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Pre-Military Training  
Sports Organizations

ARMED FORCES

Report On the Pre-Military Training Of The U.T.M. Youth's  
Trade Unions In Rumania.

The Central Committee of the UTM is composed of:

- 1) a section of Higher Education;
- 2) a section of Secondary Education;
- 3) a Young Worker's Section;
- 4) a Military Youth Section;
- 5) a Pioneer Section for children up to 14 years.

The regional organizations of the UTM possess the five above-mentioned sections with the exception that in a region without a faculty, there is no section of higher education.

Each departmental and each local organization of the UTM has these five sections.

In addition, to the local UTM organizations, each institute, faculty, secondary school, military school, training center, regiment, battalion, company, factory, collective farm and agricultural machine station possesses a basic UTM organization.

Illustrated wall bulletins in the homes of the UTM throughout the country and so called "Red Corners" are devoted to the achievements of the Red Army.

Following members of the Central Committee of the UTM have military ranks:

PETCU Constantin, MALITA Mircea, Ioanid, Virgil, DAIA Grigore, COJAN Dumitru, IORDACHESCU Iona, FLOREA Ilie, MIHAILESCU Ioan, FLORESCU Stefan, SITARUS (fnu), SIPERCO Alexandru, STEPANESCU Pascu, FLOREA Emilian, HEGEDUS Iona and TROPIM (fnu), all majors who have participated at the fifth session of the CC UTM.

In TEREMIA MICA, for example, there are many members of the UTM among the border guards, among them the Communist BORUGA Constantin (Pfc.) In ORSOVA there are several other Communists belonging also to the UTM basic organization of the fifth company of the Military Training Center No. 23, such as Pfc. ANGHEL Ion and STOICA Stefan.

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From the third platoon of the Third Guard Regiment stationed in TOAGER, 60 soldiers out of 80 belong to the UTM, among them IONESCU Stan, a fanatic Communist.

Another example for the military control of the UTM is the fact that every member of the team sent in August 1951 to the World's Youth Festival in BERLIN had to be previously cleared by military authorities.

The Communist Party organizes propaganda campaigns for the military academies (INEU and others,) urging the students to volunteer for these schools. It arrived that pupils who volunteered for the airforce, received some months later orders to present themselves at the Artillery Officers' Training School at SIBIU.

For the commemoration of Army Day (2 October,) UTM members were asked to send contributions of their own for the martial music competition of the military bands.

Early all speeches held at the large UTM rallies are made by high ranking officers, and the sacrifice of the lieutenant GODEANU Constantin, a member of the UTM, who was killed on the Czechoslovakian front in 1944, is given as an example to the youths.

In conclusion it can be said that the local organizations of the UTM are not deeply engaged in military training, but they sponsor the UTM basic organizations of the Army units and military training centers.

The situation is quite different at the UTM basic organizations of the big industrial plants. They have sports and premilitary sections interested in pistol and rifle practice and have their own shooting ranges. They have their aviation schools and parachute sections (Railway Workshops Grivita, "23 August" Plant in BUCHAREST, etc.)

The UTM Organization has a certain jurisdiction over the following committees:

- 1) The committees for physical culture and sports which exist in the regional and urban (rayonal) Popular Councils;
- 2) The sports groups existing in the industry, agricultural collective organizations, schools, universities, etc.
- 3) The state sports group called "Ready for Work and Defense."

The state sports group conducts in collaboration with the committee for physical culture and sports, depending on the Council of Ministers, the premilitary activities based on the training for the so-called GMA tests. These tests consist of an obstacle race the obstacles being rivers of various widths, barriers whose heights vary between 90 and 130 cm, distances to be covered creeping, trees of different height to be climbed, a swimming test carrying equipment and arms, a skiing test, and a target test by day and night. These mass sports competitions took place for the first

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time between 7 and 15 January 1951.

At the cross-country competitions on 28 October 1951 at the BANEASA hippodrome, the team and individual tests were passed by many UTM competitors and most prizes were won by members of the Central Army Home (Casa Centrala a Armatei.)

The committee for physical culture and sports introduced recently the Grade II (very severe tests under the motto of specialization) in the GMA tests copied from the "State Sports Complex" GTO in use at the Soviet Komsomol contests.

An extensive propaganda has been made for GMA badges. It is reported that from about 350,000 candidates only 17,000 have fulfilled the requirements of the test.

At the shooting stands of the "Inamo Stadion in BUCHAREST (former Velodromul - Soseaua Stefan cel Mare) SARBU Iosif, HERSCOVICI Henry and VIDRASCU Dinu, all members of the UTM and of Casa Centrala a Armatei, (Central Army Home) got the first prizes at the shooting competition on 28 October 1951.

During the training, the "Utemists" instructor shouts: For our struggle for the defense of peace, forward," and the sportsmen answer: "forward."

The Soviet parade step was recently introduced in the training of the "Utemists." At first it was called "the parade step of the Soviet sportsman," but as this designation was unpopular, it was renamed "The parade step of the sportsman of the new era."

The Soviet parade step is technically composed of the following movements: standing at attention (beginners are advised to keep their hands on their backs to get used to keeping their balance,) the left leg is brought forward with the foot bent downward at a distance of 20 cm from the ground. During the whole parade, the men have to look straight forward at a distance of 200 meters. The right arm is bent in a right angle with the elbow on a level with the shoulder and the hand in front of the face on a level with the nose, while the thumb and the middlefinger are joined at the tips, in ballerina fashion.

The left arm is completely stretched backwards with the fingers in the same position as those of the right hand. Then the left foot is placed on the ground with the whole weight of the body shifted onto it, and the right foot is lifted from the ground starting with the tips of the toes and then with the heel. It requires an elasticity possessed only by certain primitive people, as for example the Negroes and the Russians, both famous as dancers.



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For references see: "Apararea Patriei" formerly "Glasul Armatei"  
and "Scanteia Tinwewrului" newspapers.

("The Defense of the Country" formerly "The Voice of the Army"  
and "The Spark of the Youth" - Newspapers.)