

THE DOCUMENTS OF THE SECURITATE (THE ROMANIAN COMMUNIST SECRET SERVICE) AND THE HISTORIAL RESEARCH

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The communist regime meant, beyond the class struggle, the control over all the activities, the creation of mechanisms meant to generate submissive attitudes and to guarantee that the discontent of the citizens could by no means change into organized opposition.

On August 30, 1948 the text of the Decree No. 221 was published in “The Official Monitor” about the establishment and organization, within the framework of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, of the General Direction of the People’s Security (DGPS).

At first, it started with the personnel and the structure of the General Direction of the State Security, but, shortly after, the leadership imposed by the NKDV (Alexandru Nikolski, Gheorghe Pintilie and Vladimir Mazuru) proceeded to reorganizing and enlarging the new department. Half a year later, based on the Decree No. 25, on January 23, 1949, the General Direction of Militia was founded, and on February 7, 1949, the Gendarmerie was dissolved, being replaced by the troops of the Securitate. Even though the Securitate suffered lots of changes in its structure since 1948 till 1989 (in 1951, 1952, 1953, 1956, 1963, 1967, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1978), all those reorganizations had in common the following functional model (Chart I).

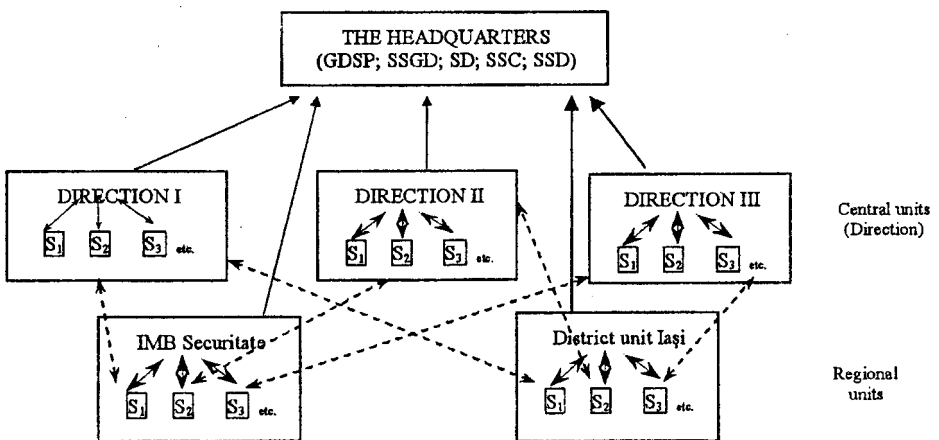


Chart I – The functional model.

The Directions (as a part of the central institution) were the lines of the Securitate work, each of them having a unique structure at the national level (e.g., Direction I – internal information, Direction III – counter-information). Each of them applied and coordinated at the national level the specific work of the Securitate, coordinating and controlling the similar offices of all the territorial units. The central units were structured by Departments, according to the different specific aspects of the general type of work of the unit (problems, objectives). A special case among the central units was that of foreign intelligence, which had the following evolution: 1951-1963=Direction I; 1963-1972=EIGD or MU 0123/1; 1972-1973=EIGD or MU 0626; 1973-1978=EID or MU 0920; 1978-1989=EIC or MU 0544.

The territorial units were made up according to the existing administrative-territorial structures. Each territorial unit was, in fact, a small Securitate. Thus, if the Securitate had Directions coordinating a line of work, a territorial unit was made up of Departments, coordinating in their territory a line of work (e.g., Dept. I – internal information, Dept. III – counter-information, etc.). Every department of the territorial unit had a double relationship, of subordination to the leadership of that unit, and of cooperation with a specific Direction. To the specific Direction there was an indirect subordination too, controlling the activity of the specific departments of all the territorial units (but according to the organization chart, such departments were subordinated to the specific territorial unit). In the case of the territorial units too, the foreign intelligence were a special case. If till 1963 they belonged to Department I of each territorial unit, afterwards that department was renamed after the specific central unit. Thus, there was in every territorial unit a department (MU) 920 (or (MU) 0544, in other periods of time) subjected to the same criteria of subordination like the other departments (among the territorial units can be included the municipality of Bucharest too, being mentioned in the documents in the course of time as: the Securitate of the Capital, the Dept. of Securitate Bucharest, the Securitate of the municipality of Bucharest, the Inspectorate of Securitate of the municipality of Bucharest, etc.).

