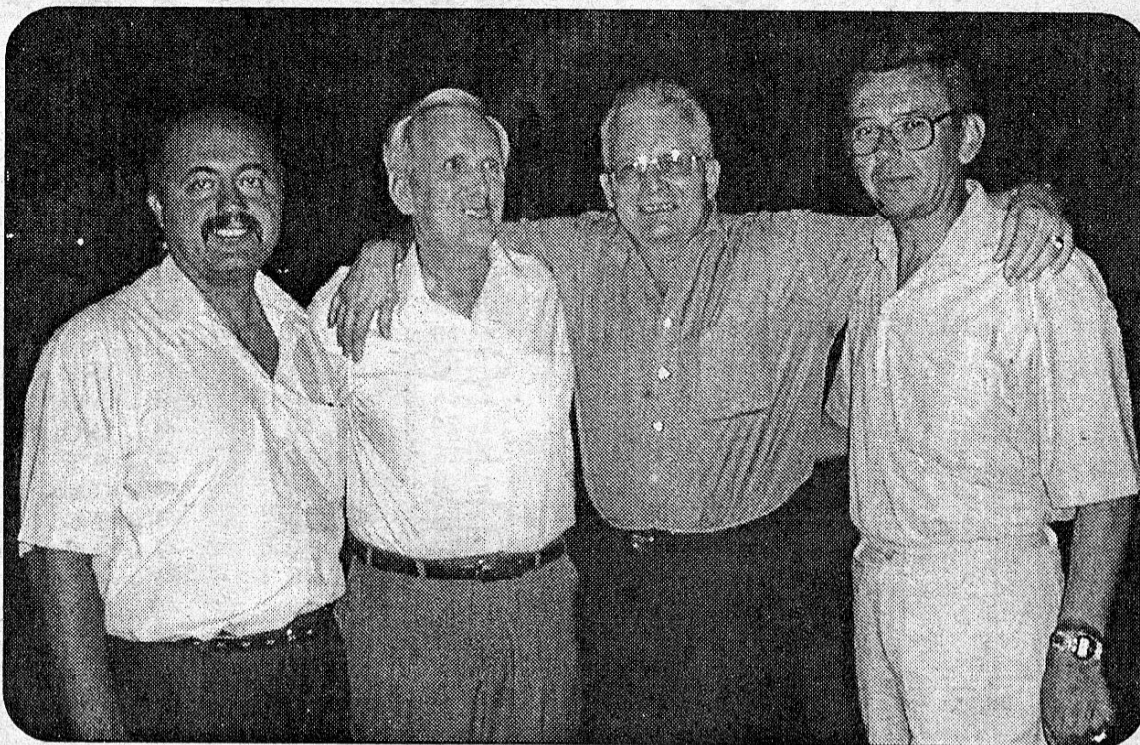


# Oficiali ai FAI au inspectat Piteștiul

Ieri, 6 august 2001, domnul primar Tudor Pendiuc a primit delegația Federației Aeronautice Internaționale, formată din președintele Comisiei Internaționale de Elicoptere din cadrul FIA și directorul competiției de anul viitor - Horace Hagen - Statele Unite ale Americii și Georg Breiner - Austria. Prezența delegației în municipiul Pitești, prilejuită de organizarea Campionatului European de Aeromodele, în luna august a anului 2002, a permis oficialilor să remarce condițiile excelente pe care orașul nostru le poate oferi participanților la competiție, atât din punct de vedere tehnic (Aerodromul Geamăna), cât și din punct de vedere al condițiilor de cazare, masă, petrecerea timpului liber, oaspeții admirând frumusețea și curățenia Piteștiului.

Prezența domnului Georg Breiner, având și calitatea de reprezentant al Primăriei din Viena, a permis și abordarea inițiativelor vizând un schimb de experiență la nivelul autorităților locale din cele două comunități.

Alături de domnul primar Tudor Pendiuc au fost prezenți domnul Marius Conu, secretar general al Federației Române de Aeromodele, domnul Nicolae Mihăilescu, directorul



DJTS Argeș și domnul Silviu Marinescu, directorul bazei sportive Arpechim.

Prezentele discuții constituie începutul unui an plin, în care activitățile organizatorice vor fi intense și vor permite desfășurarea la cel mai înalt standard a competiției internaționale de anul viitor, Campionatul European de elicoptere, la care vor fi prezenți cel puțin 150 de participanți din întreaga Europă.

**D.M.; foto: I.I.**

Motto:

"Sport teaches one how to win fairly. Sport teaches one how to lose in a dignified manner. Consequently, Sport teaches one everything: it teaches one what life means."

E. Hemingway

AS

Argesul sportiv

On the aerodrome Geamana – The Helicopters European Championship

Yesterday  
the contest  
started

The official opening of the competition took place on Saturday, at the town hall

## Pitesti is passing an exam in front of the whole Europe

The rain which fell on Saturday evening at about the time set for the official opening of the IX<sup>th</sup> edition of the Radio-Controlled Helicopters European Championship, made the organizers change the place from outside the town hall to its inside. About one hundred officials, competitors and fans first listened to the mayor Tudor Pendiuc's speech (godfather that evening) who explained briefly a few things about Pitesti, showing the important places on the map and speaking about the sports practiced here and the sportsmen's results. The opening festivity took place in the Meeting Hall. The contest began yesterday morning on the aerodrome at Geamana. It will last until Thursday. Competitors from 15 countries of the continent will compete: Austria, Cyprus, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Russia ( the only one of the ex socialist block), Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain.

