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RUMANIA

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POLICE  
Methods of Investigation

ANTI-WESTERN PROPAGANDA  
Resistance

Methods of Securitatea

SOURCE ATHENS : Confidential.

DATE OF OBSERVATION : 1949-52.

EVALUATION COMMENT : This is a vivid description of the devilish methods used by Communist security organs, to obtain "faked confessions" from known anti-Communist Rumanians, suspected of having been in contact with Western diplomats. The administering of injections to arrestees under investigation has already been reported sporadically in the last years. No full confirmation about such procedure was obtainable here since no conclusive proof or convincing documentation had been forwarded to this office. We were assured, however, that the source of this report is known to the Correspondent to be reliable. The reported police methods are better known from other Satellites, where sensational confessions by Church dignitaries and other prominent people -- known for their rightness and courage -- supplied sufficient evidence on the undermining of their physical condition by chemical means.

The procedure described in this report may be what psychotherapy calls "Narko-analysis," a mechanical abbreviation of psychoanalysis reportedly used in the treatment of neurotic cases which permits the physician to overcome a good deal of the inhibitions normally besetting such patients. There is a great difference, however, between such means and the intoxication of a prisoner's brain with a view to obtain a faked confession, or the denunciation of innocent people.

(Over)

Roy MELBOURNE was First Councillor of the former U.S. Political Mission in Rumania from 1945 to the end of 1947 (after the MANIU Trial.)

He was vehemently accused by the Communists to have acted as spy and provocateur, trying to induce the former leader of the Peasant Party to an anti-Soviet insurrection. Please see article in "Romania Libera" of 11 December 1951.

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"Scientific" techniques employed by the Securitatea to extort confessions and incriminating evidence were described to our source (who cannot be identified here) by several Rumanians on the basis of their personal experience. The names of our source's informants are known to this correspondent; they have been omitted for security reasons.

Informant "A," an intellectual, was taken into custody in 1949 on suspicion of being connected with the so-called "Roy MELBOURNE espionage network." (Our source explained that a number of anti-Communist Rumanians were tried and sentenced to long prison terms in 1949 on charges of being agents of Roy MELBOURNE, allegedly an American spy who operated in BUCHAREST). "A" was taken from his home at night and transported in an automobile with black side screens to an unknown destination. He was kept in a small cell for nearly a year while undergoing questioning. Finally, he was summoned one night, put into an automobile and deposited in front of his home without an explanation.

The next day a uniformed policeman called at "A's" home and asked him politely where he had been during his long absence. When "A" replied that he had no idea of the whereabouts of his detention place, the policeman invited "A" to accompany him to Securitatea headquarters to "clear up the matter"; the policeman promised him that he would be back home on the same day.

"A" went with the policeman to the Securitatea headquarters, which they entered through the main door. "A" was taken to a large, white room, where he waited for a while until a man dressed in white, apparently a doctor, came in.

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The doctor checked "A's" blood pressure and examined his chest with a stethoscope. Five minutes after the examination was over, the doctor took "A" to a darkened room and told him to lie down on a sofa and relax. While "A" was reclining the doctor asked him questions on his personal data, such as his name, date of birth, date of marriage, etc. A nurse at one side recorded the answers in a notebook. The doctor repeated the same questions over and over again for about an hour, meanwhile adjuring "A" to relax; the latter was growing very bored and irritated at having to repeat the same answers.

At the end of the one-hour interval the doctor made an intravenous injection in "A's" left arm. "A" noticed that the vial was small and contained a clear reddish liquid. Immediately after the injection "A" began to feel numb all over; helped by the nurse, he was taken into another room and seated in a comfortable chair. The doctor, an officer in uniform and a woman secretary came into the room and sat down in front of his chair, and the officer began to question him on his connections with the "Roy MELBOURNE group". The officer was particularly probing in his questions as to "A's" friendship with a young woman who had actually contacted "A" several times on behalf of the anti-Communist group. "A" told our source that in spite of the numbness his mind was clear and he was certain that he was able to control his answers. He denied knowing anything about anybody implicated in the "MELBOURNE case". His interrogator appeared very anxious to know if he was in control of himself; repeatedly the officer asked: "Are you sincere?" and "Are you trying to deceive us?" "A" made strong efforts to give the impression that he was under the influence of the drug and that his answers were "sincere." He made several statements about his intimate life, such as a person would ordinarily keep to himself, and his interrogator seemed very satisfied at these manifestations of "sincerity."

Several times during the interrogation the doctor checked "A's" blood pressure. Meanwhile, the officer spoke soothingly into his ear over and over again: "We are trying to help you." After several hours the officer ended the interrogation somewhat as follows: "We are your friends and we want to help you. You are weak after your year of detention and you feel very tired. Now you will go asleep. You will sleep deeply, you will relax and when you are awakened you will not remember anything of what happened

in here. Outside you will tell your friends that we asked you only about your personal data. Now you will fall asleep slowly, slowly....."

The word "slowly" was repeated several times and the doctor closed "A's" eyes with his fingers. "A" fell asleep, but when he awoke about an hour later he remembered perfectly everything that had been said during the interrogation. The doctor told him he had fainted because of his weakness and he was accompanied to the exit of the building and released. A week later he was taken to the Securitatea building, subjected to a similar test - complete with injection - and released again. In June 1952 "A" was arrested again and held for a month at Securitatea headquarters. He was well-fed and well-treated during his detention and underwent several times the experience described above, after which he was again set free.

From the fact that "A" remembered clearly everything that happened it would seem that the reddish solution injected into his veins was ineffective. The experiments of the Securitatea with drugs seemed to be more successful in another instance described by our source. The case was that of a young technician from BUCHAREST, whom we will call "B," who was arrested at the Black Sea port of MANGALIA in 1950 on suspicion of attempting to escape from Rumania in a small boat. "B" was taken to Securitatea headquarters in nearby CONSTANTA and beaten and tortured; his interrogators tried to force him to confess that he had planned to take off from the coast in a small boat and board an Italian merchant ship which happened to pass MANGALIA on the day of his arrest. For three months his interrogators worked on him with the "ordinary methods" of the Securitatea, but to no avail. Then he was taken to securitatea headquarters in BUCHAREST, where he was given an intramuscular injection from a big vital containing a colorless liquid. He immediately fell into a deep sleep and when he was set free a couple of days later he remembered nothing of what had happened during the interval he had spent with the BUCHAREST Securitatea - not even the fact that he had fallen asleep. The loss of memory persisted for about a week; then, one day when he was discussing the experience with a close friend, he recalled suddenly how he had gone into the deep sleep immediately after receiving the injection. He also was able to recall vaguely and in a blurred fashion that he had answered questions put to him while he was asleep, but he was never able to remember any of the points brought out by the interrogation.

(Over)



Our source learned indirectly of a third case - that of a young student of BUCHAREST who was arrested for unknown reasons in 1952. At Securitatea headquarters a strong-tasting drug of a white, milky color was administered orally to the student; it produced an effect of numbness, but not sleep. Whether it induced the student to reply unreservedly under interrogation our source does not know. The student was set free after three months and forced to sign a statement that he would keep secret everything that happened to him during his detention.

CORRESPONDENT'S COMMENT: The source is reliable. No hint as to his identity can be given here.

End.