

## THE ROMANIAN INVENTORS IN EXILE, TRAIAN VUIA, GOGU CONSTANTINESCU, HENRI COANDA, IN THE SIGHTS OF THE COMMUNIST SECURITY

### *INVENTATORII ROMÂNI DIN EXIL, TRAIAN VUIA, GOGU CONSTANTINESCU, HENRI COANDĂ, ÎN VIZORUL SECURITĂȚII COMUNISTE*

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#### ABSTRACT

The Securitate acted in the Western countries, through actions of a terrorist nature, conducted directly or through intermediaries, the targets being represented by the main opponents of the communist regime in Bucharest. The long arm of communism could reach each and every troublesome refugee. One form of action was that of attracting world-renowned personalities back to their country. Associating with them and the publicity they hoped to gain in this way could represent an image blow to the communist power. The present work presents such concrete operations: Traian Vuia, George Constantinescu and Henri Coanda. Paradoxically, none of the decision-makers and executors of these actions was held accountable by the Romanian state, which thus assumed the guilt for those crimes even after the fall of communism.

**Keywords:** *Securitate; exile; Traian Vuia; George Constantinescu; Henri Coanda; Ceausescu.*

#### REZUMAT

Securitatea a acționat în Occident prin acțiuni cu caracter terorist, direct sau prin interpuși, iar țintele au fost reprezentate de principalii opozanți ai regimului comunist de la București. Mâna lungă

a comunismului era capabilă să atingă orice refugiat care deranja. O formă de acțiune a fost aceea a atragerii în țară a unor personalități recunoscute pe plan mondial. Asocierea cu aceștia și girul pe care sperau să îl obțină pe această cale putea reprezenta o lovitură de imagine pentru puterea comunistă. Lucrarea de față prezintă asemenea operațiuni concrete: Traian Vuia, George Constantinescu și Henri Coandă. Paradoxal, nici unul dintre decidenții și executanții acestor acțiuni nu a fost tras la răspundere de statul român, care și-a asumat astfel vinovăția pentru acele crime și după căderea comunismului.

**Cuvinte-cheie:** *Securitate; exil; Traian Vuia; George Constantinescu; Henri Coandă; Ceaușescu.*

### 1. THE LONG ARM OF THE SECURITATE AND THE ROMANIAN EXILE

Throughout its sinister existence, the Securitate has acted on the territory of Western states, through numerous terrorist actions nature: attacks, kidnappings and assassinations, directly or through intermediaries (a well-known example is the collaboration with Carlos Sacalul). The targets were represented by the main opponents of the communist regime in Bucharest. The long arm of Communism was capable of reaching any troublesome refugee through its activity. Whether it was the kidnapping of some leaders of the Romanian emigration, who were afterwards brought to the country and executed or imprisoned (Oliviu Beldeanu, Traian Puiu - secretary general of the Legionary Movement, or Aurel Decei), or bomb attacks (those targeting Paul Goma, the National Peasant Party leader Nicolae Penescu or the attack on Radio Europa Libera/Radio Free Europe) or assassination actions (Virgil Tanase - by poisoning, Emil Georgescu - by stabbing, or nuclear poisoning - Vlad Georgescu), the operations - codenamed "*wet affairs*" - were coordinated by the Foreign Intelligence Directorate of the Securitate and directly subordinated to the communist leadership of those years. After 1989, none of the decision-makers and executors of those terrorist actions on the territory of Western states was held accountable by the Romanian state, which thus assumed the guilt for those crimes, even after the fall of communism [1].

Another form of action was that of attracting world-renowned personalities back to the

country; when these attempts failed, they tried to compromise them. The representatives of the communist regime, which came to power on Soviet tanks, made their best to attract to the country some of the Romanians who gained recognition abroad in the early 1950s. The association with them and the publicity they hoped to obtain in this way could represent an image blow for the communist power in Bucharest and would have enormously contributed to justify its legitimacy. Recent documents show a series of such operations carried out by great personalities established in France: George Enesco [2, 3], Mircea Eliade, Emil Cioran or Constantin Brancusi [4]; in Great Britain: George Constantinescu [5]; in the United States of America, Canada and France: Henri Coanda [6].

Some actions can only be considered *captatio benevolentiae*, by sending medical doctors for consultations or by the small gifts offered by the embassies (particularly souvenirs with photo illustrated albums from the country) or support with medicines.

There are also, some speculations on the plan of possible actions of forced bringing into the country, of "kidnapping", especially related to George Enesco, but they seem exaggerated.

Obviously, the publicity made around the "cases" of Brancusi or Enescu is much greater, given the public names of the two personalities and the stake of a possible donation of Brancusi's works to the Romanian state, meant a lot for the communist leadership. The same thing happened to Henri Coanda, the most successful achievement of the communist regime.

The communist authorities also “courted” George – Gogu – Constantinesco, and they carried out real operations meant to determine the inventor to come to visit his native country. This operation succeeded by bringing Gogu and his wife, Eva, to Bucharest between September 7 and October 8, 1961, when he received the title of *Doctor Honoris Causa* of the Bucharest Polytechnic Institute (the first of this Institute and the first in technical sciences in Romania) and was celebrated by a festive meeting at the Academy. Later on, he returned to the country in October 1963, part of his time being dedicated to rest and medical treatments on the Black Sea coast.

The interesting is that Gogu Constantinesco’s niece, Margareta Cosaceanu-Lavrillier, also appears in many of the operations carried out by the Securitate, in France or Great Britain. She lived in Paris and was a plastic artist (sculpture) and was married to the medalist and engraver André Lavrillier, who - for his part - had carried out an intense activity in interwar Romania, creating a series of medalist pieces, with significant material gains.

