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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT The Casa Scinteii in Bucharest

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General

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1. The Scinteia building in Bucharest is the national center of all state printing and publishing activities.

Electric and Mechanical Equipment

2. The rotary press department is equipped with 12 rotary presses which can be operated jointly or separately, as required. Two presses are used for a four-page newspaper, four for an eight-page newspaper, etc.; for color printing, two presses are used for each color.

3. Each press is connected to the following power units:

   a. A reversible 40 kw,110 volt D.C electric motor;

   b. A 4 kw, 220 volt A.C. motor, for opening the rolls of newspaper print;

   c. Several auxiliary motors with an overall power of about 15 kw.

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50X1-HUM

The rotary presses are operated from a control panel mounted opposite each press; electric power is controlled from a panel mounted on the overpass situated above and parallel to the rotary presses.

4. The generators and converters (operating on alternating current) are situated in a room next to that containing the rotary presses. Each of the converters consists of a 40 kw, 380 V. A.C. motor mounted coaxially with a 40 kw, 110 V. D.C. motor. Each converter supplies power for rotary presses, while the current for braking and compensation is transmitted to each press by means of a mechanical amplidyne. The overall power of the motors in this department is approximately 600 kw.

5. The sterotyping department (for newspapers) is equipped with five crucibles for melting and pouring lead, equipment for casting the matrices, lead-cutting machines and moving belts. The total power used in this department is about 250 kw.

6. The special press department is located in the second basement of wing D (this is a MAN rotary press which was formerly used by the Curentul publishing house). Electric motors used to have an overall power of about 140 kw.

7. The book department has about 32 flat-bed presses (Plant), and the total power of its motors is about 350 kw.

8. The linotype department is divided into the general section, with 36 linotypes, and a separate section for the newspaper Scinteia, with 10 linotypes. Each of the electric motors in this department is of about 15 kw.

Printing Capacity

9. The total newspaper printing capacity depends on the output of the rotary presses, each of which can print up to 60,000 copies per hour. Printing figures for the daily newspapers belonging to Scinteia are as follows:

a.	Scinteia	1,000,000 copies
b.	Scinteia Tineretului	300,000 copies
c.	Rominia Libera	300,000 copies
d.	Munca	200,000 copies
e.	Elore	100,000 copies

f. Other newspapers, with a total circulation of 200,000 copies.

10. The printing of books and pamphlets of all types and on all subjects is about 100,000 copies per day.

11. In 1957, a number of foreign, including Western, delegations visited the Scinteia plant and were given false figures about the capability; this was done in a somewhat haphazard

fashion, the guides merely stating any figures they pleased (any, but the correct ones). Different groups of visitors are hence given different sets of figures.

12. The sale price of newspapers varies from 20 to 25 bani, while actual printing costs are around 60 to 80 bani. The deficit is covered by Party and trade union propaganda funds.

Supply of Paper

13. Paper used by Scinteia is provided by the Busteni and Letea factories in quantities decided upon at a high level; the quantities received determine the number of copies printed, regardless of the demand for the newspapers. The policy is that in case of a shortage of paper, Scinteia, Scinteia Tineretului, Munca, and Flore are to have priority at the expense of the other newspapers.

14. Paper is brought by train and unloaded at a special ramp north of the building, from which an underground tunnel leads into the basement where the paper is stored. The basement of wing A2 is used for storage of flat sheets of paper, and the basement of wing A4 is used for storage of rolls of newsprint.

Various Services in the Building

15. The basement of wing B1 houses the telephone exchange of the building. The exchange, of American manufacture, was originally purchased by Hungary and later transferred to Rumania. Its capacity is as follows:

a. 1,140 internal lines, with and without extensions;

b. About 80 outside dialing lines;

c. 360 direct lines connected with the telephone exchanges of Dacia, Banu-Manta, and Calea Victoriei;

d. 20 direct lines connected to a special secret switchboard;

e. 35 direct lines for communications with foreign countries.

16. The telephoto equipment of the Agerpres news agency is also housed at the same location, as are a switchboard for relaying radio programs within the building, and an internal radio-telephone switchboard for use inside the building (this is called Telcafon; one dials the desired line, and then continues the conversation by R/T). The telephone exchange and related services are staffed by seven women switchboard operators and eight technicians, working in three shifts.

17. The Agerpres news agency employs about 600 workers in the building, occupying the first floor of wings B1, B2, and B3. Information from abroad is received, sorted, and disseminated here. The Agerpres rooms are equipped with tele-printers, radio receivers, Morse transmitters, telephoto apparatus, and other equipment, all of which is new and plentiful, having been purchased from the West in 1958-1959.

