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ROMANIA

COMMUNIST PARTY
Ideology and Cadres
Verification

"Verification" Of Party Members In Enterprise
"Izolatii No. 3."

SOURCE ISTANBUL : A refugee who left Rumania in 1950.

DATE OF OBSERVATION : 1950.

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In May 1950, a "verification" (examination of political attributes) of Party members of enterprise "Izolatii No. 3" was held. Since I was a Syndicate member of good standing, I was chosen by the Cadre Organization and the Enterprise Syndicate to serve as an observer at this verification meeting. Each person was permitted to attend only one verification assembly. On this certain day I found myself in the presence of 10 other syndicalists, those members who awaited their turn to be examined, and a few members who were obliged to attend all meetings. The reason for having ordinary syndicalists such as myself at the meeting was to demonstrate to the world that verifications were conducted with justice and decorum.

The spacious hall where these meetings were held was about 40 meters square with large windows supplying ample light by day and 500 - watt lamps illuminating the hall by night, so that each subtle change of expression registered by the interragee might be observed. The hall was located on the second floor of one of the divisions of the Ministry of Alimentation, near the Prefecture, at the corner of Calea Victoriei. The room was furnished with benches for the audience and, at the front, with a table covered with red cloth. On the wall behind the table were life-size portraits of all members of the Soviet Politburo. Pictures

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of MARX, ENGELS, LENIN and STALIN, larger still, were decorated with enormous red scarves. The meeting in which I participated began at 1500 hours. At the official table sat PINTILIE (fnu), President and, on either side, members GROSSMANN-Schwarz and NEDELCU Theorghe. The first verification involved an insulation worker and lasted two hours and a half, after which two other workers were examined more rapidly. At 1800 hours MURESANU (fnu), president of "Cadre" of enterprise "Isolatii No.3" and professor of "work protection" at the insulation school, was brought before the committee for "verification". The examination proceeded normally: the victim was questioned about his activities as President of "Cadre" and professor, with emphasis on his efforts in seeking out class enemies. He was criticized and responded in the correct way by admitting his errors and rebuking himself. Thus the verification continued until 2030 hours when one of the Party members in the audience, probably with revenge as his motive, jumped to his feet and shouted that MURESANU had been a legionnaire.

This denunciation set in motion the inevitable tragedy. The president followed up the accusation by a ceaseless stream of questions with the hapless professor turning more and more red. At first he denied the charge, but under the relentless pounding of his interrogator he finally fell on his knees, imploring pity from the commission and whimpering that he would do anything to expiate the crime. When he saw that the President was unmoved by his entreaty, he fainted, and after he had been revived the interrogation went on until after midnight when the meeting was adjourned.

Most of us were certain that he would be expelled from the Party, yet he was, in the end, allowed to remain to be used as a Party tool. But he was removed from his post of Cadre President, proceeding simply as professor at the insulation school.

The "Verification" Commission which has in hand the political fate of all Party members in enterprise "Isolatii No.3" is composed as follows: PINTILIE (fnu), 35, tall, brown hair, black eyes, shabby appearance, is president of the Verification Commission. A convinced member of the Communist Party and a hard worker, he is a product of the Political School on DORCHANTI street where his political past was thoroughly reviewed. A true diplomat, he conducts interrogations with clever

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psychology ; alternating between moods of severity and good humor in his search for the most intimate secrets of his victims.

GROSSMAN-SCHWARZ, 35 , tall, blond, blue eyes, is a docile lackey of the President who never questions the decisions of his superior, approving everything with an air of submission. He is an intriguer and very commercial in his motives. He has risen in the Party hierarchy by virtue of his aptitude for intrigue, this quality of his being most approved by the Party.

NEDELCU George, 40, tall, black eyes and hair , fat figure, takes part in Cadre activities and is an enthusiastic Communist Party member. He is a man who will not tolerate contradiction, and his attitude toward enterprise employees is unnecessarily severe and violent.

EVAL.COMMENT: Names are unknown here. The enterprise is located at 7 Alexander Sahia Street in BUCHAREST.