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**„MASACRUL DIN GALAȚI” (APRILIE 1859) –  
UN EPISOD DIN ISTORIA COMUNITĂȚII EVREIEȘTI DE LA  
GALAȚI**

**“The Massacre of Galatz” (April 1859) – An episode in the history of the Jewish  
community from Galatz**

**Abstract:** The paper presents, on the basis of several documents found at The National Archives of the United Kingdom, part of the official correspondence between the British vice-consul at Galatz and his superiors from Jassy or Constantinople, a famous, yet little documented episode that led to an anti-Semitic riot, under the accusation that a Jew attempted to ritually murder a Christian boy. The documents annexed to this paper are an important historical source which can clarify, to a great extent, these incidents and their consequences on the persons and properties of the local Jewish population.

**Keywords:** anti-Semitism, Jews, Galatz, British documents, 1859.

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În aprilie 1859, o serie de incidente cu caracter antisemit desfășurate în orașul Galați, în urma unor acuzații de tentativă de infanticid ritual, au readus în atenția opiniei publice europene chestiunea persecutării locuitorilor israeliți din Principatele Române. Dacă în țară autori precum Ion Heliade Rădulescu scriau despre „Masacrul din Galați” și modalitatea în care, excitată la extrem, „populația [...] află pretext de pradă, de ucideri și cele mai neomenoase crime; mulți hebrei fură uciși și mai mulți vulnerați și bătuți, casele hebreilor toate violate și prădate. Două sinagogi [au fost] sparte și despuiate, vasele cultului, Legea sau Tora călcate în picioare [...]”<sup>1</sup>, în străinătate tulburările de la Galați au determinat chiar intervențiile publice ale unor personalități extrem de influente, precum baronul James de Rothschild.

Dincolo de aceste reacții mediatice sau oficiale, vizibile în presa contemporană sau în corespondența diplomatică a guvernului lui Alexandru Ioan Cuza, cele întâmplate la Galați sunt extrem de puțin cunoscute, deși, cum sublinia un expert în chestiunea evreiască din România, Carol Iancu, acuzația de omor ritual din portul dunărean era cea mai „răsunătoare” din acea perioadă: „În acest oraș evreii au

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<sup>1</sup> Ion Heliade Rădulescu, *Masacrul din Galați*, în „Naționalul”, 11 aprilie 1859, *apud* Andrei Oișteanu, *Imaginea evreului în cultura română. Studiu de imagologie în context est-central european*, ediția a II-a revăzută, adăugită și ilustrată, București, 2004, pp. 395-396.

fost învinuți la 12 aprilie 1859 că au sângerat la mână un copil creștin și că au folosit sângele lui pentru <<riturile lor>>. S-a dezlănțuit un adevărat pogrom: sinagoga a fost distrusă, sururile legii au fost arse, casele evreiești prădate. În loc să pedepsească pe instigatori, autoritățile au arestat 11 evrei și i-au ținut închiși mai multe luni. În cele din urmă au fost eliberați în urma protestelor consulilor străini<sup>2</sup>. Relatarea este conformă, în linii mare, cu prezentarea incidentelor într-un scurt istoric al comunității israelite din Galați: „În primăvara aceluiași an, în primele zile de Pesah 9 și 10 aprilie, s-a dezlănțuit un nou val de violențe antievreiești. Instigați de un antisemit notoriu, Robe de Veneția, o bandă de greci străini de oraș au început să cutureie străzile cu o icoană înfipțită în vârful unei prăjini, strigând bezmetic <<Moarte jidanilor>>. Evreii întâlniți în cale – câteva sute la număr – au fost stâlciți în bătaie și jefuiți. A doua zi, grupul de huligani, căruia i s-a alăturat o imensă gloată de declasați și pierde vară – pleava străzii, dornică de prădăciuni – și-a reluat cu însutită furie acțiunea, devastând sinagogi – îndeosebi având de suferit Sinagoga Mare – aruncând în stradă și călcând în picioare cărțile sfinte. Poliția a intervenit abia după două zile, punând capăt dezordinilor<sup>3</sup>. Și Andrei Oișteanu scrie despre această acuzație clasică de infanticid ritual: „tulburările violente de la Galați, desfășurate în 1859 (de Paște) și în 1868 (de Yom Kippur), sunt cazuri simptomatice: au fost înregistrați morți și răniți, au fost distruse și jefuite câteva sinagogi, au fost arse sururile Legii, au fost devastate casele și prădate prăvăliile, iar autoritățile, în loc să pedepsească pe instigatori, i-au arestat pe evrei<sup>4</sup>”.

Pe de altă parte, în documentata și valoroasa sa sinteză, Paul Păltănea amintește doar de „<<violențele>> comise, mai ales de marinarii greci, împotriva populației evreiești”, fără vreun fel de alte referiri suplimentare<sup>5</sup>.

Plecând de la aceste considerații, lucrarea de față își propune să prezinte incidentele de la Galați, din aprilie 1859, pe baza unor documente inedite din corespondența vice-consulului britanic la Galați, Charles Cunningham, ca și a altor surse contemporane care oferă informații despre acele grave tulburări. Desigur că noi cercetări în arhivele din țară și din străinătate pot duce la identificarea și punerea în circulație a altor surse istorice, care să lumineze pe deplin un episod important din istoria comunității evreiești din Galați și al relațiilor acesteia cu populația majoritară.

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În seara zilei de marți, 30 martie / 12 aprilie 1859, un băiat de circa 11 ani, Antonio, fiul unei văduve de origine greacă, a fost, după acuzele locuitorilor creștini, agresat de un evreu. Când se întorcea de la școală, în jurul orei cinci seara, Antonio

<sup>2</sup> Carol Iancu, *Evreii din România (1866-1919). De la excludere la emancipare*, traducere de C. Litman, București, 1996, p. 63.

<sup>3</sup> Osy Lazăr, Solomon Weinberg, *Din istoria comunității evreilor din Galați*, în „Studia et acta historiae iudaeorum Romaniae”, vol. VI, coord. de dr. Silviu Sanie și dr. Dumitru Vîtcu, București, 2001, p. 17.

<sup>4</sup> A. Oișteanu, *op. cit.*, p. 395. Aceleași informații și în Idem, *Acuzația de omor ritual. O sută de ani de la pogromul de la Chișinău*, în „Contrafort”, Chișinău, nr. 2 (100), februarie 2003, online la adresa <http://www.contrafort.md/2003/100/501.html>.

