

## ROMANIAN REVOLUTION OF DECEMBER 1989 – INTERCONTINENTAL BARRICADE[1]

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### **ABSTRACT**

*IN THE NIGHT BETWEEN 21 AND 22 DECEMBER DEMONSTRATORS RAISED AN BARRICADE AT THE INTERCONTINENTAL TO PROTECT THEM AGAINST TROOPS REPRESSION. IS INTERESTING THEIR WAY OF THINKING ABOUT THE MEANS OF PROTECTION THEY USED TO DEFEND THEMSELVES BUT AS HE CONFESSES DUMITRU DINCA, ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS AND SPEAKERS FROM UNIVERSITY SQUARE, RAISING THE BARRICADE WAS PURELY PSYCHOLOGICAL BECAUSE ONLY REINFORCED THE BELIEF OF A GREATER PERSONAL SECURITY, BUT A SIMPLE TANK COULD EASILY PENETRATE INSIDE THE PERIMETER BARRICADED TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT IT WAS MADE OF "CHAIRS, METAL RODS PICKED OFF THE AREA WHERE WE COULD. HER STRENGTH WAS THE STRENGTH TO RESIST[2]. "*

**KEYWORD:** BARRICADE, DECEMBER 1989, REVOLUTION, INTERCONTINENTAL

According to Dumitru Dinca, the place from Intercontinental was not chosen by chance but not counting on the fact that in the hotel were foreigners, and is near the American Embassy - probably thought of a possible support from them. Although many years have passed from Dej's regime, still hope to support the West in general and especially from Americans.

Although, in the first instance, the number of demonstrators was not large (about 150 people), the soldiers who formed a barrage on Batiștei Street between University and the American Embassy, did not act against them. Dumitru Dincă says: *"I met there Raicu Romeo, Radu Silaghi ... Romeo Raicu puts the group that was to kneel in front of the soldiers, in front of the barrage. I did the same thing with those with whom I had come, so this time there were about 120-150 people. I did the same thing for half an hour. During this time, I took the initiative to talk to the soldiers there. I tried to impress a discussion of these young people. I told them: << Hey kids, you are like us. Your relatives, siblings, your parents now think like us and maybe we resist other soldiers. We have nothing with you, so please and you somehow not kill us, for we are brothers, we are not enemies >>. Someone brought a bouquet of flowers. I put flowers in arms"[3].* It is possible that the soldiers, because of their age, have been emotionally overwhelmed by not acting violently. I believe

that this was the reason because in the evening the young soldiers "were replaced by older soldiers without degrees. None of them have under 35 ".[4]

Leaders who stood on the evening of December 21, through various speeches or actions that they have taken were: Dumitru Dincă, Dan Iosif, Tara Cristiana, Romeo Raicu, Livu Crăciun Viorel, Petre Ioan.

Dan Iosif testifies that on the evening of December 21 was given the order to fire - were used tracers that have done the first victims because of the rebound wall from Intercontinental Hotel. It refers to the first incendiary bottles thrown by demonstrators - violence was started by them - and specifies that *"it was a mistake when at 10:00, a boy from our ranks threw a Molotov bottle, first, that fell into a platform truck electric who was wearing a cable roller. On the platform near the cable roll was a great tire for truck who caught fire and after was the cable and then the roll and after was in fire the whole truck, a torch to light the whole barricade. Further Molotov bottles began to appear, but I can not put my hand in the fire that they made were as pure as we were"*[5].

It is interesting that this testimony having regard Petre Roman argues strongly that there was no interference from people with good intentions set: *"sure are contradictory theses: either we were, the people at the barricades, downgraded elements, hooligan, falling contradict the argument that we were representatives, agents of the secret services. Obviously, these two sentences together did not how to resist. This points to the idea that they would be prepared a coup, which again contradicts the reality of the barricades, because now we know intimately: the barricades, overwhelmingly, we do not know each other. I went there every head, without any call, without any connection to someone. These are things today documented and perhaps because of this Barricade is the most genuine demonstration that the revolution has meant above all a spontaneous outburst"*[6]. Observing the testimony of two (Dan Iosif and Petre Roman) we understand that Petre Roman, nor conceive the idea that the group of demonstrators would have been well trained for this event instigators and the more does not accept the idea of a coup, however Dan Iosif did not exclude such a possibility.

