

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives  
Finding Aid  
RG-25  
Romania

**RG-25.015M**  
**Acc. 2002.130**

**Title:** Records from the Jewish Democratic Committee of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party, 1945-1952

**Extent:** 7 microfilm reels

**Provenance:** The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum International Archives Project purchased microfilm copies from the Arhivele Naționale ale României (Romanian National Archives) and transferred the film to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Archives in Aug. 2002.

**Restrictions on access:** No restrictions on access.

**Restrictions on use:** Fair use only. Use only for scientific purposes (not for commercial use.)

**Organization and Arrangement:** Arrangement is thematic.

**Language:** Romanian

**Preferred Citation:** Standard citation for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Collections Division, Archives Branch.

**Scope and Content:** Contains reports and correspondence including memoranda of the Jewish Democratic Committee of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party.

**Inventory:**

**Reel 1:**

Records of the Jewish Democratic Committee (JDC) of the Central Committee (CC) of the Romanian Communist Party (RCP), 1945 – 1952

Methodology

For reorganizing, reordering and inventorying of documents belonging to the font of the JDC.

Preface: The JDC was founded on 7 June, 1945 and ended on 20 March, 1953 when at the plenary of the CC of the JDC the decision was made to self-dissolve the organization. No reason is given but the assumption is that by then it would have fulfilled its mission. During its existence it would be led by a Central Committee aided by a cabinet of many commissions corresponding to different interests and specialties.

The documents for the present plan were taken over by the archives of the CC of the RCP on May 8, 1953 under the form of 119 units and 296 dossars devised for historical investigations.

I. Reorganization and Selection of Materials:

- Documents kept at the Archives of the CC of the RCP
- Documents elaborated by territorial (provinces) plans
- Materials of no value (duplicates, news clips correspondence, etc.)

II. The make-up of Units to be kept

- For every unit attach a Note of Certification, a short description and a signature page.
- Documents belonging to other fonts will be returned to them
- Documents elaborated by local organizations will be transferred to RCP of that municipality.
- Materials of no value will be listed on special forms and then destroyed.

III. Organization of the Font will follow archaistic principles of chronology and the various commissions of leadership: cadres, finance, cultural appointments, etc.

IV. Codification: In the list of codification the JDC will have Number 37 and will be marked in Arabic numbers.

V. Inventory: Follow instructions of II a above. On opening page list table of contents, dates started and ended and a short Preface, like the one above.

**Reel 2:**

1945 – 1949

Minutes of the meeting discussing the organization, structure and function of the JDC held on 7 June, 1945 and honored by the attendance of Commander Vasile Luca, the general secretary of the RCP.

List of participants: approx. 80 members listed by name. Dr. Dorian proposes the selection of Dr. Kreindler as president, supported by a cabinet of 6.

Dr. Kreindler's observations: The JDC is not a political party but a collaborative assembly of Democratic Jewish Elements for democratizing our country under President P. Groza.

Platform of Activities of the JDC:

1. Stabilizing the Jewish Democratic Units
2. Joining with the Romanians for reconstruction of the country.
3. Jewish integration in the political, economic, social and cultural life
4. Protecting the Jewish population from reactionaries and anti Semites.

Kreindler gives the floor to Vasile Lucca who makes the following remarks:

1. The communist party does not wish to have a Jewish problem
2. But, if there is one it should be resolved justly
3. Anti Semitism exists in all countries. Only in the USSR no nationality can oppress another nationality.
4. Fascism led to the massacre of the Jews regardless of their positions.
5. The Jewish problem can only be solved by democratization of our country and not in Palestine.

He recognizes that they did not immediately rectify the biased laws against the Jews which caused suspicion of the present leadership, the laws will be rectified. Meeting adjourned with promises of integration and cooperation.

Meetings of the JDC took place every other day in June and July resulting in 98 pages of organizational programs of Jewish life around the country.

By February – March, 1945, anti-Semitic movements arise within the “historical” parties like the National Peasants Party under Julius Maniu and the Liberal Party under Dinu Brateanu. By November 8, 1945, the birthday of king Mihai I, the legionars engage in anti Semitic excesses resulting in 1 dead and many hospitalized.

