

## Informative Reports Concerning the State of Spirit of Repatriate Prisoners

Ștefan Gheorghe<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Universitatea Danubius din Galați, Facultatea de Științe ale Comunicării,*

*stefangheorghe@univ-danubius.ro*

**Abstract.** The return of the Romanian soldiers from the captivity will not automatically coincide with their freedom, the standards and the military instructions, as well as the dispositions and the M.A.I. regulations, forcing the Romanian authorities of resort to investigate the case of every repatriate person, obviously, by national security reasons.

**Keywords:** reports informative, prisoners, informative processing, captivity, freedom.

The intern political situation until the Government instauration controlled by communists at 6 mars, will impose an equidistant examination of M.St.M., least in intention, of the prisoners who were attended to be repatriate, from west, but from east too and concerning the treatment, this will be the same for them. The situation will suffer a change after 6 mars 1945, when, for political reasons, will be applied a treatment to the repatriate Romanian prisoners, from a counterinformative point of view, something more insistent, identifying the most unfavourable aspects of the government. By these informative processing, was followed, definitely, the establishment of means, of methods and the subject of the “defamatory” propaganda for the Bucharest regime that the romanian soldiers had been submitted at, on the captivity periode.

Concerning those who were prisoners on the East front, it can be said that, starting with the taking up of the power by the Groza government, they will be used as a propaganda mean ,the government posing it as “the only depositary of the Allys confidence (Soviet citizen), fact that will furthest become a painful true.<sup>1</sup>

The technical aspects regarding the return of the Romanian soldiers from the captivity, from the West but from the East too, were imposing the succession of some special procedures that were necessary in the peace time and indispensable in the war time.

The entrance possibilities in this way, of some elements which could endanger the state security or the silence and the public ordre, will determine the abilited military commandments and the M.A.I. structures to active collaborate to identify these elements, specially now, when, the credibility on the extern plan and the intern political support of the Groza cabinet, were seriously affected because of the obviousness obedience, manifested by this one in the relations with the Sovietic Union. The danger, concerning the West repatriate persons, was done by the infiltration possibility of the legionary elements, which were public declared as sympathizers of the legionary government from Viena, which was lead by Horia Sima.<sup>2</sup>

The informative processing, will hint at the Romanian prisoners too, returned from East with the volunteer divisions or not. Officially, will be forbid, to keep the good comradeship relations with the

---

<sup>1</sup> St Neagoe, *op cit*, p 211-212

<sup>2</sup> A.N.I.C.B., fond I.G.J.,file no. 138/1944, f 44 The General Ordre of I.G.J,with no. 45.889 from 18 october,concerning the legionaries situation,prisoners on the front,force The Gendarme Legions to carry up periodically,the arrestments situation ,done among these ones.

Soviet citizens, the interrogation of the Romanian soldiers, arrived with those two divisions,<sup>3</sup> especially because these ones will be integrated in the Romanian army, by The High Royal Decree, only on 15 August ,after the repeated applications, of the Soviet Commandment, of the Second Ukrainian Front, represented by the Rodion Malinovski marshal.<sup>4</sup>

In terms of the evolution of the intern political events, the informative organs from the War Minister and the Home Affairs Minister, will appreciate (s.n. Ş.Gh), if it is positive or unseasonable, the cases of informations collection without having derogational dispositions from the legal stipulations. The special interest of the Bucharest authorities, for the counterinformative prosecution of those who were attended to be repatriated, emerge from the I.G.J. announcement,no.50097 sent to the Gendarme Inspectorates on 20 november 1944,containing “Standards” concerning the prisoners interrogation.<sup>5</sup> In keeping with this one, ”when cases will be presented, they will be broadcast to the legions too, to comply with”, the results will be communicated I.G.J.”every time when these norms will be applied”.<sup>6</sup>

In this way will be elaborated a whole set of measures concerning the methodology of the informative research of the Romanian soldiers returned from the captivity, will be given by **M.St.M.**, Second Section, First Office, it was specified the fact that imperatively it is necessary a “complete documentation concerning the Romanian soldiers, ex prisoners at Germans or Hungarians and who recently came back from the captivity”. In keeping with these orders, it is desirable the organization of the informative research of the prisoners by a model established before, which must have the next points:

1. The circumstances when they have fallen in captivity. At this point, the interest is given by the knowledge of some acts as: the cases of cowardice during the fights or of desertion at enemy; if those who were right in taking measures dictated by situation and if it was done all that was possible to avoid the falling in captivity, otherwise they are considered guilty.<sup>7</sup>
2. The behaviour in captivity, the political activity and the establishment of military unities. In the first case there were asked informations about some elements of the Romanian army which was in Germany, at different schools, commissions, etc, or about the Romanian soldiers felt prisoners in the fights from Ardeal, Hungary and Czechoslovak. It was followed the getting of dates concerning the Horia Sima government’s constitution, where was founded and Romanian soldiers were manifested their adhesion toward this govern.

