

July 17, 1959

Radio Bucharest announced on July 16 that the Rumanian Minister to Washington, Silviu Brucan has been replaced by Gheorghe Macoverou. Brucan will replace Mihail Magheru as Rumanian representative to the UN. The latter is said to receive other assignments.

Gheorghe Macoverou, as secretary general in the Ministry of Propaganda under Petre Constantinescu-Iasi in 1945 was known as director general of Cinematography in the Ministry of Culture ("Scanteia" of 1 October 1955). He was elected member of the RPR National Committee for UNESCO (14 October 1956). He attended the CANNES Film Festival in April 1958.

On June 3 1956, Macoverou was elected member of the leading commission of the Writers' Union. He is a close friend of the "Agitprop" writer Gheorghe Ivascu who served in the Ministry of Propaganda in 1945 as press director.

Macoverou attended the September 5-15 1956 international meeting of men of science and culture in Geneva. He visited the US ("Scanteia" of 24 October 1956) as member of the group of RPR observers on the occasion of the 1956 Presidential elections. His first visit to the US dates back to the period of 1938-39 when he was sent by the American publicity firm "Sun-Sun" (Bucharest branch) to contact advertising enterprises in America (Walter Thompson, etc.)

Macoverou worked as journalist for the paper "Timpul" in the 1937-38 period, then for the paper "Ecoul" (1941). During this period he collaborated secretly with Grigore Preotescu (Party Secretary who died in a plane crash near Moscow on 4 November 1957) in editing the illegal Communist paper "Romania Libera."

During WWII ~~in Bucharest~~ he worked as cabinet chief of Mircea Grigorescu who was the press counsellor with the rank of minister of the then Foreign Minister Mihail Antonescu.

Macoverou was entrusted in that period with the analysis of reports received from Rumanian Legations abroad. His colleague of that time was the younger daughter of Mihail Sadoveanu, now a pre-regime novelist and Vice-chairman of the Presidium). (For further details see RPE Item No. 8673/55).

Silviu Brucan (of Jewish descent) was appointed Minister to the US in March 1956. He had been previously a deputy chief editor of the Party organ "Scanteia."

The reported changes in the diplomatic service are part of the general reshuffle in this sector observed after the dismissal of Iosif Chisinevski (of Jewish origin) from the Politburo and Secretariat in July 1957 who said to have exercised a certain control over diplomatic missions. (See for details Weekly Information Letter Nos. 332, 328, 315, 311 and 310.)

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The change in the RPR Legation in the US comes in a period of renewed Rumanian efforts to establish normal trade relations with the US. (and Britain). See Weekly Information Letter No. 321 on aide-memoire delivered in this connection by Silviu Brucan to the State Department on April 18, 1959.

Mihail Magheru was appointed permanent representative to the UN in August 1957. He had previously been a Minister to India (January 1955).

Venizalos, the President of the Greek Liberal (opposition) party gave a press conference in Bucharest yesterday in which he lauded the progress of the RPR and stressed the non-political character of his visit. Radio Bucharest said that "Balkan problems were discussed and that Venizalos was in agreement that the Balkan's should remain a non-nuclear area."

Eric Bourne, writing in the Christian Science Monitor of July 14 gave the first indication that the law for the expropriation of Kulak land has been carried out on a major scale in the Rumanian countryside. The decree issued last March, provided for the surrender of all land which a farmer could not work independently with his own family without the hiring of outside help. According to official reports, the decree affected little more than 1% of Rumania's 3,600,000 farming families. Bourne reports that he "spoke with several such recently dispossessed Kulak families" and that "all seemed quite resigned to the new situation." Bourne stressed, however, that if a peasant and his family could manage 20 or even 30 acres without needing outside help, they were left along to carry on as they please. If, on the other hand, a peasant with only a few acres hired another man to cultivate them, his land was subject to seizure.