<sup>5</sup> Paul Păltănea, *Istoria orașului Galați. De la origini până la 1918*, vol. II, ediția a II-a, ediție coordonată de pr. Eugen Drăgoi, Galați, 2008, p. 99.

ar fi fost oprit de un evreu în apropierea sinagogii, sub pretextul schimbării unei monede de un ducat; apoi ar fi fost deținut împotriva voinței sale într-o magazie sau într-o pivniță (baie rituală), unde, conform celor declarate, ar fi fost tăiat la gât și la braț. Un ionian de 15 ani, Spiro Rezangelo, chestionat de vice-consulul britanic, susținea că a fost martor la sechestrarea băiatului, el și servitorul unui anume boier Efyniades salvându-l din mâinile evreilor agresori<sup>6</sup>. Diplomatul britanic nu a fost însă deloc convins de veridicitatea celor declarate de teribilistul ionian, astfel că la încheierea „interogatoriului”, Cunningham l-a chestionat în legătură cu tipul scării care ducea în beciul unde fusese reținut Antonio. „A spus că nu știa câte trepte avea scara, șase sau treizeci, că era din piatră și că era în interiorul beciului. Scara are circa 25 de trepte, este din lemn și în afara beciului”<sup>7</sup>.

În jurul orei opt seara, când un alt ionian, Nicolo Canulato, declara că a fost chemat la casa copilului, pentru a-i da un medicament, acolo ajunseseră deja comisarul de poliție Boboli și doi jandarmi. Cum Antonio susținea că îi poate recunoaște pe agresori, comisarul l-a dus la sinagogă și a arestat circa 15 evrei, pe care i-a anchetat apoi la comisariatul de poliție. Băiatul a fost interogat și examinat de un doctor încă din seara zilei de 30 martie / 12 aprilie<sup>8</sup>. Conform informațiilor unui israelit gălățean, transmise lui Iacob Israil, mare rabin de Sadagura, după arestarea evreilor, „toată noaptea, comisarul și acoliții săi au făcut percheziții” la locuințele inculpaților<sup>9</sup>.

Tulburările antisemite au început în dimineața următoare, când în oraș s-a răspândit vestea despre cele petrecute în seara anterioară. Astfel, conform declarațiilor unui alt martor, după discuții la o cafenea din zonă, vânzătorii evrei de fructe din piața Manoli au fost atacați, iar mărfurile aruncate în stradă. Lucrurile s-au precipitat după ce băiatul Antonio a fost adus în magazia unui ionian, aflată în zona centrală a orașului, unde a fost interogat în privința celor petrecute de un anume Zamani, cancelarul consulatului grec, în prezența șefului poliției și a secretarului pârcălabiei, Balaban<sup>10</sup>. Apoi a sosit și consulul grec, implicarea oficialilor greci și a familiilor acestora „necesitând explicații”<sup>11</sup>. Când agitația publică a culminat, băiatul a fost dus în incinta consulatului elen. Poate din acest motiv s-a și susținut atât de des în acea perioadă că acțiunea antisemită a fost opera etnicilor greci din portul Galați<sup>12</sup>, cum încerca să justifice și Heliade Rădulescu: „Galații sunt un oraș al Moldovei, însă locuitorii, [în] cea mai mare parte, îi sunt străini, și străini orientali, ce vin cu credințele lor deșarte și cu i[g]noranța lor, și care sunt sciuți de pornirea lor

<sup>6</sup> Cele două declarații ale lui Spiro Rezangelo în anexa 3b de la sfârșitul acestei lucrări.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibidem*.

<sup>9</sup> *L’Affaire de Galatz*, în *Archives Israélites. Recueil religiueux, moral et littéraire*, par une société d’hommes de letter, sous la direction de S. Cahen, t. XX, 1859, Paris, p. 591.

<sup>10</sup> Declarația lui Giovanni Raftopulo în anexa 3b.

<sup>11</sup> Anexa 2.

<sup>12</sup> Spre exemplu în *L’Affaire de Galatz*, în *Archives Israélites*, XX, 1859, p. 590.

de scoatere de cuțite, de masacre și de prade”<sup>13</sup>. Informațiile lui Cunningham sunt însă extrem de clare din acest punct de vedere („În timpul acestor revolte mulțimea consta în majoritate din băieți și câțiva tineri aproape toți moldoveni”), deși este la fel de adevărat că diplomatul britanic amintea că cele mai multe rele au fost făcute de grecii care s-au alăturat mulțimii creștinilor<sup>14</sup>.

Zvonurile despre tentativa de ucidere ritualică a copilului, răspândite rapid în oraș, au degenerat într-o mișcare antisemită, actorii fiind în principal tinerii moldoveni și greci. Sinagoga a fost devastată și distrusă, iar multe dintre proprietățile evreilor, în principal prăvăliile din zona sinagogii, au fost jefuite<sup>15</sup>.

Chiar diplomatul britanic a văzut rezultatele acestor violențe, iar un negustor creștin îi declara că distrugerile se ridicau la importanta sumă de 10.000 lire sterline, pierderi resimțind și creștinii care furnizau produse negustorilor evrei. Conform primelor rapoarte, circa 60 de evrei fuseseră bătuți în mod bestial și doi sau patru erau morți<sup>16</sup>. Cum spunea un martor al acelor evenimente, reverendul Thomas Meyer, „populația din această țară e departe de a-i iubi pe evrei; dimpotrivă, îi urăsc și îi persecută oricând au prilejul”<sup>17</sup>.

Atitudinea pârçălabului de Galați, prințul Alexandru Cantacuzino, a fost mult criticată de reprezentanții diplomației străine, acesta fiind prezent pe străzi și spunând că nu exista nici o îndoială că se încercase uciderea băiatului. Lui Cunningham chiar i-a declarat că îl examinase personal pe băiat și că acesta avea tăieturi la gât și pe braț, mărturie pe care în zilele următoare a tăgăduit-o. Aceasta în condițiile în care și consulii străini l-au examinat pe băiat și declarau că Antonio nu avea nici un fel de tăieturi la gât sau la braț, ci doar o zgârietură la încheietura mâinii, „ca de la o căzătură”<sup>18</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> Apud A. Oișteanu, *Imaginea evreului*, p. 396; atitudinea lui Heliade Rădulescu a fost oarecum singulară în presa românească de atunci – cf. *Les Principautés Roumaines. Juin 1859 (I). Au secours!*, în *Archives Israélites*, XX, 1859, p. 643.

<sup>14</sup> Anexa 1.

<sup>15</sup> Informații se regăsesc în toate documentele anexate. Relatarea din *L’Affaire de Galatz (Archives Israelites, XX, 1859, p. 591)* este următoarea: „Le matin, à l’heure de la prière, les chrétiens s’assemblèrent par milliers, se précipitèrent dans la synagogue, et se ruèrent sur tous les juifs indistinctement; le sang coula en abondance, les personnes furent pillées et les maisons mises à sac; les rouleaux de la loi, au nombre de 50, brûlés; livres et ornements sacrés, tout fut déchiré ou traîné par les rues; il en fut de même de l’arche sainte, des tables, bancs, croisées, etc. Tout cela ne suffisait pas à la rage de ces forcenés. Partout, les maisons des juifs furent brisées, hommes, femmes et enfants, blessés. Ce fut une dévastation générale”.

<sup>16</sup> Anexa 1.

