

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Rumania	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Background of Top Level Communist Leaders in Rumania	DATE DISTR.	11 March 1955 25X1
		NO. OF PAGES	3
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	25X1
DATE ACQUIRED		This is UNEVALUATED Information	

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1. Prior to the outbreak of World War II, there were only about 1,000 genuine Communists in Rumania. Today, the Rumanian Communist Party includes many persons who, because of their social backgrounds and political beliefs, are not really Communists. There are the most diversified factions among the Communist Party. A prominent role is played by the railroad men who have always been the radical element of the Rumanian workers' movement. On the other hand, the political influence of the other trade unions has always been small. Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej, the representative of the trade union of railroad men therefore plays a dominant role in the country, while the other trade unions have not sent representatives into the top leadership of the country. The farmers are distrusted as individualists by the orthodox Communists. It therefore appears doubtful that Petru Groza, the spokesman of the Rumanian farmers and at present President of the Rumanian Parliament, will maintain his influential position. Groza is not on good terms with influential men like Iosif Chisinevski, Emil Bodnaras and others. Power in Rumania is held by a group of men including Chisinevski, Gheorghiu Dej, Gheorghe Apostol and Bodnaras.
2. Iosif Chisinevski has been Vice President of the Rumanian Government and representative of the Rumanian Communist Party with the Cominform since 1952. He is generally called the "eminence grise" of the country and is believed to pull all the political strings, although he likes to stay in the background. Chisinevski was born between 1900 and 1905, the son of a Jewish tailor in Bessarabia. He studied literature and philosophy in Iasi and later worked as a journalist in Bucharest for various leftist newspapers. Since he was not a Rumanian citizen and in view of his socialist leanings, he was forced to leave Bucharest at the end of World War I. He went to Kishinev where he founded the Voice of Bessarabia, a Rumanian newspaper. Chisinevski hated the Rumanians and was waiting for the day of revenge. After Bessarabia had been annexed by the USSR in 1940, he remained in Kishinev and continued to publish his newspaper with Soviet permission. In 1944, he returned to Bucharest where at first he held a minor post as a liaison officer between the Rumanian press and the Soviet press office. After the Cominform was established, Chisinevski

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became the liaison man for the leadership of the Rumanian Communist Party. Although he remained in the wings, it was generally known among the Rumanian people that certain things such as censorship power and passports were controlled by him. In 1950, Chisinevschi joined the Rumanian Government as chief of the Rumanian Security Police. In 1952, he became Vice President of the Rumanian Council of Ministers. As liaison officer attached to the Cominform, he transmitted the directives of Moscow to the Rumanian Government headed by Gheorghiu Dej and the Communist Party under Apostol. Well-informed Rumanians believe that Chisinevschi one day will be the first man of the country. Gheorghiu Dej is not on good terms with Chisinevschi on whom Dej looks down because Chisinevschi was not one of the founders of the Rumanian Communist Party. The antipathy between the two is mutual. Chisinevschi also dislikes Bodnaras, the Rumanian Minister of National Defense, whom he fears because of his great popularity with the Army. On the other hand, Chisinevschi is on good terms with Alexandru Moghioros, a Vice President of the Council of Ministers.