The legionary govern activity among Romanian soldiers who were in camps for prisoners, the propaganda evolved, the contacts established, were a reason of interest for Romanian informative organs, as ‘the organization of subversive systems(formed by elements of the Romanian army which was on the enemy territory),organizations of espionage which fulfil special missions in the territory and behind the Romanian lines or something of propaganda(radio, manifests),other kind of organizations ,with subversive character.”

In the second case it was followed the getting of informations concerning the place,”ways and Romanian prisoners’ meetings, the elements that co-operate at the enrolment in these systems, by personal conviction, because of the propaganda or to escape from this camp’s treatment.”

From details it was searched to find out who are the circulators and which were their ways of conviction, which was “the organization, the number, the name and the commanders of these unities, If in these unities were political elements too, with control character, who were they and how were

---

<sup>3</sup> Arh M.Ap.N., fond 948,file no. 1557, f 464.Adresse M. St.M.,the second section to M.St.M,the seventh section,no. 582.486,from 2 december 1944,was specified that,”to keep the good comradeship relation between our army and the Soviet army,it is recomanded to look for friendship toward the comrades for the Tudor Vladimirescu division too.In this idea it is underlined that it is not admitted to take any interview or other declarations, from this division soldiers,neither oral nor writing”

<sup>4</sup> See in this value The General Order no. 31/16 August 1945 of the War Ministry before all the inferior echelons and I.G.J.,IN A.N.I.C.B.,fond I.G.J.,file no. 92/1945, f 197

<sup>5</sup> Ibidem.file no. 75/1944, f 1-10

<sup>6</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>7</sup> Arh M.Ap.N, fond 948,file no. 151, f 212-213.

they practicing their function, the armament endowment, the instruction program, the missions done and if they part the military operations.<sup>8</sup>

The treatment applied to soldiers who were in camps in the captivity time. By this last point, it was desired to know which were the means of transport to camps, the behaviour of guards, the food and the details concerning the prisoners' camps, but the number of those dead too, "the causes of their dead, if there were discriminations among the different nationalities of prisoners from camps, if there were elements of control, supervision, denouncers or torture persons beated up from our prisoners soldiers, put in the enemy service and what was their behaviour."<sup>9</sup>

The adrese was about to be sent to all commandments and big unities, the dispositions in this sens being obligatory and then taking" emergency declarations to prisoners who, must respod to the last-mentioned questionnaire", a valid thing without exclusiveness too, for" all Romanian prisoners who return from captivity." The declarations given by Romanian prisoners were about to be stopped and put forward at M.St.M., the second Section, motivating that "satisfy the purposes that M.St.M. was looking for."<sup>10</sup>

The situation was actually, very critical for this point of view, in the territory eliberated by the Romanian-soviet armies, especially "in Boemia, being found a lot of Romanian citizens, ex members of the camps and lately, improving different occasions ,they escaped, intermingling on the Czech territory ,counting on the population's support from this country."<sup>11</sup>The absence of one consulate or one Romanian representation at least- was showed in the report's following-up which was put forward by the Informative Subcenter no 2,to the War Ministry-it make them to meet a lot of difficulties, these ones, "they all want to arrive in the country and as usual,they look for such a Romanian authority which facilitate their repatriation."<sup>12</sup>

The situation was rather "alarming" for the counterinformations' organs which were thinking that on this way it may be repatriate some hostile elements to the Romanian state, subversive elements which, tricking the honest-mindedness of the Czech state, arrive in the country."<sup>13</sup>

The case will be discussed in the Resort Conference of the mass organizations on 24 november 1945, where participated representatives of working class organizations, controlled by communists. In the Mezinceanu "comrade" exposure was showed the Romanian precarious situation, ex prisoners in Germany and being at the moment in the franch camps, the treatment much more tough that they were submitted at, even beside the german prisoners without the Romanian state interest about them.<sup>14</sup> The big number of prisoners and deported persons who were in Germany and Czechoslovak was imposing- in the communist representative's opinion-"the forwarding of a democratic (s.n. Ş.Gh) civil commission, beside the military one, to research their military situation, in that place, to take the necessary measures for a perfect repatriation."<sup>15</sup>

The evolution of the military operations during the second military campaign on the West front, will inevitably attract an important number of of prisoners and Romanian civil deported persons in the states of Central Europe, at the end of the war.