Out of the mentioned periods, the Securitate was a military structure, being made up of military units (MU***), and that is why on the documents in archives most of the units of Securitate they are found with two equivalent descriptors: MU***, with the explicit name (e.g., Direction III, DIS Iassi, etc.). The Securitate made files both for the people who belonged to the secret service (the informative spy network), namely the Personal Files, but also for the tailed after ones (Files of verification, General Informative Surveillance, File of informative tailing after, Files of problem, environment or target).

1. THE PERSONAL FILE

Having as a model the Soviet record system, for all the categories in the spying network, the Securitate officers made personal files and records. The

personal file included, on distinct chapters, the whole material on which the recruiting of an informer was done, and also those obtained about him during his activity. He was shaped in time, starting with his scoring and adding new pieces meant to sustain his utility and qualities, including the result of his tests.

Such a file included:

- acquainting materials (biography of the candidate when recruited, about his close relatives, friends and connections);
- checking materials (informatory notes about the candidate, the results of checking in the central records, of home investigations and at his job, tapping correspondence, tapping the telephone wire);
- the account of acquaintance, which could be done either directly, or under cover by the Securitate officer (they mostly used to be introduced as working in the Militia or in Passport Office), and from which resulted the qualities of the proposed candidate;
- the account with the proposal of recruiting, approved by the chief of the one who made the document, where were mentioned the data about the identification of the proposed recruited and the proposed conspirative name, the qualities for the informatory work, the target to be directed, and the grounds on which the recruiting was achieved (patriotic feelings, compromising material, etc.);
- the account about the manner of recruiting, where were mentioned the ways of carrying the event, the established way of contacting, the manner and place of meeting the officer having him in his informative net;
- the pledge (one of the basic pieces of the personal file). During the 50s it contained the mention that in case of betrayal the persons was to bear the consequences of the written and unwritten laws of the People's Republic of Romania; and during the eighties the more neutral formula that "he will strictly keep the conspirativity of the relations established with the state organizations". The document contained the data of identifying the informer, information about "patriotism and sincerity" concerning the content of the delivered data, and in most cases the conspirative name under which the informatory notes would be given, was mentioned;
- copies of the informatory notes (the original informatory notes, that is the ones with holograph writing, were organized in the most cases, in an extra map with a classified destination; copies of the informatory notes delivered by the informer come up in the tapping file of the informer;
- accounts of periodic analyses, at least annual, about the informatory contribution of the recruited, where were mentioned the used methods and means to verify the loyalty of the informer, his efficiency, etc.;
- the chart containing the officers (page 1) having the informer in contact with, and those who checked the file (in this case were mentioned the date, the whole name and signature, and in some cases the indicative of the officer, made up of three figures);

- record files “type I”. Just after recruiting the Securitate officers were obliged to make that type of file, double copies, one for the record files of the district it belonged to, and the other for the card index of the general record (Service “C”). The files “Model I” included the following headings: on the front page, name, first name, father, mother, place and date of birth, nationality, citizenship, political adherence, studies, profession, foreign languages, the place and the rank at his job, address, and conspirative name, the date and the rank of the recruiter, the category, personal file No..., archive No... (the last two were filled in when the file was sent to the archive for filing), approved, different mentions;
- the last item of the file was the report about ceasing the activity, approved by the higher ranked officer to the one who approved the including in the net, and which had to contain the motif of the decision (the person was no more interesting with the delivered information, died or deconspirations were recorded).

The file cover was filled in with the section of recruiting, the record number and the date. The personal files were kept in the locker of the operative officers as long as the connection was active, and afterwards were classified in the archive at the net matter. It is important that personal files were made for the people who were asked to become informers too, but who refused the offer (the fact that there is a personal file with the name of a person does not practically mean that they collaborated with the political police).

The annex file included all the informative notes in holograph writing given by the informer. They were recorded in a register in chronological order, being mentioned the date, whom they were about, and from where. On the original informative note the officer mentioned: top on the left, the date, the meeting place (with the conspirative name), the linking officer, his indicative, top on the right, the conspirative name of the informer (quality-source, informative collaborator), and at the bottom there were notes about the files of the Securitate on the mentioned people in the material (in front of these lines appear the initials N.B. – the note of the bureau). After the classification in the archive, the annex file had a special regime, it could not be consulted, and after 5 years, it was destroyed on a report. That order was not always put into practice, in the archives of the new Secret police being kept such files as well.

The informative network (the secret agency) was the main system by which the Securitate collected and verified information. The work with the agency consisted in recruiting, instructing, organizing and directing the informative network by the Securitate officers. Between 1948–1964 the main objective of activity was repression, a thing proved by the way the secret agency was used.