3. Gheorghe Gheorghiu Dej, the President of the Council of Ministers is still the most prominent representative of the regime but his position is not too secure because of his intimate relations with politicians who have in the meantime fallen into disgrace. Dej was born in Transylvania about 1900. Prior to 1933, he was employed as a skilled worker with the Rumanian State Railroads. He founded the first Communist cell in Rumania with Ana Pauker, Bodnaras, Gheorghe Frimu, and Apostol. Dej was always under the influence of Ana Pauker whom he sacrificed only when the Soviets definitely demanded her removal from office. When Frimu was shot in a strike of Rumanian railroad men in 1933, Dej became his successor as president of the trade union of railroad workers. When the Communist Party was banned in Rumania, Dej went underground and lived illegally in the country until 1938. He was then seized by the Rumanian police and remained under arrest until his liberation by the Soviets in 1944. In the first Rumanian government coalition, Dej was Minister for Industry and Trade. In 1946, he attended the peace conference in Paris as the Rumanian delegate. After the elections of 1946, Dej became Minister of Labor and, at the same time, deputy secretary general of the Rumanian Communist Party under Ana Pauker, who then was secretary general. Dej later replaced Ana Pauker as secretary general of the Communist Party and also became president of the Council of Ministers. When he had to give up the post of secretary general of the Communist Party, it was rumored that Dej would be liquidated because of his nationalist leanings. Dej's most dangerous antagonist was Vasile Luca, an ethnic Hungarian from Transylvania who made efforts to infiltrate the Party apparatus with ethnic Hungarians. This development was disliked by Dej who is a pure Rumanian. Dej is believed to be rather lukewarm about the Soviets. Leading officials of Rumanian trade organizations stated that Dej had opposed the establishment of the so-called "Sovrom corporations" (joint Soviet-Rumanian enterprises) from the very beginning. Dej, a self-taught person of great will power, enjoys a certain popularity among the Rumanian people because of his nationalist leanings.
4. Gheorghe Apostol, at present first secretary of the Rumanian Communist Party, comes from the trade union movement. He is a rather energetic person and very ambitious and for this reason is feared by many top-level Party functionaries.
5. Emil Bodnaras, Minister of National Defense and a vice president of the Council of Ministers, is believed to rank only after Chisinevschi. Bodnaras was born the son of a farmer in the northern Bucovina. His

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mother was Ukrainian. Bodnaras became an elementary school teacher in Bessarabia. As a Communist he went to Bucharest in 1920 and there got in touch with Pauker, Frimu and Gheorghiu Dej. Between 1933 and 1935, he plotted against the life of King Carol II. He was arrested and detained in prison until 1940. After his release, he went to Moscow where he attended courses at the Soviet Military Academy. In 1944, he returned to Rumania as a general of the Red Army. Between 1944 and 1946, he was chief of the Rumanian secret police. Bodnaras is very popular in the Rumanian Army because of the reforms decreed by him. His closest assistants and friends are General Ion Cambrea, Colonel Tudor Sepianu and General Nicolae Fulga. It is believed that the strength of this group in conjunction with Dej's authority has so far saved Ana Pauker's life. Bodnaras maintains relatively good connections with the Soviets.

6. Ana Pauker, previously secretary general of the Communist Party and for a long time Rumanian Foreign Minister, has been divested of all power. It was repeatedly rumored that she had been executed or that a trial was to be initiated against her. Pauker's influence on the other Communist leaders in the country is still so great, however, that her word may still have some weight in the decisions of the Party. Pauker, who did not complete her university studies because she became active in the Communist Party at an early date, is a very intelligent and fascinating person. She was one of the founders of the Communist Party in Rumania. Between 1944 and 1948, she opened a private bank account in Switzerland for her father and brother. This is the principal charge preferred against her. Her position was still more shaken in 1950, when a staged trial against Lucretiu Patrascanu was opened. Patrascanu, a lawyer who had previously defended Pauker in court proceedings, refused to plead guilty. Patrascanu broke down, however, after a treatment with special drugs. In 1952, Pauker was relieved of all posts.

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7. The so-called Hungarian infiltration poses a problem in the Rumanian domestic life. The name of "Hungarian infiltration" is used for the many ethnic Hungarians who come from Transylvania and obtain leading positions in the State and Party apparatus. This development is resented by the mass of the Rumanian people and many Communists. The most important representative of a nationalist Rumanian line is Dej. It is believed that the Hungarians will gradually be eliminated from leading positions in the public life of Rumania. Vasile Luca has been one of the victims of this trend. The most powerful representative of the Hungarian group is at present Alexandru Moghioros, a vice president of the Council of Ministers.

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