Margareta Cosaceanu-Lavrillier (1893-1980), Constantinesco’s niece, attended the School of Fine Arts in Bucharest (Dimitrie Paciurea’s class), and afterwards received a scholarship granted by the Academy of Fine Arts in Rome (1920-1922), where she met the future husband. In Paris, she continued her studies with Brâncuși, in his workshop, and with Antoine Bourdelle, at the „La Grande Chaumière” Academy. She worked in stone, marble, burnt earth, patinated plaster, cement and bronze. Among her works are: *The Lovers*, *Pietà*, *Equestrian Walkyrie*, *Girl’s Head*, *Winged Victoria*, *Dacian Family Group*, and a number of portraits (*Rhodia*, Bourdelle’s daughter, G. Enesco etc.), and also the statue of dimensions of *Tudor Vladimirescu*, from Craiova. After Enesco’s death, Margareta Cosaceanu-Lavrillier made the mold for his hand and death mask [7].

The archive documents record the frequent visits that Romanian diplomats from Paris made to Brancusi, regularly accompanied by Margareta Cosaceanu-Lavrillier and the fact that she directly informed Constanta Craciun, the Minister of Culture (1953-1957).

In addition to Brancusi, her former master, the sculptor Cosaceanu-Lavrillier also “took care” of Enescu, being part of the “influence agency”, made up of Corneliu Bediteanu and Lucia Shapira. This influence was doubled by a group from the country formed by the lawyer Romeo Drăghici, the administrator of personal wealth of musician, and the composers Mihail Jora and Mihail Andricu [8].

The head of 1<sup>st</sup> Directorate of the State Securitate said about her that she “leads a remarkable activity in the (Romanian) democratic colony” and that “gave us valuable information regarding Enesco and is ready to collaborate with us for the intended purpose” [9].

## 2. THE FIRST IMPORTANT VICTIM: TRAIAN VUIA



The inventor and the pioneer of the world aviation Traian Vuia (1872-1950), lived in Paris since the summer of 1902. There he made his flying machines and achieved the first self-propelled flight (with his own means

on board, as is the established formula in Romania), on March 18 1906, at Montesson [10], near Paris, in a plane heavier than the air. He later devoted most of his energy to the study of propellers in his own workshop-laboratory, and together with Marcel Yvonneau he designed several original helicopter models.

At the beginning of December 1945, the doc-

tor found Traian Vuia overworked and recommended him a total rest. His neighbour Petre Ciolan, the former consul general of Romania in Paris, being his neighbor, visited him daily. Vuia's health worsened on the Christmas Eve, when he had a brain stroke, followed by a left hemiplegia. Because he lived all alone and had no family, he was taken in by Petre Ciolan and his family (daughter and wife) who took care of him for five years.

In a letter to Căiș Brediceanu dated: Garches, June 14, 1946, Traian Vuia confesses to his friend that *"I was seriously ill, but thanks to the care given to me by the Ciolans, I am on the road to recovery. I still enjoy their Christian care and hospitality. They are true parents to me, because it is only thanks to their care that I am still alive and I can thank God that things could be arranged in this way. Marioara Ciolan in particular is a rare woman, how can they be found only in our Banat"*.

Dr. Petru Groza [11] was one of Vuia's childhood friends. As prime minister, he requested the Romanian Academy that Vuia be appointed as member and, on May 27, 1946, Traian Vuia was accepted as an *honorary member of the Romanian Academy*, and also received a life pension. In the meantime, he got a subsidy of 12,000 francs from the Romanian State, which was personally handed to him by the Romanian ambassador in Paris, the mathematician Simion Stoilow [12]. He also received 10,000 francs from Ion Tisca, a Romanian industrialist living in France.

The writer Victor Eftimiu told about his last meeting with Vuia: *"When I last saw him in Garches, near Paris, Traian Vuia was paralyzed, he could hardly speak, but he showed his gratitude to those who supported him, including his neighbor, the Moldovian Petru Ciolan. Ciolan took care of him until his last moments, with a Romanian heart and filial devotion. While in Garches, near Vuia, I also met Ion Tisca, who was a native from Brasov neighbourhoods, who had left the country since*

*1900 and became a great industrialist in France. During the last War, Tisca subsidized the Romanian resistance movement during the last war with important funds. When Vuia, sick, unable to work and honor his contracts, felt worried about his good reputation towards his financial associates, Ion Tisca reassured him by telling him not to worry, that he would pay all debts. And indeed he did. Until the inventor's return to the country, the Transylvanian good served him, monthly, ten thousand francs."*

Thanks to Petru Groza's care, on August 20, 1946, Vuia's niece, Cornelia Mateias, was sent to France to take care of Traian Vuia, and also to persuade the inventor to get back to the country. She found him seriously ill in Petru Ciolan's home. Cornelia gave him the necessary care until May 17, 1947, when, falling ill, she was forced to return to the country.

Vuia wanted to die in the country, and Groza made the steps that he be brought to the country, which happened on June 28, 1950, accompanied by Petre Ciolan. He was initially installed in the Athénée Palace Hotel in Bucharest, from where, a week later, he was moved to the Nursing Home No. 13 from 24, Bradetului street. He was installed on August 7, 1950, in a specially prepared room, equipped with new furniture and with everything necessary for his own household, with a woman employed especially for him who cared for him all the time while he lived at the Hotel Athénée Palace and whom Vuia had even requested as a permanent caretaker.

