



TORONTO MODEL UNITED NATIONS II  
**ROMANIA 1989**

## **Director's Letter**

Greetings, delegates!

Welcome to the Christmas Revolution committee.

My name is Ana Maria Tanasescu and I'm currently attending Villa Maria Secondary School in Montreal. One day, I wish to pursue a career in law. It is my third year participating in the non-spectator sport of Model UN. However, it is my first time staffing a conference. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you in person. Side note: TMUN 2024 will be my first visit to Toronto so any tourist and restaurant recommendations are welcomed (I'm desperate)!

Originally, this committee was supposed to be about the collapse of the Soviet Union. However, that would've been too ambitious for a three day conference. Instead, I decided to focus on the only Soviet satellite state to expel its communist regime in a violent fashion: Romania. A few months ago, the Romanian government released an official version of the events. Interestingly enough, foreign involvement and the deeds of the Securitate (Security department) are noticeably absent. Much of its actual happenings remain shrouded in mystery. Hopefully delegates will be able to help uncover some of the revolution's forgotten aspects.

Before reading this background guide, it's important to mention that multiple sensitive topics can be found in the document below and will be inevitably discussed within the context of the conference. I would like to encourage delegates to treat them with some delicacy.

Finally, this document should not be the entirety of your research, but simply a stepping stone. I greatly encourage you to look up the story of future Moldova and for foreign allies in not only the Soviet Union or the U.S. but also neighboring and/or communist countries.

See you soon!

Sincerely,

Ana Maria Tanasescu

Christmas Revolution Director, TMUN 2024

For any committee related questions please email me: [24tanasescua@villamaria.qc.ca](mailto:24tanasescua@villamaria.qc.ca)

## **Committee Description**

The 1989 Romanian Revolution Committee is dedicated to examining a pivotal moment in history—the fall of the communist regime in Romania during the 'Autumn of Nations.' In 1989, Romania underwent a momentous shift with the downfall of Nicolae Ceaușescu's authoritarian regime. Delegates will play the roles of important figures in Romania at the time of the revolution, including leaders of the Securitate (the Security), the Party, and the revolution. This committee provides a unique opportunity for delegates to revisit a critical chapter in history when a nation's struggle for freedom and democracy reverberated across borders. Delegates will be able to collaborate to draft resolutions and policies that reflect the historical context and the aspirations of the Romanian people during this transformative era.

## **History of the Romania and the Warsaw Pact**

The Warsaw Pact (also known as the Warsaw Treaty Organization) was a military alliance whose goal was to stand against the ever-growing international powerhouse that was NATO. Its original signatories were the Soviet Union, Albania, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic and Romania. By signing this treaty, the members of this alliance agreed to defend each other in case they were under attack, and it also promoted the non-interference of the internal affairs of its members and collective decision-making. However, it was somewhat of an open secret that the Soviet Union had a final say in most of the policies passed.

## **The Hungarian Revolution**

The Warsaw Pact was also used to contain popular dissent in the Soviet satellite states, notably in Hungary in 1956. In October of that year, the Soviet Union ordered its troops to crush a student uprising in Budapest. The people of Hungary were moved by Nikita Khrushchev's speech where he attacked Stalinism. Soon, the protestors' ideology became one of "anti-state and anti-Soviet". The RCP also felt its effects, as students quickly began rioting in Cluj, Isai and Timișoara. However, the secret police soon got rid of the protestors.

This prompted Bucharest to keep an eye out for future developments. The Romanian ambassadors in Hungary sent updates to the RCP on a daily basis and concluded that a similar revolt should be prevented from erupting in their country. **The Romanian communist leadership soon concluded that they had to crush the uprising happening in**

**the neighbouring country, and this was later confirmed on the 1st of November of the same year as Nikita Khrushchev himself secretly visited Bucharest alongside a few Czechoslovak leaders and asked them to do so.** This visit also served as a warning to not copy their neighbors actions, and Romania soon became the Soviet Union's biggest ally.

Additionally, Romanian authorities tried to become the mediators of the revolution. The full extent of their involvement remains unknown, however it is speculated that they sent soldiers to Hungary. After the end of the conflict, the leader of Romania launched a program of re-Stalinization at all levels of society. Consequently, a new wave of oppression was launched. Its goal was to instill complete control over society and annihilate any anti-communist beliefs. In fact, all the people who participated in the protests were promptly dealt with. 88 people were investigated, arrested and judged. 80 of the victims were students, 3 of them teachers, 3 high schoolers and 3 workers. All of them faced up to 20 years of prison.

