

HUNGARY - ROMANIA *

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HUNGARIANS PROTEST AGAINST
"SETTLEMENT RESTRUCTURING" IN ROMANIA

In the past weeks Hungary and the whole of Europe responded to, and protested against, the Romanian announcement to uproot in the next few years thousands of communities as part of the "regional and settlement restructuring programme" there. The plan running under this name intends to bulldoze about seven thousand of the some 13,000 villages in Romania. Thousands of Hungarian, German and Romanian-speaking settlements would be eradicated. The ethnic pattern of the country would be changed through this large-scale dissolution of communities; moreover, the forced changes of residence violate basic human rights. Parliaments, political parties and social organizations as well as distinguished public personalities throughout Europe have raised their voices in protest against the Romanian plan. Hungarian public opinion responded with wide-ranging shock to the Romanian plan which violates the norms of social coexistence that have developed through several centuries, defies human decency and offends against historical justice.

Hungarian architects were the first to object to the eradication by force of the small villages of Romania. The Association of Hungarian Architects addressed an appeal to the masterbuilders of the world: "... Hungarian architects were appalled to learn about the most recent decisions on settlement restructuring (in Romania), which are dangerous and affect primarily citizens who live as minorities... The barely concealed aim of settlement restructuring is to effect a

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*[This is the text of a document provided by the Hungarian Embassy, Canberra]

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large-scale population exchange in order to melt-in the Hungarian and German nationalities... A large part of these settlements have been sentenced to annihilation together with their dwellings, churches, helfries and cemeteries. For thousand years Transylvania was a part of Hungarian history and culture, and to this day two-and-a-half-million Romanian citizens profess to be Hungarians... We ask for help and support from all progressive-minded architects throughout the world! Let them raise their voices against decisions of settlement policy which are aimed at the liquidation of nationality culture in Romania! Let them express their indignation if architecture, the art of building, the landscaping of settlements are used by any power or authority in defiance of human rights!"

Nation-wide Protest

The protest by Hungarian architects opened up the lock-gates to a flood of protests by Hungarian social organizations and artists' associations.

The Executive Committee of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Communist Youth Union (KISZ) made - and sent to foreign partner organizations - the following statement:

"... We have seen for years a sequence of measures restricting the rights of the national minorities living in Romania and speeding up their disintegration. The most recent decision to uproot ancient villages under the pretext of modernization and "settlement restructuring" is against rational thinking, humanitarian standards and human feelings.

"The implementation of this plan, the eradication of the past, would deprive us all of the possibility of learning about the present and building the future. The culture of peoples and of nations is the treasured universal possession of all mankind and not the domestic affair of any country. Everyone shares the duty to protect and preserve it.

"The Executive Committee holds that this process, which cripples the Hungarian, German, Serbian and other national minorities and even the Romanians themselves, can still be halted. Youth shares the historical responsibility for this.

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Therefore, the KISZ Central Committee addressed a letter to the Romanian Union of Communist Youth."

The "Erdei Ferenc" Science Policy Club functioning under the auspices of the Patriotic People's Front also issued an appeal, which says:

"This intervention by administrative force implies the eradication of the ethnic communities of all the Hungarian, German and Schwabian, Jewish, Serbian, Ruthenian (Transcarpathian Ukrainian), Bulgarian and other national minorities..."

"The tragic ruthlessness of the modernization plan which would transform by force the settlement structure of Romania, is clearly underlined by the fact that not event the military actions and raging revenge of the Second World war which shed so much blood and took such a heavy toll of victims destroyed the community network of any country to the extent signified by these peace-time plans of Romania..."

The "Know Your Country Committee" of the National Council of the Patriotic People's Front also worded an appeal against the forced settlement restructuring policy of the Romanian government. As a movement for enhancing national consciousness and identity this committee regards it as its duty to protest against this nationality-destroying plan. Peoples and national minorities must not be resettled against their will, points out the appeal. The Hungarian "Know Your Country" movement speaks up at every forum against the implementation of this disastrous anti-nationality plan.

The National Council of the Patriotic People's Front, too, remonstrated against the Bucharest decision to plan for the destruction of several thousand villages and the forced restructuring of the pattern of settlements in Romania.

The National Council of the Patriotic People's Front of Hungary addressed an appeal to the National Council of the Socialist Democracy and Unity Front in Romania and to the population of the country to use its influence for the repeal of the plans which offend against fundamental human dignity and rights, and which would destroy the cultural and social heritage of centuries.