Dr. Constantin Baci, the doctor of the Council of Ministers consulted him from the beginning and prescribed the treatment and diet according to his state of health. He was visited by Petru Groza, and especially by his adjutant, general Tiberiu Badescu, by Prof. Dr. Constantin Parhon, the president of the Presidium of the Great National Assembly of the P.R.R. by Prof. Dr. Ana Aslan, and also by some of the friends from his youth: Tibe-

riu Brediceanu (the brother of Caius B.) and Constantin Nedelcu.

In the morning of September 2, 1950, Vuia's health worsened. The doctors found that the heart was weak, prescribed a treatment and were to come and see him again in the afternoon. However, at 4:45 p.m., before the doctors returned, the great inventor unexpectedly died [13].

The communist authorities widely presented the event of bringing him back to the country considered as a great success of the regime. However, references regarding Vuia were minor. Here is how Vuia's official biographer, George Lipovan, understood the episode to be presented:

*"The Officials of bourgeois-landlord Romania at that time knew how to boast about Vuia's remarkable achievements, but did not know how to do anything to concretely and sustainably reward the exceptional merits of this brilliant Romanian researcher, who, living among foreigners, remained bound by all the fibers of his soul to the people in the midst of which he was born.*

*Thus, Vuia fully experienced the drama of the man of genius, of the honest patriot in the business environment of bourgeois society. Old and sick, without living means, Vuia - the conqueror of the air with a flying machine heavier than air - would have ended his life of sacrifice and suffering far from the country, if the regime of popular democracy, through its leading exponents, would have not offered him the possibility of returning to the homeland, while ensuring the best conditions for health care. Later honored by the supreme scientific consecration, the title of academician of the Romanian People's Republic, surrounded by the love of friends, the admiration of the working class and the intellectuals devoted to the people (sic!), Vuia could not, unfortunately, enjoy this public recognition. Weakened by illness, he died suddenly shortly after his return to his homeland" [14].*

### 3. ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT: GOGU CONSTANTINESCO



Mrs Cosaceanu-Lavrillier's activity in Paris has also extended to England, at her Uncle Gogu, whom she tried to influence alongside with personalities such as Matei Marinescu, Ion Bagan [15] or Ionel Jianu [16]. This time, the

British sources which were found are a bit more generous. Facing a depression, Gogu confidently trusted the generous offers of Bucharest. In his narrow and rather exclusive circle of acquaintances, rumours were going around about the groupings carried out by the Romanians. On April 6, 1960, Dr. Ernst Altounyan [17] wrote to John Berry: *"Please do what you can in any way you think is suitable for Constantinesco. I have just written in my final appeal to Hailsham and told him that we shall be losing him to Romania unless something happens definitely about a job for him this summer and I can certainly do no more"* [18]. Dr. Altounyan a Syrian-British Armenian was Gogu's doctor, a friend of his family and a chess partner. The doctor's wife was Dora Altounyan, born as Collingwood [19] (1886-1964), a well-known British painter.

In the end, deeply depressed by the way fate rewarded him, old and sick, somehow lacking the moral strength and critical spirit to resist, but above all driven by a great longing for the country, Gogu Constantinesco accepted the communists' invitation to come to the country. In fact, he did it twice: in October 1961 and September-October 1963. On his first visit in the country, he was awarded the title of *Doctor Honoris Causa* of the Bucharest Polytechnic Institute, the first title of its

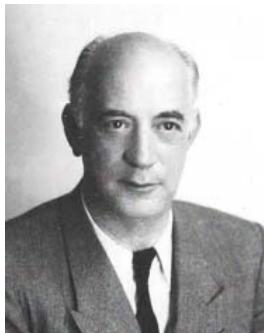
kind granted by this institution, which he graduated from 1904: the School of Bridges and Roads. At that time he was so tired, as he needed help to climb the stairs, and while addressing his quiet speech, sitting in an armchair, everyone could notice this fatigue [20].

During the second visit, paid to the country further to the invitation of the R.P.R. Academy, he made some several study and information trips, as well as trips to the Prahova Valley, Bicz, on Black Sea Shore and to Hunedoara. All these caused him a heart failure. He was treated at the Sanatorium in Otopeni, and he convalesced at the Romanian Academy rest house in Căciulați, under the supervision of acad. Prof. Dr. Theodor Burghele, a surgeon and urologist, at that time rector of the Institute of Medicine and Pharmacy in Bucharest and of Gogu's high school colleague, Prof. Dr. Ionel (Iancu) Jianu. During the medical investigations, he was also discovered a right inguinoscrotal hernia, which he had for several years. As his age and his physical condition did not allow a surgical intervention, a special device was built to help him [21].

Back in the Great Britain, his state of health has worsen and he died on December 11, 1965. In February 1965, he was elected an honorary member of the Romanian Academy, together with other personalities from abroad including: the chemist Linus Carl Pauling, the physicist Otto Hahn, the physicist and biochemist Arne Wilhelm Kaurin Tiselius or the mathematician Marco Picone [22, 23].

Similarly to Traian Vuia, the communist mass-media attributed him unspoken words and presented distortions of the interviews he may have given in the central press. It resulted that the achievements of the regime were the most significant, not those of the famous inventor!

#### 4. HENRI COANDA, THE PEARL OF THE CROWN FOR THE CEASESCU'S SECURITATE



The Romanian engineer Henri Coanda (1886-1972) wrote his name in the history of world aviation by inventing and building, in 1910, the first jet-propelled airplane, whose test flight was carried out on December

16, the same year. Passionate about aerodynamics and the author of numerous discoveries and inventions in almost all technical fields, Coanda was for a long time famous worldwide. Who had not heard - among scientists, engineers and inventors - of the *Coanda effect*, the *lenticular aerodyne* i.e. the *flying saucer*, the *first twin-engine airplane*, the *reinforced concrete wagons and tanks*, and the *seawater desalination plants*?!

