

An Original Document from the Archives of the Metropolitan Church of Oltenia: the Oath of Faith to the Country, the King, the Constitution and the Laws, Deposited by the Church Priests on the Right Side of Olt, between 1944 and 1945

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Abstract

In the last months of the Second World War, many Romanians felt the danger that threatened Romania after the defeat of Germany. With the arrival of the Soviet occupation troops, it was increasingly obvious that a plan to transform the country into a communist state, following the Soviet model, would be under way. To accomplish this plan, King Mihai I had to be removed, the Constitution of 1923 and the democratic laws abolished and established a new order in the state. Among the intellectuals of the time aware of this danger were the priests from Oltenia, pastored by a worthy hierarch, Metropolitan Nifon Criveanu. At his initiative, as well as some archpriests, such as Aurel Bazilescu, archpriest of Dolj County, an oath of faith was signed by priests and singers at the beginning of 1945, an oath with confessional value. The clerics have sworn faith to the country and to the king, to the Constitution and the democratic laws, vowing to defend with honor the order in the state. For this reason, immediately after the establishment of the Communist government led by Petru Groza (in early March 1945), the new authorities took action against Metropolitan Nifon Criveanu and other ecclesiastical ministers from Oltenia. They knew of their attachment to the king and to values that were not in the new communist ideology.