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The Central Council of Trade Unions (SZOT) also studied the Bucharest decision imposed on the national minorities living in Romania and the intention to destroy several thousand small settlements. In an open letter sent to the trade unions of the Socialist Republic of Romania the Hungarian TUC expressed its opinion condemning the decision planned.

All Hungarian working people and all working people throughout the world denounce destruction and especially a type of destruction which would wipe out from the face of the Earth irreplaceable values of history and universal culture. Man can do creative work only where the conditions exist for this existence, his work and his personal prosperity. The nationalities living in Romania - and among them the Hungarian-speaking communities there - are deprived of these conditions by the decision to tear down their homes, says the open letter.

The Central Council of Trade Unions protested on behalf of over four million Hungarian organized workers against the plan. The Hungarian TUC sent its open letter also to the World Federation of Trade Unions because it is deeply convinced that the strength of the trade union movement is multiplied by international solidarity.

The Presidium of the National Peace Council of Hungary decided to address an open letter to the peace-loving inhabitants of Romania:

"The peace movement in Hungary sees with anxiety the upsetting events in Romania, a socialist neighbour. The measures taken in recent months have elicited wide-ranging anxiety and protests, and the plans for 'settlement restructuring', the by now critical situation, urge us to address a letter, in support of the peace we both want to preserve, to the peace-loving inhabitants of Romania, regardless of nationality. We are doing this for the sake of human dignity and in consideration of our mutual dependence on each other...

"It is regrettable and cause for concern that measures which are bound to give rise to conflict plant again the seeds of unrest and contention to raise a fence between our peoples who wish for conciliation and the building of mutual confidence. We are convinced that such a policy is harmful for all and

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not only for the minorities. we profess that there is no separate Romanian, German, Serbian or Hungarian peace in this region - there cannot be - that peace can only be a shared peace that benefits us all. The preservation of this peace is a common cause, for there are no boundaries set to peace. Reasonable empathy, tolerance and confidence are required."

Appeals by Hungarian Artists and Intellectuals

The Presidium of the Association of Hungarian Musicians and Concert Artists decided to propose to the Presidential Council of the Hungarian People's Republic to take energetic steps at the UNO in protest against the decisions of settlement policy which oppress the nationalities living in Romania.

The Presidium of the Hungarian Writers' Association likewise sees the need for international action against the intentions of the Romanian government.

The Association of Hungarian Jurists and Lawyers made a statement and sent it to the lawyers' associations of the world. It referred in it to the forced transformation of the pattern of Romanian settlements calling it a grave violation of human rights and appealed to the jurists of the world to protest.

The Hungarian Society of Archeologists and Art Historians condemned the Romanian measures at its meeting in Győr, Western Hungary. As protectors of Hungarian historical buildings and art monuments and relics by definition of their profession, they requested the government of the Hungarian People's Republic to express consternation about the threat to the universal values of European historical and cultural legacy.

Adhering to the appeal by the Association of Hungarian Architects, the representatives of Hungarian theatre art turned to all people in the world associated with theatre to raise their voices for the preservation of villages in Romania.

The General Secretary of the National Association of Hungarian Journalists made it clear in its statement that the leading bodies of the Association and all Hungarian journalists are deeply upset about the plans aimed at the liquid-

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ation of the settlements of the Hungarians and other nationalities living in Romania. It is the obligation of all journalists and everybody associated with the media to protect human rights and universal human values, pointed out the statement.

The Association of Hungarian Film and TV Artists appealed to the film and television artists and organizations and to the TV companies of the world to give authentic information on the issue, and to protest against the annihilation of Romanian villages.

The National Presidium of the Association of Hungarian Scientific and Technical Organizations sent its protest to the federation of engineers' organizations in the socialist countries, to the World Federation of Scientific workers and the World Federation of Engineering Organizations.

with concern for universal respect for human rights and freedom, and striving for the preservation of the architectural, geographical, ethnographic and linguistic heritage which is part of universal culture, and in consideration of the basic interests and principles of scientific development, the Hungarian Academy of Sciences requests the scientific societies of the world to denounce the plan to destroy human settlements cherishing centuries of traditions, and the actual implementation of a programme that is in fact a forced resettlement policy.