"After 20:30, in the University Square crackdown began itself. They stepped transitions in speed, in the large groups of demonstrators of the firefighters machines, military trucks and armored vehicles. Under the wheels of trucks began gnashing the bones of demonstrators"[7]. An important episode was the night of December 21 when the army announced that it has sent a message. The silence was established by Dan Iosif with a megaphone protesters made silent thinking that the army will send a message referring to the brotherhood with the people *"but when they did deathly silence they began firing around 24:00"*[8]. I want to emphasize that before the army to do "that communicate " using guns, one soldier was seriously wounded by an adolescent between demonstrators. Vasu Traian was present and stated that *"a young man of about 16-17 years old, breast out of a glass filled with beer and hitting the asphalt crashing his bottom and immediately throws it to the troops and find a boy who did not seem to have more then 18, who let tired his shield down just then. In the next second I saw the most horrible thing before in my life. Soldier's face was filled with blood from the cut arteries with the fangs of glass, gushing blood, as in some artesian"*[9]. In addition to the army opened fire, shooting guns on APCs which was upwards, was down almost horizontal axis direction boulevard. Shortly after this incident appears a tank that easily bridges the barricade - barricade when it is no longer

offers protection demonstrators - followed by military troops fire on protesters continues to execute.

Gelu Voican Voiculescu's (GVV) testimony describes continuing repression in the market Roseti. He had the ambition to reconstruct the facts - in an interview with Alex Mihai Stoenescu (AMS) - the official capacity of Deputy Prime Minister and Commander of Security, identifying the names of soldiers who fired. Below find some Voican-Voiculescu's interview that I did not want to edit but I decided to leave it exactly as it is written in the book of interviews about the Revolution:

*"Gelu Voican-Voiculescu: At 0:23, two Tankette shattered barricade and started shooting in full.*

*AMS: A second they were shooting from tanks, APCs on?*

*GVV: There were military formations advancing infantrymen firing. I was in front of them at Inter, even before the doors of the Inter. Whistling bullets that sound produced by a bullet spinning in the air, and passed me left and right. Some threw themselves to the ground. I remained standing because I wanted to see the scene and, at a time when a bullet hiss me on the right ear I said it was suicide. But those moments of lucidity allowed me to observe the effect of contamination gregarious panic. The world around me was running for her life, as they say, and instantly empty roads, but instantly. It was something to measure in two seconds. I took it and I ran in front of the National Theatre, the park that front, and I wanted to go to the Ministry of Agriculture. At that moment, a Tankette by Maj Rosca has suddenly left and surprised me in the middle passage. I was chosen to go back on the sidewalk or before fleeing before him. I chose to run forward. Type filled with machine gun firing from 14.5 in the axis Boulevard Republic. Again, the fire was in full ...*

*AMS: horizontal plane*

*GVV :horizontal plane, but on the boulevard shaft . There was not made the left-right machine gun that was ravaging, the world ran on the sidewalk, where food corner before Rosetti, on the right is the Ministry of Agriculture, and a narrow ...*

*AMS: Which comes back to Colțea*

*GVV :Street Slănic. Slanic Street, here in front of Food was hit a guy. He fell like a rag instantly as a bunch of dusty clothes. I saw the first man killed so dead on the spot. Major Rosca held that position for a while, then went on, Rosetti gave the wheel, pulled the boulevard axis towards Moșilor then did something absurd. The wheels went up over parked cars pointless without any military thinking, I know, any tactical purpose. Simply take them in a row and passed over them, crushing them. He returned to the boulevard and, because we cried, turned and wanted to enter the street Slănic.*

*AMS :Could not you hear, was conducted.*

*GVV: Probably, but she saw us. He came to the right street and fired a burst Slănic, striking a man in leg (...) I decided to go back home and to cross the Republic. Gypsies broke windows and stole (,) Some tabs have appeared and chased them all to land "[10].*