<sup>17</sup> Rapoartele lui Thomas Meyer, misionar al bisericii scoțiene libere, sunt extrem de interesante pentru situația comunității evreiești din Galați în această perioadă: *Mission to the Jews. Galatz*, în *The Home and foreign record of the free church of Scotland*, vol. III, new series, August 1858 – July 1859, James Nichol, Edinburgh, 1859, pp. 150-152 și 245-246; *Ibidem*, vol. IV, new series, August 1859 – July 1860, James Nichol, Edinburgh, 1860, pp. 57-58, 200-201 și 245-246. A se vedea și *Proceedings and debates in the General Assembly of the free church of Scotland held at Edinburgh, May 1860*, James Nichols, Edinburgh, 1860, anexa *Report on the conversion of the Jews to the General Assembly 1860*, pp. 12-14.

<sup>18</sup> Anexele 1, 1a, 1b, 2a și 2b.

Acuzat că nu făcuse nimic pentru a-i apăra pe evrei și proprietățile lor, Cantacuzino s-a apărat susținând că avea la dispoziție doar o companie de soldați și vreo 40 de dorobanți<sup>19</sup>. Însă, cum nota același observator britanic, nu trupele lipseau, ci „o persoană cu curaj și onestitate care să mențină liniștea”<sup>20</sup>.

Conform unui raport oficial al Pârcălăbiei Galați, autoritățile au reușit să restabilească ordinea în oraș în jurul orei 2 p.m., iar în aceeași zi au sosit de la Brăila, la bordul unui vapor austriac, circa 200 de soldați munteni. Pentru a evita orice alte incidente, în condițiile apropierea Paștelui creștin, alți 200 de soldați au sosit pe 2/14 aprilie, astfel că la Galați erau circa 600 de trupe regulate, care să oprească în fașă orice alte acțiuni antisemite<sup>21</sup>. Când noi acțiuni antisemite au izbucnit în ziua de joi (a reînceput distrugerea interiorului sinagogii și unele case din apropierea templului au fost jefuite), soldații au intervenit și „i-au arestat pe turbulenți în loc de a continua să privească, așa cum făcuseră în ziua anterioară”<sup>22</sup>.

La protestele agenților străini, au fost arestați circa 60-70 de agresori dintre creștini, dar cei 15 prizonieri evrei au rămas închiși. Oricum, partea bună a lucrurilor, raportată câteva zile mai târziu, era „că nici un evreu nu și-a pierdut viața și că puțini sau nici unul nu pare să fie grav rănit”<sup>23</sup>. Totuși, la o săptămână după incidente, în spitalul israelit mai erau internați șapte bărbați și o femeie, răniți în urma bătăilor primite pe data de 1/13 aprilie 1859, dar „nici unul dintre acești pacienți nu pare să fie în vreun pericol sau să aibă vreun os rupt”<sup>24</sup>. Cunningham rectifică astfel primele informații în care se vorbea despre mai mulți evrei omorâți și susținea că martorii fuseseră induși în eroare de faptul că s-a crezut că unii evrei căzuți la pământ erau morți<sup>24</sup>. Desigur că trebuie să fi fost un sentiment de relativă eliberare având în vedere primele informații vehiculate de presă, precum cele apărute în gazeta „Lloyd” din Pesta, pe 15 aprilie, care vorbea de aproape 100 de morți!<sup>25</sup>

În privința celor vinovați pentru cele întâmplate, Cunningham amintea și opinia din oraș că Boboli, comisarul de poliție, ar fi fost în spatele tulburărilor antisemite. Cunoscut pentru faptul că amenința adesea evreii, Boboli putea câștiga foarte bine prin spolierea celor ce puteau fi ușor arestați abuziv. Însă, departe de a fi

<sup>19</sup> Anexele 1a și 2c.

<sup>20</sup> Anexa 1.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibidem*. Informațiile de sursă israelită sunt diferite: abia după câteva zile au fost trimiși soldați de la Brăila pentru a restabili ordinea, iar evreii au continuat să fie maltratați. *Archives Israélites*, XX, 1859, p. 591. Ele sunt însă infirmate atât de rapoartele vice-consulului britanic, cât și de alte informații transmise de martorii evrei din Galați: „Un vapeur fut envoyé le même jour à Ibraila, et ramena le soir deux cent cinquante soldats” – *Ibidem*, p. 293 (articol din „Pesther Lloyd”).

<sup>22</sup> Anexa 2a.

<sup>23</sup> Anexele 2a și 2c.

<sup>24</sup> Anexa 2a.

<sup>25</sup> „Quand cette œuvre de destruction fut achevée, on commença à assassiner les juifs, soit dans les rues, soit dans leurs maisons. A certains endroits, on a trouvé dans la rue jusqu'à dix ou quinze juifs blessés mortellement, et le nombre des victimes en morts et blessés s'élève aujourd'hui à près de cent, dont plusieurs négociants”. Citat după *Archives Israélites*, XX, 1859, p. 293.

un mare beneficiar al celor întâmplate, Boboli a fost suspendat din funcție pe temeiul că întârziase să prezinte raportul asupra incidentelor<sup>26</sup>.

Oricum, dincolo de rapoartele autorităților locale relative la prejudecățile populare, cei 15 evreii arestați în seara zilei de 30 martie / 12 aprilie 1859 au rămas în arest vreme de mai multe luni. Inculpați sub acuzația de tentativă de omor ritual, evreii au fost fiind trimiși în fața Curții criminale. Băiatul Antonio a depus mărturie împotriva a patru dintre ei, ceilalți 11 fiind eliberați pe cauțiune. Situația celor judecați era destul de dificilă, „căci credința că evreii au nevoie de sânge pentru sărbătorile de Paște este universal răspândită aici”<sup>27</sup>.

Între timp, când rapoarte despre cele întâmplate la Galați au ajuns în Occident, în apărarea evreilor s-a implicat chiar baronul James de Rothschild, care îi scria (13/25 mai 1859) conțelui Walewski, ministrul de Externe al Franței, solicitându-i să se implice diplomatic, căci „sinagogile și un mare număr de case particulare au fost jefuite și distruse. Bieții evrei au fost bătuți și răniți de o manieră oribilă”<sup>28</sup>. Până la completa eliberare a tuturor evreilor arestați au mai trecut câteva lucruri, un document din 20 iulie / 1 august 1859 anunțând că ultimii doi deținuți evrei de la Galați erau liberi<sup>29</sup>. Totodată, din ordinul domnitorului Cuza începuse o anchetă judiciară pentru a se descoperi vinovații, dar rezultatul nu este precizat în documentele la care am avut deocamdată acces.

Dincolo de multe dintre aceste aspecte discutabile și disputabile, este cert că cvasi-totalitatea populației creștine din Galați, români și greci laolaltă, credea în faptul că evreii practicau infanticidul ritual pentru a se împărtăși cu sânge de copil creștin. La fel de evident este și că rolul grecilor în aceste tulburări, implicare la care sursele evreiești fac adesea referire, ține și de concurența pe care etnicii neoleni, care dețineau poziții importante în viața economică a schelei gălățene, o resimțeau tot mai mult din partea extrem de activei comunități evreiești.

