that no regrettable actions will take place in the future." (See also *doc. 176*, *doc. 185* and *doc. 186*.)

363

1943 March 4. The Orthodox Vicariate of Alba-Iulia to the Minister of National Culture and Cults. It signals some problems associated with the "sectarian danger," as well as with implementing the provisions of Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*). It ascertains that, in most cases, the sectarians do not return to one of the authorized cults and that "they rather continue being aconfessional, not permitted by law and, in secret, to aim for the disintegration of the state." A solution could be that the authorities enforce that all sectarians return to their former religion. As for the issue of the "sectarian children," it suggests that "the school administrators of all kinds, ask the students to get a copy of their baptism certificate and, if it appears that they are not members of an authorized cult, they should be expelled." (See also *doc. 395*, *doc. 415*, *doc. 438* and *doc. 467*.)

364

1943 March 4. Special Information Service, Centre no. 1 Cernăuți to the Contra-informative Section. Note. As a result of the rumor that they would be evacuated beyond the Dniester, sectarians began to sell their fortunes or share them with other inhabitants. Two examples are given: Magdalina Semciuc and Dumitru Velisca, both from the commune Petriceni, Storojineț County.

365

1943 March 4. Gendarme Precinct Corjeuți, Hotin County. Minutes containing the results of the investigation in the case of Petre Mațuc from this commune.

The gendarme thinks that this person made the request from January 13, 1943 (*doc. 325*) with the sole purpose of being demobilized. (See also *doc. 303*, *doc. 366* and *doc. 382*.)

366

1943 March 6. Gendarmes Section Balotești, Hotin County. Report regarding the investigation in the case of Petre Mațuc from the commune Corjeuți. The gendarme sections's opinion is that if the claimant had been drafted as a form of punishment, he could be dismissed, considering that he had been baptized in the Orthodox faith and has a full house. (See also *doc. 303*, *doc. 325*, *doc. 365* and *doc. 382*.)

367

1943 March 6. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction to the State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts, Minority Cults Direction. It communicates that the preacher Teodor Vicaș, of the commune Batăr, Bihor County, cannot be interned since practicing the Baptist cult had been legal until December 30, 1942. (See also *doc. 279*, *doc. 290* and *doc. 346*.)

368

1943 March 9. Gendarmes Inspectorate Cernăuți to the subordinate gendarmes legions. Request for information. The members of the religious sects resort to different tricks in order to continue practicing their faith. For instance, some have formally switched to Protestantism. The Inspectorate orders the legion to investigate these situations and to bring the propagandists to justice. (See also *doc 442*.)

369

1943 March 9. Fibia Popoviciu, manager of the Baptist orphanage in Simeria, Hunedoara County, to the Town Hall of the commune Simeria. She was informed that the orphanage was closed. She asked to keep it open for 10 more days in order to find homes for the children, many of whom had lost both their parents. (See also *doc. 294*, *doc. 335*, *doc. 371*, *doc. 454* and *doc. 460*.)

370

1943 March 10. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin. President of the Baptist Community in Bucharest, Constantin Adorian, who is a worker at the international transportation company "Carmen," was warned by the company's management to clarify his religious situation or he would be fired as the company did not want to be in trouble with the authorities.

371

1943 March 11. The public notary of the commune Simeria, Hunedoara County, to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Minority Cults Direction. He forwards the request of the manager of the Baptist orphanage in Simeria (*doc. 369*) asking to keep the orphanage open for 15 more days as the manager needs to find homes for several children. (See also *doc. 294*, *doc. 335*, *doc. 454* and *doc. 460*.)

372

1943 March 11. General Staff of the Army, 1st Section, Direction 3 Mobilization-Discharging to the Bureau 10 Jews. Provisions regarding the sectarians from Bukovina and Northern Bessarabia who are part of the army. According to the order of the State Leader, the General Staff of the Army has delivered from the military recruitment circles to the army units a great number of sectarians identified so far, in order for them to be drafted and sent to the front. The Russian, Ukrainian and Lipovan sectarians shall be applied the following regime : 6 months concentration, one month leave.

373

1943 March 11. Special Information Service. Note regarding the sectarians from Bukovina. Because of the rumor stating that those who don't switch to Orthodoxism shall be deported to the other side of the river Dniester, some sectarians have started to sell their property or to give it to other locals.

374

1943 March 13. General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Subsecretary's Office. Report regarding the measures taken for the execution of Marshal Ion Antonescu's order regarding the religious sects (see *doc. 191* and *doc. 197*). It shows the communication on this topic with the police regional inspectorates, the Prefecture of the Capital City Police and the General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie and it indicates the relations with the results acknowledged and forwarded to the ministry. (See also *doc. 386*.)

375

1943 March 13. Special Information Service. Note regarding the propaganda material distributed by the religious sects. The colporteurs throw such materials out of the trains as the trains leave the stations.

376

1943 March 15. Police Inspectorate Chişinău, Security Service to the Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Military Cabinet. Report regarding the 74 sectarians, most of them Baptists, interned in the Oneştii Noi camp. They have been interned for indefinite periods of time and shall be released when they give up their faith in writing. Up until now, 15 sectarians have given such statements and they have been released. The other 59 sectarians refuse to sign such statements. The Inspectorate suggests for these sectarians to be sent to Transnistria, if not all of them, at least their leaders, Nicolae Clinovici and Eugen Jurencu. (See also *doc. 379*.)

377

1943 March 15. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Chişinău, Security Service to the Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Military Cabinet. Agafia Sturza, from Chişinău was convicted for holding Adventist propaganda materials and has been

brought before the Court Martial in Chişinău, “because she is an Adventist and sectarian propaganda booklets have been found during a search of her house.”

378

1943 March 17. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin. The leaders of the Brethren intend to send a memorandum to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, whereby they ask for explanations regarding matters that have not been clarified by Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*). One of these matters regards funerals, because the deceased who are members of religious sects cannot be buried in cemeteries if the religious services are not performed by the Orthodox priests.

379

1943 March 22. The Gouvernement of Bessarabia, Military Cabinet to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Civilian-Military Cabinet. Report regarding the sectarians interned in Oneşti Noi camp (74 sectarians, mostly Baptists). Only those people who have been interned have performed propaganda activities. 15 internees have given up their faith by means of a written statement, yet the other 59 refuse to do this. It suggests for the latter to be interned in a camp in Transnistria, “in order to set a drastic example to the sectarian movement.” It asks for this proposal to be approved and for the Gouvernement to implement it when appropriate. (See also *doc. 376*.)