### **Rise of Nicolae Ceaușescu**

On 19 March 1965, Gheorghiu-Dej, the leader of Romania passed away. However, he did not leave a political testament behind. However, it was said that his ideal candidate to be his political successor was Gheorge Apostol. He never truly rose to the heights of the communist party because of his lack of support. The only real competitors were Alexandru Draghici and Nicolae Ceausescu. Ceacucescu soon got to work after his predecessor's death and began visiting the most important people of the party. They soon concluded that he was the most qualified to take over power because he told them what they wanted to hear. On top of that, Ceacucescu from 1955 onwards, was at the head of the commission of the cadre problems which allowed him to gain the support of hundreds of young activists. Notable activists were Illie Verdet and Ion Illiescu. In 1965, he was promoted to the position of the party's premier. It is also believed that he was chosen to fill this position because many considered him to be easy to manipulate. However, those assumptions were terribly incorrect. Ceausescu had an incredibly Machiavellian paranoia and soon began getting rid of any possible political opponents within the party. He mainly attributed them roles that sounded important in name, but that had little to no actual power. The politicians who were the victims of said reforms were often shipped away to unimportant countries. In 1968, Ceacecsu got rid of his political main rival, Alexandru Draghici, by accusing him of "Stalinist excess" and forcing him into retirement. When he first came to power, Ceacucescu was an incredibly popular figure

amongst the people of Romania and in the West. He eased the restrictions on the press and openly supported a foreign policy that was more independent from the Soviet Union. On top of that, Romania was the only Warsaw country whose security force didn't have any members of GRU (soviet secret agents) within its ranks. During the Sino-Soviet split, China searched for a communist ally who was somewhat alienated from the Soviet Union. Romania was the ideal candidate.

### **Czechoslovakia**

In early 1968, a change in the leadership of Czechoslovakia led to a series of reforms. Notably, to end censorship and to soften the application of communist doctrines at its borders. This series of reforms caused worry amongst the upper ranks of the soviet leaders. They believed that other eastern European satellite states would follow suit and put in place more liberal policies. In August of the same year, the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Poland and Hungary invaded the country. Romania and Albania didn't participate. However, they did not formally leave the Warsaw Pact until 1969. Romania also began to voice contradicting opinions to that of the Soviet Union on an international level. Notably, Romania condemned the soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 and openly recognized the legitimacy of Pol Pot's reign.

### **A Booming Economy**

Starting from the 1950s onwards, Romania's economy had exponential growth alongside other Eastern European countries thanks to their foreign investors. On top of that, after its break from the Soviet Union, Romania started developing ties with the United States (especially during the Nixon presidency) and NATO. These political ties allowed for the transfer of Western technology such as rails, aircraft and an improved IT industry.

In 1968, important construction projects were finalized such as the modernization of numerous roads, factories and pieces of equipment, the construction of a metro in the capital, the tractor factories in Brasov and the Cernavoda Nuclear Power plant. On top of that, the social life of the average citizen was greatly improved. The average person could afford small luxuries such as regularly going to the cinema, bookstores, libraries, and theatres and staying at a luxury hotel. After all, the minimum wage was more than enough to cover necessities.

These events caused Romania to transition from an agricultural-based economy to a primarily industry-based one. On December 9th, 1972, Romania joined several international economic bodies such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. This extraordinary achievement encouraged foreign investors to pour even more money into this booming economy. Usually, this level of industrialization is only seen in more developed countries such as Spain, Greece or Portugal. The influx of foreign money allowed us to improve upon the two most present societal issues: high infant mortality rate and despairingly low literacy rate amongst the rural population.

The former dropped from 139 in 1000 to 35 in 1000 in the span of a decade. To deal with the latter problem, compulsory education was implemented and kindergarten was made free. However, after the election of Jimmy Carter, America's foreign economic policy changed in 1979 and the period of exponential growth had ended in Europe. After all, funding coming from the U.S. greatly decreased.

