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News Background

SEVERAL MINOR CHANGES IN RUMANIAN YOUTH LEADERSHIP
AFTER UNEVENTFUL CONGRESS

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(Munich, 20 August 1960) A new look, but not a new character, has come over the leadership of the Rumanian Communist youth movement. The changes, announced by Radio Bucharest on August 20 at the end of the third Union of Working Youth (UTM) Congress, are simply changes of names, most of them little known, and certainly represent no change in the policy of this Communist Party front organization. The first secretary of the UTM, Virgil Trofin, retains his position, which was only expected after his promotion from candidate - to full-member of the Party Central Committee at the June Party Congress.

The following lists give the newly elected members and the old members of the Secretariat and the Bureau of the Central Committee:

SECRETARIAT

New
1st Secretary

Virgil TROFIN

Old
Virgil TROFIN

Members

Cornel BURTICA
Constantin CIORCHINA
Alexandru KOPANDI
Elena POPARAD
Nicolae ROMAN

Cirtina CONSTANTIN
Cornel BURTICA
Alexandru KOPANDI
Cornelia MATEESCU
Nicolae ROMAN

BUREAU OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Members

Haralmbie ALEXE
Stefan BARLEA
Cornel BURTICA
Constantin CIORCHINA
Geza DOMOCOS
Vasile FLOREA
Ioan IONESCU
Alexandru KOPANDI
Toma MARINESCU
Anghel PARASCHIV

Maria APOSTOL
Stefan BARLEA
Dumitru BEJAN
Cornel BURTICA
Cirtina CONSTANTIN
Geza DOMOCOS
Alexandru KOPANDI
Ioan IONESCU
Cornelia MATEESCU
Eleonora MUNTEANU

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Six Year Plan the youth would participate in the building of many big industrial objectives.

Like Ceausescu, Trofin claimed a steady consolidation of the "organizational, political and ideological activity" in the ranks of youth. With the magic word "peace" as one of the uppermost themes of his address, he spoke of the widespread overseas contacts of the UTM (60 countries) and criticized various international bodies which refused to cooperate and were hostile to "world unity among youth and students". Trofin also formally placed on record the UTM's backing of the Bucharest communiqué on the subject of world peace and coexistence.

Speeches by Government Ministers

The second day of the congress was noteworthy for speeches by Constantin Tuzu, the recently appointed Minister of Heavy Industry, Ion Cozma, the Minister of Agriculture, Mihail Suder, the Minister of Forestry Economy, and Stefan Balan, the deputy Minister of Education and Culture. (The Minister of Education and Culture, Ilie Murgulescu, is at present in the USA). Anton Moisescu, the deputy trade union chief, also spoke. No details of any of their speeches were given by Radio Bucharest, but the fact that such important governmental figures spoke is a sign of the importance which the regime attaches to the UTM and its variegated work. The portfolios held by the various ministers who spoke have, of course, a direct bearing on the main aspects of the UTM's tasks.

There were a large number of foreign delegations at the congress including several from the capitalist countries. There was a delegation from Cuba but there was none from Yugoslavia. The most important foreign delegation was naturally that from Soviet Russia. Its leader, V.P. Longhinov, Secretary of the Komsomol, had as little basically to say as his Rumanian counterparts. He could not, however, let the occasion go by without a verbal blow at the twin heresies of revisionism and dogmatism. He did little to electrify what seems to have been, by all first reports, a very uneventful congress.

End

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Elena POPARAD
Florea RISTACHE
Nicolae ROMAN
Virgil TROFIN
Richard WINTER

Miron OLTEANU
Dumitru POPESCU
Virgil TROFIN
Vasile FLOREA
Richard WINTER
Nicolae ROMAN

Candidate Members

Elena ANDONE
Ion ANGHEL
Constanta NICULESCU-ZALMAN
Octavian NISTOR
Florea VINTILA

Elena ANDONE
Florea RISTACHE
Ion MANCIUC
Isakov NEMENKA
Ana SPIRIDON
Florea VINTILA

There are thus 15 members in the new Bureau as against 16 in the old one and four candidate-members against five in the old. There follows a list of the old members who have not been reelected:

SECRETARIAT:

Cirtina CONSTANTIN
Cornelia MATEESCU

The BUREAU:

Members:

Maria APOSTOL
Dumitru BEJAN
Cirtina CONSTANTIN
Cornelia MATEESCU
Eleonora MUNTEANU
Miron OLTEANU
Dumitru POPESCU

Candidate Members:

Florea RISTACHE (made full member)
Ion MANCIUC
Isakov NEMENKA
Ana SPIRIDON
Florea VINTILA

It is noteworthy that proportionally more women than men have been relieved of their posts. In the old lists there were six women as against three in the new.

Ceausescu the Politburo Spokesman

The elections came after an uneventful three day congress with neither First Party Secretary Gheorghiu-Dej nor Premier Chivu Stoica present. Representing the Party Politburo and Secretariat

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were Gheorghe Apostol, Politburo member and the regime's trade union chief; Emil Bodnaras, Politburo member and deputy premier; Alexandru Moghioros, also a Politburo member and a deputy premier; Nicolae Ceausescu, Politburo and Central Committee secretary; and Mihail Dălea, who was elected to the Secretariat at the recent Party Congress.

It was Ceausescu who conveyed the greetings to the Congress from the Party and his selection for this task may perhaps be taken as another indication of his growing activity and importance. Apart, however, from announcing that the UTM now had 1,900,000 members, (100,000 more than the number given at the Party Congress in June), Ceausescu had little of real importance to say. His speech was mainly crude, exhortatory stuff in which he specially emphasized the ties of Rumanian youth, not only with their confreres throughout the socialist bloc, but with the "oppressed" youth in the capitalist countries and the resurgent youth of Africa, Asia and Latin America. The task of the UTM in the period ahead, said Ceausescu, was:

"to carry on an intensive work of Communist upbringing of mobilizing the entire workers-peasant and studying youth in the great battle started by the working people for the implementation of the majestic program adopted by the RWP."

Harder work in the future was obviously inferred by Ceausescu when he said that the "activity of the UTM organizations in enterprises should concentrate on marshalling all young people in socialist competition organized by the UTM organizations". He referred to the increased needs for cadres of both advanced and medium qualifications, promised better facilities for evening courses for young people working in industry and agriculture, and urged a (much needed) improvement of ideological work among the youth.

The main speech of Virgil Trofin which, like Ceausescu's, was given on the first day, also contained little that was noteworthy. The Party leadership was reaffirmed and the usual claims were made about the growing strength and consciousness of the Communist youth movement. Trofin did, however, give some new statistics on the youth labor brigades which operate in agriculture and industry. Some 16,000 youth labor brigades, or teams, and 7,500 UTM "control posts" were now carrying on a most fruitful activity in the "building of socialism". The previous most recent figures had been given by "Scinteia Tineretului" of February 21, which gave 15,000 labor brigades in industry together with 6,500 "control posts" in industry. Referring to the mass "patriotic" labor brigades Trofin stated that over 30,000 of them had been set up, totaling more than 1,000,000 young people. Last year alone these brigades had saved the state over 200,000,000 lei. ("Scinteia Tineretului" of February 21 put the sum at 250,000,000 lei). In agriculture, said Trofin, 380,000 young working peasants in 1959 had joined the socialist sector. Within the context of the