Totodată, puternic criticate de consulii străini, autoritățile locale puteau face puține lucruri, în condițiile în care mulți funcționari și soldați împărtășeau convingerea că evreii practicau infanticidul ritual. Este dificil să estimăm în ce măsură evenimentele puteau fi evitate, având în vedere că populația evreiască era frecvent persecutată de populația creștină majoritară. Dar trebuie recunoscut și faptul că, după condamnabila atitudine inițială, prefectul Alexandru Cantacuzino a reușit destul de repede să mobilizeze trupe cu care să țină situația sub control.

La fel de importantă de menționat este mediatizarea de care au beneficiat aceste tulburări antisemite în presa internațională și în mediile diplomatice europene. Implicarea baronul Rothschild este, din acest punct de vedere, consecința și nu cauza atenției pe care presa din statele civilizate a acordat-o incidentelor de la Galați. Atitudinea lui Heliade Rădulescu merită și ea amintită, măcar ca simplu semnal al faptului că existau și voci critice în fața unor asemenea excese șovine. „Hebreii nu

<sup>26</sup> Anexa 3a.

<sup>27</sup> *L’Affaire de Galatz*, în *Archives Israélites*, XX, 1859, p. 592.

<sup>28</sup> *Acte și documente relative la istoria renascerei României*, publicate de Dimitrie A. Sturdza și J. J. Skupiewski, vol. IX, 1857-1859, București, 1901, doc. 2727, pp. 322-323.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibidem*, doc. 2731, p. 326 și doc. 2747, pp. 359-360, o altă scrisoare a lui Rothschild în *Archives Israélites*, XX, 1859, pp. 645-646.

mănâncă la copii în Englitera, nu în Franța, nu în Germania, nu pe nicăiri, pe unde oamenii începură a deveni oameni, nici însuși în Austria și Rusia hebreii nu mănâncă la copii. Pe unde mai sunt acuzați de asemenea neomenoasă faptă? Pe acolo pe unde popolii mai sunt încă barbari sau demi-barbari”<sup>30</sup>.

#### ANEXĂ DOCUMENTARĂ

##### 1

**Galați, [2] 14 aprilie 1859.** Charles Cunningham, vice-consul britanic la Galați, către Henry A. Churchill Esquire, C.B., consul al Marii Britanii la Iași, cu primele informații despre incidentele de la Galați.

No. 21  
Copy sent home & to Embassy

Galatz, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1859

Sir,

I communicated to you per Telegraph yesterday that the well known story of the Jews murdering a Christian Child had been got up here; that the Jewish synagogue had been gutted and the contents destroyed; that the Governor was weak and doing nothing; that I had ascertained that the Boy said to have been bled by the Jews was not hurt etc. I further mentioned that I was about to communicate the same information to Mr. Agent Colquhoun at Bucharest leaving it to him to communicate by Telegraph to Foreign Office and Embassy if he saw fit.

Yesterday I addressed the administration of Galatz on this affair and I enclose copy (No. 1). To what is contained in that note I have little to add today.

There seems to be no doubt that at least two Jews have been killed. One of my clerks saw them; some reports state that four have been killed. A respectable Jew told me today that sixty five Jews had been more or less severely beaten. A number of Jews keeping shops in a small way are ruined; the mob having destroyed & plundered the contents of their shops. I myself saw eight of these small shops which had been plundered. A respectable Christian Merchant informed me that one Jew had property destroyed in his shop to the amount of £ 1,000 stg and this Merchant estimated the loss of property of Jews to be £ 10,000 stg, which he observed would fall in a great measure on Christian Merchants who had furnished the articles to the Jewish dealers.

I cannot at present clear up the mystery of this affair, the authors & motives of it; but I do not despair of being able to do so in some measure ere long. It is evident there must have been premeditation and preparation. The boy presented as the victim says he was seized about five o'clock of the evening of the 12<sup>th</sup> instant near the Jewish synagogue; I am not informed how he pretends to have been taken out of the hands of the Jews. During the same night some Jews who pass the night in the synagogue were arrested by the Police and taken to prison. Yesterday morning in an open shop or warehouse on the main street of the town was held some sort of an amateur Board to take the deposition of the Boy and a crowd was collected and reports were spread among them of how the boy had been cut and bled, and the cry was raised against the Jews. During all these riots the crowd consisted chiefly of Boys and a few Lads nearly all Moldavians; sometimes some Greeks joined in the mob and these most probably did most hurt.

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<sup>30</sup> A. Oișteanu, *Imaginea evreului*, pp. 395-396.

The Mob having been fairly put in a movement the Boy was retired into the Greek consulate.

I do not know what to think of the conduct of the administrator of Galatz, Prince Alexander Cantacusino. He was nearly all day in the street and stating loudly that there was no doubt of the fact of the Jews having attempted to murder the Boy in question. He assured me that he had personally examined the Boy and that he had a cut on the neck and another on the arm. I told the Governor that when what he stated was true it would not be believed in Europe; he thereon told me that I might at least convince myself by going to the Greek Consulate to see the Boy. I am at a loss what opinion to form; whether the administrator did not know whether the Boy was hurt or not, or knowing that he was unhurt he thought I would not take the trouble to see the Boy. I am told that today Prince Cantacuzeno acknowledges that the Boy was not hurt.

Again nothing was done to protect the person or property of Jews; but what appears to me to be strange was that so soon as a shop was plundered a Sentinel was placed over it. Had this continued there would soon have been no disposable soldiers to guard the remaining property as all would have been placed over the ruins.

We are now approaching Easter, and if precautions be not taken in time we shall have further riots against the Jews. Some soldiers arrived last evening from Ibraila. However it is not troops that are wanted, but a person of courage & honesty to cause tranquility to be kept. I beg you will take measures in the proper quarter to have orders given to the authorities of Galatz to preserve order. Were it stated to them that those holding the chief charges would have to make good damages out of their own means there would probably be no tumults.

I have heard more than one person state that the only person who seemed to wish to do his duty was a Wallachian colonel commanding in Galatz. I am not acquainted with him and did not meet him yesterday.

I have not heard whether the Jews are still held in prison; but I learn that sixty or seventy Christians have been arrested.

I further enclose a report from my clerk, Mr. Meric, who was with me when I saw the boy (No. 2).

I have the honour to be ...

[Signed] C. Cunningham

#### 1a

**Galați, [1] 13 aprilie 1859.** Charles Cunningham către administrația orașului Galați, exprimându-și regretul față de cele întâmplate în timpul tulburărilor și solicitând protejarea evreilor din oraș.

British Vice Consulate  
No. 318

Galatz, 1/13 April, 1859  
8 P.M.

