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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. 2 Sep 1952

SUBJECT Political Indoctrination in Rumania

NO. OF PAGES 3

50X1

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION

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the Naval Radio Operators School in Braila

At

school, political training was first initiated in 1945. A political officer, who was a member of the Tudor Vladimirescu division, was in charge of political training. At that time there was one political officer (nicknamed politruk) for each company at the naval installation to which my school was attached. These political officers were men of limited education. During 1945-46 one hour a day was devoted to political training. This training consisted mostly of reading of articles from the army newspaper the Glasul Armatei (Voice of the Army) by the political officer. The speeches praised the Soviet Union and the good treatment received by war prisoners in the Soviet Union. The political officer often said, "I was a prisoner of war in the Soviet Union and yet look how fat I am." I heard from former war prisoners in the USSR that a few months prior to release prisoners were given some kind of injection which "fattened them up" in order to make a good impression upon returning to Rumania. No anti-Western propoganda was made at school and political courses and examinations were not given at that time. The students and other naval personnel were not interested in political training and the statements made by the political officers were, generally, not believed. Disputes between the political officers and the audience occurred often.

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[redacted] from 1946 to May 1948 [redacted]

[redacted] the political officers were only attached to the naval units (or any military units). All the political officers were drawn from the Tudor Vladimirescu and Horia Closca si Crisan divisions. These two divisions were formed in the USSR from former war prisoners and were considered as reliable, Communist indoctrinated, units. The political officers while attached to different units had to wear the uniform and insignia of their original unit (ie the TV and HCC divisions). The official title of the political officer was Ajutor Politic (Political Aid). The political officers were directly subordinate to the headquarters of Army Education, Culture and Propaganda in Bucharest (Directia Generala de Educatie Culturala si Propaganda a Armatei - ECP). The political officer was in charge of all political matters affecting his unit while the commanding officer was in charge of all military matters. The political officer was not subordinate to the commanding officer. In fact the political officer could give, in political matters, "suggestions" to the commanding officer.

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[redacted] (based on

hearsay information) that their influence and authority increased considerably after 1948. [redacted] at present the political officers have greater authority than the commanding officers.

[redacted] during the period of my military service there were three to four Communist Party members in one battalion. At present their number is believed to be considerably greater. All members of the armed forces must be members of the Working Youth's Union (Uniunea Tineretului Muncitoresc - UTM). This is an organization similar to the Soviet Komsomol. Politically unreliable people, ie, of bourgeois or kulak background, are not accepted in the armed forces, but recruited into the Construction Army (Armata de Constructie) for work on different public projects (such as the Danube Black Sea Canal). [redacted] in 1949, [redacted] special schools were established at Breaza /4542N-2455E/ and Bucharest for the training of political officers. Only reliable Party members from different military units were being sent to these schools.

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[redacted] only Radu Cojocaru was a full fledged Communist Party member. Cojocaru was the political representative at the Constanta Meteorological Observatory [redacted]

[redacted] Cojocaru's duties consisted of directing the personnel along the Party line and conducting political lectures. He was also the meteorological observer supervisor. In his spare time he worked as a political lecturer in Constanta and surrounding area. His educational background consisted of four years of grammar school. During the last war he served in the Rumanian Air Force and was discharged as a sergeant.

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The feeling of Rumanian youths is generally favorable towards the US. The majority are anti-Soviet and do not believe the anti-US propogands. Most of them hope to be delivered from Soviet domination through a war between the US and the USSR. In the Summer of 1950 [redacted] men with previous military experience were being asked to volunteer for Korea. This program was not advertised in the press and radio, but was done by the political instructors. The volunteers had to be between the age of 21 and 40. It was not necessary to be a Party member in order to enlist. The volunteers would be given, upon enlisting, a 100,000 lei bonus and 30 days leave anywhere in the country. The assembly point was supposedly located in Bucharest.

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[redacted] people in Constanta saying that they would rather go to jail than to Korea or that they would volunteer only in order to give themselves up to the Americans.

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The attitude of the Union of Working Youth (Uniunea Tineretului Muncitoresc - UTM) members was outwardly anti-US although [redacted] only a small number were really Communist indoctrinated. The grammar school children were more likely to be anti-US due to the intensive indoctrination to which they were subjected. Some parents were careful not to let their children know that they were listening to the Voice of America broadcasts for fear their children would report them to the authorities.

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