

Communism Puts Identical Masks On Romanians, But Souls Unaffected

Editor's Note — For the first time in five years, four American correspondents have been permitted by Communist Romania to visit that forbidden Balkan country. This is the first of several articles by the Associated Press, chief of bureau in Vienna, who was among them.

By RICHARD O'REGAN

BUCHAREST (AP) — Communization of Romania has made the faces of 16 million Balkan people like identical masks—but it has not yet destroyed their souls.

Outside of Russia, probably no Soviet satellite has gone so far in bringing down to one monotonous, miserable level the thoughts and actions of its people.

Bordering on Russia, Romania's rich oil supplies are vital for the Soviet Union. Every sign points to more and more Sovietization for Romania and perhaps its eventual incorporation into the Soviet Union as a 17th republic.

But deeply hidden, there is national restlessness and even a little organized resistance.

For the "Fourth World Festival of Youth" in Bucharest, the capital, Communist Romania admitted U. S. correspondents for the first time in five years and did its best to leave the impression that Bucharest still is the "Paris of the Balkans."

Life has been communized to the smallest detail of existence. Individuality, which despite oppression always marked the national groups of Germans, Hungarians, Greeks and Romanians, seems to have disappeared.

Men wear the same shirts and shabby trousers and women identical cotton prints from the machines of the Gheorghiu-dej ready-made clothes factory. The neckties has been abolished (except for the new Communist aristocracy) and costume jewelry is a rare, luxury item.

To remain unshaved is the mark of the "new man." "Tovaras" is the new greeting. Recreation has been mass-organized to the extent where even a

DISMISSAL OKAYED

LONDON (AP) — The Supreme Soviet (parliament) of the Azerbaijan Soviet Republic has formally approved the dismissal of Mir Djalaf Bagirov, who was premier of the republic, the Baku radio announced Tuesday. Bagirov's dismissal as Republic premier and member of the ruling Communist Party presidium of the O.S.S.R. is involved with the purge of former Interior Minister Lavrenty P. Beria.

PILOT'S BODY FOUND

GREIFENSEE, Switzerland (AP) — The body of a U.S. bomber pilot, trapped in the wreckage of a B17 Flying Fortress for more than nine years, has been recovered from the bottom of Greifensee Lake. Local authorities and many Swiss newspapers paid tribute to the pilot Tuesday for deliberately sacrificing his life in April 1944 to save the tiny lakeside village of Faellanden.

KINDERLIFE

BERLIN (AP) — Operation Kinderlift got underway Monday, a unique German-American venture for refugee children (Kinder). Twelve U.S. Air Force planes carried 300 boys and girls from Berlin to West Germany for a month's free vacation in German homes and German Youth camps.



A CROWD ESTIMATED AT 3000 attended the Elks picnic at Melin park last Sunday, filled up on barbecued beef, beans and refreshments, played games and in general had a fine time. The picture here shows some of the throngs lined up at the chow tables. — Photo by Van

State Police Enter Strike

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana state police were ready to protect workers in the reopened Clinton telephone exchange today and the Indiana National Guard was alerted to move against any further violence in the Indiana Bell Telephone strike.

A cable cutting left Muncie with most teletype and long distance service dead. It was the second time that city of 60,000 had been isolated by a severed cable, and it occurred just after a power failure had blacked out three-fourths of the city.

Several more persons were arrested after incidents on tense picket lines. The strike by the CIO Communications Workers of America was in its 28th day.

Gov. George N. Craig sent state police to Clinton yesterday afternoon to escort workers into the telephone building. Service in the western Indiana city of 6,000 had been shut down for the second time during the strike. Clinton does not have dial service.

The city was quiet as the state officers led workers and supervisors into the building and remained on guard. The building still had broken windows and light bulbs from a disorder Saturday.

E. R. Moore, head of the company's engineering department in Clinton, said he believed the damage was caused by young hoodlums, not by strikers.

At Kokomo seven girl pickets were charged with assault and battery after a fight outside the exchange in which a nonstriking operator said her clothing was torn.

Company spokesmen said chains and barricades which had been used to bar nonstrikers from leaving the Kokomo building had been removed.

At Evansville a 27-year-old striking operator was charged with disorderly conduct, accused of hitting a temporary operator.

The CWA is on strike at Indiana Bell's 82 exchanges seeking higher wages and a contract to replace one that expired June 2.

Women To Get 75 Cents An Hour

SALEM (AP) — Women and minor office workers will be guaranteed a minimum wage of 75 cents an hour after October 13, Labor Commissioner W. E. Kimsey announced Monday.