His origin was not a *healthy* one [24] at all: on his father's side, he belonged to a boyar family, his father being an aide-de-camp of Crown Prince Ferdinand, then a general, minister and prime minister, president of the Board of Directors of the IAR Brasov Factories; on his mother's side he was French by birth and was even given a French name: Henri Marie Jean Gustav... Coanda!

His second wife also had some problems: she was Margareta, born Lecca, granddaughter of the great historian and politician Mihail Kogalniceanu, the founder of the National Independence and of the Union of the Romanian Principalities, and also of the declaration of the Kingdom of Romania in 1881. He was also the founder of the National Liberal Party, an exceptional intellectual and politician. At the same time he was a great lover: he had sex with over 700 women, according to his notes written in a notebook. It seems that one of them - Raluca Lamotesco - was, really very

special, as he did something never heard of at the time: he publicly assumed it! Together they had a daughter, Maria, who was recognized by her father, the Prime Minister M. Kogalniceanu; Maria first married first to Ioan Lecca, and then to Atanasie Eliade [25].

The spider's web was most skillfully woven. Petru Groza got the promotion to the rank of aviator general in reserve of Andrei Popovici, otherwise a meritorious Romanian soldier and aviator [26], and Coanda's brother-in-law, in 1957. Then he wrote the following to Popovici:

*"...Because the problem of the great Romanian achiever and technician engineer Henri Coanda is one that coincidentally recently entered my concerns... I am pleased to have discovered that your wife is the daughter of General Constantin Coanda, and that Henri Coanda is his son.*

*Their father, former prime minister and minister – and also my colleague in Marshal Averescu's government, former president of the Senate in 1926-27, comes back to my memories with his distinguished, calm figure and with the wisdom he helped us to manage - related of our functions – the difficult situations which - after the First World War and in the conditions of the welding of Transylvania with the old kingdom and the attempts to create a new life for our people... were hampered by a ferocious and venal politics..." [27].*

Andrei Popovici was prompt and alerted Coanda about Dr. Petru Groza's intentions to establish connections with him. As a result, the inventor wrote the following letter to Groza:

*Mister President,*

*I learn that you have kindly appointed to a committee in charge of compiling a kind of monograph of my life in the scientific framework. I was deeply moved by this great attention. I had a reason to be amazed, because since in 1911 when the Romanian government granted me the "Bene Merenti Cl. I" medal for my aeronautical works, I thought that*

*my country had completely forgotten me, as it did with Nicolae Tesla, a native of Banat. Today when he died, the Hungarians claim him as their citizen and the Serbs do the same.*

*And there would have been no wireless telegraphy, radios, television, etc., if Tesla from Banat had not invented the "Coeror" and there would have been neither Branly nor Marconi. Today in the Sorbonne a hall with his name is being prepared and the same happens in the United States.*

*Therefore, you may understand, Mr. President, why I was so astonished to hear of your lordship's gesture.*

*You appointed my brother-in-law, General Andrei Popovici, one of the first people to fly with my planes, with such great skill and all his talent, as the president of this commission, and I thank you for this situation.*

*The purpose of this letter is only to let you know how flattered I am that you have remembered me, but I do not really think that I deserve such great honor. I only did my duty as a Romanian, in seeking to raise the country's flag as high as I could.*

*Vichy, August 13, 1957" [28]*

Another track through which the Securitate approached Coanda was an old friend of the Romanian scientist, Eng. Radu A. Stoica or Stoika (1900-1971), aviator and maker of airplanes and seaplanes [29]. He had been recruited by Mihail Moruzov, the director of the Army's Secret Intelligence Service (SIS). After the Second World War, the SIS archive reached the Securitate, which - through blackmail - took over most of the former informers. In September 1956, the former source "Georgescu" became "Aradeanu". In 1959, Stoica received an invitation from the French Aeroclub, where he was a permanent member, to participate in an event in Paris. He reported to his bosses and immediately received a passport, and also instructions to get in touch with personalities "connected to the army and NATO" and with his friend Coandă.

Stoica was a great promoter of aviation and he wrote in an informative note: *"Starting from the fact that I am working on the history of Romanian aviation, I will obtain from Coandă all the data that will allow me to place him in his rightful place among the great Romanian aviators. By arousing his interest in being promoted in our books, I will convince him to put at my disposal - for my documentation - all his inventions and works (especially the present ones - flying saucers and solar energy capture). In my relation to him, I will do my best to convince him to return to the country and to enable us to get possession of all his works".* In France, the Security agent proved surprisingly effective, managing to establish contacts with his old friends and establish new contacts with personalities in the aeronautical and military fields.

Coandă told him that he refused the French citizenship and that he wanted a Romanian passport. He also complained that it was difficult for him to communicate with his sister in Romania. Upon his return, Stoica drew up a detailed report on the activity of his mission. The scientist was given the conspiratorial name *"Hera"*.

To strengthen the relationship between the agent and Coanda, the scientist was convinced that his sister had received the passport and that she got approval for a visit to France, following the efforts of Radu Stoica. As the relations between Coanda and Stoica became ever closer in 1960, so in October the Securitate proposed *"the temporary removal of the agent to France, with the bearing of all financial expenses by our decision bodies"*. *"Removing an agent"* meant, in the Securitate language, implanting him - temporarily or permanently - into another country. This proposal came after Stoica had been invited by Coanda to France, in order to collaborate on some technical-scientific works. Radu Stoica's mission was perfectly covered, the initiative coming from Coanda.