By January, 1946, Jews in the USA and around the world criticize the JDC for inaction and asking the Romanian government:

1. To remove the Romanian occupants of Jewish homes which they took when Jews were deported and pay for the objects they stole. Returning Jews have no place where to live.
2. Same with old jobs now occupied by Romanians
3. Professionals like doctors, lawyers, pharmacists, should be returned to positions now occupied by Romanians.

By 29 April, 1946, JDC submits to the government an elaborate report of Jewish concerns and demands:

1. Demands by returning deportees from Transnistria.
2. Demand by former forced laborers in the country.
3. Demands by orphans, widows of murdered husbands
4. Demands by Jews whose assets are administered by the state.

5. Demands by teachers and others removed from their professions
6. Demands by doctors and staff of Jewish hospitals, now nationalized

The delay in resolving these injustices prevent the Jewish community from participating in the democratization efforts of president Groza. They would immediately need 400-500 million Lei to alleviate these Jewish needs before they could engage in the democratization process for the benefit of the country.

### **Reel 3:**

March – December 1949

Hundreds of groups, 2 members each, were sent out to every big and small village, starting in Moldova and Bucovina, to organize and propagandize the Jewish communities. In each locality a general council was formed with a president plus cabinet to manage the various groups of professionals by occupation.

Upon their return to the Central Committee each group presented a detailed report (in Yiddish) of the political, economic and cultural activities of each community plus the suggestions they gave for improvements. The presenters started a contest in the length and detail of their reports, with graphs and tables of percent participation in all the activities, many of the details bordering on the absurd. But they had to submit a budget of expenses and the length of their report was rewarded with increases in budget.

At the very same time the Zionist organizations pushed their own agenda by posting announcements on doors, windows, telephone polls, etc. for Jews to go to the Israeli embassy and apply to go to Israel.. Ultimately, the JDC campaign failed and they could not stop the legions of Jews trying to go to Israel, in spite of published letters in the communist paper describing the horrible conditions in Israel.

### **Reel 4:**

Collection 37: 1949 – 1950

Conclusions of Commander Feldman at the meeting devoted to the problem of departures to Israel

Measures must be devised to face and arrest this problem because we are loosing the best elements: technicians, professionals, intellectuals and plain workers, particularly now that the World Peace Movement is being organized.

Feldman accuses the dishonest Jewish leaders in the JDC who encourage these departures – they should be replaced with honest and committed elements who will work for integration and democratization in both the provinces and Bucharest. In the provinces (Arad Bacau, Timishoara) the situation is disastrous, only a few activists remained. Self criticism followed, one leader pointing fingers to another for not doing enough to convince the Jews to stay. The intellectual activists published poems, plays, novels,

corrals and dances plus anti-Zionist brochures translated from the Russian in an attempt to stem the departures. They describe conditions in Israel where the rich exploit the working class just like in the capitalist USA and England. There is no work for everyone and people live in tents, etc., and yet they encourage Romanian Jews to go there.

Reports from every small and large Jewish community around the country detailing attempts to convince the Jews not to apply and/or go to Israel.....to no avail  
Local peasants say “The Jews brought us communism and now they run away” Others would come and beg the Jews not to leave, but many were glad to purchase cheap furniture and other items from the departing Jews.

Anti-Semitism is the main reason for leaving, especially in the smaller cities – not so open or obvious in the capital. Jews – members of the party are signing up to leave for Israel in spite of promises of better times to come in Romania or the bad situation in letters from Israel. In many places Commander Feldman was told that he came too late. In a few places authorities started to go after the anti-Semitic agitators who are causing the Jews to register for emigration in such large numbers. But, nothing could stem the stampede.

### **Reel 5:**

Records from the JDC of the CC of the RCP, 1945 - 1952

1950: Inspectors returning from the provinces report the deplorable conditions of the Jewish collectives where no one is ready to assume responsibilities of organization. Attendance is constantly drooping due to a strong movement of departures to Israel. They list the total number of the Jewish population, and then indicate the number who applied for emigration. In some cities the entire Jewish population applied for emigration. Especially, the older retirees for whom no pension was allocated and must live on charity until they could depart. Conditions vary from city to city (all listed individually). In some cities the very leaders who are supposed to propagandize the community to stay in Romania are themselves applying to depart. Because of this the JDC in Bucharest started to replace them with young cadres, members of the party, and specialists in propaganda by radio, newspapers, theatres and other cultural activities – all in Yiddish. But, Yiddish has limited sources; therefore they translate from the Russian literature the exploits of the Red Army and proletarian achievements. Some parents and many children would rather study Hebrew.