Nicolae Mihailescu, the Manager of the County Department of Tourism and Sport Arges introduced the 3 members of the jury, among which the Romanian Marius Conu, a federal secretary of the Romanian Aeromodelling Federation; he also introduced the 5 judges from Netherlands, Switzerland, Germany, France and Italy and the general manager of the European Championship, Mihail Zanciu, the general secretary of the Romanian Aeromodelling Federation, the contest manager, Manfred Dittmayer, from Austria. One kept a moment of silence for the late European Champion, Daniel Grabel (champion in 1988 and in 1992).

Among the competitors, one could remark the European Champion in the last 2 years, the German Rudiger Feir and the youngest competitor, Yehuda Halevy from Israel who is not yet 14 years old but who first competed in a World Championship when he



was only 10 years old. Tudor Pendiuc, the mayor, Mihail Zanciu and Mr. Horace Hagen, the president of the jury, but also the president of the Helicopters Committee of the F.A.I.; in fact he is the one who with Mr. Georg Breiner from Austria supported, as representatives of the F.A.I., the taking place of this European Championship in Romania, at Pitesti. One sang the National Anthem of Romania and that of the F.A.I.

At the end all the officials spoke over ... a cup of coffee.

## **Page 8**

Yesterday morning the competition began and one hopes the weather will be fine and the organization as good as possible so that Romania could host similar competitions in the next years. One also hopes the results to be as high as the expectations. Every day from 8 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. until Thursday the audience in Pitesti and those who came from other parts of the country can watch the flight and the stunts of the radio-controlled helicopters which differ from the full-size ones only in point of size. There are maxi-taxis leaving Pitesti and going to Geamana every half an hour. On Thursday, one will establish the individual as well as the team classifications. Friday is a spare day if the weather proves to be inappropriate during the other days.

Dorel Stefanescu

## **Exclusively – “The aerodrom at Geamana might host a World Championship!”**

- **Interview with Mr. Horace Hagen (U.S.A.), the president of the jury, but also the president of the Helicopters Committee of the F.A.I**
- At the moment, Mr. Horace Hagen is the highest authority in the field of the radio-controlled helicopters. Actually he is the one who supported organizing the E.C. at Pitesti.
- *In how many major competitions have you taken part so far?*
- In ... all of them. I've taken part in 9 World Championships and in 9 European Championships. The first one took place in 1984.
- *Is this European Championship the first one in the Eastern Europe?*
- No, it is the second one. We had a Championship in Poland, in 1994. Poland hosted the World Championship in 1999, too.
- *Do you have a ... radio-controlled helicopter?*
- Yes, I do have one; I own even more than one. I've competed with them but not in World Championships, but only in the National Championships of the U.S.A.

- *When did this sport appear for the first time?*
- The first really competitive helicopter was built in the ex Federal Germany in 1970. I was spending my holidays there at the time, I bought a model too and it was the first radio-controlled helicopter in the U.S.A.
- *How many countries have radio-controlled helicopters?*
- The Federation counts 84 countries.

### **"I am entirely satisfied with the organizing"**

- *Are you satisfied with the organizing here, in Pitesti? I'm asking because a lot of people said when the town was chosen that 'Romania is a poor country' and you wanted to prove they were wrong.*
- Exactly. The local authorities have done a very good job.. Before the E.C. in Poland, everybody kept reproaching me for having chosen the area. In the end they told me:"It was great! One of the best championships!" And after having seen Pitesti, I believe it will be a great success, too! When people asked me why Romania, I told them:" Do you want us to do this championship?" They told me "No, we don't!" and I replied "I can't hear yoo! We will go to Romania and we will do this championship!"
- *Has Pitesti chances of hosting any other championships, perhaps even World Championships in the future?*
- I am sure. The airport at Geamana would be very good for a World Championship. The efforts and costs would be very high, of course as there might be at least 80 competitors. We are in 2002. But I honestly believe that in a few years Romania will be a west-european country from an economic point of view. It is only a matter of time!

Denis Meraru

### **Exclusively – "Among the competitors"**

#### **"I train 10 hours a week!"**

- Interview with Rudiger Feil, the European Champion en-titre at radio-controlled helicopters
- Among the 38 competitors at the European Radio-Controlled Helicopters Championship, there is Rudiger Feil (Germany), the European Champion en-titre

*-When did you start your career?*



-In 1997, at the National Championship. Then I took part in the International Championships in 1998.

*-What results have you got so far except for the European title?*

-I've been the champion of Germany from 1999 to 2002; I was the 4<sup>th</sup> one in the World Championship in 1999 and the 5<sup>th</sup> one in the World Supercup in Japan. I've been the European Champion twice.

*-How much do the helicopter and its maintenance cost?*

-I can't say exactly because we get the spare parts from sponsors. However a brand new helicopter costs at least 3 000 euros.

*-How many hours do you train weekly?*

-I generally train at least 10 hours a week. But I also work to prepare and maintain my helicopter and it takes me many hours.

*-In your opinion, who are your most dangerous opponents this year?*

-One of them is my team colleague, Johann Hoenle. Another one might be the Italian Stefano Lucchi who is a very good pilot.

*-What is your first impression about Pitesti? Is it the appropriate place for such an important competition?*

-I have a very good impression about Pitesti and Geamana. I can't tell anything bad about it. The F.A.I. officials made a very good choice.

D. Meraru



**Officialii concursului, prezentați la deschiderea oficială de la Primăria Pitești.**