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SOURCE Lupta de Clasa

TRAINING AND ACTIVITIES OF THE RUMANIAN WORKERS PARTY

[Comment: This report presents information extracted from four articles appearing in Lupta de Clasa, theoretical organ of the Rumanian Workers Party. The subjects treated are higher party training, mass political agitation, the party aktiv, and party guidance of people's councils.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

HIGHER PARTY TRAINING

The Central Committee of the PMR (Partidului Muncitoresc Roman, Rumanian Workers Party) established the Stefan Gheorghiu Higher Party School and the A. A. Jdanov Higher School of Social Sciences, directly under the Central Committee, to satisfy the growing need for better-prepared party and government activists. The schools will also provide cadre personnel for the economic sector, party schools, the party press, school and university social science departments, and cultural institutions. This was not possible with the former multiplicity of schools, which were unable to find a sufficient number of well-qualified instructors.(1)

Stefan Gheorghiu Higher Party School

This school offers a 3-year curriculum. Its aim is to train party and state activists for regiune and central organs, and also cadre personnel for the party press, for which purpose it will have a special department of journalism. Candidates must be party members under 40 years of age, and must have at least a high school education. They must be either activists holding responsible positions in the party or state central apparatus; secretaries, chairmen, or assistant chairmen of regiune party committee sections; first secretaries of a city or raion committee; chairmen, deputy chairmen or section chiefs of the

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executive committee of a regiune or city people's council; members of the staff of a Bucharest or regiune newspaper; or secretaries of the UTM (Uniunea Tinere-tului Muncitor, Young Workers Union) or one of its regional committees. Other party members with sufficient education and good party and social work records may also be accepted, on an individual basis.

All candidates must pass qualifying examinations on the Rumanian language, geography, the Constitution, and the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism as expounded in the Short Course in the History of the VKP(b). Candidates accepted for the entrance examinations will be granted 2 month's leave with full pay for the necessary preparation. Admission to the school is granted by the Central Committee of the P.R.

The curriculum includes the following subjects: history of the CPSU; Rumanian and world history; political economy; dialectical and historical materialism; foreign policy of the USSR, the RPR, (Rumanian People's Republic), and other people's democracies; contemporary international relations; geographic and political economy; economic policy of the party and the people's democracies; party organization; Rumanian law and state organization; Rumanian language and literature; Russian language; and journalism, for those specializing in the subject. The program will include lectures and private study of the Marxist-Leninist classics, party documents, and manuals.

To graduate, students will be required to pass examinations on the history of the CPSU, political economy, and dialectical and historical materialism. Graduation from the Stefan Gheorghiu Higher Party School will be equivalent to graduation from state higher educational institutions.

The School will offer a one-year improvement course for secretaries of raion and city committees. The program will include the subjects listed above, except Rumanian language and journalism, but with less thorough treatment.

The correspondence course formerly offered by the A. A. Jdanov Higher School of Social Science has been transferred to the Stefan Gheorghiu Higher Party School and will form one of its departments. It will be a 4-year course with the same conditions for admittance and the same curriculum as the regular 3-year course, and will be based chiefly on individual study, since each student will be supplied copies of the lectures. The student will be required to submit a paper on each of the following subjects: history of the CPSU, dialectical materialism, historical materialism, and party organization (or journalism, for students majoring in this subject). Examinations are the same as those of the 3-year course, including the state examination. Study and consultation branches will be established for the benefit of correspondence school students in Bucharest, Cluj, Iasi, Timisoara, and Targul Mures. Each branch will be headed by a responsible activist of the regiune party committee and will have a salaried instructor.(1)

A. A. Jdanov Higher School of Social Sciences

This school will train theoretical cadre personnel for central party institutions, for directing party teaching and scientific work, and for leadership and teaching in party schools. It will train social science instructors and lecturers for institutions of higher education, staff members for ideological periodicals, and heads of propaganda departments of metropolitan papers.