380

1943 March 23. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Subsecretary’s Office to the General Direction of the Police. It asks to be notified whether measures have been taken against religious sectarians, according to the order in the resolution of Marshall Ion Antonescu which was communicated on May 6, 1942 by the Presidency of the Council of Ministers (*doc. 191*) and on May 9, 1942 by the Ministry of Internal Affairs (*doc. 197*).

381

1943 March 27. Prefecture of the Capital City Police, Security Police Service, Office 4 Security Police. Report regarding Maria Voitiţcaia from Bucharest who sent 1,000 Lei to Domnica Roşca, interned in Mislea prison for Baptist religious activity. The office proposes closing the case because sending this amount of money is not a crime.

382

1943 March 31. Prefecture of the Hotin County to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Minority Cults Direction. It forwards the file compiled as a result of the petition written by Petre Maţuc, a local from the commune Corjeuţi, Hotin County (*doc. 325*), who has returned to Orthodoxy along with his family. (See also *doc. 303*, *doc. 365* and *doc. 366*.)

383

1943 April 5. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Galaţi, Security Police Service to the General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction.

The names of persons (Brethren, Tudorists and Seventh-day Adventists) who were sued for their religious demonstrations after the publication of Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*) are sent.

384

1943 April 6. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Timișoara, Security Police Service to the General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction. Radio-telegram. Two cases of religious gatherings are reported (of the Baptists and Seventh-day Adventists) which were discovered in Sânnicolaul Mare and Arad. The files compiled on these gatherings were sent to the Court Martial in Timișoara.

385

<**1943 April (before 7)**>. Ministry of National Culture and Cults. The new version of the draft entitled "Decree-law regarding the abolishment of religious associations (sects)." (The final version of the law – Law no. 431 of June 28, 1943: *doc. 434*.)

386

1943 April 7. General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction. Report related to measures taken to execute the order in the resolution of Marshal Ion Antonescu that were sent to the General Direction of the Police on May 6 and May 9, 1942 (*doc. 191* and *doc. 197*). It indicates the provisions given to the regional police inspectorates and to the Prefecture of the Capital City Police, reports received from them, as well as the communication on this matter with the Ministry of Internal Affairs. (See also *doc. 374*.)

387

1943 April 7. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts, Cabinet Direction to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Secretariate Direction. It announces that a new version of the law draft regarding the abolishment of religious associations has been prepared (*doc. 385*). This document shall be forwarded to the Minister of National Culture and Cults, Ion Petrovici for signature. Afterwards, it will be presented to Marshall Ion Antonescu for approval.

388

1943 April 10. Legislative Council, Legislative Commission, 1st Section. Notification concerning the draft of the decree-law for the approval of some provisions from the law regarding the cults and the abolishment of all religious associations (sects) (*doc. 385*). It shows the problems and deficiencies of the draft, whose provisions regarding the goods of the religious associations – which were about to be taken over by the state – are not according to the current laws.

389

1943 April 10. Prefecture of the Severin County, Administrative Service. Lists containing the property, money and archives of the religious associations in the county of Severin that have been abolished by Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*).

390

1943 April 10. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts, Minority Cults Direction to the chief of the External Correspondence Censorship. It asks for the office to stop the distribution of sectarian booklets by mail whether printed within the country or sent from abroad. (See also *doc. 360*, *doc. 400* and *doc. 404*.)

391

1943 April 11. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. Report. In the commune Sagani, Chilia County, 12 Baptists who had gathered for prayer in a villager's house were discovered. They have been presented to the Court Martial of the 2nd Army Corps.

392

1943 April 14. Special Information Service, Information Section, Moldova Agency to the Political Group. Adventists in Neamț County continue to gather clandestinely for prayer. Several examples are given. Since neither condemnations nor physical torture were sufficient, it suggests that those caught in this act should be temporarily deported to Transnistria.

393

1943 April 17. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Direction of Minority Cults to the Urban Perception Reșița. Confirms receiving the amount of 1,337 Lei, which was taken at the Ministry's order from the Baptist house of worship in Reșița.

394

1943 April 18. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin. The president of the German Baptist community in Bucharest, Johann Fleischer, sent to the German Legation a memorandum whereby he asks for intervention by the Romanian authorities not to confiscate the community's property according to Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*). (See also *doc. 491*.)

395

1943 April 19. The Orthodox Vicariate of Alba-Iulia to the minister of National Culture and Cults. It objects to the answer given by the Ministry regarding the Vicariate's proposal concerning sectarian children (*doc. 363*). The Vicariate ordered the priests that "all sectarian children who have not returned to the ancestors' faith should not be classified." It asks the minister to analyze the issue of the sectarian children and to not promote them if they had not been evaluated on the subject of religion.

396

1943 May 1. Praeture of the Câmpeni District to the town halls. It transmits the order of the Prefecture of the Cluj-Turda County to the praetures. The sectarians in the county are ordered "to convert to one of the Christian faiths recognized by law by

June 1, 1943, or else they risk that their dead will not be buried in the cemeteries and the possibility that they will be sent to Transnistria.” (See also *doc. 403* and *doc. 452*.)

397

1943 May 4. Gouvernement of Bukovina, Directorate of Education and Cults, Cults Service to the ministry of National Culture and Cults, Minority Cults Direction. Report regarding the implementation of Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*). It signals the fact that most of the houses of worship that were to be transferred into state ownership were hidden as they were listed in the land register under the name of sectarians or certain companies. It suggests for the Ministry to take the appropriate measures. It asks for instructions for implementing this law in the province of Bukovina.

398

1943 May 9. The authorities from the village of Reea, commune Totești, Hunedoara County, to the minister of National Culture and Cults. They ask for the 50,000 bricks made by the Baptists in the town of Hațeg, which were taken over by the state, to be handed over to the villages of Reea and Nalațvad so they could build an elementary school. (See also *doc. 409*.)

399

1943 May 11. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts, Cabinet Direction to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers. It announces that the draft of the decree-law regarding the dissolution of all religious associations (sects) (*doc. 385*) was signed by Minister Ion Petrovici, but the Legislative Council rejected it. As a result, the Ministry of National Culture and Cults intervened at the Ministry of Justice in order to examine the Legislative Council's decision and find a solution. Up to that moment, the Ministry of Justice had not given an answer. As soon as there is an answer, the decree-law shall be given to Marshall Ion Antonescu to be signed.

