L. B. PEARSON (right), Canada's external affairs minister and president of the United Nations General Assembly, unveils a plaque honoring the late Count Folke Bernadotte, UN mediator in Palestine, assassinated in Jerusalem, Jan. 17, 1948. Countess Bernadotte, widow of the late UN official was present at the ceremony. At left is Dag Hammarskjold, secretary-general of the UN. (CP Photo)

Red Rulers Enjoy Best While Romanians Starve

For the first time in five years four American correspondents have been permitted by Communist Romania to visit that forbidden Balkan country. This is the second of several articles by the Associated Press chief of bureau in Vienna, who was among them.

By RICHARD O'REGAN

BUCHAREST (AP)—The lush extravagances of former king Carol of Romania have been replaced today by those of Communist king Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej.

Western diplomats here say the new Communist court has bled Romania as much as the old monarchy. The lot of the city dweller has been lowered and the peasant reduced to a state serfdom comparable with the slavery of the boyars.

But where the late king Carol fascinated his people with romantic perambulations and political conspiracies, handsome Gheorghiu-Dej lives in isolation and rules with an iron fist.

LIVE-IN SPLENDOR

Dejs Communist courtiers live in the homes of the former aristocracy and keep themselves in splendor while Romania's long-suffering 16,000,000 people continue in hunger.

Their homes in Chausseee Kiselef and in Jianu Park are closely guarded by armed police. Expensive U.S. and Russian cars take their uniformed servants to and from private stores.

While millions of "common-people" daily rise at 4 a.m. to queue up for the barest rations, crates of imported oranges and eggs are unloaded in the gardens of the new Communist rich.

Only Communist bigwigs or high foreign Communist guests use the ultra-modern Baneasa railway station, with its red carpets, which Carol built for the exclusive use of royalty.

The masses must wait if one of Romania's top Communist officials wants quick service in a department store or needs a rail ticket. We saw the people look at Communist bureaucrats receiving preferential treatment with the same hate they might have shown for royal agents.

The class distinctions of the new 'classless society" are strict for Romania's 700,000 Communist party members.

At official receptions, Gheorghiu-Dej and his top guests are separated in private rooms and nobody may cross the line. They are served caviar and imported French brandy. The lower ranks get hors de'oeuvres and domestic tzuika.

Invited to Western receptions, the "new rich" of Romania leave their wives behind. It is said they do not know how to behave in society.

As in the 18th century, when Turkish-appointed Greek governors of Romania were carried from their tables to their beds, so Gheorghui-Dej has an escort of police thugs, who, by their number, almost lift him from place to place. All trafic stops as Dej speeds through town in a convoy of curtain black sedans.

Communist officials claim not to know the big house where Gheorghiu-Dej lives in Bucharest. But the people do, and they stay away from its guards. His picture hangs at the gate to King Carol's sugar-loaf summer palace now a museum and occasional meeting place of the Cominform at Sinaia and nearby, Dej has a minor palace of his own.

When he visits the opera, even his subordinates must wait like royal retainers until he has left through a cordon of secret police.

With the growth of this new exclusive society, Western diplomats say Romania's workers in general have seen a drop in their living standards below what they were during Carol's regime. Only a few faithful Communist workers are said to have gained.

For three years, the supply of food has declined steadily. It reached its peak shortage in May and June. Westerners say there were block-long lines of housewives seeking food from dawn until night.

Two hundred grams of meat a week and small quantities of sugar and sunflower oil for cooking were available. That was all. There was no butter and little bread and only the smallest quantities of vegetables.

Even for well-paid Communist workers new clothes cost a small fortune. An average unskilled worker makes 250 lei a month. A lei is valued at about 12 to one U. S. dollar. An engineer makes 1,150. The average monthly wage is about 450.

Against this, a man's shoddy, ready-made suit costs 940 lei, shoes 209 lei, a bar of toilet soap 12 lei and a bedroom suite 15,600.