On top of that, Romania was greatly affected by the second oil shock and the Islamic Revolution of Iran which nullified the regime's deals with the Shah. Previously Iran and Romania had close economic ties dating back to 1967, when both parties agreed to provide for the tractor factories in Brasov (which were sold to Iran for 4000\$ per piece) and Tabriz and to improve on the organization of cotton farms in northern Iran. Two years later, Ceacucescu provided Iran with 100 000 million Rls (Iranian currency) in credit in order to purchase Romanian industrial equipment and in return Iran sold oil and cotton at a reduced price. The agreement was extremely beneficial to both sides. Romania's imports from Iran reached 300 million dollars. 90% of that number was crude oil. All was well.

## A Tense Political Landscape

These advantageous deals were soon lost in 1978 with the overthrow of the government which Romania had a deal with. This interrupted the mutually advantageous agreement they had and caused an oil shortage in Romania. The RCP quickly tried finding different suppliers, mainly with the Soviet Union and Iraq. As the situation deteriorated further, Iraq overtook Iran as the main supplier of oil. However, Romania received less and less oil since Iraq needed it to fuel its ongoing conflict against Iran. This greatly affected the industry. Soon, Romania's debt to creditors went from **1.2 Billion** in 1971 to **13 Billion** in 1982.

At the beginning of the 1980s, worried about the growth of foreign debt and the country's inability to pay it back, Ceacucessu decided to fully reimburse the country's debt.

To do so, he put in place the austerity program. This initiative decreased the production in the food industry, the electricity and heat supply and overall accessibility of hygienic and medical supplies. These supplies were soon rationed. In December of 1980, "the law for the creation, distribution and use by counties of resources for populations" was put into place. This bill's purpose was to greatly reduce the food consumption of each county. Large cities were given large quantities and the rural areas, smaller ones. To do so, they gave out ticket cards which were exchanged for products such as flour, meat, milk and vegetables. The rationing of bread was introduced in 1982. By 1984, each Romanian citizen was entitled to 39 kg of meat, 78L of milk and 166 kg of vegetables on a yearly basis. On top of that, he sold 80% of Romania's gold mines to foreign investors. These reforms were successful in repaying the economic debt, but what was the price?

### **Health Crisis**

The austerity program did not only affect the rations of oil and food for each citizen but it also affected hospitals. In the 80s, hospitals had a limited amount of needles at their disposal. Instead of dealing with the lack of resources, they started to reuse needles. This contributed to the spread of HIV. On top of that, in 1967, Ceacucessu put in place the decree 770. It banned contraception and restricted people's access to abortion. It was widely considered to be the harshest anti-abortion law in the world. This resulted in a boom in population growth (the birth rate doubled) in 1967 to 1968. In orphanages, 70% of children suffered from some form of abuse or malnutrition. Between 15 000 and 20 000 children died in orphanages from 1966 to 1989. These are the children whom many believe will change the future of the country. However, women started using unsanitary methods of contraception and abortion which often led to infections. On top of that, all women of childbearing age were required to take a pregnancy test in a gynecological ward to catch whoever had an abortion. In the 70s, the mortality rates for pregnant women became the highest in Europe.

### **Cult Of Personality**

Another large source of discontentment among the population was Ceacucessu's growing cult of personality. Its origins can be traced back to his visit to China and North Korea in 1971. He was greatly impressed by the way Kim Il Sung and Mao Zedong had an iron grip over

their people. From this time onwards, multiple historians describe him as a megalomaniac of the highest order.

He organized weekly public parades in his honour (and later in his wife's too) and from a young age, schoolchildren learned poems and songs that praised "the supreme leader and the glorious nation". Bucarest itself bears the traces of the growing obsession he had with himself. The most famous representation of the eccentric way he viewed himself and his self-proclaimed glory is the Palace of the Parliament.

Ceaucescu had long been looking for an excuse to rebuild the capital (Bucarest) to better suit his view of a socialist utopia. This excuse came under the form of the 1977 Vrancea earthquake (the second biggest earthquake in recorded Romanian history) which was felt throughout the Balkans due to its 7,5 magnitude. The earthquake killed about 1578 people (1424 of whom lived in Bucharest) and left over 11300 wounded. It left about 32,900 buildings destroyed in its wake. It is said that 2 Billion USD dollars were poured into this project even during the austerity program. The next week, the RCP removed people from their homes in the morning and their houses were demolished in the afternoon. 40 000 people were forced to relocate and 9000 buildings were torn down.