400

1943 May 11. The Chief of External Correspondence Censorship Office to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Minority Cults Direction. It informs that upon receiving the address of April 10, 1943 (*doc. 390*), the Office of External Correspondence Censorship has acted to stop the letters, books, magazines and other printed materials which were used for “sectarian propaganda” from circulation. Several bags full of such materials that had been sent by mail have been destroyed. A list with the addresses of all sectarians in the country, as well as their relations outside the country has been compiled. (See also *doc. 360* and *doc. 404*.)

401

1943 May 13. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Minority Cults Department to the Prefecture of the Iași County. The Ministry agrees that the buildings formerly used as houses of worship by the sects that have been dissolved

according to Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*) can be temporarily reused. The requirements to be met are specified.

402

1943 May 15. City Hall of Arad, Cultural Direction to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults. The City Hall of Arad asks to use the Baptist church in the Micălaca Veche neighborhood, which was transferred to the state's ownership, as a kindergarten. (See also *doc. 430*.)

403

1943 May 18. Several Baptists from the communes Neagra, Secătura, Ponorel, Vidra and Avram-Iancu, Cluj-Turda County, to Marshall Ion Antonescu, the State Leader. Petition regarding the persecution of the Baptists in the Câmpeni district. At the beginning of May 1943, they were called to their town halls where they were informed about the order of the Prefecture of the Cluj-Turda County (*doc. 396*). Then were they asked to switch to one of the acknowledged confessions by May 27, 1943, "otherwise we risk that our dead will no longer be buried in the cemeteries and we will be sent to Transnistria." They express "the indignation and offense we feel both as Christians and Romanians towards such orders." They asked that the prefecture's order be annulled, their houses of worship reopened and "all persecution of any kind against the Baptist Christians be stopped and our religious rights reinstated." (See also *doc. 452*.)

404

1943 May 19. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Minority Cults Direction to the Chief of the External Correspondence Censorship. It addresses thanks "for the help you have given us in fighting and stopping the sectarians' propaganda." (See also *doc. 360* and *doc. 400*.)

405

1943 May 22. School Inspectorate of the Region Timișoara to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Direction for Normal and Seminarial Education. Report concerning the classification of the sectarian students in the subject of religion. The clerical authorities have ordered the Orthodox and Greek-Catholic priests not to grade the Baptists students. The Inspectorate has directed the teachers to classify these students themselves if the priests won't do it. It asks the Ministry to give the necessary orders. (See also *doc. 432* and *doc. 473*.)

406

1943 May 25. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Iași, Security Police Service, to the General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction. The Police of the Bacău City sent to the Prosecutor's Office of the Bacău Court of Law, the former leader of the Brethren association in Bacău, Mihai Schmidt, for officiating, on Mai 5, 1943, the burial ceremony of his 10-months-old baby, according to the rite of this cult, now forbidden.

407

1943 May 25. The Orthodox Vicariate of Alba-Iulia to the Minister of National Culture and Cults. It asks to give the construction materials owned by the Baptist sect in Presaca-Ampoiului, Alba County to the local Orthodox parish to build a parish house. "Your consent would contribute to the restoration of the spiritual unity of all Romanians in this commune." (See also *doc. 428* and *doc. 429*.)

408

1943 May 31. Gendarmes Inspectorate Cernăuți, Agent 142. Informative note. The commune Cuciurul-Mic, Cernăuți County, where many Adventists live is a breeding ground for sectarianism. The Orthodox priest Percic might be an example in this respect, since he pleaded in favor of the sectarians being released.

409

1943 May 31. School Inspectorate of the Mureș Region to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Direction for Primary, Normal and Seminary Education. It forwards the petition of the authorities of the Reea village, commune Totești, Hunedoara County (*doc. 398*), regarding the 50,000 bricks belonging to the Baptist sect from the town of Hațeg. It suggests for this petition to be approved.

410

1943 June 2. Prefecture of the Iași County, Administrative Service to the director of the Culture House of the Iași County. It informs about the order of the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, the Minority Cults Direction, of May 13, 1943 concerning the properties of the dissolved religious associations (*doc. 401*). Provisions regarding the properties of the Adventist association of the commune Probota and the Brethren association of the commune Vânători. (See also *doc. 482*.)

411

1943 June 2. The examination center Făurești, Vâlcea County. Minutes written on the occasion of the 7th grade student's graduation exam in religion. At the intervention of the priest Emil Nedelescu, who was in charge of inspecting religious education, the examination commission did not grade the student Nițu I. Maria, of Adventist faith, from the school Râmești-Beica and decided to seek the advice of the school and church authorities. (See also *doc. 413*, *doc. 414*, *doc. 421*, *doc. 426*, *doc. 431*, *doc. 435* and *doc. 439*.)

412

1943 June 4. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Security and Public Order Direction, Security Service. Information order. The followers of religious sects that were forbidden by Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*) assembled together to pray in the fields and forests. It orders for measures to be taken to observe the followers of the said sects and discover the gatherings.

413

1943 June 4. Emil Nedelescu, Orthodox parish priest in Șușanii de Jos, Vâlcea County, in charge with inspecting the religious education, to the Metropolitan Bishop of Oltenia. Report regarding the graduation exam of the 7th grade students at the examination center in Făurești, Vâlcea County. The priest asked the examination commission to take measures against the student Nițu I. Maria, who was of Adventist faith. He asks that this student not be graded in the subject of religion and that “the authorities in charge of this interior order be informed about this case.” (See also *doc. 411, doc. 414, doc. 421, doc. 426, doc. 431, doc. 435 and doc. 439.*)

414

1943 June 4. Emil Nedelescu, Orthodox parish priest in Șușanii de Jos, Vâlcea County, in charge of inspecting the religious education, to the Archpriestship I Vâlcea. He sent the minutes of June 2, 1943 regarding the Adventist student Nițu I. Maria’s grade in the subject of religion (*doc. 411*). He asks the archpriestship to intervene at the School Inspectorate for not approving the grade given to this student. “Otherwise the sectarians shall be victorious despite the given laws.” (See also *doc. 413, doc. 421, doc. 426, doc. 431, doc. 435 and doc. 439.*)

415

1943 June 5. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Secondary Education Direction to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults. It sends an informative copy of the two reports sent by the Orthodox Vicariate of Alba-Iulia (*doc. 395 and doc. 363*) with Minister Ion Petrovici’s resolution. (See also *doc. 438 and doc. 467.*)

416

1943 June 5. General Direction of the Police. Note regarding the discovery of a group of sectarians on the territory of the commune Viforâta, Dâmbovița County. These sectarians, who are of Hungarian origin, are part of the Labor Detachment working at the construction site in Mănăstirea Dealu. They were caught in the woods while they were praying.

