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PREPARATIONS FOR 1952 - 1953 SCHOOL YEAR IN RUMANIA

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Teachers' Conferences

Between 10 and 12 September 1952, teachers' conferences were held throughout Rumania. Reports were given on teaching achievements of the 1951 - 1952 school year and on activities of the UTM (Uniunea Tineretului Muncitoresc, Union of Working Youths) groups.(1)

Increase in Number of Schools

All intermediate and secondary schools are scheduled to open on 15 September 1952. The number of schools is constantly increasing.(2) During 1951 - 1952 alone, over 2,500 elementary schools were established in Rumania. There were over 191,942 students enrolled in over 700 intermediate schools. Whereas in 1938 - 1939, there were only 21 institutions of higher learning, in the 1951 - 1952 school year there were 1,953. Minority groups also receive ample teaching. Over 2,000 elementary schools, 164 intermediate schools, and 17 university faculties offer courses in foreign languages.(3)

The Ministry of Public Education announced that construction was started on 40 new schools, with a total of 137 classrooms. About 99 classrooms were started in 1951 and completed during 1952; also, 386 schools with a total of 968 classrooms were almost completed and ready for classes. All these schools were built by the Ministry of Public Education.(2)

In addition to the schools built by the Ministry of Public Education, approximately 135 schools with a total of 435 classrooms were built by the peasants themselves, through self-taxation. Pitesti Regiune had the highest number of schools built through self-taxation. Approximately 76 such school buildings are expected to be ready for school in this regiune alone. Other regiunes which built schools through self-taxation were Ploesti, Hunedoara, and Timisoara.(2)

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~~RESTRICTED~~Preparations on the Raion and Regiune Levels

The teaching section of the Timisoara Raion People's Council paid particular attention to preparations for the 1952 - 1953 scholastic year. In May 1952, this raion formed a committee to prepare schools for the succeeding year. Care and maintenance of the schools was planned months ahead of time.(4)

During the first days of September, the Barlad Regiune Party Committee held its first meeting of the new school year. Eugen Radescu, chief of the public education division of the Barlad Regiune People's Council, presented the main report. According to the report, over 90 percent of the schools in the regiune were ready for classes. All schools had been repaired and many remodeled. Ample numbers of books and other school supplies were brought to the raion library centers, and the school buildings were supplied with necessary amounts of fuel.

A second report was presented by Nistor Botezatu, who discussed several shortcomings in classroom furnishings and equipment, as well as the absence of sound parent-teacher unity. Plans were made for decreasing the illiteracy rate of the regiune by increasing attendance in courses.(5)

Individual Schools

Several Bucharest schools have achieved particular distinction by using Soviet methods. These schools were: Boys' Lyceum No 2, Girls' Elementary School No 22, Elementary School No 67, Girls' Elementary School No 40, and Boys' Lyceum No 8.(1)

A new school building was constructed in Cristesti, Iasi Regiune, through self-taxation, as had been decided at a meeting of the people's council in spring 1952. The peasants were directed by Gheorghe Olaru, president of the people's council, in the work at the school site. By using local resources, the people's councils saved over 30,000 lei in the cost of the building.(6)

Registration at Mixed Lyceum No 11, in the Militari district of Bucharest, began during the first days of September. A speech given recently by assistant director Popescu (fnu) praised the new party-built school as superior to the old two-room building. Parent-teacher groups met at Girls' Lyceum No 3 and Boys' Lyceum No 10 several evenings early in September to discuss ways of improving the schools.(6)

Over 1,000 children from the "Aparatorii Patriei" district will attend a brand-new school building at the beginning of the 1952 - 1953 school year. The building, constructed with the party aid, has 14 classrooms, a large 2-hectare garden, and a yard over 800 square meters. Many of the preparations for the start of the new school year were made by parents living in the district, who donated many hours of free labor to repair the fence, clean the halls, level the yard, etc.(7)

The Presidium of the Grand National Assembly has decreed a change in the name of the Intermediate Center of Technology and Electrical Energy, located at Strada Gh. Sincai No 8-10. The new name is the "Iosif Ranghet Intermediate Center of Technology and Electrical Energy." Another decree changed the name of Boys' Intermediate School No 2, at Strada Bolyai No 3, Targul Mures, to "Iosif Ranghet Boys' Intermediate School No 2."(8)

All schools in Bucharest will be ready to open their doors to students on 15 September 1952. Schools of the Andronache district were painted and cleaned much ahead of schedule. The deputies [of party organizations?] and pioneers of the district donated 344 hours of voluntary labor in order to complete the 1,000-meter water duct to the school building. The children's parents performed an

- 2 -

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additional 288 hours of voluntary labor to construct a 120-meter-long school fence. In the I. Creanga district, a new four-room school building was completed almost entirely through the voluntary labor of the parents and deputies of the district.(9)

A large trade school for boys was recently completed on Soseaua Mihai Bravu, in the Bariera Vergului district. The school grounds cover 40,000 square meters and the buildings occupy an area of 10,000 square meters. In addition to the main school buildings, there are four two-story sleeping quarters for the students, several workshops, one laboratory, one library, one lecture hall, and one dispensary with 40 beds.

The dining room is located on the first floor of the main building, adjacent to a modern kitchen. The first and second stories are taken up by the 16 lecture rooms, one practice shop, and several professors' rooms. The sleeping quarters are modern and comfortable. Additional sleeping quarters are planned for the 1953 year, together with a gym and a recreation room. At the present, the school can handle 1,300 students, but at the end of the 1952 - 1953 school year it will accommodate approximately 2,500.(10)

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1. Scanteia, 14 Sep 52
2. Romania Libera, 12 Sep 52
3. Viata Sindicala, 14 Sep 52
4. Viata Capitalei, 12 Sep 52
5. Scanteia, 6 Sep 52
6. Romania Libera, 6 Sep 52
7. Viata Capitalei, 5 Sep 52
8. Romania Libera, 5 Sep 52
9. Viata Capitalei, 10 Sep 52
10. Ibid., 9 Sep 52

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- 3 -