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VI-821RUMANIASTANDARD OF LIVINGHousingThe CRAIOVA Housing Offices

SOURCE ROME: From a lady, who was turned out of her own flat.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: current period

The Housing Office (Oficiul de Inchiriere) of CRAIOVA is playing real havoc among the citizens of that town. The agents of the Housing Office go to the houses of the well-to-do people and proprietors accompanied by four or five policemen or plainclothes agents and order them to evacuate their homes within three to four hours. No protests are accepted, not even in case the people concerned are ill or bedridden. Thus the flats and houses in the center of CRAIOVA can be placed at the disposal of Party members, while the rest of the population, even those employed in the "Work program," are sent to live in the outskirts of the town.

Altogether there are four Housing Offices in CRAIOVA. The Housing Office No. 3 is situated in the Strada Republicii and is under the direction of RADU Sofica, aged about 45. She generally sets her eyes on the most beautiful houses of the city and then personally goes to inspect them to see whether they are suitable for the Party favorites, how many people are living there, and so on. She is always particularly concerned about the furniture, especially about the radio sets, and often makes ironical remarks about their condition. Then, when all is found satisfactory, she returns with an order to requisition the house and shouts at the family concerned to move out and to make room for the "workers." All protests are in vain, even if the head of the family himself is engaged in the "work program." Nobody has even the right to protest, and anyhow there is no place he could go to make his complaints.

The head of the "living quarters" section is the ex-shoemaker PAUR (fnu). He, too, has the full right to turn out whatever family he wants to. His assistant one BALIN (fnu), was recently transferred to the governmental warehouse of the town.

EVAL. COMMENT: No confirmation available but consistent with similar reports.