To the Honourable Administration of Galatz

The Undersigned British Vice Consul learned with much regret this morning that during last night there had been riots in this town and that the principal Jewish Synagogues had been gutted and the contents destroyed. This information was given to him by some of the most respectable Jews of the place who came to him begging that he would intercede with the Honourable Administrator in order that protection to the lives and property of the Jews might be enforced by the authorities of Galatz.



The undersigned thereon went to find the Honourable Administrator without knowing any particulars of the riots and after having sought for him at the Office of the Administration ineffectually he met the Administrator in the street near the office of the Telegraph.

The Honourable Administrator told the Undersigned that he could not put down the riots as he had only one Company of soldiers and forty Darabance at his orders.

The Undersigned if he may be permitted to give an opinion would say that a Company of regular soldiers and forty Darabance was more than sufficient under an energetic direction to have restored perfect order in the course of one hour.

Afterwards the Honourable Administrator informed the Undersigned that the cause of the riots was that several Jews had been caught in the fact of bleeding to death a Christian lad. On the Undersigned expressing doubts as to the correctness of this fact the Honourable Administrator stated that he himself had verified the facts that the Boy was cut on the neck and on the arm, and that if the Undersigned had doubts of the correctness of the statement, he might verify it by repairing to the Greek Vice Consulate w[h]ere the boy was.

The Undersigned hastened to the Greek Vice Consulate to verify the case and the Boy was brought before him. But the Boy was not cut either in the neck or in the arm. On his wrist the skin was a little scratched as from a fall and he told some story of having been assailed as he passed the Jewish Synagogue and that some one had placed his hand on his mouth.

Under these circumstances the Undersigned would respectfully suggest to the Honourable Administration that all the Jews imprisoned on this accusation be at once set at liberty and that the Moldavian Subjects who have been active in the riots be imprisoned in their turn.

The Undersigned has heard that four hundred troops have arrived from Ibraila, therefore it is hoped that the Honourable Administration will now find itself sufficiently strong to act with energy and decision.

The Undersigned has seen that many houses of Jews have been plundered; he has heard that several Jews have been severely beaten; he has heard further that some Jews have been murdered.

The Honourable Administration of Galatz may be certain that civilized Europe will demand a strict account of similar barbarities and as what is passed cannot now be prevented, it is to be hoped that the Honourable Authorities of Galatz will now take strict measures that no more of these barbarities shall take place in Galatz.

Respectfully,

[Signed] C. Cunningham

**1b**

**Galați, [2] 14 aprilie 1859.** Léopold de Méric către Charles Cunningham, referitor întâlnirea avută de cei doi, la consulatul grec, cu băiatul despre care se considera că a fost agresat de evrei.

Galatz, 14<sup>th</sup> April 1859

Sir,

In conformity with the direction you gave me yesterday to state what I heard from the Greek Boy, we went to see that same day at the Greek Vice Consulate. I have the honour to express to you that his answers to the questions you put to him were not very intelligible to me; he stated however clearly enough, that on returning from School he was getting small

money for change of a Ducat outside of a shop and had been taken into it to get the full amount of change and that there, he had been detained and illtreated. I understood from him that it had been attempted to bleed his wrist with a knife and that his mouth had been stopped. This is all the sence I could make out of his broken words and as I have transmitted to you on the spot; as to the illtreatment he had undergone, it appears to me that the slight scratch on his wrist, the only one hurt about him, had been caused by a fall and that consequently he had not suffered anything as you have been able to judge by your personal presence.

I am Sir [...],

[Signed] Léopold de Méric

The National Archives of the United Kingdom, Public Record Office, Foreign Office, Fond 78 (Turcia), Dosar 644, 1858-1860, f. 612-615 v<sup>o</sup>, 617-619, 620-621, copii în limba engleză.

## 2

**Galați, [9] 21 aprilie 1859.** Charles Cunningham către Sir Henry Bulwer, ambasadorul extraordinar al Marii Britanii la Constantinopol, referitor la mai multe aspecte curente, inclusiv noutăți privind tulburările antisemite din săptămâna anterioară.

No. 7

Galatz, 21<sup>st</sup> April, 1859

Sir,

I have the honour here to inclose herein copy of what I have this day addressed to Mr. Consul Churchill No. 22 regarding the Jewish troubles of this place.

I further inclose translation from a Jassi newspaper of what purports to be a Telegram from the administrator of Galatz regarding the riots of 13<sup>th</sup> inst. which he attributed to the fact of Jews having been found drawing the blood of a Greek Boy.

I have the honour to be [...]

[Signed] C. Cunningham

## 2a

**Galați, [9] 21 aprilie 1859.** Charles Cunningham către Henry A. Churchill, cu privire la ultimele noutăți legate de cazul băiatului creștin și de incidentele ulterioare.

No. 22

Galatz, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 1859

Copy sent to Foreign Office & to Embassy

Sir,

In my No. 21 of 14<sup>th</sup> instant regarding the riots against the Jews I sent copy of what I had addressed to the administration of this place on 13<sup>th</sup> sub No. 318.

In that note [to] the administration I state that the administrator had told me that he had verified that the Boy said to have been rescued from the Jews was actually cut in the neck and the arm and told me I might verify this fact myself by going to the Greek Consulate and examining the Boy. As I am informed that the administrator denies that he ever stated to anyone that he had verified the cuts on the boy, I have considered it prudent to secure a testimony in support of what I have advanced; the Reverend Theodore Meyer was with me when the administrator made the statement to me and at my request he had addressed me a letter bearing out what I have written. Copy is enclosed (No. 1).

I beg to state I have had no communication with the administrator on this point; I have not met him since the 13<sup>th</sup>. I have received a Note from the administration dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April o.s. as No. 3623, of which I inclose translation into English. I understand that this note has been sent as a circular to all the Consulates.

I believe the administration is right in stating that the town was quiet at 2 o'clock P.M. on 13<sup>th</sup> instant, but that seemed to arise entirely from the blackguards having tired of the sport. About 7 in the evening an Austrian Steamer brought 200 Wallachian soldiers from Ibraila. On the forenoon of Thursday last the destruction of the interior of the Synagogue was recommenced and some houses of Jews in the vicinity were plundered, but all the soldiers proceeded to arrest the rioters in place of looking on as they had done the previous day, the tranquility of the town was scarcely interrupted.

I am happy to be able to confirm the report of the administration that it appears to be certain that no Jew has lost his life and few or none seem to be severely injured. I visited the Jewish hospital with lieutenant Crozier of Her Majesty's ship "Growler" last week; there were seven men & one woman in the hospital from the beating suffered on the 13<sup>th</sup>; but none of these patients seemed to be in any danger or to have any bones broken. It appears that between fifty and sixty Jews were beaten on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> instant.

This fact of sixty Jews having been beaten and none of them severely hurt shows clearly that the outbreak was confined to children or to Boys, to whom a few Blackguard lads joined themselves for the sake of plunder and twenty men with sticks were certainly sufficient to have quelled the riot at any moment.