Candidates must be party members under 40 years of age and must have a high school education. They must either hold responsible positions in the party or state central apparatus, or be secretaries, chairmen, or deputy chairmen of regiune party committees, staff members of a newspaper, teachers at a regiune party school, directors of Marxist-Leninist night universities, directors of party cabinets, or propagandists. Social science teachers, and other Communist

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Intellectuals who can qualify for responsible positions on the ideological front may also be accepted. Candidates not holding one of the above-mentioned positions but having the necessary qualifications can be accepted only on an individual basis.

Candidates must pass examinations on the following subjects: Rumanian language, geography, Rumanian history (as taught in intermediate educational institutions), and the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism on the basis of the Short Course in the History of the VKP(b). Candidates accepted for the examinations will be granted 2 months leave with full pay.

The curriculum of the A. A. Jdanov Higher School of Social Sciences is divided into two parts. In the first 2 years, the following subjects will be taught: foundations of Marxism-Leninism; political economy; history of the RPR; world history; history of literature and art; foreign policy of the USSR, the RPR, and other people's democracies; contemporary international relations; party organization; political and economic geography; Rumanian language and literature; and Russian language. In the third year, those desiring to specialize in dialectical and historical materialism will study the history of philosophy, logic, and Russian language, in addition to dialectical and historical materialism. Those desiring to specialize in political economy will study political economy, the economy and policies of foreign countries, dialectical and historical materialism, and Russian language. In the first 2 years, studies will be based on lectures and private reading, and the third year will consist mainly of private study of Marxist-Leninist classics and PMR documents. At the end of the 3-year course, students specializing in philosophy must pass a state examination on the history of the CPSU, dialectical and historical materialism, history of philosophy, and Russian language, and will be required to submit a paper on either dialectical or historical materialism, according to their major. Students specializing in political economy must pass a state examination on the history of the CPSU, historical and dialectical materialism, political economy, and Russian language, and will submit a paper on either the capitalist or the socialist economic system.

The school will have the following departments: history of the CPSU, world history, political economy, dialectical and historical materialism, party organization, economic and political geography, international relations, Rumanian language and literature, and Russian language. In addition, a 3-year graduate course will be established to include the following subjects: history of the CPSU, dialectical and historical materialism, and political economy. This graduate course will be attended by highly qualified cadre personnel who are grounded in Communist theory.

A one-year course for the centralized training of propagandists will also be offered. Activists belonging to the propaganda and agitation sections of regiune, raion, and city party committees will be eligible. The curriculum will be similar to that of the Stefan Gheorghiu Higher Party School, but greater emphasis will be given to propaganda and agitation work.

The 3-month and 6-month courses offered by the regiune, raion, and city party committees are to cease to function, by decision of the Central Committee of the PMR. In order to raise the level of party education, regiune party schools offering one-year courses will be operated by regiune party committees which have suitable space and qualified instructors available and which receive the approval of the Central Committee of the PMR. The prerequisites for admittance will be similar to those of the Stefan Gheorghiu Higher Party School, except that activists belonging to the Central party apparatus will not be eligible, while secretaries of party committees of large enterprises and of collective farms will be eligible. Candidates must pass an examination on the RPR Constitution and on the Rumanian language, and must be authorized by the regiune party committees to attend the courses.

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Regiune party schools will follow a uniform teaching program and will provide a short course on those subjects offered by the Stefan Gheorghiu Higher Party School, with the exception of law and state organization. They will offer courses in Marxist-Leninist fundamentals, party organization, history and geography, and economic sciences. The final examination will cover the Short Course in the History of the VKP(b) and party organization.

All regiune party committees will provide 3-month courses for the secretaries of primary village and city organizations and for chairmen and secretaries of commune people's councils.

The programs of all party schools, whether higher or regiune schools, must be approved by the Central Committee of the PMR. No student may be withdrawn and assigned to practical work before completion of the course. Party and state activists taking the short courses will continue to hold their positions.

