

The Schemamonk Priest Daniil Teodorescu in the Penal Dossier of the „Burning Bush” Group. Case Study

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Abstract

The penal dossier of the „*Burning Bush*” group is known today in the *Archives of the National Council for the Security Archives Study* called „*Alexandru Teodorescu and others*” or „*P 202*” and includes 11 volumes. Besides the 16 people who were tried in this group, the investigation was extended to many other people. It tried and succeeded on this occasion, the arrest and conviction of elite people, terrorizing the priests and the disobedience intellectuals being among the repressive priorities of the communist regime and hence of its repressive arm, Security. Further were terrorized during the investigations many other persons who had nothing to do with the „Burning Bush” group, but with some people in this group. The dossier is not clear if some of them have been convicted on this occasion, which is very possible because these connections of their, further some of them had already been convicted for various reasons, especially for the legionnaire past.

The causes to desired involvement and conviction of more people, must be sought in the political context of that time. On the one hand, in July 1958, has been the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Romania, and here the communists well were not be sure of the situation in the country, or, rather, wanted to show Moscow that they master the situation. There is another very important issue, an article published in the West on „Burning Bush”. In July 1957 the newspaper „*La Réforme*” in Paris published a long article signed by Olivier Clement, significantly entitled „The Romanian Orthodox Church or the miracle of burning bush” with numerous quotations from speeches of Patriarch Justinian and activity aspects of monk’s Agathon life. The informations provided from Andrei Scrima, which left the country in 1956 and he was in relation with several theologians in the West. How atheism was part of communist ideology, we need not wonder that the fight against the Church and of every religion was a permanent goal of all

communist parties, it became evident especially after the Communists came to power in Eastern Europe. In the case of the Romanian Orthodox Church by terrorizing and priests arresting, especially but not only theological elite, and sought to weaken the position of Patriarch Justinian became a long time, at that time, undesirable for the Communist power. It was also pursued probably the monks and monasticisms prosecution in general, counterrevolutionary activity to justify harsh measures against the monasteries in the next year, which culminated with Decree 410/28 October 1959. To this, it add the obvious intention the officers Security who carried out investigations, to justify their existence and activity aimed perhaps even promotions.

We retain the resistance to pressure of Sandu Tudor, who has maintained such statements „did not talks with hostile nature of RPR popular democratic regime”, as long as he could, maybe more of a desire to protect friends and his disciples perhaps more than to protect himself. The confrontations, however, had a decisive role and forced him to change his statement, finally recognizing what the investigators wanted.

Considered the leader of the group, he was condemned „to 25 years hard imprisonment and 10 years civic degradation for the offense provided and puished of art. 209 point 1 Penal Code comb. with art. 31 Penal Code and art. 58 points 2-5 Penal Code”, is about murder against conspiracy the social order. He was condemned still to „15 years rigorous imprisonment for murder provided and puished of art. 193/1 paragraph 4 Penal Code by changing the qualification according art. 292 Military Justice Code in crime provided and puished of art. 193/1 paragraph 1 Penal Code”. He would carry the heaviest punishment of those. Group's appeal was rejected by the Supreme Court of RPR, Military College, through the Decision no. 42 pronounced at public meeting on 21 January 1959. He passed away on 17 November 1962, in Aiud hospital prison, the cause of death being a cerebral hemorrhage. Burial place is unknown.

From dossier does not appear that Sandu Tudor had been molested, but that he was forced, finally, to recognize what investigators wanted from confrontation that they had with four of his disciples. About these and other members of the group it can be

said that they were more than forced to make confessions requested by investigators.

As it concerns Constantin Joja, prominent member of the „Burning Bush” group, it may be said that a great shame hanging over him, that of being an informer and to be sent in the prison so many people of moral and intellectual high.