The day after the riots 200 more Wallachian troops came to Galatz by land, so that I presume we have now upwards of six hundred armed men in town. The peaceful inhabitants therefore hope that the Easter holidays will pass over without tumult. For my own part I hope the same thing, but I have no great persuasion as everything depends on the persons in authority.

The conduct of the Greek Consulate certainly requires explanation. On the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> instant the boy (Antonio) said to have been taken by the Jews was being conducted through the streets, it was supposed that he was to be taken to the Greek Consulate; but when in the middle of the town the carriage in which he was was stopped; the Chancellor of the Greek Vice Consulate appeared and had the boy carried into a shop belonging to a Ionian subject; as there was not a table in the warehouse the Chancellor set to write on the top of a case – the proprietor of the shop having furnished him with the materials for writing. After a time the Greek Consul arrived and the riot commenced or at least took more force. The boy was then sent to the Greek Vice Consulate.

The Greek Consul with his Chancellor & dragoman went to the streets the whole day in a carozzetta and what seems more strange the lady of the Greek Consul with her brother and her niece were also the whole day going through the streets in her carriage.

I have taken some examinations of Ionian subjects which I will soon communicate to you; Major Stokes, lieutenant Crozier, Mr. Alfred Powell & Mr. Micalopulo have kindly assisted me in these examinations.

I have the honour to be ...

[Signed] C. Cunningham

2b

**Galați, [9] 21 aprilie 1859.** Reverendul Theodore Meyer către Charles Cunningham, cu privire la discuția dintre acesta din urmă și pârcălabul de Covurlui, prințul Alexandru Cantacuzino.

Galatz, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1859

My dear Sir,

I perfectly well remember that on Wednesday last, 13<sup>th</sup> c., when we walked together into town, you met the governor and had a conversation with him in French, which I distinctly overheard and understood, and that in the course of that conversation, the Governor stated that he had himself seen the boy, and that he (the boy) was seriously cut. And I may take the liberty of mentioning that after you had gone to the Greek Consulate in order to see the boy yourself, I also addressed the Governor on the baselessness of that charge against the Jews and that he then substantially repeated the above statement enlarging upon the wounds which, he said, the boy had received. The conversation between the governor and myself was likewise carried in French.

I am ...

[Signed] Theod. Meyer

**2c**

**Galați, [2] 14 aprilie 1859.** Notă a prefectului Alexandru Cantacuzino către vice-consulatul britanic la Galați, în legătură cu incidentele din ziua precedentă și măsurile luate pentru asigurarea liniștii publice.

*Translation of a note of the Prefecture of Galatz to the British Vice Consulate sub No. 3623 dated 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1859 o.s.*

Yesterday about 9 o'clock A.M. there was some disturbance in this town founded on some words based on the popular prejudice arising from some fanatic individuals who accused the Jews saying they had maltreated a young Christian.

Before the local administration could know the true state of the affair and of the crime imputed to some Jews as the perpetrators of a sudden & threatening revolution arose which was subdued by the measures taken by the government at two o'clock P.M. of the same day; and immediately the needful measures were taken to assume the public tranquility.

Notwithstanding that regrettable scenes took place, yet up to this time, according to the information which this administration has been able to obtain no case of death has occurred nor of serious wounds. Arrestations have been made and the administration continues the examinations, and gives every attention to secure the tranquility and the permanent quiet of the Citizens.

All this is respectfully communicated to the Honourable V. Consulate.

[Signed] Prince A. Cantacusino

**2d**

**Galați / Iași, [1] 13 aprilie 1859.** Extras din gazeta „Steaua Dunării” din Iași, cu privire la incidentele de la Galați, conform informării oficiale a autorităților publice locale.

Jassy, April 1<sup>st</sup> 1859Galatz, April 1<sup>st</sup> 1859**Extract from a Jassy Newspaper, “Star of the Danube”, No. 66****Despatch**

Last night the Police has caught several Jews taking the blood of a Greek boy in a cellar. As soon as this report has spread in the town a mob consisting of individuals of all nations fell upon the Jews, pursued and beat them. The fury became immense and the

inhabitants perplexed. I repairing immediately to the spot, I have not been able to stop the disorder. The synagogue was invaded. Shops are closed. I have but one company of soldiers to oppose to the fury of the population and 46 policemen. The best measures were taken. I have been compelled to have recourse to the kindness of ships of war for assistance. I am asking per telegraph if I can obtain help from Ibraila. In one hour's time, I will give particulars of what may have occurred.

[Signed] Alexander Cantacusene,  
Governor of Galatz

The National Archives of the United Kingdom, Public Record Office, Foreign Office, Fond 78 (Turcia), Dosar 644, 1858-1860, f. 623, original în limba engleză, 625-628, 629-629 v<sup>o</sup>, 631-631 v<sup>o</sup>, 633-633 v<sup>o</sup>, copii în limba engleză.

3

**Galați, [16] 28 aprilie 1859.** Charles Cunningham către Sir Henry Bulwer, referitor la mai multe aspecte curente, inclusiv noutăți privind tulburările din urmă cu două săptămâni.

No. 8

Galatz, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1859

Sir,

On the morning of the 22<sup>nd</sup>, I received a letter from Your Excellency dated the 20<sup>th</sup> instant to be communicated to the Commander of our Naval force in Galatz directing him at my request or at that of the local authority, to assist in protecting the Jews from further outrages. I communicated the telegram without delay to Lieutenant Commander Crozier of Her Majesty's Gun Boat "Growler".

I am happy to say there has been no occasion to call on Lieutenant Crozier for his assistance. [...]

I have now the honour to wait on your Excellency with the inclosed copy of what I have addressed to Mr. Consul Churchill No. 23 of 27<sup>th</sup> instant regarding the accusations against the Jews.

I have the honour to be ...

[Signed] C. Cunningham

3a

**Galați, [15] 27 aprilie 1859.** Charles Cunningham către Henry A. Churchill, cu noi informații despre incidentele de la Galați.

No. 23

Galatz, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1859

Copy sent to Foreign Office, Embassy &  
Agency of Bucarest

Sir,

I have addressed you on 14<sup>th</sup> inst. sub No. 21 and on 21<sup>st</sup> sub No. 22 regarding the riots against the Jews which took place on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> instant and I will now endeavour to bring my report of this matter to a close and will then await instructions.

As mentioned in my No. 22 I have taken information from such Ionian subjects as either know anything of this matter or who had taken any part in it; and I have now the honour to inclose the result of my enquires.

I did not consider it necessary to take this information on oath; in fact I had doubts on the propriety of doing so, considering that I did not know what use could be made of it after it was obtained. But I was anxious that whatever information I might procure should be taken in such a manner as to prevent any imputation that it had been taken with partiality or for a purpose; I therefore was anxious to be assisted by respectable persons in taking the information and made application accordingly; and I beg here to express my sense of gratitude to Major Stokes R.E. Lieutenant Commandant Crozier R.N., Alfred L. Powell & Mr. A Micalopulo for their good will in responding to my application.