Another very important thing is that the demonstrators scattered in University Square were stopped by employees of the Embassy of the USSR and returned to the market. From

General Alexie declaration of 17 January 2004 (in dialogue with Alex Mihai Stoenescu) shows this: *"I was in the waiting room in Iulian Vlad's office. I, Stamatoiu, Martoiu, I think it was Goran to, and I opened our frequency stations and military frequency. Otherwise, we did all communications on Militia frequency, on the circuit of broad information, the dispatcher was common. Standing at the station on the night of 21 to December 22, somewhere between 1:00 and 2:00 am, entering a crew of police communication from Rosetti Square (...) World frightened took it down the boulevard. Crews communicate but that in the Rosetti area were stopped by a car Dacia TC numbers (consular taxi). The car of the people shouting TC: << Back, back! >> Were out of the car and began to steer back to University Square. The police reported the number of the car. We had evidence, so I quickly learned: car belonged to Soviet Consulate. He knows exactly from a guy from militia, Marian Bădulescu "[11].*

Military Prosecutor's Office has reached a conclusion having general in "Inter case": "It has been shown that the gunfire was used on protesters, whether by itself or, especially, for spreading. The number of dead and injured is cumulative shot 148 people, which shows that the forces of repression has targeted mass murder of demonstrators, objective that could easily materialize in full using firepower concentrated on the place, and secondly that the firearms used in isolation, incidentally, as otherwise outlined above[12]. "I wonder who is responsible for this report? Before 23:00, military subunits of the Inter reporting use of ammunition. This report addresses the 1st Army Commander: "R1 = 40 pcs 7.62; R2 = 8000 2000 7.62 14.5"[13]. Interestingly, the Military Prosecution considers that consumption of ammunition proves that the number of bullets fired occasionally but says nothing - mention the 8000 caliber bullets 7.62 (this ammunition is used for machine guns) and the APCs were 2000 cartridges fired does not mean "occasional shooting"[14].

Around 1:00, Nicolae Ceausescu is informed by Iulian Vlad and Vasile Milea that Square was evacuated. As a result of extremely violent intervention of the police forces killed 49 people, injured 599 and about 800 were arrested and transported to Jilava prison.

One of the things that has been much discussed - and continues to discuss - is the great courage of some of those who acted that night in University Square, facing without fear forces. In this connection, the data from former officers of the Fifth Direction showed that, after dark, a truck arrived in the market without registration mean that downloaded a large amount of liquor bottles, which were divided those who remained in the area. The bottles had no label and fluid analysis learned in such a container - performed in the laboratory of the former headquarters of national unity - gave the content, of substances ranging from drugs with stimulant which causes a state of exaltation consumers inhibiting preservation instinct and thereby removing alternating strong feeling of fear and threat perception states. This information is not relevant if we take into account the behavior of some of the demonstrators, especially those who break the barricade when the tanks were not pushed aside, some were fatalities[15].

From the University Square, military intercepts were recorded as follows:[16]

*"21 p.m.*

*- Where are the guns? (refer to the cannons on fire trucks, n. a)*

*- Inter, at the traffic light ...*

*- The water in the tank is empty, fill and returns (note that using plenty of water to disperse the demonstrators. This method was not successful, n. A)*

- What can enter?
- With any ...
- Time 11:40 p.m.
- Fire high even in the middle. (Fire caused due throwing an incendiary bottles by one of the demonstrators, n. A)
- They burned some cars
- Time 11:52 p.m.
- Start advancing with 4 machine guns.
- It is the comrade. Dincă (Ion Dincă, former deputy, n. A), most of the leadership.
- Started advance?
- The forward is forward ... "

Shortly after 00:00 barricade breaks and disposed protest. This documentary was recorded in general Voinea:

- "0:00 - about 500 people went to Red Flag to pull those out there who do not want to leave.
- 4 Tc: 2 Magheru 1 Tc the Cyclops, one CCA
- GP (guard patriotic) - 23 August attacking the demonstrators
- Truck gasoline burn barrels
- Captain Marin
- 1 TAB - fire
- **It broked the blockade at Intercontinental**
- They set fire to cars"[17].