It is fully expected that this reorganization of the party school system will ensure better selection of students and training of party cadre personnel, and will lead to a higher level of party organizational and political work. However, this will be achieved only if the party organs keep a close watch on the schools and provide for the needs of students and faculties.(1)

MASS POLITICAL AGITATION

Experience has shown that the better the working people understand party policy and the more they are convinced that the policy is right, the harder they will fight to put it into practice. The 19-20 August Plenum of the Central Committee of the PMR has once again reminded the party organs of their duty to strengthen their ties with the masses by personal contact and to shun bureaucratic isolation.

At the present time, the party's main efforts are directed toward the implementation of the economic program adopted at that meeting, the main emphasis being laid on correcting the shortcomings in agriculture and the food and light industries. This requires considerable improvement of the party organizations responsible for mobilizing the masses.

Mass political agitation is one of the most effective means of achieving the desired end, and serves to focus attention on the most burning problems of the moment. But political and organizational work cannot be separated. Therefore, the April 1953 decree on improvement of political agitation directed that every party member perform agitation, regardless of his special duties. Many party organizations, among them a number of primary organizations in Craiova Regiune and Stalin City, have consistently neglected to use the potent weapon of mass agitation, considering it the exclusive domain of their propaganda and agitation sections. Since April 1953, however, a number of organizations, such as the Hunedoara Regiune Committee, the primary organizations of the Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej Ironworks, the Simeria Railway Shops, and the Lupeni mines, have recruited capable agitators and have carefully supervised their activities. They have encouraged them to employ a variety of effective methods, such as discussions with individuals, cartoons, collective readings, and broadcasts.

Communist agitation must never cease to work on two levels: it must contribute to the fulfillment of both the party's daily economic and political tasks, including specific production problems, and its general aim, the building of socialism.

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During the recent electoral campaign, political agitation work has been raised to a high level, which the party organizations and agitators must maintain. One of their main objectives today must be to organize political agitation at enterprises, in order to discover and utilize available internal resources. At the Bucharest Gh. Cheorghiu-Dej Clothing Factory the party organization has persuaded the workers and technicians to employ technical and organizational principles for better utilization of small machine tools and more rational distribution of machines, which achieves considerable savings in manpower. This good example has been widely followed, but much still remains to be done if the drive is to become a mass movement leading to increased production of needed goods.

In the villages, mass political agitation must strengthen the alliance between workers and peasants in order to increase agricultural production and the exchange of goods between city and country. This will increase the supply of food for the city population and of raw materials for industry, and will greatly improve the standard of living of the peasants.

Political agitators must impress upon the peasants the importance of the increased help they are now receiving from the party, the state, and also from factory workers, and which is given not only to members of collective and TOZ, but also to small and medium individual farmers. They must be made conscious of the fact that it is in their own interest to repay this assistance by prompt fulfillment of delivery obligations to the state and by increased production. The peasants must be persuaded to adopt Soviet agricultural techniques and to take advantage of the recently improved system of contracting for the delivery of produce and the fattening of livestock.

The Central Committee has warned all subordinate organizations against the tendency to conduct their agitation work garishly and spectacularly. Whitewashing and blind optimism only lead to relaxation of effort. Efficient agitation must frankly reveal shortcomings, but explain their causes and show that they are merely temporary and can be overcome.

Political agitators must promptly disseminate information on domestic and international events by posting newspapers or reading them collectively, by contributing articles to wall newspapers, by engaging in conversations, etc. They can thus forestall the efforts of the class enemy, who will be quick to give the news in a distorted form.

Other subjects for political agitation are neglect of public property, tardiness in dealing with complaints, deviations from the party line, laziness, and negligence. Agitators must encourage criticism and self-criticism, and attack all failings and shortcomings fearlessly.

