

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Rumania	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Mail Control in Rumania	DATE DISTR.	27 December 1954
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

Internal Mail

1. Internal mail in Rumania is accepted in the following forms:

- a. Ordinary or non-registered;
- b. Registered;
- c. Registered airmail; and
- d. Special delivery.

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This mail may be sent in the form of sealed letters, open cards, illustrated cards, congratulatory letters, etc.

- 2. Ordinary or non-registered mail: Ordinary letters are stamped with 0.55 lei for the first 20 grams and the stamps are obtainable from every tobacco stand in Bucharest as well as from any post office. Letters can be mailed in any of the numerous letter boxes inside and outside of each post office, and in post office boxes located in various parts of Bucharest. Mail is collected once or twice each day, postmarked, and forwarded to its destination. It is believed that letters addressed only to persons on a watch list are censored. It takes about four or five days for a letter to be delivered and as long as seven or eight days if the distance between cities is great.
- 3. Registered mail: Registered letters are delivered to a special desk in any of the several Bucharest post offices. Stamps are purchased at the post office after the letter has been weighed. These letters can be taken to the post office after they have been sealed. After the letter has been stamped, it again is presented to the special desk; this time accompanied by the

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC		USIA/IRI	X
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(NOTE: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#")

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sender's identity card. Registered letters are accepted only from the sender in person and his name and complete address must appear on the envelope. This entire routine is carried out in a fairly casual manner. However, both the number of the identity card and the number of the militia office from which it was issued are recorded. A receipt is given to the sender of the letter. The receipt includes the name of the sender and the addressee, the addresses of both and the cost of mailing the letter. The post office retains a duplicate of the receipt. The letter also is registered in a separate book maintained for registered mail and the serial number of this book is placed on the envelope after the envelope has been stamped with a capital "R", meaning registered. It is believed that mail addressed to suspect individuals is censored. The postal costs for a letter weighing 20 grams which is mailed to a city further inland (sic) is 1.75 lei.

4. The same procedure for mailing a registered letter is followed also when one sends a letter by registered airmail or by special delivery. However, the cost of both of these services is somewhat higher than for a simple registered letter. The same routine is followed in mailing a post card, although open mail reportedly reaches its destination quicker because it is more easily controlled.

Foreign Mail

5. In Bucharest, letters destined for foreign countries must be taken to one of the following post offices:
 - a. Post Office of the Grivita Rosie Section: It is located in the building which was formerly the town hall of Green Sector on Boulevard N. Titulescu. It is a rather new and attractive building which also houses the Number 7 telephone center.
 - b. Post Office on Strada Viitor: This building is on Strada Viitor near the first streetcar stop after Gemeni Square.
 - c. Post Office on Stefan Cel Mare Highway: This building is located near the Dinamo Stadium.
6. Letters are presented closed at these post offices, where they are first weighed and stamped. These letters have to be presented together with the sender's identity card. It is not possible to have letters mailed by intermediaries, even if they are close relatives, and the authorities check carefully the photograph on the identity card. These letters are then registered in a special book in which the sender's name and address are recorded. No other identifying document is accepted in lieu of the identity card.
7. The cost of mailing a letter or card abroad depends on its destination. A non-registered letter weighing not more than 20 grams may be mailed to Greece for 1.25 lei. Registered letters, which are controlled in the same manner as ordinary mail, are more expensive to send. A registered letter to Greece, weighing not more than 20 grams, costs 3.50 or 3.75 lei. Since there are only three post offices which accept foreign mail in Bucharest, there frequently are lines of people waiting.
8. Foreign mail, both outgoing and incoming, is taken to the Gara de Nord (North Railway) Station where it is opened and censored. Letters containing derogatory information about the Rumanian Government are destroyed. Until 1953, correspondence from abroad was not always regularly received. This fact could be determined from the contents of subsequent letters. Since 1953, however, letters which are not considered to contain anything suspicious are delivered regularly.

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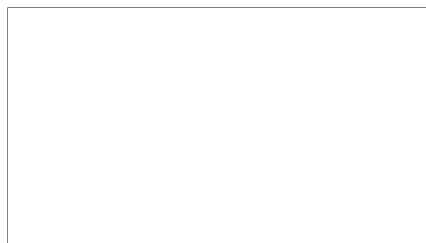
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9. Until early in January 1954, the addressee of a letter from abroad had to go to the post office to receive it in person. Since that date, letters have been delivered directly by the postman without formality. Registered mail is delivered by postmen, but has to be signed for on special forms. Although registered mail is supposed to be delivered only to the addressee, postmen frequently deliver them to other members of the same family.
10. Special files are maintained on individuals sending or receiving mail from abroad. Many people who correspond with individuals residing outside Rumania have been called by the militia and questioned on various points, with no mention being made of their letter-writing habits. Consequently, many people are afraid to send letters abroad and most of those who do stick strictly to family affairs. It also has been noticed that there have been frequent occasions when letters from abroad which were addressed to friends, rather than relatives, were not delivered.
11. In applying for a job in a factory or institution, one of the items on the questionnaire which must be filled out is whether or not the person corresponds with anyone living abroad. If the answer is in the affirmative, complete details are required.
12. Members of the Communist Party do not maintain correspondence with people living outside Rumania because of the fear that they will compromise themselves.



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