

ABOUT INTELLIGENCE - tabs in the history of intelligence services-

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***Abstract:** The approach of intelligence from the historic point of view regarding intelligence services in Romania contributes to defining the „intelligence branch” and describing essential aspects referring to the mechanisms of secret service functioning and the history of Secret Police (Romanian Securitate) not only as political police, but also as an Intelligence and Counter-Intelligence Secret Service.*

This article also presents the preoccupations and manner of working of certain espionage services on Romanian territory as well as some secrets of the coup in December 1989, including those related to operations conducted by agents of foreign secret services (and of subversive Russian missions) in Romania. Obviously, these are, now, a matter of Romanian history alive in our minds and memories of Romanian citizens who suffered the consequences of the unpleasant experiences. The paper concludes with a glimpse of a few of the Secret Police problems in comprehending history..

***Keywords:** intelligence, intelligence services, secret services, intelligence branch of service, Secret Police, coup*

1. Introduction

The English word *intelligence* has several meanings: intelligence, understanding, skill, information, news, secret information, espionage, secret service etc., while the phrase „intelligence agent” refers to an agent of a secret service or a spy.¹ The secret services work with classified information that represents, in fact and in law, information, data and

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¹ Academia Republicii Socialiste România, Institutul de Lingvistică, *Dicționar englez-român*, Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România, 1974, page 1974. (Leon Levițchi).