

# OFFICIAL RUMANIAN MEASURES AND REPEATED GOVERNMENT STATEMENTS DEALING WITH RUMOURS OF REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITIES IN RUMANIA

BY

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On 11th January the "Orient" radio in its Rumanian as well as foreign news bulletins repeated several times the following official statement made by the Rumanian Government: — *"The reports spread in foreign countries that there are revolutionary movements in Rumania are wholly without foundation. Complete quiet obtains in Bucharest and the provinces. The assertion that military patrols have had to use arms to maintain order is nonsense. The official buildings are open to all, and no measures have been taken to restrict traffic. Closing time in public houses remains the same. It is true that after the escape of Horia Sima, former leader of the legionaries, the Rumanian Government, as a preventive measure, ordered the arrest of a few of them, but this order did not cause any disturbance of the peace. Wholly untrue are also all the reports spread by our enemies with a view to creating the impression that Rumania is in a state of emergency."*

On 12th February the following fresh denial of disturbances in Rumania was made: — "During the past few days" — said the Rumanian official denial — "certain foreign Press agencies have been spreading reports of revolutionary movements, disturbances, and other grave events in Rumania. *In order that public opinion should have a proper and unbiassed knowledge of the situation, the competent*

authorities state categorically that those reports are entirely unfounded. Everyone who is acquainted with conditions in Rumania is well aware that as regards public security the situation is unchanged and, as well-informed circles emphatically declare, that absolutely satisfactory tranquility reigns in Rumania."

What follows is a summary of the measures taken by the Rumanian Government, some of them instituted in the period between the two official statements.

On 15th January, by order of the Minister of the Interior, *the system of travelling permits was again instituted on the Rumanian State Railways*. According to the January 10th issue of the "Curentul" of Bucharest, from the 15th of that month on no one would be allowed to travel by railway without a *special permit* from the authorities. In Bucharest that permit may be obtained from the police, the management of the railways or the General Staff; in country places it may be issued by police and gendarme officers. Furthermore, the order says that all persons travelling by rail must show to the military and railway inspectors a certificate of identity, complete with photograph, and his travelling permit. The booking clerks may not issue tickets until they have seen these papers.

Another measure instituted by the Rumanian Administration is that from February 15th on *all letters and post-cards addressed to persons in foreign countries must be sent by registered post*. Letters and postcards must bear the name and exact address of the sender and *must be taken to the post office by the sender in person*, who may be required by the post office officials *to produce a certificate of identity complete with photograph*.

The Rumanian Official Gazette (*Monitorul Oficial*) of 21st and 26th January contain two Cabinet Council decisions (*Jurnale ale consiliului de ministri*) that *determine*

*the compulsory abode of certain former ministers and 54 other persons.* Of these Cabinet Council decisions No. 24 contains the following passage: — "At the meeting of the Cabinet Council held on 20th January 1943, the Council, referring to the Minister of the Interior's report No. 63.792 of 16th January, passes the following resolution: In terms of Decree Law 236—1941 the Minister of the Interior is authorized to designate a compulsory abode (*să stabilească domiciliul obligatoriu*) for the following persons whose activities threaten to *disturb public order and public tranquillity*: 1. *Michael Balea*, who, although a university professor employs lawyers to defend Communists impeached by the military courts (according to our information, Michael Balea was Minister of Labour in the Calinescu "renaissance" Government, after having been a leader of youth in Maniu's National Party); 2. *Nicholas Graur*, who was proved to have edited and made copies of manifestoes endangering public order and the security of the State (Nicholas Graur is a well-known journalist and one of Rumania's best editors); 3. *Zacharias Boilă*, who was accused of spreading revolutionary reports (Zacharias Boilă is a journalist, a former senator, and Julius Maniu's nephew, whose name became known to the public when the notorious Skoda armaments scandal broke. He was deeply implicated in the campaign against King Carol that was led by Julius Maniu and he it was who published the first pamphlet against the King entitled "The hour has struck"); 4. *Emile Lobontiu*, who was found guilty of an attitude dangerous to the interests of the nation (Emile Lobontiu is a landowner of Szilágyosmlyó, the professor of a technical university, and was Prefect of County Bihar in 1927 when Rumanian students staged a riot in Nagyvárad. The Government made a scapegoat of him and dismissed him. Recently he has been living in Bucharest, where he was president of

the Animal Export Syndicate. He is the brother-in-law of Valerian Pop, a former minister who headed the Rumanian delegation at the Turn-Severin negotiations); 5. *Octavius Livezeanu*, who was guilty of spreading defeatist propaganda and reports calculated to harm the State; 6. *Paul Dumitriu*, and 7. *Constantin Nogulescu*, who were members of an organization sympathizing with the Communists (Constantine Negulescu is a Bucharest university professor); 8. *Romulus Anastaseascu*, who spread revolutionary propaganda. 9. *Adolphus Venicher* and 10. *John Maurer*, who were members of an organization sympathizing with the Communists."

The Cabinet Council of 20th January authorized the Minister of the Interior in resolution No. 25 (*Jurnale ale consilului de miniştri*) to intern a further 46 persons (*să stabilească domiciliul obligatoriu*) whose activities were dangerous to public order and tranquility. The first name to be mentioned is *Victor Eftimiu*, who was said to have been a prominent member of the former Rumanian Freemason organization and is known to be extreme Left in his sympathies. He is also accused of having spread reports in public and also at his own home, to the effect that the Soviet was invincible. Victor Eftimiu is well known as Rumania's best dramatist, whose famous drama "Prometheus" has been performed in foreign countries. He was also the Rumanian president of the Pen Club. Among other names on the list we find that of *Radu Cicolescu*, a journalist who has displayed a flagrantly hostile attitude towards the present régime and much sympathy for democracy. Then there is *Anthony Alexandrescu*, a leader of the National Party who ventured to assert in the Bucharest cafés that the English would win the war and that the German army would be defeated by the Soviet. *Nicholas Carandino*, another journalist, was also heard to argue in the Bucharest cafés that the English would win. Michael Alexandru, Mircea Hiotu,

John Răteanu, H. Bady Mendel, Norbert Rosenkrantz, and Sacha Silbermann were sent to a concentration camp for spreading defeatist reports. Sacha Silbermann was known to be an agent of the British Legation in Bucharest. Sergiu Goldenberg used the funds of the "Goeland Transport Co. Ltd", an English shipping concern, to spread Anglo-American propaganda in Rumania. Puiu Iaroslav was interned for serving Anglo-American interests, Jack Berariu for being an Anglo-American and Soviet agent and spreading reports heard in foreign wireless bulletins. Others to be interned were Smitzer Simnıteanu, Rubin Finkelstein, Ilio Susman, Froim Anoll Rosenblatt, Lcuien Brecher, Samuel Maslor, Theodor Rosen, Hermann Polak, Gansa Segal, Aron Kreis, Eva Heht, Joan Pendelis, Lazarus Bally, Alfred Blum, Hers Burach, Izidor Calmonovici, Weiss Cojocariu, Dorian Flohr, Izidor Canoti. Oscar Fundoianu, Michael Iancovici, Theodore Jurist, Lupu Klein, Rastocher, Armand Reichard, Emanuel Simsa, and Hersch Simrer, at whose house in Brassó the Jews were wont to meet and discuss the news broadcast by enemy radios. Joseph Star, Emmanuel Star, Joan Tenenbaum, I. Wexler, Toivi Zalamanovici and Isaac Ostfeld were all interned for spreading false reports about the military and political situation and encouraging defeatist propaganda.