Stoica left for France again in January 1961, being renamed *"Fieraru"*. He reported in February 1962, that H. Coanda would accept *"to capitalize on the most significant inventions for the country"*. In order to collaborate with the Romanian state, the scientist set some conditions, but he also had requested that for the family of his sister and General Popovici, *"to move again to their daughter's apartment"* [30].

After ten years of groping and discussions, including the changes that took place at the top of the party and Ceausescu's taking over the power the Academy of the R.S.R. organizes in June 1967 a symposium under the generic name *"The Coanda effect and some special applications of aerohydrodynamics"*, through the efforts of acad. Elie Carafoli [31]. The scientist Henri Coanda and his wife, Margareta, arrive at Baneasa Airport and participate in the events in the Academy Aula and in other related events. Then they remain in the country until the end of July and visit various places in the country and the Polytechnic Institute of Bucharest, which had awarded him the title of *Doctor Honoris Causa*. The Coanda couple also participated in a meeting with Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu.

As Margareta Coanda's parents were buried separately - her mother in Arges County, and her father in Bacau County - and she decided to visit the graves of them both.

On the way to Craiova, Henri Coanda and, mostly his wife, insisted on stopping in Vranesti village, Valeni-Podgoria commune, Pitesti region, to visit the grave of Mrs. Coanda's ancestors. Raluca or Mita (in reality, Maria), daughter of Mihail Kogalniceanu and of Raluca Lamotescu. Asking about the tomb, they found a certain Ion Despa who told Mrs. Coanda that many years ago, around 1950, several young people, led by the son of the president of the People's Council, thinking that there were jewels in the coffins within

the tomb, had taken out the bones, which remained scattered on the ground for a long time. The village priest, Soare Tudor, with the help of his son, who is a doctor, later collected the bones in a coffin. Upon the express request of Mrs. Coanda, they visited the village cemetery together with the priest and Despa. Henri Coanda gave 150 lei to the priest, asked him to take care of the grave and telling him that he was going to buy a tombstone to put there. During the journey Mrs. Coanda got ill from this shock. It seems that Despa and a brother-in-law of his, a worker at the C.F.R., also related sinister facts that were invented by them: dogs with bones in their mouths, missing skulls, etc. In turn, the inventor was also affected, because he had tried hard to convince his wife to come in the country. The file explicitly mentions: "Coanda would like, even during his stay in Romania, to set up a decent grave for his wife's mother, the daughter of Mihail Kogalniceanu" [32].

Ceausescu personally invited Coanda to permanently settle in the country, speculating one of his old wishes, and offering him almost everything. The first gesture in this respect was made on July 9, 1967, when the inventor accepted the appointment as a special adviser, with the rank of minister of Nicolae Ceausescu and promised his support to relaunch of the aeronautical industry in Romania, started in 1968 with the establishment in Ghimbav, Brasov of the Aeronautical Construction Company (ICA), under the leadership of Col. Eng. Dumitru Barbu and Eng. Iosif Silimon.

If we also take into account the evolution of the political events: the Prague Spring and the entry of Soviet troops, strongly condemned by Ceausescu [33,34], the huge internal wave of sympathy for the secretary general of the Romanian Communist Party [35], the visit of French President Charles de Gaulle, the benevolent attitude of the entire West towards the leader from Bu-

charest, Coanda's decision can be considered as strongly influenced.

Apparently breaking the commitments made to the United States and Canada while his working there (including at NASA and the Pentagon), he finally said "Yes", but put a series of conditions, including the request of his being restituted the family palace in Bucharest, which was to be later on transformed into the headquarters of the future research institute that he will lead, the freedom to travel freely, etc.

Upon his arriving in the country, in 1969, Henri Coanda immediately became an *academician, director general* of the *National Institute for Scientific and Technical Creation (INCREST)*, with a huge budget, *Minister-Counsellor of State Council*, and, what is more important, he had the possibility to choose its collaborators from among the best specialists and students of the country. In a short time, over 40 such young people, full of enthusiasm, surrounded him, eager to learn, research and implement the scientist's ideas. Among the projects worked on, we mention: *IAR-93 - the first military jet plane* (assembled in Bacau, the manufacture being carried out at the factory in Craiova, in collaboration with SOKO Mostar, from Yugoslavia), *the hovercraft* (the steering system, and suspension, both based on the Coanda effect, then arrived in Great Britain, through the departure of one of the researchers), *Delta - the city of the future, aerotubexpres - the high-speed train in pneumatic tubes* [36]. Among Ceausescu's concerns was also the field of *nuclear energy*, and Coanda assured him in a letter that "*he held discussions with the French Minister of Scientific Research and Atomic Problems, Maurice Schumann, with a view to collaboration between French and Romanian scientists in the atomic field and in the aeronautical one*" [37].

Meanwhile, the *Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS)* of the United Kingdom made him an *Ho-*

orary Fellow in 1971, with the following *laudatio*: “Dr. Henri Coanda: For his outstanding contributions to the original design of a number of early aircraft, from 1900 onwards, some of which were those designed for the British and Colonial Airplane Company – later the British Airplane Company. Henri Coanda also conceived and built a jet airplane, exhibited at the Paris Aviation Salon of 1910. He is universally known for the discovery of the “Coanda effect” used in boundary layer control, the basis of the modern science of fluidics” [38].

