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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 073 OF 30 MAR

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STANCU PAPUSOIU

1. ROMAINA LIBERA OF 30 MARCH CARRIES A LONG ARTICLE ON THE PAPUSOIU CASE UNDER THE ~~HEADLINE~~ HEADLINE 'THE FACTS REMAIN FACTS'. IT IS SIGNED BY NEAGU UDROIU (WHO ATTENDED THE 1979 ROUND TABLE).

2. THE ARTICLE SETS OUT TO PUT THE RECORD STRAIGHT, FOLLOWING WESTERN MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE CASE. IT TAKES THE FORM OF AN INTERVIEW WITH PAPUSOIU, IN HOSPITAL IN CRAIOVA RECOVERING FROM HARSH TREATMENT. THE MAIN DETAILS OF PAPUSOIU'S STORY ARE SET OUT IN PARAGRAPHS 3-6 BELOW.

3. PAPUSOIU IS AN UNQUALIFIED 29 YEAR-OLD ROMANIAN CITIZEN FROM A PEASANT FAMILY NEAR CRAIOVA. AFTER MILITARY SERVICE AND VARIOUS UNSKILLED JOBS, IN 1971 HE RECEIVED TWO SUCCESSIVE PRISON SENTENCES OF 5 AND 11 MONTHS RESPECTIVELY FOR ATTEMPTING TO CROSS THE FRONTIER ILLEGALLY. (NO MENTION OF YUGOSLAVIA). IN 1977 HE RECEIVED A PRISON SENTENCE OF 4 YEARS 11 MONTHS FOR RAPE BUT WAS RELEASED AFTER 1 AND A HALF YEARS IN A GENERAL AMNESTY.

4. IN AUGUST 1980 HE LEFT ROMANIA ILLEGALLY AND ARRIVED IN AUSTRIA. AFTER TWO MONTHS HE WAS SENT TO TRAIKIRCHEN REFUGEE CAMP WHERE HE STAYED UNTIL THE END OF DECEMBER. HE THEN WENT TO UDINE IN ITALY WHERE HE WAS AGAIN IMPRISONED, THEN MOVED TO LATINA CAMP. PENNILESS HE RESORTED TO THEFT IN ROME. HE THEN MOVED ON TO THE FRG. HERE HE RECEIVED PARTICULARLY BRUTAL TREATMENT FROM THE POLICE, SPENDING DAYS AND NIGHTS IN HANDCUFFS, BEING FORCED TO SLEEP STANDING UP, BEING BEATEN AND ACCUSED OF BEING A SPY. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED, AND WENT ON TO FRANCE AND THENCE TO ENGLAND. ALL OF THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT DOCUMENTATION OR TICKETS.

5. ARRESTED IN LONDON IN APRIL, HE ASKED TO GO TO AUSTRALIA OR TO BE HELPED TO RETURN TO ROMANIA. HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY HOME OFFICE OFFICIALS AND PUT IN A PRISON NEAR LONDON AIRPORT. AFTER THREE MONTHS PAPUSOIU WROTE A LETTER TO THE HOME OFFICE ASKING TO BE RELEASED AND PUT IN CONTACT WITH THE ROMANIAN EMBASSY OR SENT TO ANOTHER COUNTRY. AFTER TWO WEEKS HE WROTE AGAIN. HE WAS THEN VISITED BY 8 MEN IN WHITE COATS WHO TOOK HIM TO ANOTHER BUILDING, STRIPPED HIM, THREW HIM ONTO A CEMENT FLOOR AND BEAT HIM WITH STICKS. HE WAS ACCUSED OF BEING A TERRORIST. THIS WENT ON FOR FOUR DAYS, DURING WHICH TIME HE WAS NOT EVEN GIVEN WATER. PERIODIC BEATINGS CONTINUED UNTIL DECEMBER 1982 WHEN HE WENT ON HUNGER STRIKE. AFTER 10 DAYS HE WAS MOVED BACK TO HIS OLD CELL. HIS BED WAS A MAT OF ONE SQUARE METRE, ON CONCRETE. BEATINGS CONTINUED.

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THEN ONE DRY, WITHOUT WARNING, HE WAS TAKEN TO THE AIRPORT IN HANDCUFFS BY 3 POLICEMEN. AFTER ONE NIGHT AT THE AIRPORT WITH NOTHING TO EAT, HE WAS PUT ON THE TAROM FLIGHT TO BUCHAREST.

6. ON HIS ARRIVAL AT OTOPENI THE AUTHORITIES DECIDED TO ADMIT HIM AND SENT HIM TO THE HOSPITAL IN CRAIOVA, WHICH WAS NEAR TO HIS PARENTS' HOME. THERE HE WAS RECOVERING HIS HEALTH AND WAITING PATIENTLY FOR THE AUTHORITIES TO DECIDE HIS FATE. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD BROKEN ROMANIAN LAW.

COMMENT

7. THIS PRESS TREATMENT IS REMINISCENT OF THAT GIVEN TO GHEORGHE VISCREANU, THE ROMANIAN FOOTBALLER WHO RETURNED TO ROMANIA IN NOVEMBER 1981 AFTER HAVING CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT SEEKING ASYLUM IN AUSTRALIA AND THE UK. THE ROMANIANS ARE SEEKING TO TURN THIS CASE TO THEIR ADVANTAGE BY USING IT TO PAINT A GRUESOME PICTURE OF THE WEST AS A DESTINATION FOR WOULD-BE EMIGRANTS. ORCHESTRATION WILL DOUBTLESS FOLLOW SEMI COLON THE ARTICLE ENDS BY INVITING READERS' COMMENTS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AGERPRES ISSUED AN ENGLISH TEXT TO JOURNALISTS ON THE EVENING OF 29 MARCH, BUT THIS IS NOT YET AVAILABLE TO US.

8. A FULL TRANSLATION OF THE ARTICLE FOLLOWS BY BAG.

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