18. After processing, the news items are disseminated from the Agerpres offices to the newspaper editorial offices located in the building (simultaneous transmissions via teleprinter). Since internal news items are also received by the newspapers from their reporters (many of whom are volunteers), these must be processed in the newspaper offices; such items are also passed on to the news agency, if necessary. Photographs are disseminated by Agerpres under an agreement between all the newspapers aimed at reducing costs.

19. The television station occupies the ninth and tenth stories of wing D of the Scinteia building; these stories house receiving and relay-transmission equipment, all of Soviet manufacture. Television broadcasts are relayed from the studio on Bulevardul Stalin on the shore of Lake Herastrau, via an underground cable to the Scinteia building, where they are broadcast to viewers over a 116 meter-high antenna. There is only one broadcasting channel. "Field broadcasts" (displays, sports, events) are made using special vechicles which relay the broadcasts to the Scinteia building, where they are transmitted the same as regular studio programs. There are four receiving antennas which are rotatable in order to permit reception of field broadcasts.

20. The television station in the Scinteia building is served by a crew of about 30 engineers and technicians. The station has its own high-tension transformers (420 kw. 5,000/380 volts) which are installed near the station. Electric current for the station is supplied from the low-tension control panel, while HT current is provided by auto-transformers. On the ninth story is a water tank used for cooling the transmitter tubes; if the water pumps in wing A1 stop working, the television station goes off the air.

Emergency Printing Facilities

21. In order to guarantee the continued publication of the Communist newspapers in case the present regime is overthrown, the Rumanian Communist Party decided to select a special emergency shelter to house an emergency print shop. The site selected for this purpose was the basement of wing D of the Scinteia building. There are actually two basements, one on top of the other (I and II). The place is eminently suitable, as basement II is situated about 20 meters below ground level, and the beams supporting the two basements are armored with steel plates on the outside and incorporated in the frame of reinforced concrete pillars carrying the load of the building itself. The entire installation is top secret, and few of the present workers in the building know of its existence.

22. Entry to the basements is gained via the two elevators of wing D, as well as by the following staircases (the use of which is forbidden): two stairways in wing D and one each in wings A, B, and C. Two tunnels have been prepared for emergency exit; these lead out from the basement, each branching out into two covered and well-camouflaged exits.

above ground. All doors leading into the shelter are heavily armored and are capable of withstanding conventional anti-tank missiles (practical tests were conducted prior to the installation of the doors). The weakest point of this shelter is the emergency tunnel leading from wing D to the front of the building; even this exit, however, is calculated to withstand a direct hit by a five-ton bomb.

23. The service rooms of the shelter have been equipped with the following: an electric generator (about 100 hp) produced by the 23 August Works; showers, toilets, sleeping quarters, office rooms, and headquarters rooms for the civil defense commanders of the building. Electric current for the shelter is provided from the transformer station "T-3" but by pressing a button it is possible to switch over to current supplied by the shelter's own generator. Water is provided from a well 210 meters deep, equipped with a 40 kw motor supplying 60 cubic meters per hour. Sewage from the shelter is disposed of via the municipal system, into which it is forced by a special pump.

24. The windows of basement I, which open onto the interior courtyard of the building, have panes of white glass; behind the glass are filters which react immediately when the outer panes are broken. The filters are mounted in a frame similar to that of a window, about 20 centimeters thick and about 100 x 110 in size. Three close-meshed screens are mounted in each window frame, two on the sides and one in the center. The outer part is filled with grains of black coal, while the inner part is filled with grains of an unknown material. These filters pump air into the shelter, and the evacuation of "used" air is implemented by other pumps through special equipment. The entire ventilation system is electrically-operated, the source of the current being located in a special room in the shelter. The same room houses an emergency installation to be used in case the supply of electric power is cut off. This consists of a number of bicycles connected to a single axle and fixed in place; by working the pedals, sufficient current can be generated to operate the ventilation system.

25. There is a main control panel in the shelter, to which all installations entering the shelters are connected: telephone lines, the intercom, the loudspeaker system of the building, and alarm sirens. Telephone contact between the shelter and the telephone exchange of the building is provided by two parallel cables, each of which contains 50 pairs of wires.

Various Installations in the Building

26. All the basements in all wings of the building are planned for use as shelters for the staff in case of air attack. Some of the basements will be turned over to civil defense units (ALA) according to a previously-prepared plan. The basement of wing A2 houses an underground garage for vehicles of the building's occupants. Parking capacity is about 120 trucks and cars, with convenient provisions for exit and entry. The main entrance to this garage is situated at the front of wing A2.

27. There are about 48 elevators in the various parts of the building, for both freight and passengers. Speed of all elevators is adjustable, varying between 0.6 and 2.0 meters per second.

Electrical System

28. The Scinteia building receives its electric power from the Grozavesti power station via a double underground cable (part for use and part for reserve) passing under the railroad tracks to Constanta near the Grivita Rosie bridge and leading to a transformer station situated about 800 to 1,000 meters north of the Scinteia building.