On top of that, the estimated number of workers ranged from 20 000 and 100 000 people which included 5000 soldiers from Romania's People's Army and thousands of civilians forced into labour. However, the construction of the building was never finished. Currently, its construction is only  $\frac{2}{3}$  complete. Even in its unfinished state, its 12 floors stand tall at 240m and have a width of 270m. This made this building the second-largest governmental structure in the world after the Pentagon. Ceaucescu rebuilt its two main staircases twice in order to make him look taller.

## **Department of State Security**

In the 1980s, the security started a massive campaign of repression aimed towards war and political prisoners, religious organizations, former members of the Iron Guard and those who were considered "intellectuals". The latter term was used to describe the regime's opposition to those who had a higher education (college and/or university). Intellectuals were often the victims of public denunciations, harsh and lengthy prison sentences, elaborate frame-ups, toughened censorship and multiple and political assassinations in foreign countries. On

another note, the Department of Security would routinely intercept telephone conversations. All internal and international faxes were regularly intruded upon. These factors cause the fear of the Security force to be widespread amongst the population. It was falsely believed that 1 in 4 Romanians was an informant because people who ratted out their politically dissident acquaintances often received money, extra rations (including luxury items like meat) and improved living quarters. However, 3% of Romanians actually were informants. This was the second-biggest informant rate in the Eastern Bloc.

In 1978, a prominent member of the Security force (Ion Mihai Pacepa) defected to America after President Jimmy Carter approved his request for political asylum. While in the U.S., they exposed the regime's collaboration with extreme leaders such as Muhammad Gaddafi, Mao Zedong and Kim Il-Sung, massive espionage attempts on American industries and the circulation of propaganda in Western countries in order to gain support for the regime.

Starting from this event, the department would report directly to Ceausescu.

On top of that, the Security force also had an army of 20 000 soldiers. These troops directly answered to Ceausescu. They were hand-picked amongst the pool of young soldiers doing their obligatory military service and their loyalty was guaranteed due to the fact that the Security army had five times more informants than in the regular army. If a coup were to break out, they would be the first ones called to repress it. Romania was a police state.

### **Free Europe Radio**

In the late 80s, this radio station became the most popular one in Romania because it served as a link between the people and the rest of Europe. It was a radio station present throughout Europe that was greatly aided by the United States. In the early 70s, The U.S. sent up to 200 million dollars annually to aid its efforts. These radio posts never were about monetary gain notably they didn't defuse ads. In fact, the radio station itself was created and run by the CIA to use psychological warfare against the Soviet Union's expansion. Its goal was to utilize "journalism to free the nations held captive by the iron wall by encouraging morality and cooperation". However, in 1976, the CIA and Free Europe Radio parted ways. Afterwards, its endeavours were funded by the Board for International Broadcasting (BIB) and its goal simply became to inform the population of international affairs. In 1986, in the aftermath of the Chernobyl disaster, 36% of the people from the Eastern Bloc turned to this radio station due to the contradictions of the information on the topic provided by the government. On top

of that, the Romanian king who had previously been exiled often encouraged the population through the radio station.

For the common citizen, it represented the only reliable source of information. The average person would often describe it like the light at the end of the tunnel. However, the radio is having a steady decline due to the Security's repeated attempts to shut down its stations and arrest the hosts of the show.

### **Jiu Valley Miners Strike:**

The year 1977 was perilous for the RCP, because the first and biggest protest by workers during Ceacucescu's regime happened In the middle of the 70s, in the communist propaganda, the miner workers were presented as a legitimate political force of the working class. Even with this pristine title, their life was incredibly hard. The regime had on multiple occasions promised to build factories in the Jiu Valley area for the miner's wives to be able to work. However, they never held their word. On top of that, the miner's legislation was modified at the beginning of July of 1977.

Starting from then, most injuries were not considered eligible as a proper cause of retirement and they were expected to do labour until the age of 52. The 100 000 miners were incredibly discontent with the RCP. On the first of August of the same year, 90 000 workers at the Lupeni mine went on strike. Their goal was to send a delegation to Bucharest in order to voice their dissatisfaction. They also attempted to contact other miners in the area. Afraid of their intentions, the communist officials blocked all the trains leaving from the valley.