The network was made up of:

a. *collaborators*, who were people occasionally used, mainly to verify some information. The contacts with the liaison officers were scarce, linked with the

cases in work. For that were recruited those employees who could offer data to the Securitate, and those from post and phone offices, receptionists in hotels and waiters (the last ones were used to plant the operative technique on the tables), and those who worked in the personnel offices of the enterprises. They were rewarded with money or objects and had a special training;

b. *unqualified informers*, used occasionally by the Securitate; their training being more reduced, in their cases they had no written pledge. Those who got results of interest could be later passed in the category of qualified informers;

c. *qualified informers*, people recruited especially for special problems and who had a minute training, were more often contacted by the liaison officers, being counseled by them about the conduct with the target and the way of dialogue. When recruited, the qualified informers received a conspirative name, were trained about legends (that is the coverings), signed the pledge, were fixed the passwords to contact the officers of liaison (who recommended themselves by their conspirative names too). Depending on the case, the qualified informers could be borrowed to other officers of the informative structures, if needed;

d. *residents*, recruited from the qualified informers who proved their qualities in the work with the Securitate organisms and to whom the officers allotted a link from 4 to 8 unqualified informers or collaborators;

e. *the host of the appointment house* was that person who, consciously and conspiratively gave the Securitate some rooms or dwellings to assure the appointments with the agency (to be sure of the total discretion of the contact officer-informer, the appointments did not take place at the headquarters of the informative organisms or in public). The host of the appointment houses was recruited by respecting the rule of studying and checking him, then, in agreement, the host and the officer established the covering (the justification, especially to the neighbours, of the visits when the host was absent). There were especially recruited people without families or who, because of their jobs, were longer absent from homes. The appointments with the agency were announced before to the host. In the appointment houses were brought not more than five-six informers, and in the case of somebody's betrayal, the place was abandoned.

The host had a personal file, including the pledge, the plan of the house, neighbours, legend, the evidence of the rewards given and of the introduced agents.

The recruiting of agents (informers, collaborators, hosts) was a process considered as very important for a secret service, they could not be replaced by other means of collecting information, that is the technical ones. The Securitate tried to create a mass agency, taking into account its role as a political police. Having in view the aim, recruiting started with choosing and studying several candidates, later they studied the archive materials and continued with intercepting correspondence and phone, surveillance and investigations. The personal knowledge of the recruiting officer completed the data resulted from the study, and found the

qualities and the deficiencies of the candidate, the conclusions letting to pass to the step of gradual attraction to collaboration (that moment he received some easy missions). In the case when a recruiting was a failure, the officer had to have prepared the option of retreating, which should leave the candidate with the impression that the reasons of the discussions were not of recruiting him as an agent. If recruiting was successful, after having the pledge, the activity of instructing started. The informer was verified always during collaboration.

The rewarding of the agents was used for stimulating the informers and was differently done, varying with the personality, motivation and the possible risk. It was done either in money, presents, or support in solving personal problems. Money was given with a receipt, signed by the agent with his conspirative name in order to be deducted by the officer.

2. FILES OF PROBLEM (ENVIRONMENT) AND OBJECTIVE

Such files were opened only on approval by the highest official of the Securitate and were organized according to special criteria, in order to include as many people as possible, who, by their activity could jeopardize the interests of the communist regime. In this way was achieved the specialized tapping, in files of problem of the former members of the legionary movement, of the historical parties, the discharged officers from the police and the Security, of the former convicts for "counter-revolution activities". There existed problem files in fields like education-youth, religion, foreign students, press, etc. too. In the eighties there appeared the so-called file of environment, which included the general surveillance of the groups with similar education, no matter whether they had political records or not. The people tailed like that had files of informative verification, which were filed in the archive when it was appreciated that their activity was not dangerous for the regime. The information found in their files were delivered from the file of problem. If it was established that the person had "hostile activities", a more complex way was recorded, that is of informative surveillance (directing of informers, recruiting others in his environment, surveillance, tapping).

Paper cases of reformative surveillance were worked out in problems to the former political convicts after releasing, in order to know their behaviour.

The files of objective included the general surveillance of all the people inside an enterprise or institution. They were grouped into teams of officers, depending on the structure (for example, chemical industry, foreign trade, heavy industry plant, etc.).

Varying with the situation, somebody could become the object of surveillance in such a file, if it was interesting for the Securitate.

The files of problem and of objective included some distinct chapters:

- the decision of opening a file;
- the list of the existing informers;
- the list of people with political records (before and after August 23, 1944) or criminal ones;
- the list with people to be protected for different reasons;
- the vulnerable points of the objective;
- the list of people with contacts with foreigners or having relatives abroad;
- officials able to be contacted (leadership of the institution, members of the Communist Party);
- the address of the headquarters, of the departments and branches;
- synthesis-notes of periodical analysis on the evolution of the informative-operative situation in the problem or objective;
- the plan of actions to improve the knowledge;
- plans of searching for information.