417

1943 June 6. Prefecture of the Iași County, Administrative Service. List with the movable goods belonging to the dissolved religious associations in the city of Iași, which were to be taken over by three Orthodox parishes. (See also *doc. 418, doc. 420 and doc. 423.*)

418

1943 June 10. Police Questure Iași. Minutes regarding the take over of the movable goods belonging to the Brethren religious association from Iași, 74 Sfântul Lazăr st. These goods were provisionally handed over to the Orthodox parish of Sts. Constantin and Hellen in Iași. (See also *doc. 417, doc. 420 and doc. 423.*)

419

1943 June 11. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Minority Cults Direction. Report regarding the proposals made by the Gouvernement of Bukovina, Education and Cults Directorate concerning the property of the religious sects (*doc. 397*). It suggests that all wait for the completion of Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*) – an operation still in progress.

420

1943 June 11. Police Questure Iași. Minutes regarding the take over of the mobile goods belonging to the Baptist religious association of Iași, 2 Palat st. These goods were provisionally handed over to the Orthodox parish of St. Andrew in Iași. (See also *doc. 417*, *doc. 418* and *doc. 423*.)

421

1943 June 11. Archpriestship Râmnicu-Vâlcea to the School Inspectorate of the Vâlcea County. It asks for the grade that was given to the Adventist student Nițu I. Maria on the subject of religion be annulled. “The above-mentioned student persisted in her spiritual error and, consequently, we ask you to give us all the help to bring her back to the right way of living.” (See also *doc. 411*, *doc. 413*, *doc. 414*, *doc. 426*, *doc. 431*, *doc. 435* and *doc. 439*.)

422

1943 June 12. Prefecture of the Bihor County, Administrative Service to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts, Minority Cults Direction. It forwards the receipts for money found at the dissolved religious associations. These sums (a total of 7,789 Lei) were placed at the disposal of the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Minority Cults Direction. It also forwards the new list of immovable and movable goods of the dissolved religious associations. These goods have been handed over for temporary use to certain public institutions and authorities.

423

1943 June 15. Police Questure Iași. Minutes regarding the take over of movable goods of the Seventh-day Adventist religious association located in Iași, 12 Speranței st. These goods have been handed over for temporary use to the Orthodox parish Toma Cozma of Iași. (See also *doc. 417*, *doc. 418* and *doc. 420*.)

424

1943 June 16. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Security and Public Order Direction, Security Service to the inspectorates and legions. Information order. It asks to verify the information according to which the sect of the Seventh-day Adventists aims to “hide” its houses of worship in the whole country, claiming that they were property of the company “Cuvântul Evangheliei” (The Word of Gospel) from Bucharest.

425

1943 June 22. Prefecture of the Iași County, Administrative Section. Report. The religious booklets belonging to the former Seventh-day Adventist association from the village of Probota have been given to the local Orthodox parish. Should they be left at the cultural center, they could be read by the locals, which would be dangerous. (See also *doc. 433.*)

426

1943 June 22. School Control Sub-inspectorate of the Bălcești district to the School Inspectorate of the Vâlcea County. Report regarding the Adventist student Nițu I. Maria from the Râmești-Beica school. This student has obtained good grades in all subjects, including religion, yet the commission would not let her graduate. Later, at the intervention of the priest Emil Nedelescu, who was in charge of inspecting religious education in the Bălcești district, the commission would not let her graduate. It asks for the commission to let this student graduate. (See also *doc. 411, doc. 413, doc. 414, doc. 421, doc. 431, doc. 435 and doc. 439.*)

427

1943 June 22. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin. Some Baptists in Bucharest are discontent with the inefficiency with which their president, Constantin Adorian defended the community's interests. They request Adorian's resignation claiming that he had philo-German feelings and "the measure of dissolving the religious sects was made at the suggestion of the German circles." It is thought that the Baptists' sympathy should only be directed towards the Anglo-Saxon powers who proposed to establish religious freedom in Europe.

428

1943 June 23. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction to the Prefecture of the Alba County. The Ministry agrees that the construction materials that once belonged to the Baptist sect in Presaca-Ampoiului be used for the construction of the parish house in the village. (See also *doc. 407 and doc. 429.*)

429

1943 June 23. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction to the Orthodox Vicariate of Alba-Iulia. The Ministry approved the request of the Vicariate (*doc. 407*), for the construction materials that once belonged to the Baptist sect in Presaca-Ampoiului be used for the construction of the parish house in the village. (See also *doc. 428.*)

430

1943 June 23. Ministry of National Culture and Cults to the Prefecture of Arad County. The Ministry approves the temporary use of the Baptist house of worship in Micălaca Veche neighborhood, city of Arad as a kindergarden. (See also *doc. 402.*)

431

1943 June 24. School Inspectorate of the Craiova Region to the Minister of National Culture and Cults. It forwards a report by the parish priest in Sușanii de Jos, Vâlcea County (*doc. 413*) and asks the Ministry to study “the troublesome problems caused by the Adventist children, who provocatively mock our ancestors’ religion and tradition and share a faith that is forbidden by the laws of this State.” (See also *doc. 411*, *doc. 414*, *doc. 421*, *doc. 426*, *doc. 435* and *doc. 439*.)

432

1943 June 26. The Romanian Orthodox Bishopric of Timișoara to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Direction for Elementary, Normal and Seminarial Education. It shows the point of view of the bishopric on the issue of evaluating the sectarian students. It asks that the sectarian students be examined and evaluated. If they do not receive a grade in the subject of religion, they should not graduate. (See also *doc. 405* and *doc. 473*.)

433

1943 June 28. Prefecture of the Iași County, Administrative Section to the director of the County Cultural Center “Unirea.” The religious booklets belonging to the former Seventh-day Adventist association from the village of Probota are to be given to the Orthodox parish, since anybody could read them in the cultural center. (See *doc. 425*.)