The 75-cent hourly minimum was set last weekend by the State Wage and Hour Commission which regulates employment of women and minors in Oregon industries. The new rate was adopted after a series of conferences and public hearings which began last spring.

Other new provisions for office employees order time and one-half pay for Sundays and legal holidays and mandatory 10-minute rest periods in the middle of each four-hour work period.

Kimsey said the 75-cent minimum is one of the highest in the nation for intrastate workers.

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Communist workers said: "I have to get away for a few hours on my bicycle to escape the street rabi." But he can't go far without police checks.

Hour after hour, insistent, nerve-shattering and deafening loudspeakers on the streets mix propaganda with Russian music. Radio-education—as it is called—pipes controlled programs into loudspeakers which can't be adjusted in thousands of town and village homes, factories and farms.

No time is allowed for individual thought or action. If not attending political lectures or "cultural" events, the Romanian today is rushed in buses to take part in parades.

"Only the party bigshots can see the parades," explained a Western diplomat. "The public is forced to march in them."

With its own peculiar morality, communism cut out completely Bucharest's once-gay night life. Golf courses (a "decadent" sport) have been made into military training grounds, gambling casinos into lecture halls.

Enterprise has been almost 100 per cent socialized. Only a few private artisans, like tailors and shoemakers who cannot get cloth or leather, remain. And a few beggars.

As more effort appears to have been made in trying to "educate" the Romanian masses to communism than in other satellites, yet, though a massive, all-embracing propaganda has made most Romanians act in a Russian behavior pattern, six years of communism apparently have failed to make the majority think like Russians.

"Even the Communists do not believe their own lies," said a letter secretly slipped to visiting American correspondents.

There was a certain unreluctance about the crowds who found everyday police terror somewhat relaxed during the presence of 30,000 foreign youths attending the festival. Although there seemed a sea of uniforms to Westerners, residents said there were less than usual.

By the eager firmness of their handshakes, the look in their eyes, or the way they spat out Communist slogans, they showed their hate of communism and a lingering hope of liberation when they met non-Communist Westerners.

Although he knew they were watched by secret police, an old lawyer, in a pitiful assortment of clothes approached two Americans and said: "I heard you speaking English. It is shocking what has happened in the middle class. Many of my friends are starving or are in prison. Communism is slowly

and they get a feeling of national pride from its accomplishments. pride is too strong to let them keep. But the Russians have occupied us up for long."

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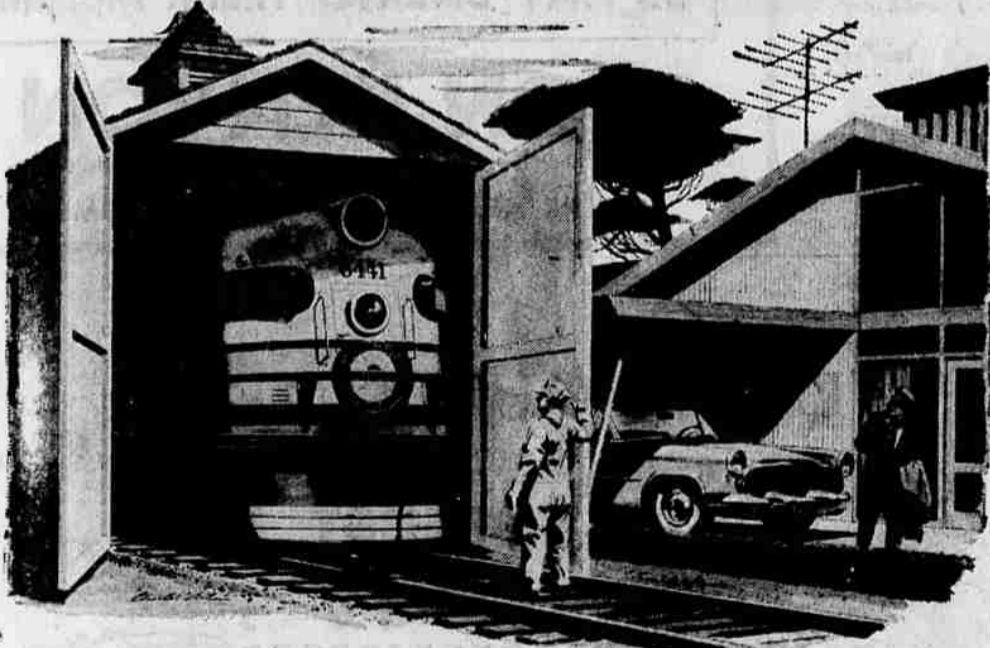
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