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REUR MUN 28 OF 6 JULY

MAN WE HAVE IN MIND TO HIRE AS SENIOR SCRIPT WRITER FOR RUMANIAN DESK IS NICOLAI FOCSA. HE LEFT RUMANIA FOUR MONTHS AGO, REACHING THE U.S. ON MAY 6.

FOCSA BEGAN HIS CAREER AS A NEWSPAPERMAN IN 1940 AND HAS BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH A NUMBER OF NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS. HE WORKED FOR SOME TIME WITH RADIO BUCHAREST IN THE "DRAMATIC-SATIRE DEPARTMENT", AND WAS IN THIS POST UNTIL 1958. AFTER LEAVING RADIO BUCHAREST, HE EVIDENTLY MADE A LIVING MAINLY BY GHOST-WRITING.

FOCSA IS 43 YEARS OLD AND ACCORDING TO VALAHU, ENJOYS A GOOD REPUTATION AS A PROFESSIONAL NEWSPAPER AND RADIO TALENT. OUR INTENT IS TO WORK THINGS SO THAT WE HAVE HIM ON A SIX MONTH TRIAL BASIS RATHER THAN THE NORMAL THREE. THIS WE CAN USUALLY DO BY REQUESTING A MONTH BY MONTH EXTENSION OF THE PROBATIONARY PERIOD FROM THE GUILD. OF COURSE, IF HE WORKS OUT PERFECTLY WELL FROM

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THE VERY BEGINNING, WE WOULD NOT NEED TO DO THIS, BUT VALAHU WANTS TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR WORKING CLOSELY WITH FOCSA AND OBSERVING HIM OVER A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME INASMUCH AS THE MAN IS SO NEW IN THE WEST AND WE CANNOT KNOW AS MUCH ABOUT HIM OR HIS ABILITIES AS WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO LEARN OF SOMEONE WHO HAD BEEN IN EXILE FOR SOME YEARS.

IF WE CANNOT FILL THIS POSITION - OR IF ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT FUNDS CANNOT BE MADE AVAILABLE TO PAY FREE LANCERS TO COVER OUTPUT - RUMANIAN DESK WILL SIMPLY HAVE TO REDUCE ITS PROGRAMMING. WE ARE FACED HERE WITH A POSSIBLE CUT IN A REGULAR SLOT, AROUND WHICH THE OVERALL PROGRAM PLANNING OF THE RUMANIAN DESK AND BD HAS BEEN PLANNED. REDUCTION OF ONE OPERATIONAL SLOT ON ANY NEW YORK DESK IS GOING TO HAVE AN IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON THE AMOUNT OF PROGRAMMING WHICH CAN BE SUPPLIED. AT FULL STRENGTH, VALAHU HAS FOUR WRITERS (HE HAS USED ACTING DEPUTY IN PAST AS WRITER), AND IF WE LOSE ONE OF THESE, THERE IS SIMPLY NO QUESTION ABOUT THE NEED TO REDUCE OUTPUT IMMEDIATELY.

ANY SUCH REDUCTION WOULD HAVE A VERY BAD EFFECT ON MORALE AND COME AS A GREAT SHOCK TO EVERYONE HERE. NO ONE HAS BEEN LED TO BELIEVE THAT WE MAY HAVE TO REDUCE OPERATIONS AS A RESULT OF THE BUDGETARY SQUEEZE. IN LINE WITH INSTRUCTIONS FROM MUNICH, WE HAVE TALKED OF THE NEED TO WEED OUT ANY MARGINAL EMPLOYEES OR SLOTS, BUT NOT OF ANYTHING LIKE REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF BASIC OPERATIONAL POSITIONS.

END MSG