434

1943 June 28. Ministry of National Culture and Cults and Ministry of Justice. Law no. 431/1943 (“Decree-law regarding the dissolution of religious associations”). “The sectarian religious associations that have existed in Romania until December 29, 1942, as well as those who have been authorized after this date or have been disguised as other legal entities, non-profit or others, shall be legally dissolved.” All educational, cultural, or philanthropic institutes belonging to these sectarian associations shall also be legally dissolved. The legal entities that have been created in order to serve the religious propaganda shall also be dissolved by a journal of the Council of Ministers. The civil and commercial societies or the cooperative entities that have served or endorsed the activity or the purposes of these religious associations shall also be legally dissolved. The property of the sectarian religious associations shall be taken over by the state. The same shall happen to the property of the legal entities that have endorsed the activities of these associations. The decree-law is accompanied by an explanatory report.

435

1943 June 28. School Inspectorate of the Vâlcea County to the School Inspectorate of the Craiova Region. It forwards the file regarding the examination of the student Nițu I. Maria from the school of Râmestî-Beica and asks for a decision in this case. (See also *doc. 411*, *doc. 413*, *doc. 414*, *doc. 421*, *doc. 426*, *doc. 431* and *doc. 439*.)

436

1943 June 28. Vermeş Elementary School, Caraş County, to the school inspector of the Caraş county. It asks for approval to use the former Baptist house of worship as a classroom.

437

1943 June 30. Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Secretariat Direction to the State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts. It informs that Marshall Ion Antonescu has approved in resolution all proposals regarding the establishment of the first missionary centers in the county of Teleorman, by using the former sectarian houses of worship. (See also *doc. 444*.)

438

<1943 July 8>. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Secondary Education Direction to the Cults Direction. It informs that the Ministry has not yet taken any decision regarding the situation of the sectarian students. The point of view of the Ministry was, nevertheless, expressed in the answer given to the Orthodox Vicariate of Alba-Iulia, who asked if the sectarian children should not be allowed in state schools and, if they already were in school, if they should not be examined or promoted (*doc. 363*). The answer was that “the Ministry cannot expel children from state schools and cannot evaluate them if they go to religion class and study this subject. This is the Ministry’s point of view.” (See also *doc. 395*, *doc. 415* and *doc. 467*.)

439

1943 July 15. School Inspectorate of the Region of Craiova to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Direction for Primary, Normal and Seminary Education. It forwards the report of the School Inspectorate of Vâlcea County regarding the student Nişu I. Maria (*doc. 435*). It asks for instructions regarding the way in which sectarian students from elementary schools are to be treated. (See also *doc. 411*, *doc. 413*, *doc. 414*, *doc. 421*, *doc. 426* and *doc. 439*.)

440

1943 July 23. Constantin Bona from the city of Orşova to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults. He asks the Ministry to transfer the building of the former Baptist house of worship in Orşova, since it was built by his grandfather and later donated to the Baptist community. (See also *doc. 453*.)

441

1943 July 24. Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Administration Direction. Circular order. It shows that Law no. 431/1943 (*doc. 434*) “definitively solved the exercise of a sectant religious cult” and it asks that measures be taken for strictly respecting this law, noticing any deviation to the general prosecutors’ offices.

442

1943 July 24. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Cernăuți, Security Service to the Gendarmes Inspectorate Cernăuți. Informative note. In the Cernăuți Penitentiary there are 506 sectarians, out of which 364 have received sentences between 2 and 25 years and 142 have been sentenced to death (the latter because they declared in a court of law that they won't fight on the front). Until now, 43 pardon requests have been granted; the king has pardoned them on condition that they go to the front. A list with the names of these persons has been sent to the General Staff of the Army to be distributed to all army units on the front.

443

1943 July 24. Gendarmes Inspectorate Cernăuți, Agent 39. Report. The Seventh-day Adventists in the commune Vama, Câmpulung County formally switched to the Protestant (Lutheran) church so that they would not be forced to attend the Orthodox Church and cross themselves. This church does not function anymore, since the ethnic Germans repatriated to the Reich. (See also *doc. 368.*)

444

1943 July 30. Prefecture of the Teleorman County, Administrative Service to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction. It asks for information regarding the missionary women who are to be sent to the county of Teleorman. (See also *doc. 437.*)

445

1943 July 31. Prefecture of the Bihor County to the praetors. It informs of a decision taken by the Ministry of National Culture and Cults regarding the way the dissolved religious sects' goods are to be used.

446

1943 August 4. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin regarding a letter received by Ioan Socaciu, President of the Union of the Christian Baptist Communities in Romania, from several Romanian Baptists in the USA. In the letter, the Baptists in Romania are encouraged not to leave their faith because the United Nations' victory is close and once peace is made, the Axis countries would be obliged to allow full freedom to all religious associations that have their center in America.

447

1943 August 13. Gendarmes Inspectorate Cernăuți, Police Bureau to the Gendarmes Legion Câmpulung. Informative order. Despite the measures taken by the authorities the Seventh-day Adventists continue to practice their faith. The Adventist preacher from the commune Moldovița, Câmpulung County, travels through the villages and "encourages the sectarians not to abandon their faith, since [...] better times shall come when they shall be free again to act as they please."

448

1943 August 20. Ministry of National Culture and Cults. Journal of the Council of Ministers no. 645. During the meeting of the Council of Ministers of August 20, 1943, it was ascertained that “all sectarian religious associations, without any exception [...], continue to be dissolved, according to the provisions of articles 3, 4 and 21 of the Law no. 431 of 1943” (*doc. 434*). The State Secretary at the Ministry of National Culture and Cults is in charge of implementing the provisions of this law. (See also *doc. 457*.)

449

1943 August 21. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Alba Iulia, Security Police Service to the General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction. Sectarrians are discontent with handing over the assets of their churches to the state patrimony. They hope that in the case of the democratic power’s victory, measures against them would be dismissed.

450

1943 August 25. The director of the school from the commune Zimbru, Arad County, to the School Inspectorate of the Arad County. He asks for instructions regarding the Baptist students. The Orthodox priest did not grade them in the subject of religion, hence the students cannot graduate, “although they are very good students.” (See also *doc. 461*.)

451

1943 August 26. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Timișoara, Security Police Service to the General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction. Report related to the situation of sectarians after the application of Law no. 431/1943 (*doc. 434*). A smaller number of them converted to their original religion, some are formally attending legal churches, but most of them are practicing their faith in their own homes, without affecting the state order. They hope that after the war is over and after the intervention of the sectant leaders abroad, their cult would be free again.