## REFERENCES

- [1]. Article can be found in the book of Flavius Cristian Marcau, *Revolutia Romana din 1989*, Editura Academic Brancusi , Targu-Jiu, 2011
- [2]. Petre Roman, *Repression on thebarricade from Intercontinental* ,In notebooks of the Revolution, nr 1 (20) / 2009, p. 35
- [3]. *Testimonies from barricade, Interview with Dumitru Dinca, In notebooks of the Revolution*, no. 1 (14) / 2008, p. 33
- [4]. *Ibidem*, p. 38
- [5]. Senate Archive ,*Committee on the investigation of the events of 1989*, the transcript of the April 28, 1994, pp. 4-12
- [6]. Petre Roman, *Repression on thebarricade from Intercontinental* ,In notebooks of the Revolution, nr 1 (20) / 2009, p. 35
- [7]. Romulus Cristea, *Testimonies from barricade*, Bucharest, ed. Romania pur si simplu, 2007 p. 13
- [8]. *Notebooks of the Revolution*, no. 7 (32) / 2010, p. 40
- [9]. Romulus Cristea, *Op. cit.*, p. 76
- [10]. Alex Mihai Stoenescu, *Interviews about revolution*, pp. 205-207
- [11]. *Ibidem*, p. 107
- [12]. Brigadier General Samoila Joarza (eds.), *Synthesis of issues arising from investigations conducted by the Military Prosecutor's Office in 1990-1999 in cases concerning the events of December 1989*, p. 115
- [13]. The document of Commander Major General George Voinea, red cover, p. 4
- [14]. See ANNEX 1. This represents the ammunition allocated.

- [15]. Romulus Cristea, *Op. cit.*, p. 249 -250
- [16]. *Ibidem*, p. 64
- [17]. The document of Commander Major General George Voinea, green cover, p. 109

ANNEX 1

ANEXA LA Nr. R.1.09 1980

SECRET DE SERVICIU Exemplarul nr. 2

DECLASIFICAT Data 19.01.2010

ANEXA LA RAPORTUL DE LUPTA NR. 4 DIN 22.12.1989 06.00Y

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	CARTUS 7,62 mm SCURT				CARTUS 7,62 mm LUNG				CARTUS 12,7 mm			CARTUS 14,5 mm				CARTUS 7,62 mm PISTOL	GRENADE DE MINA		
	usor	perf. incend.	traser	TOTAL	usor	perf. incend.	traser	TOTAL	B-32	B.Z.T.	TOTAL	B-32	B.Z.T.	M.D.Z.	TOTAL		OFENSIVE	DEFENSIVE	TOTAL
	10.200		1320	11.520											1092				
	168.880		34.600	203.480	52.600	3.960	16.320	73.940	2.080	2.080	4.160	22.060	3.520	320	34.900	10.980	860	740	1600
	142.800	236.720	58.400	479.600	72.360		26.448	147.824				17.049	36.336	2754	23.409	5736	360	480	840
	130.480		39.200	169.680			12.040	143.040				12.440	17.240		29.680	13.440	920	1360	2280
	102.600	1.320	21.120	125.140			88.880	89.880	3.240	6.600	9840				11.360	380	1080	1460	
	38.280		8.400	46.680															
	27.320	1.320	2.640	31.680	8.800	3.520	3.520	15.880				800	1.360	960	3.520	3.560	140	260	400
	19.800	1.320	5.600	26.720												100	100	200	
	960		2.640	3.600	16.560			16.560											
	22.680		3.960	26.640															
	63.780		13.200	76.980								1.200	2.400	1.200	4.800	1.680	100	100	
	5.280																		
	22.620	5280	23.900	1.760	880	3640													
	6.600		1320	7920															
	842380	135.960	193.480	1.302.220	192.149	7520	280.692	142.112	5320	8680	14.000	58.549	32.556	5231	76.309	53.148	2460	4220	6980

Școala Curs de Casierii Militare

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