Varying with the contents of the materials accumulated in time in the case of this type of files, arrangements were made of deepening verifications, being passed to a higher level of work (ex. File of Informative Surveillance – FIS).

The files of problem (environment) and objective were included in the category of the general basis of work (practically a general record), from them all being selected the people who were to become the object of a qualified type of surveillance inside G.I.S. (General Informative Surveillance), V.F. (Verifying File) or F.I.S. (File of Informative Surveillance).

3. GENERAL INFORMATIVE SURVEILLANCE (G.I.S.)

An inferior type of activity of the Securitate, having included in it those people who were more prominent in the historical parties, or who had been imprisoned (for “counter-revolutionary activities”, and also those who criticized the regime. The agency of environment or objective was directed to them. Varying with the contents of the accumulated materials, some people could be passed to a higher type of verification.

4. THE FILE OF VERIFICATION (F.V.)

This was an organized type of surveillance of the people who by their activities or political record meant a danger for the communist regime. That type of activity was limited to a period of six months, during which, by the means undertaken the existing suspicions were made clear. Were tailed after, by means of the file of verifying, people existing in the basis of activity, or who had been formerly subjected to a verification made by G.I.S. The file of verification included

the plan of means to be used and the terms of achieving it, the names of the officers designated, the way the secret agency was directed, and the specific technical means (tapping, surveillance, etc.).

The closing of the file of verification could be done either as a result of the denying of the initial existing materials, as “positive influence” (a method used by secret services to make a person act in the way they intended, the Securitate using the family members of the one trailed, his friends, chiefs, in order to change his attitude), or the *warning* (a method by which attention was drawn to a person that, in the case he continues a certain attitude, he will suffer tougher consequences. That mostly happened at the Securitate headquarters, after approving a report where was synthesized the existing information about the pursued person. In the end of the warning an official report was made in which the person promised that from that moment on he would refrain from doing comments or activities “which could jeopardize the socialist society”), or *unweaving* (it was done on an approved plan, starting with the weakening of the leader’s influence. The influence was used through the agency or family, compromising by creating suspicions about a possible collaboration of the subject with the Securitate, blackmailing, browbeating or even dislocation from the town).

Varying with the result, at the end of the term it could be suggested to continue surveillance in a higher way, from F.I.S. respectively.

5. FILE OF INFORMATIVE SURVEILLANCE (F.I.S.)

It was the highest type of activity made by the Securitate. The ground for starting surveillance could be the political record of a person, but mainly his activities, which could endanger the security of the communist regime. It is important that in order to make such files the chronological principle was not important, starting with the premise that they had to respond mainly to the informative-operative activity, being grouped on the principle of adherence (informative notes, investigation reports, surveillance, etc.), so that investigation of such a file became very difficult. A file of informative surveillance included items like:

- a report with the officer’s suggestion of a case to make an F.I.S., approved by the higher chief;
- informative materials which made the basis for starting the activity (informative notes);
- the biography of the pursued, close relatives, people around;
- a plan of action where were included the means and methods to be used, final terms, officers responsible;
- reports of periodical analysis, made by the responsible officers together with their superiors, where were elaborated the ways of solving the case (when analyzed, they could be corrected from the initial plan);

- informative notes given by the person who was the object of the informative pursuit;
- investigation reports;
- surveillance reports (with mentions about when it started, when he was questioned), radio news;
- reports resulted from the informative pursuit (a means by which different persons were investigated, without implying the legal organisms);
- reports in regard with the result of the secret house searches (for that the officer made a report where he presented the reason for it, the way it would happen, the plan of the flat, the neighbours and their programme, the alternative of a withdrawal in case of failure and the story used). The approvals were of the competence of the commanding officers;
- reports resulted from the use of the operative technique (it was the problem of the G.D.O.T. – The General Direction of Operative Technique, including in it Department T – responsible with the insertion of listening technique and rendering the interceptions; Department S – interception or restraint of letters, getting samples of handwriting; Department R – listening and intercepting of radio transmissions);
- official reports of interrogation;
- a report suggesting the end of the activity of informative pursuit (the document was approved by the higher ranked to the one who approved its starting. In this document were briefly exposed the reasons of starting the proceedings, the specific activities and the final results. At the end of the report it was mentioned whether the pursued person remained or not in the view of the Securitate. The operative decision of ending the pursuit was taken when it was concluded that the mentioned person had been “taken into account” by mistake, when his deeds were not important for the security of the state or when he died. In the case that the decision was “to keep in view” (in most cases), the workers of the Department “C” made notes on the file of recording, where beside the biographical data were mentioned the date of starting and closing the file, the indicative of the center and the officer, the résumé of the information and then the possible alterings (changing of the job, of the address of the pursued, etc.) and was noted the number of the operative stock in the archive where the file could be found.