After Henri Coanda’s death on November 25, 1972, all the discoveries and achievements made under his leadership were stopped. Nicolae Ceausescu made the decision that all the specialists, trained by the scientist in the field of high technologies, should continue their work by taking over the plan for the assimilation of equipment and technologies from abroad, which the Romanian special industry needed.

This included everything from buying licenses to copying and stealing technology, as well as subsequent innovation in those cases. They contributed significantly to the development of Romanian industry and research.â

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alizador=8909-georgescu-mihai-petru](https://biblioteca-digitala.ro/?tip-publicatie=periodic&realizator=8909-georgescu-mihai-petru).
3. CSENDES, Ladislau. (2011). *George Enescu  
– un exil supraviețuit?*, Editura Casa Radio,  
București, ISBN: 978-973-7902-84-9. The volume  
presents, under the signature of the former pre-  
sident of CNSAS, 50 notes, informant reports and  
intercepted letters, between October 27, 1946  
– August 9, 1968, constituting the documentary  
portfolio relating to George Enescu, handed over  
by the Foreign Intelligence Service to the Nation-  
al Study Council of the Security Archives. The file  
regarding Enescu is incomplete, according to the  
accompanying report, 19 documents being with-  
drawn from it even before it was handed over to  
CNSAS.
4. Documents posted on Facebook by the  
Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs, under the signature of Minister Counselor  
Dr. Monica Joita, apud Teodor Serban, available  
on: [https://ziare.com/constantin-brancusi/con-  
stantin-brancusi-comunisti-opere-donatie-ro-  
manaia-1726394](https://ziare.com/constantin-brancusi/constantin-brancusi-comunisti-opere-donatie-ro-<br/>manaia-1726394)
5. BERRY, John. *Discovering Swallows & Ranso-  
mes: An autobiography inspired by Arthur Ran-  
some and his real life characters*, Sigma Leisure,  
Wilmslow, Cheshire, ISBN 1-85058-814-7.
6. The episode of Coanda's return to Romania  
and the reception given to him by Nicolae Ceau-  
escu at the end of the 7th decade of the last  
century is quite well known. For details, you can  
also consult: Constantin Gheorghiu, General  
aviator Andrei Popovici. (1978). Editura Militară,  
București.
7. [https://www.enciclopediaromaniei.ro/wiki/  
Margareta\\_Cos%C4%83ceanu-Lavrillier](https://www.enciclopediaromaniei.ro/wiki/Margareta_Cos%C4%83ceanu-Lavrillier).
8. This is attested by a report by General Vasile  
Valcu, approved by Alexandru Draghici, from July  
1954, quoted by: [https://moldova.europalibera.  
org/a/24448817.html](https://moldova.europalibera.org/a/24448817.html) (see infra the note ix).
9. ACNSAS, SIE fund, file 5483, ff. 22-25, «Strictly  
secret» document, signed by Major General Va-  
sile Valcu, head of 1st Directorate: [https://www.  
muzicieni-in-arhive.ro/george-enescu-ro.php](https://www.muzicieni-in-arhive.ro/george-enescu-ro.php).
10. On 14 September 2013, in Montesson, the  
local French authorities unveiled a plaque in me-  
mory of Traian Vuia and the first powered flight.
11. Petru Groza (1884-1958) was a Romanian  
lawyer and politician, prime minister in the first  
communist governments of Romania, between

1945 and 1952, president of the Presidium of the Grand National Assembly of the Romanian People's Republic, a position assimilated to that of head of state, in the period 1952-1958. On March 6, 1945, he was imposed on the position of prime minister by the Soviet Union, which threatened otherwise with the non-return of Transylvania to Romania. Groza pretended to belong to his own party, but he was an executor of the decisions made by the communists and the orders from Moscow. His government had not been recognized by the Americans and the British, and King Michael asked him to resign in August 1945. Groza refused - a unique fact in the history of royalty in Romania - and the king went on royal strike, during which the government acted unconstitutionally. The governments led by Groza presided over the first political trials in Romania, the fraud of the 1946 elections and the liquidation of the opposition, overlapping the process of the seizure of political power by the communists. On December 30, 1947, together with Gheorghiu-Dej, Groza forced King Michael to abdicate, during the same day proclaiming, illegally and unconstitutionally, in the parliament, the people's republic ([https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petru\\_Groza](https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petru_Groza)).

12. Simion Stoilow, sometimes written Stoilov, (1887-1961) was a Romanian mathematician and diplomat, the founder of the Romanian school of complex analysis and author of over a hundred publications. He did his doctorate in Paris under the supervision of Émile Picard and was a professor at the universities of Iasi, Cernauti and Bucharest, member of the Romanian Academy (m.c. 1934, m.t. 1945). He is known as the creator of the topological theory of analytic functions and also the creator of the Romanian school of complex analysis. A communist since 1944, Stoilow was ambassador to France (1946-1948) and a member of the Romanian delegation, led by Gheorghe Tatarescu, at the Paris Peace Treaties (1946)

[cf.https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simion\\_Stoilow](https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simion_Stoilow).

13. TOMONI, Dumitru, Traian Vuia, 150 de ani de la naștere (XVIII). Ultimii ani de viață, apud <https://ziarulactualitatea.ro/traian-vuia-150-de-ani-de-la-nastere-xviii-ultimii-ani-de-viata/>.

14. LIPOVAN, George. (1956). Traian Vuia, realizatorul zborului mecanic. Cu un cuvânt introductiv de dr. Petru Groza, Editura Tehnică, București, pp. 190-192.