At the centers where Jews come to pick up emigration applications there are displayed letters and pictures from Israel showing how bad things are there, yet Jews keep coming and applying to depart.

Now, starts the policy of dismissing applicants from their jobs and universities forcing them to face uncertainty as to when they can depart while no other employment is available to them. Then they were told that 50 Kg is all they can take and no household furniture can be taken with them...and yet they come for applications to depart.

## Statistics of Emigrants

1944 – 1945.....8,800  
1947.....30,000  
1948 up to May.....0  
After May 15.....3,600  
1949.....7,200  
1950.....49,500

### By Age:

Under 18.....10,000  
18 – 65.....35,000  
65 and older.....comprises the remaining population

### **Reel 6:**

Records from the JDC of the CC of RCP, 1945 – 1952

Work Plans and Reports of the meetings of the CC of the JDC, June – October 1951

June 8, 1951: Discussions return to the problem of departures. Cases fall into 4 categories

1. Jews who picked up applications but did not submit papers
2. Jews who submitted papers but were denied
3. Jews who were denied but resubmitted with complains
4. Jews who were denied, did not resubmit and have positive attitudes at work.

Jews denied approvals resubmit with complains but claim to be in category 4 in order to stay at work.

June 21, 1951: Work plan of the JDC for July 1 – September 30, 1951

1. Enlarge and stress our actions toward world peace and against the American imperialism and their Zionist ally (Ben-Gurion)
2. Raise the level of political and cultural activities of the Jewish working class
3. Popularize the 5-year plan mobilizing the Jewish labor force
4. Strengthen the ties to the labor force around the country

Leaders of the JDC are concerned of loosing their well-paid positions if more of their constituents depart. Therefore they inflate their reports of accomplishments by using the press, radio and theatre (all in Yiddish)

Individual Jews still confront the leadership with demands for compensation and repayments for their stolen assets when they were deported to Transnistria.

November-December 1951: The JDC leadership begins to propagandize the conflict in the Korean peninsula, attacking the imperialistic American intervention, thus diverting and omitting discussion of above problems. Another big propaganda outcry is the

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reparations pact that Ben-Gurion is negotiating with Adenauer in exchange of Jewish support for the rearming of Nazis Germany. And all this while tens of thousands of new immigrants to Israel live in tents and starve of hunger. Yet, the departures continue. During 1951 they convinced 5152 individuals to renounce their intention to depart.

**Reel 7:**

Work plans, reports, circulation, minutes of the CC of the JDC meetings. January - May, 1952

1. Evaluation of the first year results of the 5-year plan
2. Strengthening relations with the Jewish masses
3. Strengthening the clarification and understanding of the program

Frictions between the JDC delegates who are totally assimilated communists and the local Jewish leadership is insurmountable after one year and the delegates don't know how to change their relations.

Suggestion: Commanders Feldman, Bacal and Friedman should sit down with Rabbi Rosen to have him communicate to the local Federations to intensify the integration of their communities in the larger labor force.

There is strong resentment to the teaching of Yiddish by the parents for it is irrelevant to their aspirations and it is only for propaganda purposes and they don't buy it.

Additional meetings of the CC of the JDC are taken place in January, February, March and April with similar pictures of the situation in various small communities. Strong resentment against teaching all subjects in Yiddish in Bucharest, Iassi and Timisoara.

June 6, 1952. Work plan for the expression of outrage against the pact between Ben Gurion and Adenauer for the reparations agreements whereby West Germany will pay reparations to Israel and all Jews who suffered under the Nazis. They collect signatures and letters. They engage a variety of writers, poets, composers and actors to agitate against this odious pact. At the same time they unmask the group of deviators to the right (who opposed agrarian collectivization as to early), Anna Pauker, Vasile Lucca and Teohari Georgescu.

By December 1952 the intense work of the JDC resulted in 2300 Jewish applicants for emigration to renounce their departure to Israel. At the beginning of 1953, preparations begin for the decision taken at the initial meeting to auto dissolve the JDC by 20 March, 1953 and turn over leadership to party members in the various regions of the country, for self governing within the integrated labor force. The commission of inclusion in the work force is now taking over all the former activities of the JDC. Details of organization of the Commission and its activities are enumerated.