452

1943 August 27. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Minority Cults Direction to Avram Ilie from the commune Neagra, Cluj-Turda County. It replies to the petition addressed to Marshall Ion Antonescu on May 18, 1943 (*doc. 403*). The request cannot be satisfied because the religious sects have been dissolved and their possessions taken over by the state. (See also *doc. 396*.)

453

1943 August 27. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction to Constantin Bona from Orșova. Reply to his petition of July 23, 1943 (*doc. 440*). The solicited building, i.e. the Baptist house of worship in Orșova shall be auctioned after all legal proceedings are met in order to enter into the Ministry’s possession.

454

1943 August 27. Ministry of National Culture and Cults. Minutes ascertaining the situation in the Baptist orphanage in Simeria, Hunedoara County. It suggests for the orphanage to be taken over by the Patronate Council and used as an orphanage for war orphans. (See also *doc. 294, doc. 335, doc. 369, doc. 371 and doc. 460.*)

455

1943 August 31. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Minority Cults Direction to the Gouvernement of Bukovina, Education and Cults Directorate. It informs that the goods intended for any form of sectarian activities, including those owned by persons delegated by a sectarian association, are to be taken over by the state. It asks to be informed of any deviation from Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*).

456

1943 August 31. The Orthodox Bishopric of Arad to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Directorat. It forwards the list with the Baptist students from the elementary schools on the territory of the eparchy, who were evaluated on the subject of religion and thereby graduated from the class. It asks that the grades be annulled and that during the school year 1943-1944, "only those students be admitted to the elementary schools who have been baptized in the religion acknowledged by the state."

457

1943 September 2. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Security and Public Order Direction, Security Service. Circular order. It sends the Journal of the Council of Ministers no. 645 of August 20, 1943 (*doc. 448*).

458

1943 September 2. Council of Ministers. Journal of the Council of Ministers no. 723. According to Law no. 431/1942 (*doc. 434*), the American Baptist Mission in Romania is dissolved. The mission's building from Bucharest, 29 Berzei St., is given for free use to the Patronage Council of Social Works. (See also *doc. 462 and doc. 476.*)

459

1943 September 3. The Romanian Orthodox Archbishopric of Alba Iulia and Sibiu to the General Secretary of the Ministry of National Culture and Cults. It informs about the success of converting the former sectarians to Orthodoxy. It gives a series of such examples. (See also *doc. 477.*)

460

1943 September 4. Ion Lăncrănjan, general inspector, to the Minister of National Culture and Cults. Report regarding the Baptist orphanage in Simeria, Hunedoara County. As a result of Law no. 431/1943 (*doc. 434*), the orphanage is to be dissolved. He suggests that the building of the orphanage be handed over to the Patronage

Council in order to establish an orphanage for war orphans. (See also *doc. 294*, *doc. 335*, *doc. 369*, *doc. 371* and *doc. 454*.)

461

1943 September 9. Arad School Inspectorate to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Direction for Elementary, Normal and Seminarial Education. It forwards the report of the elementary school of the commune Zimbru, Arad County (*doc. 450*) and asks the Ministry to order the evaluation of the Baptist students, since a new school year is about to start and these students cannot register for their classes although they had obtained good grades in the other subjects.

462

1943 September 5. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin. The former president of the Baptist community in Bucharest, Constantin Adorian sent a memorandum to the Swiss Legation regarding the confiscation by the Romanian government of the building on 29 Berzei St., which is the property of the American Baptist Mission in Romania. Adorian asked the Legation to protest against this measure through diplomatic channels. (See also *doc. 458* and *doc. 476*.)

463

1943 September 13. Gendarmes Inspectorate Cernăuți, Police Bureau to the Prosecutor's Office of the Cernăuți Court of Law. The guardians at the central prison in Cernăuți are bribed to allow the incarcerated sectarians to keep in touch with their families.

464

1943 September 21. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin. The Baptist leaders have instructed the believers to visit the Orthodox churches in order for them to be observed by the Orthodox. This measure is considered necessary, "since they have been informed that persecution against the sectarians is planned." (See also *doc. 474*.)

465

1943 September 21. Ioan Popoviciu, a student from the county of Hunedoara, of Baptist faith, to the Minister of National Culture and Cults. He asks to be allowed to continue his studies at the Industrial Gymnasium in Dobra. He will be able to graduate in the school year 1943/1944, however, in order to be re-registered, the director of the school has asked him to receive the Ministry's approval. (The reply, in *doc. 475*.)

466

1943 September 23. General Direction of the Police. Note. Five women from the city of Buzău, who are members of the Tudorist sect (Brethren) have been convicted by the Court Martial in Ploiești and shall pay for their religious propaganda and proselytism.

467

1943 September 29. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Cults Direction. Circular letter to all the Orthodox archpriestships. The return to Orthodoxy of the "lost," especially the sectarian children, is "the main goal of the Church and the State." The study of religion and the examination of this subject are compulsory for all sectarian children and all those who refuse to comply should not graduate. (See also *doc. 363, doc. 395, doc. 415 and doc. 438.*)

468

1943 September 30. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Security and Public Order Direction, Security Service. Information order. Lately, many Seventh-day Adventists, mainly from the county of Muscel and from Transylvania, have switched to the religious sect of "Reformed Adventists," whose members refuse to shoot any weapons or fight on the front.

469

1943 September 30. Police Questure Arad, Security Police Bureau. Minutes regarding the handing over of the immovable and movable goods of the religious sects from the city of Arad which have been abolished. The property has been taken over by the Orthodox Bishopric of Arad. This operation refers to eight houses of worship (6 Baptist, 1 Nazarinean and 1 Adventist). The annexes contain lists with the movable property of these houses of worship.

470

1943 October 3. Town Hall of the commune Vârfurile, Arad County. Minutes regarding the transfer of the property of the Baptist association from the commune Vârfurile. The annexes contain the inventory of these immovable and movable goods.

471

1943 October 6. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Cernăuți, Security Police Service to the General Direction of the Police, Security Police Direction. Report regarding the sectarians in Cernăuți Penitentiary. Out of the about 500 sectarians imprisoned there, with sentences between three years of jail and death, 46 made statements of converting to Orthodoxy and asked for a reprieve; two of these had been sentenced to death. One, who received the death sentence died in the meantime due to medical reasons and the other one was denied the request. The other 44 sectarians received a reprieve and were set free on September 12. It hopes that after the pardoning of these sectarians other prisoners would convert to Orthodoxy and ask for a reprieve.