The information I have obtained is from:

1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. A. Micalopulo, who states that on the night of the 12<sup>th</sup> instant, he met the Commissary Boboli conveying the Jews he had arrested through the Streets; and mentioning the conversation he had with the boy Antonio said to have been rescued from the Jews.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Giovanni Raftopulo who states that on the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> instant as the boy Antonio was passing before his warehouse, the mob brought into his Warehouse the boy, and that the Chancellor of the Greek Consulate there took an examination of the Boy in presence of several persons; while a great crowd was outside.

3<sup>rd</sup>. Spiro Rezangelo who states that he took the boy Antonio out of the hands of a Jew Synagogue.

4<sup>th</sup>. Nicolo Canulato, who states that he went with Boboli to the Synagogue on the night of the 12<sup>th</sup> instant & assisted in arresting fifteen Jews.

5<sup>th</sup>. Spiro Rezangelo – a further examination.

The end I proposed to myself in taking information about this accusation against the Jews was neither to prove their innocence nor their guilt, as it is quite clear there never was the slightest ground for the accusation; but I wished it possible to discover the author or authors of the accusation and consequently of the Riots of 13<sup>th</sup> instant. With the limited means at my disposal, I did not expect to succeed in my research as I could only examine Ionians; but the informations I have obtained may be useful hereafter and meantime it shows in a great measure how this matter has been conducted.

The general opinion in town is that the Police Commissary Boboli is the author of this plot; as it is said that on the Sunday preceding Boboli had threatened several Jews. But then the questions arise. Was he alone in this matter? And what could be the motive? Perhaps Boboli might have sufficient motive in the opportunity the riot was sure to afford him in being able to lay many Jews under contribution; and there can be little doubt that when he arrested fifteen Jews at the Synagogue, he did not leave four on liberty without receiving tangible reasons.

Boboli has been suspended from his functions of Commissary of Police, but solely on the ground of having delayed to make his report regarding the proceeding against the Jews.

I have been anxious to get information to clear up another point, but have not succeeded; it is this. Was the boy Antonio near the Synagogue on the 12<sup>th</sup> instant; and did he get into any dispute with the Jews or is the story he tells a pure lie without any foundation whatsoever?

Mr. Efyniades, a merchant, who is said by the boy Spiro to have been at the Synagogue when the boy Antonio was in the hands of the Jews denies knowing anything of the matter.

The fifteen Jews are still in prison, and if the matter be left in the hands of the Local Authorities, are likely to remain for months.

As I am anxious that it should not be supposed that I either intentionally made exaggerated reports or that I did not take sufficient care in examining reports I have to say

with regard to my statement that Jews had been killed., that several Jews on being attacked lay on the ground as if dead & persons who saw them believed they were dead and reported accordingly and I naturally fell into the same error.

I now close my reports to you on this subject reserving to communicate to you detached piece of information which I may receive.

I have the honour to be ...

[Signed] C. Cunningham

**3b**

**Galați, aprilie 1859.** Charles Cunningham, cu noi informații despre incidentele de la Galați după interogarea mai multor supuși ionieni.

*Information regarding the riots against the Jews on 13<sup>th</sup> April 1859 in Galatz*

Relation of the Advocate Anastasio Micalopulo a native of Ithaca, taken in the Office of the British Vice Consulate of Galatz on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of April 1859 – present Lieutenant Commander Crozier of Her Majesty’s Ship “Growler” Alfred L. Powell merchant & Charles Cunningham V. Consul. (translation from the Italian)

One night lately at about ten o’clock I was returning home in company of Mr. Francesco Monferato when near the Hotel Napoleon we met a Commissary of the Police escorting ten or twelve Jews. Having asked the Commissary what the matter was, he answered that a Greek youth had been found shut up in a Cellar by the Jews and that their design had been to take out his blood and that the youth was cut with knives. We accompanied the Commissary and his followers we went into the room of the Commissary; and I having interrogated the youth, he replied that about five o’clock p.m. of that day he was passing with two other lads by a certain place when a Jew held out a Ducat to him asking him to change it, he refused to do so and began to run away, that the Jew caught him, that he took him into a cellar, that he struck him on the hand where in fact there were traces of blood, that he struck him also in the veins, that he placed his hand on his mouth to prevent his calling out and then they threw tepid water on his face, that then a Greek came and set him free and took him home, where feeling stupefied he had slept some hours.

[signed] A. Micalopulo Advocate

[signed] Henry E. Crozier } present

A. L. Powell } present

Charles Cunningham V. Consul

*Statement of Giovanni Raftopulo a native of Corfu – made 20<sup>th</sup> April 1859*

My name is Giovanni Raftopulo. I am born in Corfu, 33 years old, I am auctioneer.

At half past seven o’clock in the morning of the 1/13 April 1859 I left my house and went to the piazza Manoli, where I heard that the Jews had taken a child; than I went & opened my Warehouse. I afterwards saw a great crowd of people at the neighbouring Coffee house. Approaching I heard that the Jews had taken a child; then the boys fell on the sellers of oranges & lemons and they threw the fruit about the streets. About half an hour afterwards a Carozzeta came out of the street of the Bresciiovanni going towards the Percalabia, with the lad in it; there was a great crowd of people before my Warehouse, they stopped the Carozzeta and carried the lad into my Warehouse. At the same moment, Mr. Zamani, the Chancellor of the Greek consulate arrived in my Warehouse. Mr. Zamani asked me for materials for writing, and I gave him pen, ink and paper. Mr. Zamani set himself to write on the top of a case as there was no table in the Warehouse. I remained outside of my

Warehouse so that I know little of what passed inside of the Warehouse. There were a great many persons inside the Warehouse, but I can not specify them. When Mr. Zamani had finished writing the Greek Consul arrived. There was also Mr. Balabani, the secretary of the Percalabia and the Police Master. The Greek Consul caused the lad to be taken to the Greek Consulate by a Messenger of the Greek Consulate. The boy was covered up in a Pellice like a sick person. There were several Doctors there but I did not see whether they examined the state of the Boy.

[signed] Giovanni Raftopulo  
 [signed] A. Micalopulo  
 A. L. Powell } present  
 Henry E. Crozier  
 Charles Cunningham V. Consul

*Statement of Spiro Rezangelo, a native of Cephalonia – 20<sup>th</sup> April 1859*

Stated that his name was Spiro Rezangelo, born in Cefalonia, fifteen years of age a Mason's apprentice.

Relation. On the night on Tuesday eight days ago, towards the evening, when I was passing near the bridge, I saw a number of Jews running and I run also to see what was the matter; and when I came outside of the Court of the Synagogue I heard a voice calling for help; then I turned to the direction from whence the voice proceeded, I saw it was the young Antonio taken by some Jews who were endeavouring to pull him within the enclosure, which in fact one of the Jews succeeded in doing. Then I and the servant of a Boyard run to save him. The call for help was addressed to me and Antonio called me by name. The day after the fact I was called before the Greek Consul. Yesterday I was called by the Police where I was also examined. I afterwards saw the Boy wounded on the hand.