The Hungarian National Committee for European Security and Cooperation sent a letter to the International Committee in Brussels in which it assesses the development in Romania as contrary to the letter and spirit of the Helsinki Final Act. The sponsors of the conference on Saint Stephen and His Times taking place in Budapest, namely the Hungarian Historical Society, the Hungarian Ethnographical Society, the Society of Hungarian Linguists and the International Society of Hungarian Philologists likewise issued statements which say in part that the lives of the peoples of the Carpathian Basin have become so closely inter-linked in the course of their history that only together can we cherish and foster, utilize and preserve our inseparably joined material and intellectual heritage for the future.

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The Hungarian National Committee of the International Council for Monuments and Sites sent a letter to the president of the organization and the leaders of the organizations affiliated to it, protesting against the settlement restructuring plans in Romania. The letter points out that the decision of the Romanian government constitutes a double threat to the architectural heritage of the region. On the one hand, the tearing down of eight-thousand villages would be the annihilation of one of the oldest community cultures in Europe; and on the other hand, the rebuilding of the remaining settlements to house much larger populations would also involve significant damage. The larger settlements would be closely built in and this would go with considerable demolition of historical parts and monuments of these communities.

The World Federation of Hungarians also adopted an appeal which "receives the news of additional measures inflicted on Hungarians living in the Socialist Republic of Romania. The Presidium of the Federation considers the plan for the forced transformation of the structure of settlements in Romania another example of the defiance of human rights, and a deviation from the progressive ideals and civilized practices, and at the same time a disaster for national minorities, and most particularly for Hungarians... In consensus with the vigorous actions of a number of Hungarian clubs, associations and private persons abroad, the presidium of the World Federation of Hungarians condemns the oppressive measures which now have the status of official state action. It counts in this on further support from Hungarians abroad."

Protest by the Churches

The Churches in Hungary also lodged their protest and issued an appeal bearing the motto "Let all people prosper in their native land."

In the wake of the Romanian government measures thousand-year-old treasures of European civilization, villages and their churches are doomed to destruction. Therefore the Churches in Hungary ask all believers, friends and brethren, all churches, ecclesiastic and secular organizations, and all men and women of good will to rush to their aid giving the widest publicity to the issues

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involved. "We look forward with hope and prayers to all initiatives that serve conciliation, and particularly to the trip and talks our Prime Minister intends to make in Romania," reads the appeal.

László Cardinal Paskai, Archbishop of Esztergom and Primate of Hungarian Catholics, said after his investiture as Cardinal: "It is regrettable that in my first action after my investiture I have to lodge a protest and speak up for nationality culture. The entire world was shocked to learn about the decision of the Romanian government to uproot the villages of the country. These villages are not just small settlements of relatively few people, but they also constitute an integral part of a country, they are homes of unique national values and of folk culture. The destruction of the buildings, including the churches, is the clearcut destruction of the historical and cultural values of the nations, irrespective of the nationality of the people who live there. It is particularly painful for us that this plan means the annihilation of not only Romanian and German but also of Hungarian nationality villages in Romania.

"It is completely inconceivable that such a step is possible in Europe, in the second half of the 20th century. For us, this is especially sad because all this is planned in a country with which we want to maintain friendly relations and to whose inhabitants we are linked by so many bonds of kinship and friendship.

"As Hungarian citizens, the members of our Church take their stand among the protesters. This is verified by the countless letters, requests and petitions with lists of signatures addressed to me, as well as statements by brother bishops and priests. Therefore, on behalf of the parishioners of the Hungarian Catholic Church, too, I request the state and social organizations at home and in the world at large to do everything possible lest this culture and history be destroyed, lest the intention to ruin human beings and destroy national identity be carried out. Our intention in doing this is certainly not to interfere with the domestic affairs of another country, but to protect basic human rights. I trust that the influence of international public opinion will make the Romanian government understand how harmful and tragic the implementation of that decision would be not only for the nationalities living there but in fact for the entire population and society of Romania".

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Peaceful Demonstration in Budapest

Various groups and associations of the people organized a peaceful demonstration in Budapest in the evening of June 27, 1988. The approximately 30,000 participants of the rally gathered on Heroes' Square, where first they heard an appeal by the writer István Csurka, read to the public by István Bubik, actor of the National Theatre, and a memorandum of protest against the eradication of values which constitute a part of the European cultural heritage as planned in Romania.