The importance of personal contact in agitation was stressed by the Central Committee in April 1953. Party organizations like those of Padureti and Silisteni communes, Costesti Raion, and Potcoava Commune, Slatina Raion, failed to do any house-to-house canvassing even during the election campaign. Party organizations must see to it that no sector of the economy is neglected. Hithert night shifts in most factories, housewives, and people employed in the cooperative retail trade have not been reached by agitators. Permanent agitation points must be organized in public squares, trains, streetcars, and workers hutments on building projects.

In villages where agitation work is weak, regiune committees must send teams to lend aid. They should be equipped with pamphlets, films, and pictures depicting the achievements of prominent local communists.

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The importance of wall newspapers is too often underrated, as was illustrated at a recent wall newspaper competition. Only 13 of the 100 wall newspapers published in Moinești Raion, Bacău Regiune, and only 45 out of 145 from Resita Raion, Timisoara Regiune, were entered in the competition.

Those selected as agitators should be party members or non-members who have outstanding political qualifications and who have great prestige among the masses. They must be kept well-informed of all domestic and foreign political developments as well as of the problems of the day. The bureaus of primary organizations, particularly through their secretaries, must give the agitators regular weekly talks on current events, on topical subjects to be discussed, and on suitable articles to be read collectively. The party cabinets can also help by giving advice to secretaries of primary organizations and by supplying material.

By order of the Central Committee, raion and regiune committees are to detail activists to organize agitators' seminars and to arrange, at least once every 2 months, city and raion meetings for the briefing of agitators and wall newspaper staffs. A number of regiune and raion committees are remiss in this respect. The party committee of the I. V. Stalin Casa Scanteii Polygraphic Combine, as well as the raion committee, were severely criticized at a recent party conference for having failed to brief the primary organization secretaries and agitators on their problems.

There are still many party organizations, such as those of Sibiu, Slatina, and Sighisoara raions, which do not have agitators collectives, or have them only on paper. This is the result of lax supervision of primary organizations by raion committees.

Valuable assistance in the improvement of agitation work can be given by the press, which should publicize examples of good and poor work in this field and draw attention to important local problems.

The party aktiv can also contribute to successful agitation by strengthening the ties between the party and the masses. By order of the Central Committee, party and state cadre personnel must deliver periodical lectures on international and domestic policy to groups of workers and to peasants at work in the fields. Experience has shown that on such occasions it is possible to explain temporary deficiencies and to convince the listeners that the party will overcome them.

The duty of regiune, raion, and city party committees to supervise agitation activities cannot be overemphasized. The Cluj Regiune Committee is an example of negligence in this respect. In October 1953, it checked on agitation activities in factories producing consumer goods, but its analysis was very superficial. While it did not even mention that the wall newspaper of the Menajul Factory had not been published for a long time, it wrongly accused the factory committee of other shortcomings. The work of the Cluj Regiune Committee was also very unsatisfactory during the election campaign. -- C. Onescu.(2)

THE PARTY AKTIV

The party aktiv is one of the mainsprings of the Rumanian Workers Party's strength. The aktiv consists of party members in the following categories: leaders of party organizations; activists in the economic field, in trade unions, and in the UTM (Uniunea Tineretului Muncitor, Union of Working Youth); heads of state and cultural institutions; and innovators or leading workers experienced in a given field of production, in close contact with the masses, and well

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acquainted with the problems facing party organizations. To the aktiv also belong propagandists and agitators, and social science faculty members who are concerned with the Marxist-Leninist education of Communists, the ideological purity of the Workers' Party, and the raising of the political level of youth.

The aktiv is an invaluable support for party organizations in their struggle to mobilize members and nonmembers for the building of socialism. The aktiv is the most mature and politically tempered segment of the party, in which it plays a leading part. With its vast experience and close ties with the masses, it is of great help to all regiane, raion, and city party organs in carrying out party policy and decisions.

The August 1953 Plenum of the Central Committee specified that one of the chief tasks of the higher party organs is to acquire as early as possible a party aktiv of 80,000 to 100,000 members.