---

<sup>8</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>9</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>10</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>11</sup> A.N.I.C.B., fond the War Ministry,the General Army Inspectorate (follow-up will be mention M.R., I.G.A., dosar nr 6/1944, f 31.

<sup>12</sup> Ibidem.

<sup>13</sup> Ibidem. Was presented the case of some German ethnics who had defalcated from the military service in Romania or had enroled in SS and were repatriating now as romanians,being identified accordingly on the Czech territory.

<sup>14</sup> Ibidem. fond C.C.al P.C.R.-Office,file no 111/945,see the resort minutes of the mass organisations f 1-32.The representative of "Patriotic's Defence" ,Mezinceanu was definitely informed by a letter send by a friend (known being the fact that this was the name of communist party members among them,but not only) that it was showed by with details,the romanian's state who were about to be repatriated from West.

<sup>15</sup> Ibidem there were follow-up shown the efforts done for a good life of these ones by the attempt to send to a women deputation at a congress in Paris, as a sum of money too. The commission was about to deal with the militaries aspects too, especially with help for those who can obtain "the good behaviour certificate, offered by the representatives of the communist party. It was specified the danger about the country entrance of some people, as the necessity to create some shelters for those who come in the country.

Anyway, the activity of the Romanian informative structures from the front had been forbidden by the soviet commandments, by reasons easy to understand, fact for that their activity was reducing now as then at the interrogation of the German and Hungarian war prisoners, of the Romanian deserters run from the work detachments, of Romanian prisoners who had succeeded to escape, as of Hungarian civil persons who had infiltrated behind the front line.<sup>16</sup>

The special interest for the counterinformative research of those who were repatriating from West, will be motivated by the new regime politics from Bucharest, totally obedient to Moscova, being at the start of such a true campaign of witch hunt!

About the situation of repatriates from U.R.S.S., the orders received on hierarchical scale were very narrow, this means that, about those who were returned from the soviet captivity was forbid the start of every type of informative research. Eloquent in this way is the M.St.M. address content, the second Section, no. 570.928 from 8 May 1940, to The General Direction of Police, Office.

With this occasion, will be specified, clearly and without doubt, that, "the Romanian soldiers, returned from the U.R.S.S. captivity, do not present any informative interest, reason for that the instructions previous received were about to be modified.

Like that, all the Romanian soldiers, returned from Soviet Union, will be directed "by the comenditions of market and gendarme organizations, direct at their origin unities, concerning the elucidation of their military situation, in keeping with the standards which will be done by M.St.M., first Section.<sup>17</sup>

The instructions received, will be sent by the General Direction of Police, the Police Direction of Security, to all Regional Inspectorates of Police, to notice,<sup>18</sup> and spread to the legions and gendarme systems from territory.<sup>19</sup>

Concerning the Romanian soldiers returned in their country, without passing about the Territorial Circles or about reception centres organized by M.St.M., the orders given, were following the identification of these ones in territory and their forwarding at Territorial Circles where they live, "to elucidate their military situation", being warned that they have this obligation, contrary, enduring the legal sanctions.<sup>20</sup>

---

<sup>16</sup> Ibidem, fond M.R.-I.G.A.,file no 26/1946, f 131.

<sup>17</sup> Ibidem, fond ,the General Direction of Police, file 11/1945, f 12

<sup>18</sup> Ibidem the M.St.M. orders and instructions, will be the sequel of those sent with no. nr 630.656/945 de M. St. M. and the inspectorates and gendarmes legions, they were the possibility to research by informative point of view, the Romanian prisoners.

<sup>19</sup> Archives of Galati State,fond Covurlui Gendarme Legion, file no. 99/1945, f 106

<sup>20</sup> Ibidem, fond I.G.J.,file no. 75/1944, f 98 See the Circular Order ,no. 41087 from 4 october 1945 of I.G.J Public Order Security Direction, sent to legions and to gendarms' inspectorates