The procession, holding boards with the names of Romanian, German and Hungarian villages doomed to annihilation, with candles and torches in hand, marched silently to the embassy of the Socialist Republic of Romania. At the embassy the demonstrators made an attempt to hand over the memorandum of protestation.

The chargé d'affaires of the embassy refused to accept the memorandum, in spite of the fact that the demonstrators had acted in accordance with the rules of international diplomacy, and the embassy received that morning a cable informing it about this intention.

With the slogans and transparents they carried the demonstrators wanted to make it clear that the action was not against the Socialist Republic of Romania and the Romanian people but in protest against a policy that is a threat for universal and European culture, a barrier to the assertion of human rights, and is determined to send a lot of the cultural values of the past centuries into oblivion. A smaller group of Romanian citizens, carrying Romanian flags, marched in the procession also.

The orderly, well organised march expressed the demand for the assertion of nationality rights in Romania. From the embassy of the Socialist Republic of Romania it returned, via Ajtósi Dürer Row to Dózsa György Avenue and then gathered on Heroes' Square again. At ten in the evening a crowd of about 7,000-8,000 people closed the action.

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Here follow excerpts from the memorandum that the June 27 demonstration attempted to hand over to the Romanian Ambassador in Budapest.

"Your Excellency,

The Hungarian people heard with deep anxiety the announcement of the President of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania about the extensive regional restructuring plan in Romania that involves the uprooting of settlements with populations under 3,000 - among them chiefly Transylvanian and Moldavian Hungarian villages.

"Homes, churches, ancient cemeteries, inestimable values of European and Hungarian culture are to become victims of this oppressive and unlawful destruction.

"Fulfilling its mission in regard to the peace and freedom of the peoples living together in the Carpathian Basin and in the Danube valley, a mission it was charged with by King Saint Stephen, the founder of the Hungarian state, the Hungarian nation, whose state is nearly one thousand years old, warns with this memorandum the government of the Socialist Republic of Romania and its state and political organs that the implementation of the regional restructuring plan which would create a Romanian national state devoid of national minorities, a plan whose implementation would inevitably cause severe physical and mental harm and suffering to the national minorities living in Romania, is an illegal offence against the international agreement on the prevention and punishment of genocide, concluded on December 9, 1948, the document that has been signed by Romania too.

"Therefore we demand that the Romanian authorities abandon their plans to destroy the villages. We demand, that, stopping the violation of the law, they should reopen the schools and universities of the Hungarian, German and other national minorities they closed, licence again the periodicals they banned, and permit the theatres and cultural institutions to function again. In accordance with the terms of international agreements, let them restore the political, economic, cultural and social rights of the national minorities. Let the minorities exercise their collective rights as communities, the right of assembly and association, including the right to political association for the representation of their

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interests. Grant them the right to establish and maintain their own educational and cultural institutions. Stop posing a threat to world peace!

"Your Excellency, we request you to convey our friendly greetings to the Romanian people.

"Budapest, June 27, 1988.

"On behalf of the committee that organized the Budapest demonstration

István Csurka,
Dr László Nagy,
Dr Zsolt Zétényi

The Statement of the Hungarian National Assembly

At the summer session of the Hungarian National Assembly from June 29 to July 1, 1988, Mátyás Szűrös, chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the National Assembly, submitted the proposal of the Assembly in connection with the regional restructuring plan launched by the Socialist Republic of Romania.

"In this situation the National Assembly has to assume great responsibility in taking a wise and well-considered stand. Furthermore, this situation demands a responsible, sensible attitude from all citizens, all patriots, an approach coinciding with the national and international interests of the country. Feelings, passions should not be given free rein," Mátyás Szűrös said.

"In the past days and weeks, the Hungarian party and state leadership and the Hungarian public had to deal repeatedly with the consequences of Romanian political moves which affect us too.

"The latest steps, for instance, forbidding the use of non-Romanian personal and geographical names, but particularly the start of the so-called regional restructuring programme, gave rise to extensive protests in Hungary and in other countries as well.

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"Because of the official Romanian policy aimed at the forced assimilation of nationalities, including the two million Hungarians living there, an increasing number of people feel that their only alternative is to flee from Romania. In many countries parliaments, parties, social organizations, religious leaders and prominent personalities protested against the recent actions of the Romanian leadership. At the Vienna follow-up conference, the Romanian attitude of hindering any positive advancement in the question of human rights endangers the successful outcome of the talks.

