

ITEM No 3022

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23 July 1951
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RUMANIA

INDUSTRY - Artisans

The BUCHAREST regime is planning to close down as soon as possible the Artisans' cooperatives which had been created in 1949.

These cooperatives are controlled by the state and are within the government's general plan for the collectivization of Rumanian commerce and industry. Many of their members are former small independent artisans who had been forced to join them because of impossibly high taxes and the government's refusal, since 1948, to allocate to them raw materials.

The artisans' cooperatives are now considered by the regime as "unproductive," and are in turn not getting any raw materials to work with. Since they are not allowed to buy any raw materials from private sources and continue with their work, the regime is using the pretext of their "unproductivity" to have them closed down.

The fact that members of the artisans' cooperatives are expected to be used, when their organizations closed down, in the various nationalized clothing, shoe and other factories, may be the cause rather than the effect of the government's present action.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Current period

EVAL. COMMENT:

Source : reliable;
Information: probably true.

No material on hand to confirm the rumor; watch for further developments.