

ROMANIA

AGRICULTURE
Collectivization

How The Collective Is Organized.

SOURCE ROME: 23-year-old Rumanian refugee, born in TAUTII DE -SUS, (HAIA MARE); after studying for two years at the Conservatory for Dramatic Art in CLUJ, he was engaged as a baritone by the State Opera House in that town. For two years he served in the artistic group of the frontier guards (regular military service,) i.e. the Ansemul Artistic al Graniceilor" in BUCHAREST. In 1952 he quit his military unit in order to escape to Yugoslavia. He is single and belongs to the Catholic faith. (See Item No. 9555/53.)

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until November 1952

EVAL. COMMENT: This background report is in line with available information on the organization of kolkhozes. However, it should be kept in mind that this contribution refers to the 1952 period, in which drastic measures were taken against the peasants in order to force them into the collective farms.

See for reference the statute of collective farms in "Munca" of 12 April 1953. The Party's Decision on Collectivization was taken in March 1949. See also Governmental Decision on the organization of kolkhozes, of 18 September 1951; organization of kolkhozes (RFE Item Nos. 15509/52 and 11173/52;) propaganda for collectivization (RFE Item No. 12109/52.)

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The "collective" is managed by a "Comitetul de Conducere" (Managing Committee) whose chairman also occupies the post of the secretary. The political officer is in charge of making propaganda and "agitatie" (agitation) among the collective members and, particularly, of keeping the peasants informed on the Party's decisions regarding the "collectives." The Managing Committee of the Kolkhoz divides the various peasants into "brigazi" (brigades) each of which is headed by a "Seful Brigazii" (Brigade Chief.) Thus there are brigades for cattle breeding, those for sowing, for mowing, harvesting, reaping etc. In their turn the brigades are divided into "echipe" (squads) lead by a "Sef" (chief.)

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There are 8 working hours per day. The payw are calculated on the basis of the hours actually worked. Accounts are made each year at the end of the season, i.e. after the harvest. These accounts concern all the goods produced with the following deductions: the SMF (Statia de Masini si Tractoare, Machine and Tractor Station) tax, expenses for possible building works, repairs, or changes made during the year, the salaries of the employees, i.e. the "inginer agronom" (the agronomical engineer,) the "normator" (man in charge of norms) and the "contabil" (accountant.) The quota which the Kolkhoz was to deliver to the State is very low. Surplus goods are distributed among the peasants according to the hours they worked.

Conditions for Admittance to a Kolkhoz.

Propaganda ctions are being carried out in the BAIJA MARE region in order to induce the peasants to join the Kolkhozes. The peasants are almost being forced to join them as the State compels them to deliver higher quotas of cereals and other products than they are really able to supply. Moreover, there are the heavy taxes. The authorities make an inventory of all real estate and property, such as agricultural machinery, cattle etc. which the peasants bring with them upon entering a kolkhoz. While being members of the "collective" the peasants are still allowed to keep a cow, chickens, and bee-hives for themselves.

The conditions for admission to a Kolkhoz are strict and the procedure is the following: The "comitetul Colectivului" (Collective Committee) convokes a general assembly at the Kolkhoz which must vote for or against the admission of the new member. The latter must make a curriculum vitae which is presented to the members of the Committee. The applicant must also verbally expose his life story.

Moreover, he must be presented and recommended by two members of the Kolkhoz who have to guarantee for him. It is not absolutely necessary to be a Communist Party member to be admitted to the Kolkhoz. The Kolkhoz members are always being urged to be very "vigilant" and not let any "chiaburi" (rich land owners) join their organization.

End.