472

1943 October 12. Ministry of National Culture and Cults to the Orthodox Bishopric of Arad, Administrative Service. It forwards the ministerial circular (*doc. 467*) and the resolution of Minister Ion Petrovici in the matter of the sectarian students.

473

1943 October 23. School Inspectorate Timișoara to the Ministry of National Culture and Cults, Direction for Normal and Seminarial Education. Report regarding the evaluation of the sectarian students in the subject of religion. The Orthodox priests refuse to evaluate these students and, therefore, the situation of hundreds of students is not resolved. It asks the Ministry to allow these students to be evaluated by their teachers. (See also *doc. 405* and *doc. 432*.)

474

1943 October 29. Ministry of National Culture and Cults to the parish preasts of Bucur, St. Ekaterina, Zlătari and St. Demetrius churches, in Bucharest. It informs them that former Baptists atended these Orthodox churches and asks the priests to receive these former sectarians and to strive to bring them back to the Orthodox faith. (See also *doc. 464*.)

475

1943 November 4. Ministry of National Culture and Cults to the student Ioan Popoviciu from the Industrial Gymnasium of Dobra, Hunedoara County. Reply to the petition written by this student (*doc. 465*). The ministry decided that “the former sectarians be treated like all other students without a confession, but they are to be admitted to schools, only if there are spaces available after the Christian students take their place.”

476

1943 November 8. Special Information Service. Note. It ascertains that the provisions of the Law no. 431/1943 regarding the cessation of all activity of the sects are not applied (*doc. 434*). “The circles of the Ministry of Cults and the Patriarchate are deeply outraged since the measures ordered [by Marshall Ion Antonescu] are not being implemented. On the contrary, all sectarian groups try, by petitions sent to the Ministry of Cults, through the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, to regain the freedom to practice their activities.” The Baptists in Bucharest have requested and obtained the protection of the Swiss Legation and their building on the Berzei Street has been temporarily given to the Patronage Council. (Se also *doc. 458* and *doc. 462*.)

477

1943 November 16. Ministry of National Culture and Cults, State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts, Historical Cults Direction to the Romanian Orthodox Archbishopric of Alba Iulia and Sibiu. It is thankful for the action of re-converting former sectarians to the Orthodox faith. (See *doc. 459*.)

478

1943 November 19. Gendarme Section Zărnești, Brașov County, to the Gendarme Precinct Bran. It orders the verification of certain information regarding the Adventist sectarians living on the precinct's territory. (See *doc. 479*.)

479

1943 November 20. Gendarme Precinct Bran, Braşov County, to the Gendarme Section Zărneşti. Report on the verifications performed at the Section's orders (*doc. 478*) regarding the Adventist sectarians' activity.

480

1943 December 4. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Two information bulletins. Constantin Adorian, former president of the Baptist Community of Bucharest received a letter from Ioan Socaciu from Arad, leader of the Baptists in Romania, whereby he objected that he disregarded the believer's interests, stating instead that the believers were disoriented without moral and material support. In the Capital's Adventist circles, they say that the authorities intervened by the Patriarchy to oblige the priests to visit the Adventist families at least once a month in order to convince them to convert to Orthodoxy. The Adventist leaders asked the believers not to be influenced by this propaganda.

481

1943 December 21. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin regarding the trial involving the publishing house's "Cuvântul Evangheliei" (The Word of Gospel) property of the Adventist sect, which was to be confiscated by the state after the abolishment of the religious sects.

482

1943 December 29. Gendarme Precinct Probota, Iaşi County. Minute regarding the take over of the movable and immovable goods of the Seventh-day Adventist association from the commune Perieni. These goods were handed over to the Orthodox parish Perieni and to the cultural house in this localitaty.

483

1943 December 29. Gendarme Precinct Bran, Braşov County, to the Parish Office of the commune Tohanul Nou. It asks to be informed about whether the inhabitant Gheorghe Cojocaru and his wife, from Tohanul Nou, have switched from the Seventh-day Adventist sect to the Orthodox faith. (See *doc. 484*.)

484

1943 December 30. Parish Office from the commune Tohanul Nou, Braşov County, to the Gendarme Precinct Bran. It announces that the inhabitant Gheorghe Cojocaru and his wife, from Tohanul Nou, were never officially registered as belonging to a specific sect, yet they have participated in the gatherings of the local sects. Nevertheless, lately they have not participated in these gatherings and have allowed the priest to bless their house and the same priest baptized two of their children, who had not been baptized before. (See *doc. 483*.)

485

<1944 January (beginning)>. Gendarmes Legion Orhei. Information regarding the religious sects functioning on the territory of this legion: their history, number, events etc. It provides the number of members various sects have on December 31, 1941, December 31, 1942 and December 31, 1943.

486

1944 January 20. Police Commissariat Roşiorii de Vede, Security Police Bureau. Minutes concluded on the occasion of searches made at the residence of sectarians (Seventh-day Adventists) in town. In the annex there is a record of books and religious magazines found during that event. (See also *doc. 503.*)

487

1944 February 5. Gendarmes Inspectorate Bucharest. Information order. The Seventh-day Adventist sect has set its missionary program for the year 1944. It orders for the Adventists to be observed on the dates specified by this program.

488

1944 February 7. Victor Marinescu, Orthodox priest in the commune Viişoara, Constanţa County, to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. He asks that "convincing measures" be taken against the sectarians who "did not comply with the State's existing order yet": they should not be able to leave the locality where they reside (in order to not make "subversive propaganda"); the authorities should satisfy their different requests only after they prove that they do not belong to the sects anymore. (Another petition of this priest: *doc. 63.*)

489

1944 February 8. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin. On February 6, 1944, 10 members of the Brethren sect were caught during a religious service. They were to be sent to the Prosecutor's Office of the Court Martial in Bucharest.

490

1944 February 13. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin. Two cheese shops in Bucharest are closed on Saturday, their owners, who are Adventists, received a license from the Ministry of National Economy, Trade Direction claiming that on Saturdays they were going to Transylvania for merchandise. It is shown that this situation, which they consider economic sabotage, provoked surprise among the clergy and the "Christian public opinion."

