



12.09.1944

Signing of the Truce between Romania and the United Nations.

After the removal of the Antonescu regime from power a new government in Bucharest was established led by General Constantin Sanatescu. It had the approval of King Michael I and the government was made up from the military as well as from one representative from each party representing the coalition supporting the government – the National Democratic Bloc (BND), National Liberal Party (PNL), National Peasant Party (PNT), Social Democratic Party (PSD) and the Communist Party of Romania (PCR). Apart from measures for returning to a democratic regime at the domestic level and leading border operations, one of the main priorities of the new authorities became the signature of the truce with the Allied Forces. On 26 August 1944, BND representatives in the government (Dinu Bratianu, Iuliu Maniu, Lucretiu Patrascanu, Constantin Titel Petrescu) signed a manifesto in which they underlined that ‘BND supports the government appointed by His Majesty for the purpose of accomplishing the truce, getting Germans out of the country and unravelling the dictatorial regime.’

Contrary to Romanian hopes, the signing of the truce was delayed for quite a long time by representatives of the Allied powers. In the morning of the 25 and 26 August 1944, Vyacheslav Molotov – the head of Soviet diplomacy – had a meeting with the US and British ambassadors in Moscow concerning events in Romania and presented the USSR’s position concerning a truce. Following the demand of the Soviet leadership, the place for the talks was established in Moscow. The Romanian delegation, led by communist leader Lucretiu Patrascanu, arrived on 29 August 1944. However, Romania’s delegation was forced to wait without being informed of the position of the Allies for more than ten days. Postponement of the signing of the document was due first of all to Great Britain which needed approval of all dominions for changes to the truce text introduced by London’s representative. But the delay and confusion best suited Soviet interests as their troops occupied more advanced positions on Romanian territory.



Only during the evening of 10 September 1944 did the Romanian delegation receive the draft of the Truce Convention and the so-called ‘negotiations’ began. The idea that the presence of Patrascanu as leader of the delegation sent by the Bucharest government could get more favourable conditions from Moscow proved to be an illusion. Molotov, who led negotiations on behalf of the Allies, refused to accept any of the observations from the Romanian side. At the same time, the passivity characterising Anglo-American representatives towards the

..... negotiations was a clear sign that Romania had already been abandoned to the Soviet Union's sphere of interests.

In fact, the Truce Convention was Moscow's diktat imposed on Romania. In the Preamble of the Truce Convention, which was signed in the early morning of 13 September, but dated 12 September, it mentioned that Romania recognised its defeat in the war against the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom of Great Britain, the United States of America and the other member states of the Allied powers. The documents then stipulated Romania's obligations as a defeated country.

Thus, it was specified that: Romania was obliged to pay war reparations to the USSR amounting to 300 million dollars in various goods – over six years; Romania's borders with the Soviet Union were established as they existed on 28 June 1940 (after the occupation of Bessarabia and Northern Bukovina by the Soviets); decisions of the Vienna Arbitrage concerning Transylvania were considered 'null and non-existent,' and this province (or most of it) was to be returned to Romania, with the condition of confirmation by the Peace Treaty; confiscation and blocking of Italian-German capital invested in Romania until a subsequent regulation of their status (they were ultimately awarded to the USSR during the peace conference); Romania was obliged to provide an occupying military force all necessary material means; Romania's obligation of keeping at least twelve infantry divisions (two armies) on the anti-Nazi front, which were under the coordination of the Supreme Allied (Soviet) Command (SAC); arresting and trying persons accused of war crimes.

The Truce Convention appointed a (Soviet) SAC as the supreme decision-making forum concerning Romanian issues, but its attributions were to be undertaken by means of another newly created body: the Allied Control Commission. This commission, as indicated by the use of the name 'Soviet,' would rule Romania until the conclusion of the Peace Treaty acting according to Moscow's interests.

Thus, although Great Britain and the United States were so-signatories of the Truce Convention, the manner in which this document was written opened the path to establish Soviet control over the entire political, economic and cultural life of Romania. As Iuliu Maniu noted on 16 September 1944, the document was 'an authentic capitulation, not a free truce agreement.'

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