

LL
19 October 1951
VI/1120

RUMANIA

PROPAGANDA
Buildings

HOW THE SPORTS PALACE AT TARGU JIU WAS BUILT

Toward the beginning of October 1949 the city of TARGU JIU was honored by an official visit of Under Secretary of the Ministry of Public Works, GRAMANU, A.

On this occasion, the reconstruction of a sports palace required by the town was planned, which was to be furnished and inaugurated on 21 December 1949 in honor of "STALIN, the genial leader of peoples."

A magnificent central corner of Via Calea Victoriei and Strada Eroilor was chosen for this building. The owners of this ground were UNGUREANU Ion and BLANDA Tudor who had dumped 30,000 cubic meters of lime, 60 cubic meters of gravel and 35,000 bricks on the estate in order to build a house for themselves. They were urgently summoned to a meeting at the commune by president RADULESCU Ion, an ex-mechanic, who curtly advised them of the Party's intention to build a sports palace on their land. He invited them, therefore, to donate the land including the deposited building material to the State, and presented them a document relating to the gift, for signature. To the great consternation of the two men, RADULESCU made it clear to them that there was no other way out. The land would be confiscated anyway by police, even against their own will and they possibly would be imprisoned. The two terrified men signed.

The planning of the project was entrusted to an engineer, VAS-NISKI S., who had no university degree.

RADULESCU, the president of the commune, a cynical and cruel Communist, helped by NICULESCU Sandi, a Communist and a dangerous spy, were appointed by the Party to procure the necessary building material for the construction. They took possession of the building material existing in the city and, as in the case of CLIMA Clement, they seized 25,000 bricks which were needed for basic repairs of his own house.

The foundation work was done with free labor supplied by the local prisons: political and ordinary prisoners. Only the outside walls were erected in time for the anniversary of "Genial STALIN's" birthday. The work was taken up again in the spring of 1950, but it was progressing very slowly for lack of funds. Balls and theatrical shows were given in order to collect funds for the work.

Finally the Ministry of Public Works gave the sum of 25 million Lei for this construction and the work was finished in March 1951.

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(cont'd)

The inauguration took place in April 1951 and the building was called "Hall 23 of August."

This is the way how all buildings in the Popular Rumanian Republic are built.

DATE OF OBSERVATION:

Current period

EVAL. COMMENT:

Source: usually reliable;
Information: probably true.