15. Ion St. Basgan (1902-1980), was a Romanian engineer and inventor, famous for his invention: drilling with the application of sonics, and for the discovery of the effect that bears his name, the "Basgan effect". He studied at the Montanistische Hochschule in Leoben, Austria, and later defended his doctoral thesis at the same institution with the thesis "Die Arbeitsweise und Form des Rotary Meissels" (1933), being a disciple of Gogu Constantinescu. The Hans Urban publishing house in Vienna published the doctoral thesis a year later, with a foreword by Gogu (April 1934). Ion Basgan's research in the field of oil drilling by combining sonicity with the "Basgan effect" resulted in numerous inventions, which revolutionized the drilling technique. Starting from 1937, they were also applied in the USA, by the big oil companies. During the Second World War, the inventions of the Romanian engineer were seized, being unlocked only in 1965, by order of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). Although numerous steps have been taken, Ion Basgan has not been able to recover his due copyrights as a result of the use of his discoveries and inventions. They were evaluated by a committee of German experts at approx. 8.4 billion dollars, five decades ago, which today would mean approx. 100 billion dollars ([https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ion\\_%C8%98t\\_Basgan](https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ion_%C8%98t_Basgan)).

16. Prof. Dr. Ion (Iancu) Jianu (1880-1972) was a surgeon and traumatologist, friend and high school classmate in Craiova with Gogu Con-

stantinesco. He attended the Faculty of Medicine in Bucharest, being one of the favorites of Prof. Dr. Gheorghe Marinescu. Consultant physician and surgeon of the Eforia of Civil Hospitals in Bucharest at Colentina, he went through all the professional steps (from anatomy prosector to clinic aggregate), becoming director of the Clinical-Chirurgical Institute of the Colentina Hospital where he organized an experimental surgery laboratory for grafts and cancer; established the "Federation of Surgery of Little Entente of the Bordering Countries". He was the forerunner of many approaches to cardiovascular surgery, plastic surgery, the organization of the fight against cancer, the notions of hygiene and health defense through free medical assistance, a founding member of the International Society of Orthopaedic Surgery and Traumatology, the initiator of the Balkan Medical Association, promoter of the resumption of scientific ties between Romania and the USSR ([https://www.spitalulcolentina.ro/scc-ro/scc\\_files/scc\\_meniuri/meniuri\\_secundare/Istoric-Colentina.pdf](https://www.spitalulcolentina.ro/scc-ro/scc_files/scc_meniuri/meniuri_secundare/Istoric-Colentina.pdf)).

17. Ernest Haik Riddall Altounyan (1890 - 1962) was an outstanding British-Syrian surgeon of Armenian descent who studied at Rugby School and then Cambridge. He served in the British Royal Army Medical Corps during the First World War and was awarded the Military Cross in France. He was close friends with T. E. Lawrence. After World War I, he moved with his wife and children to Aleppo, Syria, where his father, A.A. Altounyan, ran a hospital of which he was the owner. The Suez Campaign of 1958 saw the hospital confiscated by the Syrian authorities and the family were forced to leave Syria for Britain, leaving all their possessions behind and spending their last years on the banks of Coniston Water. Ernest and Dora's five children inspired the Swallows and Amazons series of children's novels by Arthur Ransome, who named most of the characters -

the Walker children - after those of the Altounyan family. One of their children, Roger Altounyan, was also a renowned physician whose pioneering invention, the spin inhaler, improved the lives of asthma sufferers around the world (<https://caia.org.uk/ernest-haik-riddall-altounyan/>).

18. Cf. John Berry, *Op. cit.*, p. 73.

19. Dora was the eldest daughter of William G. Collingwood (1819-1903), author, artist, antiquary and Professor of Fine Arts at University College Reading, confidante and biographer of John Ruskin (Ruskin, 1819-1900, was a Victorian-era English writer, philosopher, art critic and scholar, professor at Oxford). Moreover, as a sign of respect for their long friendship, their graves are adjacent in the St. Andrew Church of Coniston. Robin George Collingwood (1889-1943), the only son of artists W. G. Collingwood and his wife Edith Mary, is the best-known member of the family. He was an outstanding student at University College, Oxford, at the age of 23, and before graduating he was elected a Fellow of Pembroke College and later appointed Waynflete Professor of Metaphysical Philosophy at Magdalen College, Oxford, and Fellow of British Academy. He was both an important British idealist philosopher and an archaeologist and historian of Roman inscriptions in Britain.

20. JIANU, I., BASGAN, I., MACOVEANU, L.(1966). George Constantinescu, *Colecția „Savanți de pretutindeni”*, Editura Științifică, București, p. 127.

21. JIANU I. et al., *Op. cit.*, p. 127.

22. RUSU, Dorina. (1997). *Istoria Academiei Române în date (1866-1996)*, Editura Academiei Române, București, ISBN 973-27-0591-4, p. 306.

23. Gogu Constantinescu had been elected a corresponding member of the Romanian Academy, in the Scientific Section since June 10, 1920, *ibidem*, p. 205.

24. Healthy origin is the term by which the communist regime in Romania and more wide-

ly Marxist theory designated the descendants of the working class and the peasantry. By opposition, the other social classes were considered “unhealthy” and were persecuted in the class struggle.

25. <https://revistaagresive.ro/monden/cine-a-fost-iubita-lui-kogalniceanu-din-calinesti-arges/>.