Meetings of the aktiv provide an opportunity for party organs to check the soundness of their decisions and operating methods. As representatives of mass party opinion, the activists should be called together every time a local problem, or a problem connected with the application of a government or party decision, has to be debated. The party committee must decide for every meeting which groups of activists are to be invited, including those cadre personnel who are active in the particular fields which are to be discussed. If the raion party committee has called a meeting to discuss the improvement of party education, invitations should be sent to the secretaries of primary organizations, propagandists, instructors, members of the social science faculties, leaders of party cabinets, heads of universities and night courses of Marxism-Leninism, heads of party schools, and members of the press. Other activists whose knowledge and experience might be of value should also be invited. Aktiv meetings are not invested with powers of decision, and cannot give instructions to committees or primary organizations. But their suggestions, criticism, and practical experience should be given careful consideration.

An example of the proper procedure was recently provided by the Oradea Regiune Committee. State farm directors, heads of MRS political sections, the chief of the agricultural section of the regiune people's council, the chiefs of the agricultural sections of raion people's councils, party organizers and chairmen of collective farms, secretaries of raion committees, and other party activists were invited to a meeting to discuss the collective farm problem. The agenda was circulated well ahead of time, and a documented analysis of the situation was presented by the secretary of the agricultural section. The regiune committee was severely criticized for having considered the strengthening of collective farms as a matter concerning only its agricultural section. People's councils which failed to give them the required technical and cultural assistance and MRS which paid insufficient attention to mass political work among the peasants also were criticized. Many valuable suggestions and criticisms were made, and the decision reached by the aktiv was finally adopted by the regiune committee.

However, in Targu Ocna Raion, where a similar meeting was held, the secretaries of primary organizations were not even invited.

Meetings of the aktiv frequently become mere meetings for relaying instructions or for the formal approval of reports written in very general terms. An aktiv meeting in which members of the party apparatus are in the majority cannot answer the purpose. The party apparatus has its well-defined task, which must not be confused with the task of the aktiv. A party organ is in daily contact with the party apparatus, which is responsible for checking on the execution of party and government decisions and for the selection of

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cadre personnel. The aktiv meeting must provide the opportunity for periodical meetings between party organs and the aktiv, which translates party and government decisions directly into fact, and the occasion for the aktiv to voice its opinion on the work of the party organ.

Equally wrong are the regiune, raion and other committees which, instead of calling aktiv meetings at which the committee members participate, call meetings of the full committee together with the aktiv. This procedure leads to the dilution of the party organ within the aktiv, although the party organ is the elected body empowered to make decisions and is responsible for the work of the entire organization.

The problems to be debated at aktiv meetings must be well thought out. In Baia Mare, Iasi, and Suceava regiunes, meetings have been poorly prepared, the subjects to be discussed chosen at random, and the agenda insufficiently publicized in advance.

The aktiv can give valuable help in enforcing decisions. This fact has been ignored by the Ploesti City Committee, which tries to work exclusively through the party apparatus. It is also a mistake to use the aktiv as a sort of shock unit, to be called in emergencies only. It should be a permanent auxiliary of the committee.

The aktiv can also be used to advantage in the study of problems to be discussed by party organs and for checking on the execution of decisions. Its members have much better opportunities to learn what is going on than the party apparatus, and can help to remedy many defects.

Finally, the aktiv constitutes the best cadre school for the party, provided party organizations make constant efforts to attract new personnel who are outstanding economic and administrative leaders, innovators and leaders in production, scientists, etc. Party organizations preferring to deal always with the same nucleus of activists and never bothering to attract new personnel have only themselves to blame if they suffer from cadre shortages. The Galati, Iasi, and Suceava regiunes are cases in point.(3)

PARTY GUIDANCE OF PEOPLE'S COUNCILS

The party committees or their bureaus summon the Communists among the leaders of people's councils at regular intervals in order to analyze the work of the state agencies they direct and to assign them specific tasks. At the same time, they recommend to the people's councils the steps to be taken to carry out decisions, and instruct the party organizations to perform the necessary spadework.

