

Deschiderea controlată. Cetățeni americani în România lui Gheorghiu-Dej

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The Controlled Opening. American Citizens in Gheorghiu-Dej's Romania

Abstract: Starting with the year 1956, Moscow gave the signal of a controlled opening towards the West. With the need for Western technologies and commercial collaborations with the free world, PCUS's strategists allowed the Communist bloc's states to partially raise the Iron Curtain in the economic and cultural fields. The PCR leadership put a special emphasis on the exchange of specialists in an attempt to gain experience, economic and scientific information, and technologies from the American world. Sending Romanian young students to specialization studies in the US, as well as accepting good American professionals in agricultural, construction, medicine, etc. could bring real benefits for the communist regime. Gradually, with care and patience, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took care to organize visits of American citizens that could bring benefits to the Romanian state in the long run, and to cultivate relations with middle-class personalities in the American society. Not only once, they were overwhelmed with attentions and good will, pre-established routes in the country were set up for them and they knew only the embellished image of Communist Romania which was presented to them. The intention of Bucharest was, in most cases, to maintain an advantageous relationship with those American citizens who were gradually being asked for scientific or political favours for the Romanian state.

Keywords: Cold War, Romania, United States of America, American citizens, Romanian-American relations.

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