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A TROUBLESOME DIPLOMATIC EPISODE: CLOSING OF THE ROMANIAN LEGATION AT THE HOLY SEE (JANUARY 1948)

(Summary)

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This study is based on two original documents and follows the last days of the Romanian Legation to the Holy See's *de facto* operation. Given that King Michael abdicated on 30 December 1947, Theodor Solacolu, chargé d'affaires ad interim of Romania to the Holy See has resigned. He asked an appointment with Giovanni Battista Montini, Pro Secretary of State of the Holly See and said that for reasons of conscience he gives resignation. The head of the other Romanian Legation in Italy, Bazil Serban, philo-communist tried to chase away Solacolu from the Legation to the Holy See. Solacolu sought the help of the Holy See who alerted the Italian police and only in this way he could end his mission. The episode reveals the dramatic process of replacing career diplomats with communist diplomatic officials, and this episode of the Romanian Legation to the Holy See provides a dramatic perspective on political change in Romania.

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