29. Construction of this transformer station was completed in 1957. The station consists of two 30/6/5 kV cells, each of 10,000 kVa; both are of German manufacture. When the station was first operated for testing purposes, there was a high voltage (30 kV) short circuit which burned out the main armature. The German factory replaced the entire equipment. The station is manned by approximately eight men per shift, who belong to the personnel of the Provincial Electrical Power Supply Company (IREB). There are considerable power losses on the 5 kV circuit and the 6 kV line has not yet been put into operation. The station has a control room equipped with fully automatic switch apparatus, which can be operated by remote control.

30. The transformer station described above serves the following:

a. The Scinteia building, to which lead two underground 5 kV HT cables:

1) main cable - for regular use, 800 square millimeters cross section.

2) reserve cable - 400 square millimeters cross section.

b. The jamming station for Western radio broadcasts, situated near the Arcul de Triumf.

c. Bucurestii Noi workers' housing area.

d. The Steaua railway workers' housing area.

e. The Dacia spinning mill.

f. The vehicle garage of the Central Committee of the Party.

g. The Mogosoaia quarter.

31. The cables which lead to the Scinteia building from the transformer station run parallel to a tunnel, which is used for the unloading of paper from the railway, and to the hot water pipes used for central heating of the building. They enter the building at wing A1, where there is a central control panel from which the cables divide and branch off to the transformer stations of the building. The distribution

chambers of the control rooms are equipped with automatic switching systems, using Bucholtz relays. The main control room is also equipped with modern instruments which graphically record high tension, low tension, frequency, intensity, and quantity of electric power supplied. This control room is staffed with two or three men per shift.

32. The building's transformer stations, known as Posturi Trafo, all operate on 5,000/380 and 5,000/220 V. and are fed "in circuit" ("in bucla"); if the input cable is damaged, the output cable automatically begins to supply current to the station. Each of the transformer stations is serviced by a crew of about nine, working in three shifts; all stations were produced at the Klement Gottwald Works, Bucharest, and the Electroputere Works in Craiova; all are frequently damaged by breakdowns in the commutators of their primaries (comutatorul de tensiune primara) as a result of HT "shocks." The following is a list of transformer stations in the building:

a. T-1, situated in basement I of wing A4; this station has four transformer chambers and supplies current to the D.C. generator room; the newspaper presses; and all the electromechanical equipment in wings A4 and A1- basement, ground, first, second and third stories, and the tower.

b. T-4, situated in basement I of wing A4; this station has four transformer chambers and supplies current to half of wing A4 and half of wing A3 (all stories).

c. T-5, situated in basement I of wing A2; this station has three transformer chambers and supplies current to half of wing A2 and half of wing A3 (all stories).

d. T-2, situated in basement I of wing C3; this station has three transformer chambers and supplies current to wings C1, C2, C3 (all stories); half of wing D1 (all stories); and the canteen, underground garage, creche, auditorium and the other buildings in the courtyard.

e. T-3, situated in basement I of wing B2; this station has three transformer chambers and supplies current to wings B1, B2, B3 (all stories); the various departments of Agerpres; half of wings D1 and D2 (all stories, including basement I and II); and the various departments of the television station (reserve only).

f. The transformer station of the television station, operating on 5,000/380 V.; it serves the equipment of the television station only.

Water, Sewerage, Gas and Central Heating Systems

33. Water is supplied to the Scinteia building by two means:

a. Two 200 millimeter pipes fill two reservoirs, with a capacity of 50,000 cubic meters each. This water is

supplied from the municipal pump house; because of the difference in elevation between the Scinteia building and the water supply center there are frequent interruptions and shortages of water (this problem was solved by the drilling of wells - see below).

b. Five deep wells, each equipped with a 40 kw underground pump supplying 60 cubic meters per hour; these wells are automatically operated from the central control room situated on the ground floor of wing A2.

34. During the summer, when the entire city of Bucharest suffers from a shortage of water, the five wells provide water for the whole I.V. Stalin quarter. They are interconnected by a ring of pipes which are also linked to the two reservoirs and to the pump hall located in basement I of wings A4 and A1. These pumps supply water to the building and to the pipes which feed the I.V. Stalin quarter when necessary. The total power of the motors in this hall is 180 to 200 kw; in the hall is an automatic audio-visual control panel which regulates the flow of water. The reservoirs are equipped with float apparatus which shuts off the pumps when the reservoirs are full, the surplus water draining off into the sewerage system.

35. Since the municipal sewerage pipe which passes near the Scinteia building is unsuitable for the building's needs because of its small diameter, a special sewerage line leads from the building to Lake Herastrau. It is also planned to connect the building to a sewerage pipe now under construction. In all of the basements are automatically-operated sewerage pumps, but their output is relatively small. During heavy rains the basements of wings A1, A2, A3, A4 and C2, including the garage, are heavily flooded, and it then becomes necessary to remove the water by using additional pumps. No solution has yet been found to this problem.