6. THE FILE OF INVESTIGATION

It was worked out on central plan, firstly by the Direction V, and later, based on a Decision of the Council of Ministers, No. 1361 on July 11, 1956, by the Direction VII investigations, and in the territory by the corresponding Services, for the cases of offence against the State, stated like that in the criminal law.

7. THE MAKING OF THE ARCHIVE OF THE SECURITATE

The archive, the central and the local records of the Securitate, was made at the beginning of the fifties, starting with the classification of the first files (Decree No. 50 of March 30, 1951 which reorganized the General Direction of the Securitate of the people and made up six new services, among them appearing the Service of investigation).

The archive was organized on the record system, to each of them corresponding a certain type of files.

a. *The operative records.* Here were classified the files of informative activities (the files of objective, problem, the files of verification, of informative surveillance), materials which constituted the base of work in the general record of the general evidence, and the materials brought from the processing of the archives original in the former organisms of investigation and security (the Service of Intelligence of the Army, Section II of the State Headquarters of the Army, the Special Service of Investigation, the Police Force, the operative services from the General Direction of Security Police, the Council of Ministers, the Special Service of the Romanian Railroads). Were separately classified materials coming from the O.T. (operational technique), which had the same code as the file of informative action.

b. *The network stock* included the personal files of the former agents (informers, residents, the hosts of appointment houses) and of those who refused collaboration with the Securitate.

c. *The stock of criminal inquiry* was made up of the completed files of pursuit and criminal inquiry, the files of criminal investigation of the people publicly unmasked (files of the military tribunals), penitentiary files, colonies of working, dislocation and obligatory residence, paper cases of records of the prisoners' goods (having the same code as the map of criminal investigation).

d. *The non-operative stock* was made up of the files of cadres, of officers, non-commissioned officers in reserve, civilian employees, the correspondence between the units of Securitate, payrolls, documents of the administrative departments and secretary's offices.

e. At *the documentary stock* were arranged materials obtained by the processing of the archives taken over by the former organisms of intelligence, which were not of an operative interest, but had a historical documentary value (they were organized on types, generally comprising problems with which the Romanian intelligence services had been confronted between the Wars and during the Second World War, less those about the socialist and communist movement, which were selected and given to the Archive of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party).

The account of the files which were kept in the archive was recorded in inventory registers for each separate stock, being controlled at least every three years.

The account of security included information about “homeland traitors”, people convicted for committing offences against the State security; the members of the legionary movement and of other fascist organizations; the members of the former “bourgeois-landlords” parties and of their youth organizations; the members of the former nationalist-chauvinist organizations, high officials, members of the Parliament, prefects and sub-prefects of the “bourgeois-landlords state”; former industrialists, bankers, landlords and great tradesmen; the leadership and the former operative employees of the “repressive bourgeois staff”, of the secret service of intelligence and that of the military counter-intelligence, of the penitentiaries and camps of political prisoners, and those who collaborated with them, the officers and non-commissioned officers of the former bourgeois army known to have an “anti-democrat attitude”; the military of the German fascist troops; the people of the church and sects who had activities against the state security; other people about whom there was information they had activities against State security. The system of general records was organized by the Service “C”, and at the district quarters of Securitate organized a specific system of records for the people living in their area.

After 1968 in Romania the documents of the Securitate began to be microfilmed, the activity being continued by the present Secret Service until 1997, when it was decided it had to be stopped (on the cover of the file had to appear the number of the Military Unit which made the microfilms and the date. After 1990 the Romanian Intelligence Service gave the documents of the Securitate, after protocols, to the Ministry of Justice (Government Decision No. 1134/1990), some 400,000 volumes criminal stock, and 80,000 volumes of the same stock to the Public Ministry. During 1992/1993 were given to the Ministry of Internal Affairs 2,000 meters of archive of the non-operative stock (protocol No. 167 on June, 18, 1992) and 1,500 meters of materials of historical documentary interest to the National Archives. Starting with 2001, the Romanian Service of Intelligence started to give files to the National Council for the Study of the Archives of the Securitate (*N.C.S.A.S.*).

The taking over of the archive of the Securitate, in all, by the specialized institutions of the state (*N.C.S.A.S.*), would offer the historians, but not only them, a rich documentary material about the Romanian communist society.