[Mark of Spiro Rezangelo]  
 [signed] A. Micalopulo  
 A. L. Powell } present  
 Henry E. Crozier  
 Charles Cunningham V. Consul

*Statement of Nicolò Canulato an Ionian subject regarding the accusation against the Jews of bleeding a Christian Boy made in the Office of the British Vice Consulate in Galatz on 21<sup>st</sup> of April 1859 – Present Major Stokes R.E., Lieutenant Henry E. Crozier, Advocate Anastasio Micalopulo & Charles Cunningham V. Consul.*

Having stated name &c Nicolò Canulato qm Panagiu native of Cefalonia age thirty five years profession Master Mason.

Related. I was in my house on Tuesday evening ten days ago at about a quarter before eight o'clock, when they brought me word from the house of the Boy that he had been in the hands of the Jews and told me the Boy had fainted. I went into the house of the Boy's mother and gave her a medicine called "orio" to give the Boy (Here Canulato pulled a paper out of his waistcoat pocket containing a yellow powder & showed it) – it is extracted from Bullock's liver. The mother did not give the Medicine to the Boy. I found the Police Commissary Boboli in the house with two gens d'armes. I asked the Commissary what was the matter, and he told me that the Boy had been in the hands of the Jews. The lad when I went had no fainting fits but said he had a pain in the heart. The Commissary asked the boy if he knew the Jews who had taken him, and he answered he knew them. The Commissary then asked the boy if he had seen any Ionians or Greeks whom he knew and the Boy said he



knew Spiro, his brother-in-law (of Canulato), Efyniadi and the servant of Efyniadi and that when he (the boy) called out, that Spiro and the servant of Efyniades went down to the Bath where the boy was and fetched him out – that when he (the boy) was taken out Spiro accompanied to his house while Efyniadi and his servant remained in the Court Yard of the Synagogue along with the Jews. The Commissary Boboli then asked me (Canulato) to go with him to the Synagogue to see the Jews. Then the Commissary of the Police, two gens d’armes, the Boy, the brother-in-law of the boy and I went to the Synagogue. We entered the Court Yard by the small door and behind the door we found a Jew with a beard. The boy recognised him and said this is the man who laid hold of me. When the Commissary heard this he told me to take the Jew. The Commissary asked me to keep the Jew in the Court Yard leaving a gens d’armes to assist me, and the Commissary went with the boy down to the Cellar and they returned bringing three Jews with them. Among these three the boy recognised one as the person who gave him the Ducat to change. At this time an Epistat was passing with a patrol of three soldiers. The Commissary left the Jews in charge of the Epistat and the soldiers and he went into the old Synagogue taking me, the boy & one gens d’armes and the other gens d’armes came soon afterwards as also other persons. We found eight Jews in the Synagogue and we took out four; the Commissary remained in conversation with the other four, and these four were not taken away. I told the Commissary to take these four also, but the Commissary said he knew them and could take them at any time they might be wanted. When the four Jews were brought out of the old Synagogue, the boy pointed out a tall Jew with a red beard and said he was the man who put his hand on his mouth. We then entered a small house in the court yard of the Synagogue and we found four or five women and three Children; as the children were crying we thought they were Christian children and we examined them; they were two boys and a girl; the boys were both circumcised. We then went into the new Synagogue where we found seven more Jews, we took them all, and these with those we had already formed fifteen and we took them all to the Commissaries’ Office.

The Commissary sent the boy along with his brother and a soldier to a Doctor. The Doctor gave him a prescription which the boy took at the apothecary and got the medicine.

My brother-in-law, Spiro, was not at home in my house, he remained that night in a house I am building for Mr. Combotecla.

The boy said he had been taken by the Jews when he came out of school.

I had just returned home when I was sent for to go to the Boy.

I have a wife and a sister-in-law living with me.

When I came home my wife told me I had been asked for in order to give the medicine. I carry the medicine in my pocket. I am told the medicine is good in case of fainting. I did not see my brother-in-law at all that day as I was ill pleased with him.

I am friend of Boboli the Commissary.

I was called one day into the Greek Consulate and was asked if I were the person who had saved the boy from the Jews. I answered I was not and nothing further took place.

The boy who is said to have been taken by the Jews is called Antonio. I believe he is a Greek of the Black Sea. His mother is a widow: a native of Constantinople. The house I live in belongs to her.

[signed] Nicolo Canulato

[signed] J. Stokes

Henry E. Crozier } present

A. Micalopulo

[signed] Charles Cunningham V. Consul

*Further information from Spiro Rezangelo taken before Charles Cunningham V. Consul, present C. Triandafilu Dragoman in the Vice Consulate on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1859.*

I am fifteen years of age. It was about the time of lighting Candles I had gone from the house being built for Mr. Combotecla to the street of the Bresciovanni to buy bread and was returning home, going down the lane leading to the Jews synagogue when I saw a number of Jews running and I ran also. When I entered the court yard of the Synagogue, I saw the boy Antonio held by four Jews and the boy called to me to save him; and three of the Jews left the boy and only one Jew continued to hold him; and the Jew pulled the boy down into the Cellar. And I and the Servant of the Boyard ran after the Jew with the Boy and entered the Cellar and took the boy from the Jew. I gave the Jew a blow in the nose.

I took Antonio home, and the servant of the Boyard remained in the court yard along with his master. Antonio walked and I assisted him home, I put him into his house and went away without saying anything to anyone. I went to my sister's house and remained in the house all night. After I had been at home for nearly an hour, I told my father, sisters and Canulato what had happened to Antonio. Candles had been lighted for nearly an hour before I returned home.

Next day I went to my work and remained at it all day. On the following day (Thursday) I was called into the Greek Consulate and was examined on oath. I was afterwards called to the Police and examined in presence of the British dragoman.

I know the Commissary Boboli, I saw him yesterday at the house of Antonio.

Mark of Spiro Rezangelo

Present

[signed] C. Triandafilu

[signed] Charles Cunningham, V. Consul

Note. After this examination was finished, I asked Spiro how many steps was to the stair which led to the Cellar, whether the stair was of wood or stone and whether it was inside the Cellar or outside of it. He said he did not know how many steps were in the stair, whether six or thirty that the stair was of stone and that it was inside the cellar. The stair is about 25 steps, it is of wood & outside the cellar.

[signed] Charles Cunningham, V. Consul

The National Archives of the United Kingdom, Public Record Office, Foreign Office, Fond 78 (Turcia), Dosar 644, 1858-1860, f. 635-636, original în limba engleză, f. 637-640 v<sup>o</sup>, copie în limba engleză. f. 642-651, copii în limba engleză cu precizarea că declarațiile au fost date în limba italiană.

**Galați**