

Selected Records of the Chancery, the Economic Section, and the Foreign Relations Sections of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party, 1938-1997

**RG-25.014M
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United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives
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Descriptive summary

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Administrative Information

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Forms part of the Claims Conference International Holocaust Documentation Archive at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. This archive consists of documentation whose reproduction and/or acquisition was made possible with funding from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

Existence and Location of Originals:

Arhivele Naționale ale României

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More information about this repository can be found at www.arhivelenationale.ro/

Accruals: Accruals may have been received since this collection was first processed, see archives catalog at collections.ushmm.org for further information.

Processing history: Aleksandra B. Borecka, September 2016

Scope and Content Note:

Records of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party related to the emigration to Israel, the World Jewish Congress international meeting in Montreux, economic relations with Israel, and to the American Jewish Committee and Jewish Democratic Committee in Bucharest. The collection includes correspondence, protocols, minutes, and statistics of Jewish population and other documents related to Jewish question. This collection includes also 2 files relating to the arrest of young Jews involved in Jewish resistance against the Antonescu regime, 1942 (Fond 96, flies #655 & 664, paper copies).

System of Arrangement:

Arranged in four series:

1. Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party-Chancery. General documents 1948-1997
2. Central Committee of the Romanian Communist-Economic Section. Holocaust, 1938-1943
3. Central Committee of the Romanian Communist-Foreign Relations. Holocaust, Jewish question, 1938-1970
4. Jewish resistance against the Antonescu regime, 1942.

Indexing Terms

Personal Name

Antonescu, Ion, 1882-1946.

Vlădescu, Theodor.

Corporate Name

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Partidul Comunist Român. Comitetul Central.
Romania. Ministerul Afacerilor Externe.
Romania. Ministerul de Interne.
Romania. Ministerul Economiei Forestiere.
World Jewish Congress.

Topical Term

World War, 1939-1945--Atrocities--Romania.
World War, 1939-1945--Jewish resistance--Romania.
Jews--Romania--History--20th century.
Emigration and immigration.
Communism and Zionism--Romania--History--20th century.
Holocaust Jewish (1939-1945)--Romania--History.

Geographic Name

Romania--Politics and government.
Israel--Politics and government.
Palestine--Emigration and immigration--20th century.
Iraq--Foreign relations--History--20 century.

Genre/Form

Certificates.
Correspondence.
Minutes.
Registers.
Reports.
Statistics.

CONTAINER LIST

Note: The draft inventory provided by the the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum International Programs Division.

CC	Central Committee	CC
PMR	Romanian Communist Party	RCP
CDE	Jewish Democratic Committee	JDC

Protocols #15 and #16

Minutes of the Meetings of the Political Bureau of CC of RCP held on 23-26 October 1948.
Presiding: Comrade Gheoghe Gheorghiu Dej
Present: Comrades Ana Pauker, Vasile Lucca, Teohari Georgescu, B. Feldman*,
Constantinescu, Chishinevsky, Mogioroshi, Vaida

Translator's note: during the Committee's discussions, all comrades are listed by their last names; only Ana Pauker is referred to as Comrade Ana.

*Comrade Feldman, member of the CC is the liaison to the JDC and the Jewish community.

AGENDA:

1. Projected decree for the transfer of the forests to state patrimony
2. The Jewish problem

To point 1: Forests up to 5 hectares could remain free for the surrounding communities. The rest becomes state patrimony under the management and administration of the state in consultation with the Soviet Union as a model.

To point 2: Comrade Constantinescu proposes to let Comrade Feldman read his prepared presentation.

Comrade Feldman reads the outline of the JDC and explains that the most acute Jewish opposition is to the transfer of Jewish schools to the state. The Bundists (cultural autonomy) claimed that the Jewish population is a national minority and insists on the need for schools in Yiddish.

The Jewish Problem consists of:

- Whether to keep Jewish schools with or without Yiddish
- Whether to keep or disband the JDC
- Whether to transfer to the state Jewish schools, hospitals asylums
- Whether to expel from the country the JOINT, ORT, WJC
- Whether to close all Zionist organizations including the BUND

Heated discussions followed when each of the present Comrds. expressed an opinion. When one member expressed a solution, the next one opposed it. The most significant proposals were made by Comrds. Ana and Gheorghiu Dej.