491

1944 February 23. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin. President of the German Baptist community in Bucharest, Johann Fleischer asked the German Legation to provide him with a hall to hold a religious service, because the house

of worship at 28 Popa Rusu St. was sealed by the authorities. The legation responded that they could not answer his request as it would create conflict with the Romanian authorities. (See also *doc. 394.*)

492

1944 February 29. Gendarme Precinct Balta Albă to the Gendarmes Legion Bucharest. It asks that the individual Lazăr Lucaci, along with his family, of Baptist faith, be removed from the precinct's registers since he had moved to the territory of the 14th Police Circumscription.

493

1944 May 28. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin. In Bucharest's sectant groups there is the rumor that, in the Romanian territories occupied by the Soviets, they arrested the leaders of the Baptist communities and deported them to Siberia. The Romanian Baptist leaders intend to ask the Switzerland Legation to take their co-religious fellows in Bassarabia and Bukovina under their protection.

494

1944 June 20. Special Information Service, Information Section, Ardeal Agency, Făgăraș. Note regarding Victoria Răceanu and Filip Cionea, Baptist believers from Făgăraș accused of propaganda.

495

1944 June 27. Gendarme Precinct Ghencea. Informative note. The Adventist sect has been abolished on the territory of this precinct since the only registered Adventist family no longer practices this faith. (See also *doc. 498.*)

496

1944 July 14. Regional Inspectorate of the Police Ploiești. Informative note. Sectarians in Târgoviște discuss that the government will soon give up the restrictions imposed on the religious sects. The rumor is that the Swedish Minister in Bucharest is applying pressure on the Romanian government in this respect. (See also *doc. 499.*)

497

1944 July 14. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. Note. As a result of the action performed by the bodies of Gendarmes Legion Buzău, 13 Baptists and Adventists in the county converted to the Orthodox religion.

498

1944 July 16. "Ghencea Park" Parish Bucharest. Report. The inhabitant Ion Andrei has confessed that he does not practice the Adventist cult anymore. He is being observed by the Orthodox priest. (See also *doc. 495.*)

499

1944 July 20. General Direction of the Police, Detective Corps, 2nd Division. Report. The rumors related to the intervention of the Swedish minister in Bucharest in favor of changing the regime of the religious sects are not confirmed. (See also *doc. 496.*)

500

1944 July 31. Police of Bălți City (evacuated to Sinaia) to the Gendarme Precinct Hăghig, Brașov County. Information on Eugen Jurencu, evacuated from the city of Bălți, who now lives together with his family in the commune Hăghig. He was the Baptist preacher in the city and county of Bălți. Since he was considered dangerous because of his religious activity, on July 5, 1942, he was interned in Oneștii Noi camp, Lăpușna County and later in the Golta camp, in Transnistria, where he was then released in February or March 1944.

501

1944 August 7. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin. The Baptist leaders are confident that the victory of the allies, which is close, will give the Baptists back all the rights taken away from them.

502

1944 August 20. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin. The Baptist leaders from Bucharest started to practice again. They received a message from Bern, from Europe's Central Baptist Organization, which stated that the time was approaching when the Anglo-Americans' victory would banish Germany's allied governments and the democratic governments that would come would reestablish religious freedom.

503

<1944 September (before 21)>. A group of Adventist believers from Turnu Măgurele, Alexandria and Roșiorii de Vede to the chief of police of Turnu Măgurele City. They ask for the return of confiscated religious literature. (See also *doc. 486.*)

504

1944 September 22. A group of believers from the Romanian Baptist church in Sibiu to the commander of the Police Questure Sibiu. They inform that on that day they would reopen the house of worship and would organize the first religious service after the recovery of their religious freedom.

505

1944 October 6. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. Note. Baptists in Hunedoara County are unhappy that the administrative authorities did not pass the order for reopening the houses of worship. At Sălașul Superior, on October 1, 1944 Baptists wanted to break the seal of the house of worship in order to organize a gathering.

506

1944 October 13. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie. Note. Seventh-day Adventists in the communes Gostinu and Pietroșani, Vlașca County again started to gather in private homes for prayer. They ask about the reopening of the houses of worship.

507

<1944 October (before 19)>. State Sub-secretariat of Cults and Arts to the county prefectures. It asks for measures to be taken for the free practice of the Baptist cult, the religious associations of the Seventh-day Adventists and the Brethren. It orders to proceed with the unsealing of the properties and their return to the three religious organizations.

508

1944 October 23. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Security and Public Order Direction. Circular order. The Baptist Cult, the Religious Association of the Seventh-day Adventists and the Association of the Brethren can exercise freely. The manifestations of these religious organizations are nevertheless, still being observed.

509

1944 October 28. Ministry of National Culture and Cults. Law no. 548/1944 (“Decree-law regarding the implementation of the provisions concerning the religious associations mentioned by the law for the general regime of the cults”). The Laws no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*) and no. 431/1943 (*doc. 434*) are hereby annulled. The religious associations shall continue to function according to the regulations provided by Art. 24 of the Law regarding the general regime of the cults from the year 1928, with its later amendment of 1929. The property that was taken over by the state as a result of the implementation of Laws no. 927/1942 and no. 431/1943 shall be returned to its former owners. The decree-law is accompanied by an explanatory report.

510

1944 October 31. Ministry of National Culture and Cults. Law no. 553/1944 (“Decree-law for the regulation of the Christian Baptist Cult in Romania”). “The Christian Baptist cult is recognized in the Romanian State.” (*Art. I*) It respects the provisions of the Law regarding the general regime of the cults from the year 1928, but with some distinctions, being assimilated with other cults in terms of rights and obligations. (*Art. II*) These distinctions refer to the fact that the state will not award the Christian Baptist Cult in Romania any aid or subsidies. (*Art. V*) “The local organizations of the Christian Baptist cult are legal persons of public law, with full legal capacity.” (*Art. IV*). The decree-law is accompanied by an explanatory report.

511

1944 November 9. Prefecture of the Capital City Police. Information bulletin. The cancellation of Law no. 927/1942 (*doc. 304*) produced much satisfaction among sectarians. Through it, the Baptist religion was again acknowledged as a religious cult. Adventists and Brethren also decided to take measures to gain their status as a cult.

512

1944 November 20. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Security and Public Order Direction. Circular order. Even in the conditions of the country's new political orientation, the religious sects, except for the Baptists, Seventh-day Adventists and Brethren, continue to be banned.

513

1944 November 26. General Inspectorate of the Gendarmerie, Security and Public Order Direction. Circular order. The inspectorate forwarded the communication of the Ministry of Cults and Arts, Historical Cults Direction, to the county prefects, regarding the restitution of the goods belonging to the religious cults recently reauthorized.