Disappointed by the RCP's reaction, the strike's leaders claimed that they would not return to work until Ceacucescu himself came to their mines and gave them better working conditions. At this time, the communist leader was at his vacation home at Neptune (a resort next to the Black Sea). Not wanting to bother Ceausescu, the secretary of the central committee, (Ilie Verdet), went in his stead. However, he did not succeed in appeasing the protesters and only angered them instead. Soon, the workers took him hostage. On August the 3rd 1977, the RCP's leader interrupted his vacation and went to Lupeni. The workers presented him with 26 revendications. He quickly convinced the miners that their demands would soon be met. However, he never made good on his promise.

As things winded down, Ceacucessu soon began getting rid of the ringleaders. Over the course of the next few months, 800 miners were interrogated by the security forces at Targu Ocna, 15 of their leaders got a prison sentence of up to 15 years and 40 miners were sent to asylums. This event created bad international press for Romania. Interestingly enough, several leaders of the uprising died prematurely. It was later discovered that doctors working in collaboration with the Security force had purposely exposed them to radiation while giving them chest X-ray scans in order to increase their chances of developing cancer.

### **Red Flag Rebellion**

In the middle of November 1987, the people of Brasov had a small ray of hope. At the time, this city was an incredibly important industrial center of Romania. In fact, 61% of its population worked in factories. This demographic was consequently very affected by Ceacucessu's economic reforms. November 14th was an important day since it was the one where the workers got their pay. However, a majority of the workers only got half of what they were due. When confronted about the salary deduction, the employees claimed that the money was being invested in a national relief of the growing debt. That same night, the workers from the third branch of Red Flag Factory in Brasov threatened to not go to work the next day.

The next day, the workers from the first branch joined their cause. As their shift began, 5000 employees assembled in front of the administration building, began protesting against the current reforms and throwing rocks and their employer's windows. However, the upper ranks of the RCP were focused on another event taking place the same day: the reelection of Ceausescu. At 11 o'clock, 400 protestors headed towards the nearest election office. Soon, other workers joined them including people from the nearby hydroelectric plants. They chanted "Give us our money and we want electricity and heating!"

Their demands were ignored by the Maire of Brasov because he was already preparing the celebration for the RCP leader's reflection to office. In the meantime, multiple officers were assaulted by the rogue workers. One of them was stabbed with the end of a sharpened stick. (Un)luckily, his thick winter coat saved his life. The news of the protests spread like wildfire amongst the population, the Radio (notably Free Europe) and Western media. Their cause deeply resonated with the people. Expectedly, the party retaliated with a series of harsh

comebacks. Hundreds of workers were tailed and investigated, 61 of them were sent to jail, and the rest were deported into the south of the country and into Moldova.

### **National Liberation Front**

In early March of 1989, six important members of the RCP wrote the Letter of Six. Its main purpose was to denounce the numerous abuses and economic mishaps happening during Ceausescu's regime. It also promoted ideology similar to those of Mikhail Gorbachev.

It was soon circulated on Free Europe and Western media. Throughout 1989, two more letters signed "National Liberation Front" began circulating. Their contents were similar to the previous letter. On top of that, even if it is not an official organization yet, people flock to it in order to find a safe haven from the RCP. Notable people who associate with this movement are Laszlo Tokes, Gheorghe Apostol, Petre Roman and Ion Iliescu.

### **Where the Committee Starts**

The boiling tensions finally came to a head thanks to Laszlo Tokes. He had always been an open critic of totalitarian regimes. In an interview in July of 1989, he leaked a tape to the Hungarian press in which he openly denounced the regime and encouraged Romanians to be more aware of their rights. The interview spread like wildfire amongst the Romanian people (especially in Transylvania). In October of the same year, the Supreme Court ordered his eviction and relocation to an isolated province on December 15th. When that day finally came, hundreds of protesters assembled next to his house. Security was sent to evacuate the protesters and restore order. However, they refused to move, they began chanting anti-Ceausescu slogans and they tore up his portraits and communist flags. The Security soon began to use teargas to ward them off. However, that did not stop the protesters. This only toughened the protestors' resolve. Soon, the police force began shooting the crowd. Over a thousand people were killed. The riots are quickly spreading throughout the country. After all, Ceacucescu is currently outside the country because he is on a state visit to Iran. Protestors see this time as the perfect time to strike. Perhaps delegates will too.

