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News Background

SEVERAL CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP OF RUMANIAN TRADE UNIONS

Munich, 30 October 1960 -- A new look, if not a new character, has come over the Rumanian trade union leadership. The elections, held yesterday, the last day of the fourth trade union congress, produced changes in the vice-presidency of the Central Council of Trade Unions (CCS), in its Presidium and Secretariat.

150 Politburo member Gheorghe Apostol, however, continues as chief of the country's 2,800,000 strong trade unions. He was reelected President of the Central Council.

Dropping of Moisesescu

The most interesting change has been the dropping of Anton Moisesescu from the vice-presidency of the Central Council.

Moisesescu has been a figure of some importance in the regime for several years. He is a former Deputy Minister of Finance and from November 1954 to June 1956 he was Minister in Washington. He was then appointed Minister to Argentina and Uruguay but after only four months was declared persona non grata because of the forced detention in his Legation of the Argentine-born son of the Legation chauffeur. On his return he almost immediately entered trade union work and in December 1957 was promoted to the vice-presidency of the Central Council. After five years as a candidate-member of the Party Central Committee, he was promoted at the third congress in June to full membership. He was a member of the Party Control Commission from June 1958 until the third congress and has been vice-chairman of the Presidium of the Grand National Assembly since March 1957.

From the fact that Moisesescu has so recently been promoted in the all-powerful Party hierarchy one may conclude that his removal from his trade union position does not necessarily involve any disgrace. It is quite likely that he is being transferred to other work.

But, as has previously been pointed out, there have been reports of differences between Apostol and Moisesescu, and the departure of the latter -- the only other person of eminence within the trade union body -- leaves Apostol as complete master in his own house. His continuance as leader of the unions was expected. There was little or no criticism of the trade unions at the third Party congress (in contrast with the second congress in December 1955) and there is, in any case, an overall desire for continuity

- 24

and stability at the pinnacle of the various regime organizations.

Two New Vice-Presidents

In place of Moisesescu not one but two new vice-presidents have been elected. They are Elena Lascu and Vasile Musat. Their backgrounds represent a new pattern of appointment in the trade union leadership, for Lascu represents the women's organizations and Musat the youth organizations.

Elena Lascu (or Iordachescu-Lascu) has been active for many years in the Bucharest City Party organization. She is the widow of Teodor Iordachescu, a dissident Social-Democrat who joined the Communists in early 1948 and was appointed to the Politburo of the "new" Rumanian Workers' Party which emerged from the merger congress of February in that year. He was expelled from the Politburo in May 1952 - the time of the Pauker crisis, but was reelected a Central Committee member in December 1955. He became chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly, a post which he held until March 1957. He died in July 1958.

His widow, Elena, was mentioned in the press as secretary of the Bucharest City Party Committee in 1952. In 1955 she was first secretary of the Party committee of one of Bucharest's districts, but since 1956 has been again a secretary of the City Party committee and a member of its bureau. She is also a deputy to the Grand National Assembly. It is not quite clear exactly when her work with women's organizations began, but in March 1958 "Scinteia" listed her as a member of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Women. She is a full member of the Party Central Committee and is considered to be something of an intellectual.

Vasile Musat is one of the younger generation of Communists. In 1951 he was mentioned as a member of the Central Committee of the UTM (Union of Working Youth) and in August the following year became secretary-general of this organization, the title later being changed to first secretary. He lost this position, however, in August 1954 at the all-country conference of the UTM. Subsequently, he disappeared from the limelight. In November 1959 he reappeared again, being mentioned by "Scinteia" as assistant chief of a section within the Party Central Committee. Musat is a member of the General Council of ARLUS (Association for Soviet-Rumanian Relations) and in April this year delivered the commemorative address in one of Bucharest's districts to mark Lenin's 90th birthday.

It should be noted that neither of the two new vice-presidents have held leading trade union positions before. They are, therefore, "new" people, but both Lascu, with her association with the women's organizations, and Musat, with his youth background, bring the type of experience which is obviously closely akin to trade union work.

Secretariat Smaller -- Four Dropped

The election of new secretaries shows that the Central Council Secretariat has been reduced from six to four members.

Radio Bucharest announced this morning that the following had been elected secretaries:

Costica Alecu (Alexandru)

Aurel Ardeleanu

Ion Cotot (Party CC member)

Mihail Marin

Alecu and Ardeleanu are the new appointments. This means that Mihail Mujic, Ion Dobre, Gheorghe Palos and Petre Despot have been dropped. The departure of Mujic and Dobre was expected since they were not reelected to the Party Central Committee in June. Despot had only been a Central Council secretary since August of last year. No reasons were given for his speedy release. He is a former president of the Union of Electrical Workers. Palos entered the secretariat at the same time as Despot. He is a former assistant chief of the Organizational Section of the Party Central Committee. Again no reasons have been given for his release but it can be assumed that the industrial (branch) trade unions, which were under the supervision of Palos and Despot, have not worked to satisfaction.

The two new secretaries come of different work backgrounds.