Workers' housing, Western diplomats say, has been negligible. And though the regime boasts it has built rest camps and made paid vacations available to millions, it is estimated the average worker can expect a rest camp stay once every seven years.

Egypt Calls For Total War On Britons

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's acting president, Vice-Premier Gamal Abdel Nasser, opened the Moslem feast of Bairam yesterday with a call for Egyptians to prepare for total war against "British occupation."

His warning to Britons to evacuate their military forces from the disputed Suez canal zone was cheered wildly by an estimated 100,000 Egyptians packing the big square outside the former royal palace. Nasser spoke in the absence of President Mohammed Naguib, who is on a pilgrimage to Mecca.

"We must prepare ourselves for a fight of all the people, not only a group of commandos," Nasser said. "We must teach the women and children how to defend our country. This is the way to liberation."

"You must be ready to fight at any moment and at any place, and we shall be leading you," he said.

"Life is limited," he added. "You can die in the Suez canal zone as well as anywhere else if fate wants it so."

The army has instructors and equipment to arm a great number of volunteers. Groups of well-trained men have been armed already, it was reported "and their numbers will be doubled in the coming year."

Informal Anglo-Egyptian talks to try settling the Suez dispute are still on officially although a scheduled meeting last Monday was cancelled by the Egyptians. No date for the next meeting has been set.

Visiting Cadets Put on Weight

YORK ©—A 25-man Canadian Air Cadet group yesterday dug in the past phase of a three-week British tour, still well and able but heavier.

The air cadet party arrived here Tuesday night from Bristol, where it had pased through the vast Bristol aircraft plant in concluding its visit to southwest England.

The party of 17- and 18-year-olds, an annual event, is due to leave for home by air Aug. 24.

To date, the hospitality has been so abundant that members of the group have gained 10 pounds on the average. The boys probably will have to face up to another weight problem when they leace because of the way they have been stocking up with souvenirs. Cadets, limited to 40 pounds of luggage, will have some hard decisions to make.

The party will spend its last two days in London, seeing sights here.

The Kohinoor diamond weighed more than 186 carats when presented to Queen Victoria in 1850.

Add to the growing number of American do-it-yourselfers Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hager, both 50, who are building their own six-room house in their spare time. They started in August of last year and plan to have their home ready by this fall. Mr. Hager drew up the plans himself and the only outside help they will have is for plumbing and electrical work. Approximate cost of the finished house will be $10,000, but the evaluation will exceed $14,000. Here the Hagers work on the roof structure.

B.C. Government Bulletin Slated Soon Says Bennett

VICTORIA ©—The provincial government will start publishing a news bulletin entitled "The B.C. Government News," Premier W. A. C. Bennett has announced.

The bulletin will be sent free to any organization or individual who wishes to be placed on the mailing list. The first edition will be published later this month.

Premier Bennett stressed that it "will not be a partisan political paper."

"We're not hiring any political writers to put the bulletin out," he said. "It will be prepared by the department of trade and industry."

The usual system of handling press releases through the legislative press gallery will not be changed.

The premier said the bulletin will be a consolidation of several departmental bulletins now circulated and will include departments hitherto without news bulletins of their own.

The premier said he thought his Social Credit party made a "remarkable showing" in the Aug. 10 federal election. The party won four B.C. seats in its first try at the federal field in this province and "polled 10,000 more votes than Social Credit in Alberta."

He said his party polled almost the same number of votes as the CCF party, which elected seven B.C. members to the House of Commons, and "only one or two per cent" less than the Liberals, who captured eight seats.

ROLSTON RECREATION PLAN TAKES PLACE OF PRO-REE

VICTORIA ©—Formation of a community programs branch to promote adult recreation throughout British Columbia has been announced by Education Minister Tilly Rolston.

The branch will replace the former Pro-Rec organization. It will have nine regional consultants, each of whom will be available to assist in promoting public recreation.

"In this way, many parts of B.C. will, for the first time, be able to use the government's recreation services," Mrs. Rolston said.

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