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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

50X1-HUM

# INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Conditions in Constanta: Transportation Facilities/  
Location of Important Offices/Local Officials/Food/  
Prisons

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## Transportation

1. "Many streets in Constanta have been renamed. The Strada Carol is now the Strada Stalin. The Strada Vintila Bratianu is now the Strada Mihail Dunitru. The Boulevard Ferdinand is now the Boulevardul Republiciei. The Bulevardul Donito Ileania is now the Bulevardul Karl Marx. The Strada Mihail Viteazul is now the Strada Olga Banic.
2. "One of Constanta's worst problems is municipal transportation. There are five bus lines, all of which have their terminals at the Plata Ovidiu:
  - (a) The Constanta-Anadolkiol line operates three ancient buses which are in a deplorable condition. People using this line are often without transportation for days, because all three buses are frequently out of operation at once.
  - (b) The Constanta-Uzina Electrica line gives the best service.
  - (c) The Constanta-M Corciu line operates two ancient buses, each with a capacity of 20 persons. The service is similar to that on the Constanta-Anadolkiol line.
  - (d) The Constanta-Bratianu line gives quite efficient service but has too few buses.
  - (e) The Constanta-Fifth Kilometer line has very old and small buses.
3. "As these transportation facilities are not nearly sufficient for the 100,000 inhabitants of Constanta, most people have to walk to work, getting up as early as 5 am. People who live in the suburbs have to walk two hours before starting the 10 hours' working day (the eight-hour working day exists only on paper), followed by CP and TU meetings until 10-11 pm at which time the buses have stopped running. Consequently the workers have to walk another two hours to get home.
4. "The shabby condition of the Constanta railway station is typical of the state of the entire city. Except for two tracks for freight trains, there has been no

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construction improvements or repairs at the station since 1939. When railway employees brought up the disgraceful state of the station at a recent municipal council meeting, the Mayor of Constanta explained that the constant war-threats by American imperialists have prevented any large-scale improvements and renovations in the city.

5. "Two passenger trains arrive in Constanta daily: at 9 am and 5 pm. One scheduled freight train leaves the city every other morning. It reaches Bucharest the following day. There are also unscheduled freight trains.
6. "The Militia has a checking point at the station to inspect the identity papers of travellers and search for black market goods. Black marketeers have little difficulty in getting past this inspection. They simply bribe the Militiamen.
7. "The station restaurant is operated by the State Railway Company. It has a good wine cellar, but the food is very poor.
8. "After 1945 the porters at the railway station were classified as unskilled State workers. They received such poor wages that most of them managed to get better jobs elsewhere. As a result the station found itself without porters. The government intervened and organized a porters' union, called 'Maria', which all porters are compelled to join. Up to April 1952, the porters in Constanta managed to make a tolerable living due to the continuous exodus of Greek, Turkish and Jewish emigrants through that port. When this stopped, they were left with a salary of 400 Lei per month, which is far from enough to live on. The only train passengers nowadays are peasants and a few workers, who have no money to spend for porters and carry their luggage themselves. Among the porters are many ex-officers, judges, and other professional persons, who, being 'reactionaries', have been assigned this most unprofitable job by the Labor Office. The union collects all porters' fees and distributes them equally among its members.
9. "About 10 taxis and a few horse-drawn carriages, driven by Turks, wait outside the station. They have very few passengers because the average ride costs 20 Lei, which ordinary people cannot afford. As a result the number of cabs and carriages gradually decreases. An attempt was made to nationalize these vehicles, but the plan had to be abandoned because the moment they stopped working for themselves, the drivers stopped caring for their horses and cars. Now the vehicles are driven by drivers employed by Sovromtransport. They are paid on the basis of the number of trips made per day.

#### Information

10. "There is only one daily newspaper in Constanta, the 'Dobrogea Noua'. A propaganda sheet, in the form of a bulletin, is also distributed daily. There are so-called wall-newspapers almost everywhere: in factories, schools, offices, even in churches.
11. "Another information and propaganda channel in Constanta is the 'Coltul Arlus' (Arlus corner). This term is used for the wooden booths set up on street corners by ARLUS (Soviet-Rumanian Friendship Society). Pictures and articles on life in the USSR are displayed.
12. "There are loudspeakers everywhere, blaring Communist propaganda, slogans, songs and marches all day long. Anti-Western and particularly anti-American posters can be seen everywhere.

#### Location of Important Offices

13. "An acute housing shortage exists in Constanta. This is due chiefly to two circumstances: (a) Most of the administrative and technical personnel employed on the construction of the Danube-Black Sea Canal are accommodated in the city; and (b) the best buildings have been requisitioned for Soviet offices and military establishments and for public offices and CP organizations.

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14. "For example, the following buildings on the right-hand side of the Bulevardul Republicii (as one approaches from the direction of the Plata Ovidiu) have been requisitioned:

Soviet Army headquarters	- on the corner of the Bul Rep and Independentii Street, (former J G Duca St);
Regional Party headquarters (Regiona la de Patrid)	- on the corner of the Bul Rep and the Strada Gen Manu;
Forestry Bureau	- on the corner of the Strada Atelierilor;
Peasants' Front headquarters (Frontul Plugarilor); affiliated with the CP)	- on the corner of the Strada Mihail Viteazul;
Concentration Camps' Command (Commandamentul Colonilor de Munca)	- on the corner of the Strada Stefan Mihaileanu;
Arlus (Soviet-Rumanian Friendship Society)	- on the corner of the Strada Miron Costin

On the left-hand side of the Bulevardul Republicii, as one approaches from the Plata Ovidiu:

Union of Democratic Women (Uniunea Femeilor Democrate din Romania)	- on the corner of the Bul Rep and the Strada Scarlet Varnav;
Statistical Inspectorate (Inspectoratul Statistic), a Branch of the Ministry of 'Coordination'	- on the corner of the Strada Mihal Viteazul;
Militia headquarters	- a whole block surrounded by the Bul Republicii, the Strada Scarlet Varnav and the Strada Miron Costin.