The party's leadership manifests itself not only through directives, but also through the endorsement of certain key members of people's councils, who may or may not be party members but are deemed capable of carrying out party and government decisions. In the December 1953 election campaign, the party organizations together with the FDP (Frontul Democratic Popular, People's Democratic Front) submitted, in addition to the names of party and government leaders, the names of tens of thousands of workers, collective and individual farmers, scientists, and artists who are close to the masses and have proved by deeds that they can be relied upon to apply party and government decisions.

But party organs must maintain vigilance to avoid cases such as those which occurred in Bacau and Constanta regiunes, where undesirable persons were promoted to the chairmanship of the Moinesti and Babadag people's councils and held these posts until 1953.

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Attention must constantly be paid to the political and professional education of cadre personnel. Many regiune party committees, such as those of the Stalin, Cluj, Ploiesti, Pitesti, and Hungarian Autonomous regiunes, could promote commune people's council chairmen and secretaries to key posts in raion people's councils. But in Galati, for example, it is expected that cadre personnel for people's councils will be sent from other regiunes, which accounts for the fact that many important posts remained vacant in the Galati Regiune People's Council for 3 years.

To arrive at a decision is only a first step which will solve no problems until the implementation of the decision and the checking of its fulfillment are provided for. The Lugoj Raion Committee formulated an elaborate decision in the summer of 1953 for improving agricultural work in Harindesti Commune, but the effort stopped there, with the result that the harvest was brought in too late.

Bureaucratism must also be fought relentlessly. The bureau of the Oradea Regiune Committee recently checked on the way workmen's complaints were investigated by the regiune people's council and found that letters received as far back as 1952 had remained unanswered by the former chairman of the executive council, Costea Constantin. Instructions were promptly issued for the purpose of eliminating such negligence.

Regiune, raion, and city party committees are in direct control of regiune, raion, and city primary organizations. Primary organizations within regiune, raion, and city people's councils do not have jurisdiction over the activities of the councils. Party supervision of people's council activities is exercised by raion party committees for raion and commune people's councils, by city party committees for city people's councils, and by regiune party committees for regiune people's councils. However, the primary organizations within the people's councils are responsible for everything that happens in the people's councils and must take an interest in the way government agencies function. They must report all operational deficiencies or unsatisfactory employees to the higher party echelons and to the heads of people's councils. But their most important job is to educate all people's council employees in the right spirit. In a recent meeting of primary organizations of the Ploesti Regiune Committee, party members severely criticized the members of the bureau for having tolerated lack of discipline and formalism, as well as carelessness and security violations in the handling of state documents and secrets, on the part of people's council employees.

Raion party committees must devote close attention to commune people's councils, which are the direct executors of party and government decisions in the villages. The Central Committee decision on political work in rural districts requires that raion party committees listen to a monthly activity report by the chairmen of commune people's councils and discuss their activities in great detail. This duty is frequently neglected, and most raion committees in Galati Regiune ignored the decision until 5 to 6 months after its publication.

But the duty of raion committees to supervise commune people's committees does not relieve the village party organizations from the obligation to watch their activities closely. They do not have the right to interfere with them, but they can take their Communist members to task for unsatisfactory performance. In party meetings, village primary organizations must analyze such problems as tax collections, delivery of the fixed quantities of produce owed to the state, the progress made on state acquisition and delivery contracts, education, cultural activities, etc.

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When a problem exceeds the competence of village people's councils, the primary organization should refer it to the raion party committee, which can call joint meetings of representatives from the interested villages or recommend action to the raion people's councils. -- E. Turcanu(3)

SOURCES

1. Lupta de Clasa, Sep 53
2. Ibid., Nov 53
3. Ibid., Dec 53

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