36. A pipeline leading from the Filaret railway station supplies the building with methane gas under high pressure. When the pipeline reaches the building the pressure is reduced to medium and then to low. The capacity of the pipeline is small, and on cold days - when the temperature drops to -10°C - the quantity of gas supplied to the building is insufficient for heating purposes.

37. Central heating for the Scinteia building is provided by a "thermal center" located about 400 to 500 meters away and connected to the building by double pipes (one supplying boiling water to the building and the other returning the water to the station for reheating). These pipes reach the building through a tunnel under the railway tracks to Constanta. The station includes:

a. Three Aqua Tubular boilers, manufactured at the Mao Tse-Tung plant, each with a capacity of 7,500,000 kcal per hour.

b. One boiler of the above model and manufacture, with a capacity of 2,250,000 kcal per hour.

c. A station regulating the pressure of the gas used to fuel the boilers.

38. The above-mentioned boilers burn methane gas and fuel oil (pacura) together. The fuel oil is supplied to the boilers from underground tanks situated in the courtyard of the "thermal center." The oil reaches these tanks through a direct pipeline from No. 1 Fuel Supply Base -Mogosoaia. Liquid fuel is pumped into the "daily tank" (a tank for daily use, located outside the boiler hall, and which is one story high), by means of a number of centrifugal pumps. The liquid fuel tanks are equipped with an automatic extinguishing device which floods the tanks with foam if their internal temperature reaches the critical point.

39. Above each central heating boiler is a ventilation unit for the disposal of burnt gases, and down behind each boiler is a blower. The supply of electricity for power and lighting to the station amounts to 400 kw.

40. Boiling water at 130 degrees centigrade is pumped to heating sub-stations (sub-centrale de incalzire) situated in the basement of wing A4, where about 30 pumps control the flow of water through the heating system; all are mechanical but can also be operated manually.

41. The building can also be heated by using the air-conditioning system installed in the basement of each wing, which heats the air in the building in winter and cools it in summer. In the towers of each wing are vents for pumping in fresh air from the outside and for expelling stale air from the building. Total electric power consumed by the entire air-conditioning system, including all its component installations, is about 1,400 kw.

42. The tunnel for heating pipes (mentioned in paragraph 38 above) also contains a special telephone cable used during peacetime for remote control of the heating station and in time of emergency for telephone communications between the civil defense headquarters of the Scinteia building and the antiaircraft command post situated at the jamming station (mentioned above in paragraph 31b).

Civil Defense Organization of the Scinteia Building

43. The Casa Scinteii has a civil defense organization which encompasses all employees in the building. This organization is headed by three persons:

a. A signals officer, who is an electric or electronics engineer; he is in charge of a group of technical workers who have to maintain telephone and wireless communications (or to replace them, if necessary, by means of runners) during and after an attack, and to repair

any damage which may have been caused to signals systems.

b. A damage control officer; at his disposal are a number of work teams including many technicians, who have to repair all electric, water, sewerage, heating and ventilation systems as well as (if necessary), damaged structures.

c. A chemical officer who is in charge of a relatively small team and who is responsible for anti-contamination measures (location, protection and disposal).

44. Routine activities of the ALA consist of organizing the shelters and their equipment, care of fire fighting and rescue equipment placed at various locations in the building, and holding courses for the staff. ALA courses are continuously held (a number of hours per week), while practice alerts are conducted once every three months. Workers are taught the following subjects: aircraft recognition; identification and disposal of bombs; identification of contaminated materials and disposal methods; use of protective equipment against gas and other toxic materials; behavior during air attack, and first aid. The general standard of knowledge in these subjects is quite low, because of the small number of hours devoted to each subject, to the ineffective manner in which the material is presented, and to shirking on the part of the employees.

50X1-HUM

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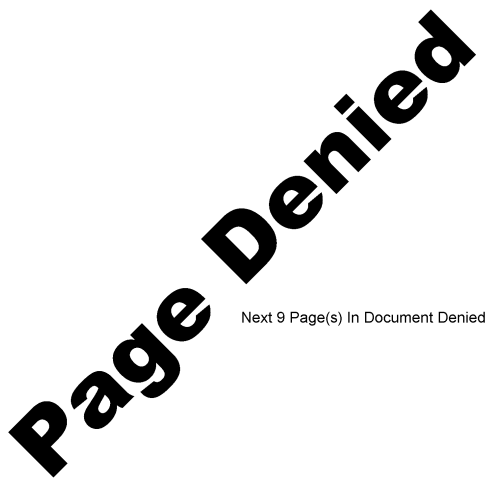

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