15. "The Army Department, the Navy Personnel Department and the Orasulni Prefectura are all located on the Strada Cuza Voda.
16. "The Court of Appeals, the Committee for Sports and Physical Culture (Comitetul de Educatie Fizica si Sport), the Union of Democratic Greeks (Central Democrat Gree) and the Departmental Militia Command are on the Strada Scarlet Varnav.
17. "On the corner of the Strada Stalin and the Strada Mircea Voda is the Soviet Army theatre. On the Strada Mangaliei is a CP headquarters branch, a branch of the Womens' organization (UFDR) and the headquarters of the UTM (Yough Union) headquarters.
18. "In the same area are the offices of the United Labor Syndicates (Sindicatul Unite), the Union of Democratic Moslems, the Armenian Democratic Union, the Jewish Democratic Union and the Aliens' Control Office. There is also a special restaurant for CP officials, the only restaurant in Constanta where meat is served regularly.
19. "Branches of the above organizations exist throughout Constanta. New Communist offices and centrals open daily. People may be evicted from their apartments on 24 hours' notice.

Local Officials

20. "The Mayor of Constanta is (fnu) Radnev, a newcomer to the city. Nothing is generally known of his past. The Deputy Mayor is (fnu) Bohalteanu, a former cobbler.

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21. "The President of the ARLUS (Soviet-Rumanian Friendship Society) in Constanta is Jean Jancu, a lawyer. The Chairman of the UFDR (Democratic Women's League) is Mme (Fnu) Markovici.

22. "The Chief of the Prefectura is (fnu) Ciocan.

Churches

23. "Despite the existing religious persecution, Constanta churches of all denominations are full to capacity on Sundays and religious holidays. Many soldiers, CP members and UTM youths can be seen in church, though the UTM youths actually are forbidden to go to church. Whenever a Communist 'priest' begins to deliver a propaganda 'sermon', the whole congregation usually leaves immediately.

Beaches

24. "The only beaches open to the public are the 'Modern' and 'Mamaia' beaches. The formerly popular beaches, 'Tataia', 'Ghuberg' and 'Trei Popuci' are within the military zone of the port and strictly 'off limits'. Constanta's waterfront is out of bounds to civilians after dusk.

Food

25. "The main restaurants, all State-controlled, are:

the May I Restaurant (formerly May 10)  
the Restaurantul Dobrogea (the former Canciovici)  
the Restaurant Marea Neagra (former Kapatil)  
the Restaurantul Constanta (former Kounind) and  
the Restaurantul Dunarea (former Central).  
Another restaurant, the Vraja Marii, is open only in summer.

All menus are poor: fish, sausage and cheese are the main courses. No meat has been served for months [as of autumn 1952]. An ordinary meal costs about 20 Lei, which is rather expensive. Due to improper refrigeration, slightly decayed food is served quite often during the summer months.

26. "The main clientele of the Rumanian restaurants these days are security officials, Party functionaries and employees of the Danube-Black Sea Canal construction project. The Soviets have their own restaurants and are seldom seen in Rumanian establishments. The waiters are forbidden to accept tips, but obviously expect them. As they are very poorly paid, it is the general custom that they serve the customers very small portions and divide the surplus food among themselves.

27. "The Soviet commissary is located on the corner of the Strada Stalin and Strada Mangaliei. Here Soviet soldiers and civilians can buy top quality food products at very low prices, much of which they re-sell on the black market. Soviet nylons can also be bought at the commissary, but are not in great demand. Soviet women prefer to wear Western nylons and have difficulties in selling the low quality Soviet nylons on the black market.

28. "Most Constanta housewives have to get up at 6 am to be in time for queuing up at the market. After 10 am, when the trucks have left with loads of best quality foods requisitioned for the Army and the personnel of the Canal construction, the market begins to sell to housewives. There is not much left by this time. Whatever little does remain for open sale is mostly of the lowest quality. Many housewives have to return home after hours of waiting empty handed.

Prisons

29. "One of the worst prisons in Constanta is in the Banca Romaneasca building, where also the Securitatea headquarters are located. All cell windows have been sealed off and the cells get their only ventilation from the interior corridors.

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The top floor rooms and the basement have been converted into prison cells. There are 20 cells on the top floor; 4x5 m in size for eight prisoners each, and 3x4 m in size for four prisoners each. The 10 cells in the basement are 2x3 m in size for two prisoners each. There are a number of cells 2x4 m in size, which are used as torture chambers. There is no light in these cells and the inmates stand in ankle-deep water all the time.

30. "There is also a prison in the former Hotel Bristol, opposite the Hotel Grand, on the Strada Stalin. The top floor cells are for prisoners under investigation, awaiting trial or deportation. A Militia post is located in the same building.
31. "A third prison is the old Tataia prison, halfway between Iamaia and Constanta. This has been considerably enlarged. More and more prisoners are being taken there."

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