### **Guiding Questions:**

1. How will delegates deal with the overall lack of resources available and widespread poverty?

2. Considering that the Cold War is in full swing at the beginning of this committee, which foreign power or neighboring countries will delegates choose to ally themselves with?
3. Who will Romania turn towards for petrol supplies?

## **Portfolio Overview**

### **Elena Ceaușescu - Wife of Nicolae Ceaușescu**

A prominent member of the RCP and wife of Nicolae Ceaușescu, she currently serves as the Deputy Prime Minister of Romania. After a state visit to China in 1971, she took a page out of Jiang Qing's book (Mao Zedong's politically influential wife) and started quickly rising among the ranks of the regime. Soon, she was elected to the Great National Assembly and held the seat for the most important industrial regions in the country (mainly the Arges and Pitesti counties). On top of that, she has a cult of personality that equals her husband's and is often called the "Mother of the Nation". She is the second most influential person within the RCP.

### **Ion Iliescu - Leader of the National Salvation Front**

He was elected to the Central Committee in 1965. However, he soon lost his position, because of a falling out of Ceausescu. Paranoid of his protégé's rising popularity, Ceausescu believed he would be the one who would overtake him and promptly got rid of him. He was quickly demoted to the position of vice president in the Timis County Council. However, he once again rose to prominence in December of 1989 when he founded the National Salvation Front (NSF) with Petre Roman.

### **Petre Roman - Political Activist**

Ever the idealist (even during the Ceausescu regime), he firmly believed that Romania would be a more prosperous country if it turned to socialism. He currently is a prominent member of the NSF. He is quite charismatic and his powerful speeches have the power to sway the people. He served as a mediator to the left-wing activists.

### **Nicolae Militaru - General**

After graduating from the Superior Military School in the Soviet Union, he had a long and noteworthy military and political career. However, he had a falling out with Ceausescu in

1978 after the Security identified him as a GRU (a member of the foreign military intelligence agency of the Soviet Union) agent. This discovery immediately got him demoted to the position of Minister of Industrial Construction. In 1984, he joined a Securitate plot whose goal was to overthrow Ceausescu. On the 2nd of December 1989, he was reintroduced into the army as its defense minister.

### **Ion Ratiu - Politician**

Since the start of WWII, he has helped fight against all totalitarian regimes. He has been exiled to England since 1947 (the time when the party first came into power). However, he was not idle during that time. He published books, very noticeably *Contemporary Romania* and got acquainted with notable figures in Western politics such as Bob Dole, Margaret Thatcher and Jimmy Carter. In 1961, he became affiliated with the BBC branch in Romania and most notably Free Europe. He is the leader of the World Union of Free Romanians. His words have a great impact since they reach not only the people within his home country but also abroad.

### **Laszlow Tokes - Pastor and Political Activist**

A Hungarian-Romanian pastor and political activist, Laszlow Tokes is an outspoken critic of the Ceaușescu regime's policies, especially those that oppress the Hungarian minority in Romania. His sermons, delivered from his church in Timișoara, are filled with strong anti-government sentiments and calls for human rights. His activism led to numerous conflicts with the authorities, and attempts to relocate him from his parish in 1989 sparked the Timișoara protests.

### **Vasile Milea - Minister of Defense**

Vasile Milea holds a crucial position within the government. A loyal member of the Romanian Communist Party, he is a close ally of Nicolae Ceaușescu. His military career has been marked by strict adherence to the party line and a commitment to maintaining the regime's control.

### **Sergiu Nicolaescu - Film Director**

A renowned Romanian film director, producer, and actor, Sergiu Nicolaescu is a prominent figure in the Romanian film industry. His films often feature historical and patriotic themes, aligning with the nationalist propaganda of the Ceaușescu regime. Despite working within the

constraints of a censored industry, Nicolaescu managed to gain both domestic and international recognition for his work. His influence extends beyond cinema, as he was also involved in political activities.

### **Mircea Diaconu - Actor and Political Activist**

Mircea Diaconu is a well-known Romanian actor, recognized for his performances in theater, film, and television. Apart from his artistic career, Diaconu was also involved in political activism, voicing his opposition to the Ceaușescu regime. His popularity as an actor and his outspoken stance against the government's policies helped him become an influential figure during the revolution, and he has the ability to use his platform to rally support and advocate for change.