Comrade Ana:

- The JOINT is not only a spying agency but also prepare reserve columns for the reactionaries to use at opportune moments. These recipients of JOINT charity are informants to our enemies-many times unconsciously.
- Does not believe that the Jewish population had it easy. In its totality the Jewish population was always persecuted and victimized not only by the leading class but also by the laborers infected with anti-Semitism. She cited Lenin that with persecuted populations we must be very delicate because they are very sensitive.
- We must show that the three years of JOINT assistance turned the Jews into beggars. They were humiliated and degraded with a few crumbs from the table of the rich who tried to separate them from the rest of the population.
- Proposes that hospitals, orphanages and asylums be taken over by the state-but not like in Transylvania where the now state hospitals are serving kosher foods.
- About schools-in large communities like Maramures, where the Zionist made their propaganda in Yiddish schools.
- The JDC should remain to ease the difficult road to socialism, but be cleaned of Zionists.

- We must show that it is shameful not to work by those who can but refuse. We must create an enthusiasm for work.

Comrade Gheorghiu-Dej:

- All problems discussed here must be given a practical resolution corresponding to Marxist-Leninist principles. The Jewish population cannot be treated in its totality, but as groupings in various organizations with diverse agendas. They should be considered a national minority, but not a nation. Stalin-Lenin opposed the Bundists because in addition to Yiddish they asked for observance of Shabbat and separate hospitals and schools in Yiddish.
- The party should consider the Jews as Romanians with equal rights and obligations and should not accept proposals that lead to Jewish isolation.
- Should not delay the assimilation process by not pushing them into ghettos. Assimilation should proceed naturally and not be enforced.
- The party should recognize the right of using the maternal language.
- Hospitals, orphanages, schools and donor organizations should be transferred to the state.
- JOINT, ORT, WJC and such organizations should be eliminated. Agrees to retain the JDC, but cleaned of Zionists.
- We must make clear that their solution is not over the borders (Palestine) but integration locally. He is against emigration even though it is a basic right.
- We do not need a special state commission for the Jews-it would be an insult to them for being singled out and a tool for anti-Semites.
- The resolution of the meeting should contain all the items discussed, but clarify that these are guidelines to be enlarged and clarified.
- Proposes a committee of comrades Lucca, Radaceanu, Constantinescu, Bodnaras and Feldman to produce the resolution and bring it back to the CC for review and approval.

Dossar 56/1948

Protocol #17

Minutes of the Meeting of the Political Bureau of the RCP of November 15, 1948.

Presiding: Comrade Gheorghe Gheorghiu Dej

Present: Ana Pauker, Vasile Lucca, Teohari Georgescu, B. Feldman,
Constantinescu, Chishinevsky, Kivu, Bodnaras, Iordanescu

AGENDA:

1. Resolution Project of the Jewish Problem.
2. The German Problem
3. Creation of Cultural Ukrainian Association

Comrade Constantinescu read the resolution project produced by the committee. In the discussions that followed corrections, suggestions and objections were made, but the main dispute centered on a question whether to publish it as is or assign 3-4 comrades to write articles in the Party paper analyzing different aspects of it. Next came the question whether the published articles should be assigned or unsigned. If signed, readers will assume that it is the opinion of the writer. If unsigned, it will appear as a Party proposal.

Once again, the most significant suggestions came from Comrds, Ana and Gheorghiu Dej.

Comrade Ana:

- The resolution does not show what we have done to solve the Jewish problem.
- The bourgeoisie claims that the unity of the Jewish people is more important than the class's troubles, which is not true. The Jewish working class is more attached to the general working class.
- We should not publish the resolution before gaining the allegiance of the Jewish working class. It will only create uncertainty and anti-Semites and nationalists (Zionists) will profit.
- Our Party has issued very few resolutions and those were on very important issues, and even those were only clarifications and/or communicate like the deviations on nationalization and other national problems.

Comrade Gheorghiu Dej:

- After cleaning the resolution of different contradictions it must be published as is in order to demolish the two currents-anti-Semitism and Zionism.
- No newspaper article can do that no matter who writes it.
- There are anti-Semites in our Party, some posing as Jew, and they conduct a vicious movement against the Party.
- Concerning emigration to Israel he said he received letter complaining how bad things are there.

Comrade Ana: We cannot keep people by force.

Comrade Gheorghiu Dej: We won't keep here the bourgeoisie. "Let them go".

Dossar 166/1954

Concerning emigration to Israel, 7000 have applied, of whom 1000 have family there or are older people. Discussions are held concerning approval of applications for citizens to depart the country or return to Romania with no mention of Israel though that is the country involved. Romanian citizens in Germany could be allowed to return, but not from Israel.