"The Hungarian public keeps expressing its increasing anxiety and condemnation. Spontaneous initiatives have been taken in the spirit of the deep responsibility for Hungarians living beyond our borders, for the whole of the nation. They prove that our people is aware of the potential danger inherent in this political issue - nevertheless, the nation must not abandon its self-esteem, must insist on the lawful and just protection of its interests. None of these events or actions - not even the demonstration march in Budapest on June 27, 1988 which mobilized tens of thousands of people, offended against the legal order of the Hungarian People's Republic or Romanian national sovereignty."

Mátyás Szűrös emphasised that the protest of the Hungarian public are not directed against the Romanian people; on the contrary, it expresses anxiety and indignation about measures which affect Romanians too...

"The party and the government repeatedly expressed their intention through the media to start constructive negotiations to seek solution to the problems. The essence of the Hungarian official stand was clearly expressed also in the declaration on the exchange of letters between the two parties in May and June. We made our opinion clear that meeting the just demands of Hungarians living in the Socialist Republic of Romania is primarily the responsibility and the task of Romania...

"In the case of countries belonging to the same alliance system, the act of the Romanian government - that has actually always been seriously restricting the lawful operation of Hungarian diplomatic corps in Romania - called on the Hungarian People's Republic to close down its consulate general in Kolozsvár, and

the staff of the consulate was ordered to leave Romania in 24 hours. (The staff and the belongings of the Kolozsvár consulate arrived back in Hungary by 4.00 PM on June 30, 1988.)

"In the period ahead we must continue to protect our interests resolutely, at the same time take a constructive stand in seeking joint solution to the problems.

"In this spirit we are ready to arrange meetings of the two foreign ministers and the secretaries of the central committees of the two parties, to prepare the talks of the two prime ministers as decided in spring 1988. All that would serve the creation of conditions indispensable for the top-level exchange of opinions.

"Of course, we are open to discuss any constructive initiative from Romanian side. That the endeavours of Hungarian foreign policy are justified is indicated even by the international response to the Romanian moves".

In the discussion on the present state of Hungarian-Romanian relations Iván Boldizsár, writer, MP, president of the Hungarian Pen Club, Alfréd Schőner, chairman of the National Rabbinical Council of Hungarian Jews, and Sándor Barcs, retired director-general of the Hungarian News Agency, chairman of the Hungarian section of the Interparliamentary Union, took the floor too.

The statement of the National Assembly was adopted with the proposed amendments - with one abstention - and forwarded to the Grand National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Statement of the Hungarian National Assembly on the
"Regional Restructuring Programme" in Romania

"The Socialist Republic of Romania officially announced in early March this year the start of the implementation of a "large-scale" regional restructuring programme ending with the turn of the century. The goal of the programme is proclaimed to be modernization of the Romanian urban structure, the elimination of differences between urban and rural settlements and the increase of arable land. The plan envisages reducing the number of villages from the present 13,000 to 5,000.

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"This programme caused deep anxiety and concern in the population of Hungary and aroused extensive international consternation and protests. In a lot of countries the parliaments, parties, social organizations, churches and prominent public personalities raised their voices against the announced actions. In Hungary diplomatic moves and extensive national protest was the answer to the Romanian decision.

"The National Assembly shares the just anxiety of the public. The villages in Romania are vessels of priceless historical and cultural values; they represent an unalienable part of the material and intellectual heritage of Europe and mankind. The annihilation of the values preserved in the settlements to be razed under pretext of "socialist development" would be an irrecoverable loss not only to the Hungarian, the German and the other nationalities but also to the Romanian people. To the nationalities living in Romania, the implementation of the programme would mean the destruction of their material and intellectual roots, the dispersion of their communities, human tragedies and finally their deliberate, forced and accelerated melting in. The implementation of the regional restructuring programme would cause additional problems in Hungarian-Romanian relations too.

The forced change of residence and resettlement concomitant with the "modernization" or this sort of rearrangement of the settlement structure, all in all the policy restricting the rights of the nationalities, violate basic human, national and nationality rights and offend against humanism and socialist ideas. The protection of human rights and the preservation of universal cultural values is a cause cherished by all mankind. Having signed a series of international documents, including the UN international agreement on civic and political rights and the Helsinki Final Act, Romania too, pledged its acceptance on the highest level of the moral, political and international legal obligation to observe these rights.