26. Andrei Popovici (1883-1967), outstanding personality of the Romanian Aeronautics, aviator general, was among the first certified pilots of Romania, commander of the military aviation school at the beginning of its establishment, commander of the most important aeronautical group, the 2nd Aeronautic Group, in the campaign air force for the rescue of Romania in the fiery summer of 1917, commander of the first aeronautical educational institution in Greater Romania, Group IV Aviation Instruction, developer of the national aeronautical industry, with merits in the establishment and construction of aircraft at the ASTRA Factory in Arad and IAR Brașov (general deputy director 1925-1937), director of the national air transport company of interwar Romania, Romanian Airlines Operated by the State - LARES (1937-1941). He attended the Military Sons School in Iasi, the future Military High School, then the Infantry and Cavalry School in Bucharest, graduated on July 1, 1904, with the rank of second lieutenant, then the Special Cavalry School in Targoviste. On February 11, 1912, he was posted to the Railway Battalion, Flying School, to begin flying instruction, and in June 1912, he was sent by the War Office to England to attend flying school. He was later ordered from England to go to Paris to get his higher pilot's license at “Morane Saulnier House”. In November 1933, in addition to IAR Brașov, he founded the Brașov Aeroclub, and later, the Sanpetru Motorless Flight School. Hero in the war for Greater Romania with numerous awards. Brother-in-law of

H. Coanda and one of the artisans of bringing the scholar back to the country.

27. Letter no. 250 of 21 March 1957, in Constantin Gheorghiu, General aviator Andrei Popovici, Editura Militară, București, 1978, pp. 148-149.

28. The letter of Henri Coandă to dr. Petru Groza, no number, of 13 August 1957, in Constantin Gheorghiu, Op. cit., pp. 149-150.

29. Radu A. Stoica or Stoika was a Romanian engineer with aviation studies in Paris and London. In 1925, he built the first Romanian seaplane “Getta”, in Constanta and tested by the pilot Romeo Popescu. Following the successful tests, the Ministry of War ordered three more aircraft and with them established the first squadron of the sea-aviation flotilla from Mamaia. Eng. Stoika also made other inventions: the propeller sled (1917), the “Sabina” seaplane, the “Bombonel” airplane, the “Binelia” airplane motor sled, designs and construction of motor boats, coastal barges, etc. Chief Engineer and Technical Director in various ministries. For a while he was also the former head of the Coanda General Technical Museum - in Libertatii Park, Bucharest. Organizer of vocational schools and technical mediums Permanent member of the French Aeroclub. Popularizer of science and technology, especially aviation. Informant and agent of the SIS and the Securitate (<https://www.independentaromana.ro/radu-a-stefan-stoika-10-noiembrie-1900-29-noiembrie-1971/>).

30. BANU, Florian, De la SSI la SIE. O istorie a spionajului românesc în timpul regimului comunist (1948-1989), Editura Corint, București, 2017, ISBN 978-606-793-075-7, apud Alexandru Ionescu, Cum a fost “exploatat informativ” savantul Henri Coandă de Securitate, available at: <https://historia.ro/sectiune/general/cum-a-fost-exploatat-informativ-savantul-henri-572033.html>.

31. Elie Carafoli (1901-1983) was a Romanian engineer, of Aromanian origin, aircraft builder,

member of the Romanian Academy since 1948, considered one of the pioneers of aeronautics, particularly in the field of aerodynamics. He studied at the Polytechnic School of Bucharest and at the Sorbonne, where he received his doctorate in physics-mathematics. He worked at the Saint-Cyr Aerotechnical Laboratory, alongside Albert Toussaint and Paul Painlevé, then at the IAR Brasov Factories, as chief engineer and then director. Elie Carafoli studied the theory of the general movement of a fluid around a contour, monoplane wings and conical movements in the supersonic regime, he made airfoils of airplane wings with a rounded trailing edge, called Carafoli airfoils, and designed many domestic airplanes: IAR CV 11, IAR-12, IAR-13, IAR-14, IAR-15, IAR-16, IAR-21, IAR-22, IAR-23, IAR-24, produced in Brasov. He was also president of the International Astronautical Federation ([https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elie\\_Carafoli](https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elie_Carafoli)).

32. File 202/1967, Special Fund: France, The Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, apud <https://revistaagressive.ro/monden/cine-a-fost-iubita-lui-kogalniceanu-din-calinesti-arges/>.

33. Even now it is not known for sure whether Ceausescu made this statement out of conviction and patriotism, for fear that Romania too could be a victim at any time or willingly from the masters in Moscow, who, however, needed a val-

ve, a connecting channel with the West.

34. On August 25, 1968, Henri Coanda sent a letter to Ceausescu in which he said: "I thank you from the bottom of my heart, Mr. President, both for your dignified attitude and for the words spoken from the bottom of my heart."

35. Ceausescu concluded his speech with the words: "It has been said that there is a danger of counter-revolution in Czechoslovakia; maybe tomorrow there will be some who will say that even here, in this assembly, counter-revolutionary tendencies are manifested. We answer to everyone: the whole people will not allow anyone to violate the territory of our homeland".

36. Spionaj și scandaluri diplomatice în jurul descoperirilor lui Henri Coandă, in *Evenimentul Istoric*, nr. 45, 26 nov.-17 dec. 2021, pp. 110-113. <https://evenimentulistoric.ro/descoperainformatii-despre-o-operatiune-de-spionaj-necunoscuta-din-patriotism-savantul-henri-coanda-ia-tradat-pe-americani-pentru-nicolae-ceausescu.html>.

37. [https://historia.ro/sectiune/general/cum-a-fost-exploatat-informativ-savantul-henri-572033.html#google\\_vignette](https://historia.ro/sectiune/general/cum-a-fost-exploatat-informativ-savantul-henri-572033.html#google_vignette).

38. Obtained from the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS), courtesy of Tony Pilmer, Librarian (email dated 22 Dec 2016, 12:45) and first published by Horia Salca.