

100
101
600
220
2003
803
2600
4100

ITEM NO. 783/54

AH
26 Jan
VI/15

RUMANIA

ADMINISTRATION
People's Councils

COMMUNIST PARTY

PURGES

PROPAGANDA
Sovietization
Films
Entertainment

Replacement Of The Popular Council's Presidents

SOURCE ROME: 23-year-old Rumanian refugee, born in TAUTII DE SUS (BAIA MARE); after studying for two years at the Conservatory for Dramatic Art in CLUJ, he was engaged as baritone by the State Opera House in that town. For two years he served in the artistic group of the frontier guards (regular military service,) i.e. the Ansamblu Artistic al Granicelilor" in BUCHAREST. In 1952 he quit his military unit in order to escape to Yugoslavia. He is single and belongs to the Catholic faith. (See RFE Item No. 9555/53.)

DATE OF OBSERVATION: until November 1952

EVAL. COMMENT: According to official figures, published after the recent elections for the People's Councils (20 December 1953,) 42.95 per cent of the new councillors are Party members, while the rest belong to FDP (Frontul Democratic Popular) which is the formula to bring the mass organizations, the Unions and the remnants of GROZA's "Ploughers" Front" under the control of the Party. The Central Council of the FDP, composed of 43 members was elected on 18 July 1952. It may safely be assumed that, now, a great part of the presidents of the People's Councils belong to the category mentioned in this report. The purges carried out after the PAUKER crisis are confirmed here. The extremely high number of ARML members in Rumania (5 millions, according to an article by Ionif CHISINEVSCHI in "Contemporanul" of 2 May 1952) can be explained only by the coercive measures started by the Party officials in the countryside.

* * *

over

The Central Committee of the Rumanian Communist Party decided to replace the presidents of the Popular Councils with Communist workers. This decision was taken and realized during the summer of 1952. These workers, the majority of whom were not specialized workers but faithful Communists, were taken out of the factories where they were working following upon the Party's request and sent to various communities. Thus, the president of the Popular Council, who was a stranger in the community to which he had been appointed would not be tempted to favor some of the "reactionaries" who might have made some private agreements in the past, with the former presidents.

In November 1952 all presidents of the Popular Councils in the districts near the Yugoslav frontier were replaced. The population was not at all pleased about this decision taken by the Party.

In addition we learned that in each locality a branch of the "ARLUS" association (Asociatia Romana Pentru Strangerea Legaturilor cu Uniunea Sovietica) was established. This association was directed by members of the Party and had the monopoly for whatever entertainment there was in the country. They organized celebrations, popular dances, and took care of the passing-by caravan which showed nothing else but Russian-made films. All peasants who were members of the kolkhozes were obliged to subscribe to the ARLUS association and to pay their monthly fees, against which they received a "Carnet Arlus." The same "ARLUS" organization also organized lectures on the system of agricultural work in force in the USSR.

End.