The National Assembly of the Hungarian People's Republic expresses the hope that the government of the Socialist Republic of Romania will revise its relevant ideas and plans, and disregard their implementation. That would remove a major obstacle to closer contacts and deeper friendship between the Hungarian and the Romanian peoples and to the internationalist cooperation of the two countries which accord with the common interest and goal of both countries. The Hungarian

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National Assembly calls on the Romanian Grand National Assembly to make all possible efforts in the spirit of respect for human rights for the reassuring settlement of the serious problems. Hungary continues to be ready for cooperation.

Statement by Károly Grósz

After the National Assembly session, Károly Grósz, General Secretary of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party, Chairman of the Council of Ministers, gave an interview on the Hungarian-Romanian relations to the daily Magyar Hirlap.

It is obvious for all Hungarians and for the world at large that the official Hungarian position is to seek by all means the possibilities at our disposal for the settlement of the existing problems. What are the realities of conciliation in your opinion?

- I am convinced that the initiative could be a significant contribution to the continuation of dialogue. Of course, with the consent of the National Assembly - as it was declared in the statements - the Hungarian government should also work actively for opening discussions on our mutual problems. Our ideological stand is clear, it has been repeatedly outlined. We respect the aspirations and the policy of the Socialist Republic of Romania and respect the achievements of Romanian development in the past period. We said on several occasions that in our opinion the Hungarian nationality living in Romania should actively take part in socialist building work in Romania. We have often mentioned that we want to live in peace and friendship with neighbouring Romania. We have stressed that we do not seek any revision of the present boundaries, that we regard the borders set after World War II as a historical fact and have no intention to alter them. What we repeatedly asked is that Hungarians living in Romania be helped to maintain contacts with their relatives in Hungary, with the Hungarian People's Republic, that they be permitted to enrich their cultural values and cherish the historical and cultural roots on which generations were raised, and should be able to preserve them for the future. We asked that in all these questions the norms and parity be observed that constitute the basis of relationship between countries belonging to the same political system.

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Apart from a few problems, we thought for a long time that cooperation was developing in this direction. Therefore we were surprised to hear that the over ten-year-old idea of eradicating thousands of small settlements was brought up again.

Has it come up that the Hungarian People's Republic should present the case at an international forum in seeking settlement to the dispute between Hungary and Romania?

- Yes, it has, several proposals were submitted by several MPs. I have received a great many letters which suggest to turn to international forums. Various Hungarian social organs and associations share this opinion, among others the Writers' Association. Nonetheless, I think that the dispute should be settled by the two countries and it is not necessary to request mediation by any international forum or organization.

At the moment do you see the road to a correct settlement of the issues?

- The road leading to settlement must be taken by both sides otherwise it will be a cul-de-sac. Here I can speak only of the road I am thinking of. Whether it is the one my partners are ready to take I do not know. However, I think it is a political necessity, a moral obligation to carry on dialogue and to discuss these questions personally. I feel it is my duty to take advantage of the possibility that I was invited to the Socialist Republic of Romania while it was prime minister. In my opinion that fact that since that time I have been elected general secretary of the party is no reason to change the schedule. If I am received there in my post as Prime Minister of the Hungarian People's Republic then I go with pleasure, even if it is very difficult to say in advance how this visit may contribute to easing the present tension. I am convinced that if we do not talk with each other, we will not let the other side to explain its position and so we shall miss the opportunity to learn about the views of the other side. It cannot go on too long that, like two nursery school boys, we shout at each other over the fence.

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Rational thinking suggests that your trip to Romania needs to be properly prepared, that it should be preceded by talks between the foreign ministers and secretaries of the party central committees. Can you disregard these preliminaries?

If our Romanian partners wanted the visit to take place without such preparations, there would be less chance for our coming home without results. The purpose of preparation is not to go through the various steps of the usual hierarchy but to clarify the questions that should be discussed on top level between the two sides. On my part, I think it is very important to arrange preliminary consultations between the CC secretaries and the foreign ministers on account of the content of the work.

Do you see any hopeful signs besides the obviously alarming facts in recent events?

I think it is important that the Romanian leadership wants to settle our differences and strives for cooperation between the two countries. This is the basis on which the efforts may and should be continued for the elimination of disagreement.

(BUDAPRESS)