Alecu is a former member of the UTM Central Committee and in 1958 was chief of the UTM section for relations with foreign countries. In this capacity he visited Yugoslavia. More recently he has been first assistant to the chief of the International Section of the Trade Union Central Council.

Ardeleanu is a former Deputy Minister of Home Trade and from 1954 to 1957 was vice-president of "Centrocoop", the Central Council of Consumer Cooperatives. In December 1958 he was elected a member of the Bureau of the Party Committee of the "Tudor Vladimirescu" district in Bucharest.

Ion Cotot, the only Party Central Committee member, was elected to the Secretariat and Presidium as recently as September 12 this year in place of Nicolae Pascu. Cotot's election was made by the same plenum which fixed the date for the congress for October 26.

The reduction in the size of the secretariat corresponds to the general recent trend against inflated secretariats - not only in Rumania. The secretariat of the RWP has only four members.

Bigger Presidium

The Presidium of the Central Council, on the other hand, has been enlarged from 14 or 15 members to 19 full and seven candidate-members.

The following members were elected: (those reelected are indicated by an asterisk)

Full Members of the Presidium

Costica <u>Alecu</u>	-Secretary of the CCS
*Gheorghe <u>Apostol</u>	-President of the CCS, member of Politburo
Aurel <u>Ardeleanu</u>	-Secretary of the CCS
*Ion <u>Cotot</u>	-Secretary of the CCS, member of the Central Committee of the Party
Gheorghe <u>Dobre</u>	-former Assistant Chief Editor of "Probleme Economice" (1958)
Constantin <u>Eftimie</u>	-Chairman of the Union of Enterprises of Forest Economy
Constantin <u>Eremia</u>	-President of the Oil Workers' Union of BOLDESTI/PLOESTI
Alexandru <u>Greco</u>	-Chairman of the Union of Transport and Communications
Gheorghe <u>Ionescu</u>	-Chairman of the TU Committee of the City of Bucharest
Elena <u>Lascu</u>	-Vice-President of CCS, member of the Central Committee of the Party
*Mihail <u>Marin</u>	-Secretary of the CCS
*Nicolae <u>Moraru</u>	-Chairman of the Union of Metallurgical and Electrical Enterprises
Stefan <u>Moraru</u>	-Chairman of the Union of Mining Industry and Geological Committee
Vasile <u>Musat</u>	-Vice-President of the CCS
Ioan <u>Nistor</u>	-Chairman of the Union of Educational and Cultural Institutions
*Elena <u>Stoia</u>	-President of the Union of Consumer Goods Industry
Anton <u>Stoianovici</u>	-Chairman of the Union of Agricultural Institutes and Enterprises (former First Party Secretary of Galati region)
*Constantin <u>Tudor</u>	-Chairman of the Union of State Administration and Institutions and People's Councils
Alexandru <u>Vernescu</u>	-Chairman of the Union of Oil, Chemical and Methane Gas Industry

Candidate-Members of the Presidium

Ion <u>Alexandru</u>	-President of Regional TU Council of PLOESTI
Ana <u>Dumitru</u>	-former worker of "Partisanul Rosu" textile plant
Andrei <u>Horvath</u>	-former full member of the Presidium; Chairman of the Union of Building Material Industry and Building Enterprises
Ion <u>Pascu</u>	
Ion <u>Preoteasa</u>	-Chairman of the Union of Trade and Consumer Goods Cooperatives
Ion <u>Sandu</u>	-Chairman of the Union of Sanitary Enterprises and Institutions
Gheorghe <u>Tuiu</u>	

Apart from Moisescu and the old secretaries, Mujic, Dobre, Palos and Despot, only Andrei Horvath and Virgil Boeru, who has not been mentioned in the press since 1958, have been dropped. In Horvath's case the fall has been cushioned by his being made candidate-member of the Presidium.

This above list is notable for the number of chairmen of industrial (branch) unions and regional trade union councils who are included. This was a natural development, the probability of which has been pointed out previously.

Like its Presidium, the Central Council of Trade Unions itself has been enlarged -- but to a much greater extent. The old Central Council had 95 full members and 15 candidate-members. The new Central Council has 189 full and 60 candidate-members. Among this number are several representatives of the ethnic minorities but in the Presidium there is only Andrei Horvath and he has been downgraded to candidate-member.

To the Central Commission of Censors, Anton Emilian, a former member of the old Rumanian General Federation of Labor, was elected as president.

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In general, it can be stated that the percentage of Party Politburo and Central Committee members in the leading bodies has remained about the same as before, although one should notice the concentration of Party "apparatchiks" in the vice-presidency and Secretariat of the Central Council -- Musat, Lascu, Cotot and Ardeleanu. On the other hand, the fact that Moisescu has not even been reelected to the over 250 strong Central Council, indicates that he has severed all connections with the unions. And the departure of Mujic and Dobre from all trade union bodies, coming

RUMANIAN NEWS BACKGROUND, 30 October 1960, page 6

hard on the heels of their removal from the Party Central Committee, leaves the future of these once fairly prominent personalities very much open to doubt. There are obviously serious reasons for their eclipse.

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