### **Ion Caramitru - Actor and Political Activist**

Ion Caramitru is an acclaimed actor in Romania, with a distinguished career in theater and film. Known for his artistic talents, Caramitru is also a vocal critic of the Ceaușescu regime, using his influence in the arts to subtly oppose the government's policies.

### **Victor Atanasie Stanculescu - General**

General Victor Atanasie Stanculescu is a key military figure in Romania. Known for his strategic mind and loyalty to the regime, he plays a significant role in the Romanian Army. His military decisions and actions, particularly during times of internal crisis, are closely aligned with the directives of the Communist Party, reflecting his commitment to maintaining state control and order.

### **Ion Vincze - Politician**

Ion Vincze is a politician in Romania with a background deeply rooted in the Communist Party. He is known for his administrative skills and dedication to party policies. Vincze's role in the government involves managing various state functions, and he is often seen as a reliable executor of the party's directives.

### **Vladimir Colin - Author**

Vladimir Colin is a Romanian author celebrated for his contributions to the literary world, particularly in the genres of science fiction and fantasy. His works, imbued with imaginative

storytelling and metaphorical references, subtly critique the socio-political landscape of Romania under communist rule, offering a unique perspective on the era.

### **Florea Dumitrescu - Governor of the National Bank**

Florea Dumitrescu serves as the Governor of the National Bank of Romania. His role involves managing the country's monetary policy and financial stability, aligning these with the economic goals of the Ceaușescu regime. Dumitrescu's decisions significantly influence Romania's economic performance and its interaction with global financial systems.

### **Corneliu Manescu - Ambassador and Political Activist**

Corneliu Manescu is a Romanian diplomat and political activist known for his extensive experience in foreign affairs. As an ambassador, he represents Romania's interests abroad, skillfully navigating international relations while adhering to the principles of the Communist Party. His diplomatic efforts are crucial in shaping Romania's global image and foreign policy.

### **Gabriel Andreescu - Political Activist**

Gabriel Andreescu is a prominent political activist in Romania, known for his vocal opposition to the Ceaușescu regime. His advocacy for human rights and democratic principles makes him a significant figure in the dissident movement, challenging the government's authoritarian policies through various forms of activism.

### **Gheorghe Apostol - Politician**

Gheorghe Apostol is a seasoned Romanian politician with a long history in the Communist Party. His experience and influence make him a key player in the political landscape of Romania. Apostol's contributions are marked by his commitment to advancing the party's agenda and maintaining its dominant position in the country.

### **Nicolae Plesita - Intelligence Officer**

Nicolae Plesita is a high-ranking intelligence officer in Romania, known for his role in the Securitate, the notorious secret police. His activities involve overseeing surveillance, intelligence gathering, and enforcing state security measures, often employing controversial methods to maintain the regime's control and suppress dissent.

### **Tudor Postelnicu - Interior Minister**

As the Interior Minister of Romania, Tudor Postelnicu holds significant power in the government. He oversees internal affairs, including law enforcement and domestic security. His administration is marked by strict adherence to the Communist Party's policies and a tough stance on maintaining order and discipline within the country.

### **Traian Basescu - Politician**

Traian Basescu is a Romanian politician with a growing presence in the political scene. His career is characterized by his pragmatic approach to governance and his ability to navigate the complex political landscape of Romania. Basescu's involvement in various governmental roles gives him a broad perspective on the country's administration and its future direction.

### **Ilie Verdet:**

After the death of Gheorghe-Dej, Ilie helped Ceausescu ascend to power within the RCP. This allowed him to get promoted to a permanent member of the secretary general of the party. After a brief time as the country's prime minister, he had a falling out with the supreme leader after they had a disagreement on how to rule the country. Ilie believed that Romania's power should be decentralized and each province should be more politically and economically independent. He was then demoted to the minister of miners. In 1977, he was taken hostage for two days during the Jiu Valley Miners Strike.

### **Iosif Rus:**

Hardened military man and pilot, Iosif had a long career within the Romanian military. In 1982, he became the head of the 70th aviation division and in 1986, he became the official leader of the Romanian aviation unit. He is incredibly loyal to the RCP's cause.

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