Dossar 18/1948

Comrades Feldman and Leibovici were assigned to assess the value of the assets (gold, jewels, paintings, Persian rugs, etc.) that the fascist Magyar government confiscated from the Jewish population of northern Transylvania. A plane filled with these assets was flown to Budapest. As the war came to an end, these stolen goods were transported to Austria and Germany, later were loaded on a train and returned to Budapest. The Romanian delegation to Budapest argued that the assets belong to the 171.000 Jews from northern Transylvania which was then part of Romania, and therefore, the assets should be returned to Romania, even though the Jews were no longer alive.

Dossar 42/1954

On April 13, 1954, the Israeli Trade Minister met in Bucharest with the Romanian Economic Minister to discuss trade agreements and mode of payments or exchange of goods. Israel had similar agreements with USSR which will send 100,000 tons of petrol plus option for another 100,000 for 20,000 tons of oranges. Poland sent 4,000 tons of sugar and 400 tons of potato flour for 120 tons of frozen fish, citric fruits and razor blades.

Romania and Israel had two agreements of 1 million and half a million dollars. Israel will supply: wool fibers, citric fruits, food items, radios, medical devices, artificial teeth, antibiotics, industrial diamonds and razor blades.

Romania will supply: petrol products, gasoline, tar, cement, chemicals, paper and cardboard, wood and lumber

Part of the exports will bring in foreign currency-very advantageous for Romania.

May 1954-the Romanian cabinet charged the trade minister to start a treaty with Israel of commercial reciprocal trade and send a delegation to Tel Aviv for detailed negotiations.

Dossar 14/1945

Information concerning the situation in Palestine.

A speech by Ben Gurion concerning the situation of Zionism and the Jewish people in the Palestine Post in London. He condemns the British "White Paper" which makes Palestine the only place in the British mandatory region where Jews are discriminated against and have limited rights. He calls for complete abrogation of the white paper and open the gates for one million survivors of the catastrophe for which he has the support of both the U.S., and USSR.

The U.S. Jewish organizations press for the American representative (Stetinius) to the UN to insist on Jewish control of mandatory territories in Palestine. American position is to transfer to Jewish control only those territories inhabited by Jews.

Dossar 21/1945

Memorandum of Principles for a communist policy in Palestine within the Jewish issue.

The Jewish communists are ready to oppose Mapai adherence to imperialist principles. The Arab communists are against the Jewish Zionist and in support of their own feudal landlords.

Dossar 9/1948

June 29, 1948. Report of events at the 2nd session of the World Jewish Congress (WJC). In Montreux, France, Romanian delegation included Serban Leibovici, Benveniste and Rabbi Rosen.

First day of Congress: Nahum Goldman, President of WJC emphasized Jewish neutrality in the struggle between east and west, and underlined the importance of creating of a state of Israel. During the war, the European Jews were left alone to defend themselves and no one, including the U.S. did anything.

Second day of Congress: Different communist delegations opposed Goldman's position of neutrality. The USSR army with great sacrifices to its own saved the Jewish enclaves in east and southeast Europe. The current Eastern European democracies are taking measure to liquidate discriminatory measures against Jews. The delegations emphasized the decisive role played by the USSR at the UN in the creation of the state of Israel. The growing anti-Semitism was underlined.

Third day of Congress: British and American delegates opposed the communist delegates as well the Israeli delegates who suggested that Israel should align itself with the Soviets. The British and American delegates insisted that in the Soviet Union Jews are persecuted and Zionists are arrested. To prove their point, they stressed the absence of a Soviet Jewish delegation to this Congress.

Fourth day of Congress: The American delegation cited the newspaper "Forward" which referred to this meeting as the Communist Congress, which involved itself with the growing anti-Semitism in England and America instead of dealing with the oppressive conditions of the Jews in communist countries.

Special Session on the State of Israel

Communist delegates from Israel and other countries made sympathetic declarations about Israel including a message from Haim Weitzman, its president. The Polish delegate spoke with high praise for the Jewish Zionists who fought for its creation. The Romanian delegation did not like his presentation.

Activities of the Romanian Delegation.

In many respects the Romanian delegation differed from the other communist delegations that were eager to compromise with the Western leadership. The abstained from voting on various resolutions, while the Romanian opposed such resolutions. Benvenisti, Romanian delegate, indicated that when the Western countries and the UN vacillated on the creation of the state of Israel, Gromyko and Molotov were first to recognize it. Rabbi Rosen expressed his deep and sincere conviction when saying: "never in our Jewish history in Romania, has the Jewish and spiritual life been as assured, financed, free and creative as it is now". He enumerated all the schools, clubs, organizations, theater and newspapers of Jews by Jews.