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VII-137RUMANIAPRISONSReport On JILAVA Prison.

SOURCE TRIESTE: A Rumanian peasant from the village of AJUNIS (OLT Province) who was arrested on 12 April 1951, because he was considered a "kulak," and was sent to the JILAVA prison. Two months later he was transferred to the prison in GHERLA, and after 10 days in this jail he was sent to hard labor at the Danube-Black Sea Canal. He worked there for four months and in October 1951 he was again brought to the JILAVA prison. He managed to escape from this prison and fled to Yugoslavia on 10 October 1951.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: September 1951

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In September 1951, there were about 700 prisoners in the JILAVA prison. Only about 40 were serving sentences for civil crimes, the rest were political prisoners: those already tried and those awaiting trial. These three categories of prisoners are kept separate, and the harshest treatment is reserved for those political prisoners already tried and sentenced.

Prisoners sentenced for civil crimes are confined to the large cells located in the center of the prison. They are allowed to receive packages and letters, and work in the prison gardens and workshops. Together with these inmates there are those political prisoners who are awaiting trial and eventual sentence to hard labor at the canal. These prisoners are also allowed to receive packages and are allowed to walk in the prison yard each day for an hour.

Those political prisoners already tried and sentenced are confined to small cells, large enough for only one person, facing the corridors on either side of the main prison entrance. These prisoners are not permitted to receive packages and are not even given a change of linen. They never leave their cells, unless when brought up for questioning by some Securitatea officer from BUCHAREST or are brought to the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

These cells have no windows and therefore even during the day the light must be kept burning. The cells are infested by bedbugs and the air is damp and musty. Prisoners are very poorly fed. In the morning they receive about 300 grams of very thin corn meal soup; for dinner, 250 grams of poorly baked black bread and half a liter of barley or bean soup; for supper, half a liter of barley or bean soup. Three times a week they are given some meat; small pieces of foul-smelling boiled tripe.

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Up until September 1951 the prison director was one CRAESCU (fnu). Toward the beginning of September 1951, he was arrested along with five prison guards, among whom were the chief-guard (NU) and the guards JIBLEA Ion from CRAIOVA and SANDU (fnu) from BRAILA. They were all accused of favoring the prisoners and of facilitating contact between the prisoners and their families through clandestine correspondence. In fact, in April 1951, source saw a political prisoner from cell No. 7 being brought to the director's room where he met his relatives. The two guards, JIBLEA and SANDU, were confined to the same prison; nothing further was known about CRAESCU. He was replaced by an officer of the prison guards (NU). Several other guards were transferred, but the most brutal of all was left on duty, PATU Ion, of gypsy origin from JILAVA village.

After CRAESCU's arrest the Securitatea of BUCHAREST carefully inspected and searched all the cells and removed all linen and other articles which were considered superfluous.

In October 1951, about 50 women were confined to the JILAVA prison in two barracks in the prison yard. They were treated less harshly than the men.

The following prisoners are to be found at JILAVA:

1) In the large cell No. 6 in the center of the prison: Gen. IONESCU Emil from PLOESTI, who was commandant of the LUGOJ garrison. Arrested together with the general and now in the same cell is Capt. PREDESCU Virgil who was stationed at the LUGOJ garrison under the general's command. Also in this cell are Lt. IONESCU (fnu) from BUCHAREST, and the former proprietor (NU) of a BUCHAREST factory. The latter is 60-year-old and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

2) In cell No. 12 there are: 35-year-old VIDRIGHIN Ion, former director of a BUCHAREST factory; his father had been inspector general of the railroads. TANGU Ion, inspector of the Ministry of Finance in BUCHAREST; Aviation Capt. CRIHANA (fnu), ex-officer of civil aviation at BANEASA airport; he was arrested in the fall of 1950, accused of having attempted to flee to the West by plane together with his girl-friend (NU), the daughter of a general confined to the prison of AIUD. The girl is now in JILAVA prison in the women's barracks. Flight Lt. LUNGU Ioan, officer of the military airforce, assigned to the 1st Fighter Squadron at PIPERA field. In May 1951, while landing, his plane overturned and he was accused of sabotage and arrested. BOTEZ George, 18, servant of a large landowner of BARIAD. BOTEZ was arrested in the spring of 1950 merely because his employer had fled to the West and he was suspected of having had knowledge of his employer's plans. One FUIU (fnu), director of the FILARET rubber factory near BUCHAREST; he is a Communist, who was arrested in 1951 and now continues to spread Communist propaganda in the prison.

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3) In cell No. 15, among the political prisoners, there is a Catholic priest (NU) from CLUJ. Source often saw this 45-year-old priest being brought blindfolded for questioning.

EVAL. COMMENT: Party confirmed by other sources. See Items: 2091, 2496.