

Let us look at the cultural effects of the plan. The Transylvanian Hungarians have lived in that region for more than a thousand years, mainly in villages and small towns. The history and culture of their ancient national heritage has been represented by their village churches and houses, examples of a unique peasant architecture, their ancestors' headstones in the cemeteries, the records and documents in the parish archives, the ancient (often runic) inscriptions of the ornate gateposts, headstones, the buildings of village folk-culture (spinneries, cultural centres, museums). The decorous manor houses, castles and forts of a bygone nobility had already been confiscated from their former owners — but now these dignified remainders of a magnificent past will also crumble under Ceausescu's bulldozers.

Transylvania's Hungarians will be deprived of the mementoes of their past, of their national identity, of their ancestral heritage. They will be forbidden to remember the thousand year old struggle against invaders and oppressors, the battles they fought together with their Rumanian and German comrades-in-arms in defense of the common homeland, Transylvania.



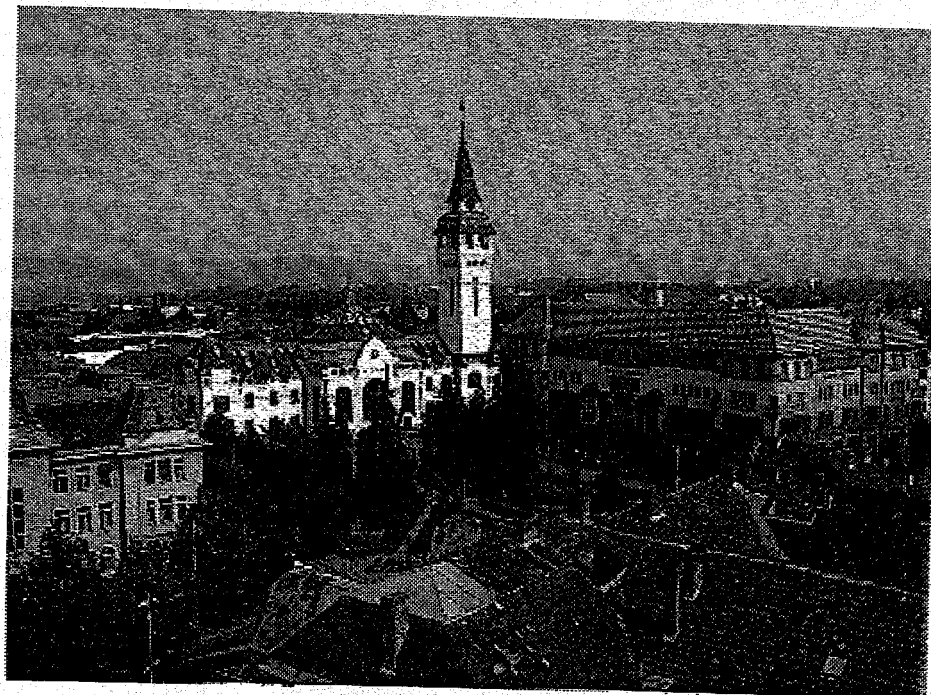
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The cities and large towns have already been „Romanised”, their very names changed. Now the last refuge of Hungarian identity, the small villages of the hills and mountains, the bulwark of the hardy *Székelys*, will be razed to the ground to become the nameless mass-grave of a thousand year old culture.

Annihilation

But Ceausescu goes beyond cultural destruction: his *final solution* is the total annihilation of the Hungarians of Transylvania.

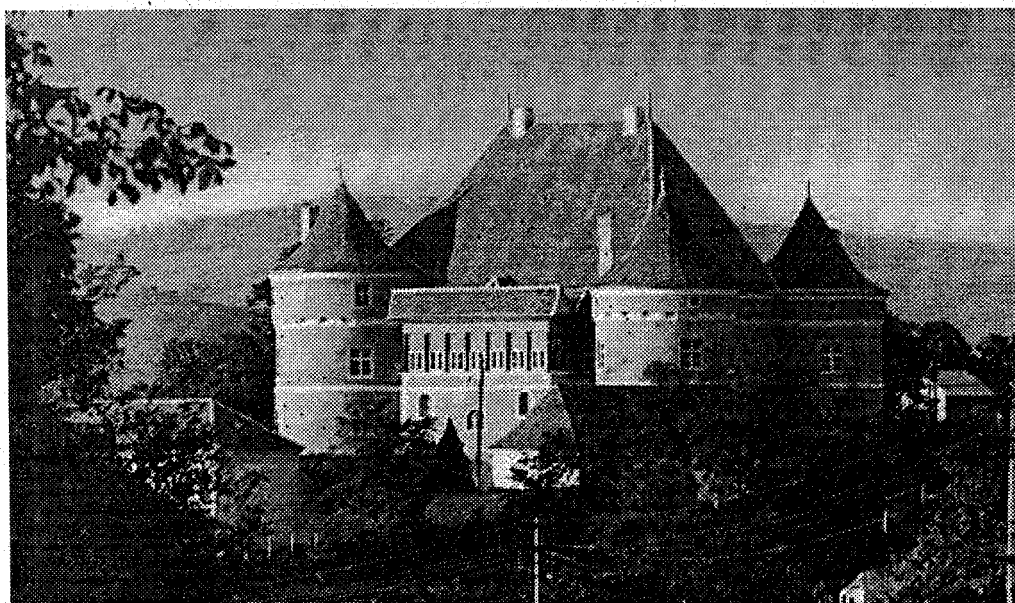
Rumania has always been an agricultural country: until Ceausescu's advent a rich provider of food. Today, with many farmers forced into industrial production, and the bulk of agricultural produce exported for western currency, the country's 23 million inhabitants live on starvation rations. Practically every food or commodity item is rationed, and such essentials as bread, meat, sugar are often unavailable.



MAROSVÁSÁRHELY

The catastrophic near-starvation is particularly noticeable in Transylvania, a land of small farmers, small pastoralists, forest industries — and also the homeland of the Hungarian minority. Until now the inadequate food-rations could be supplemented by the produce of the backyard-garden and domestic animals. Since the onset of Ceausescu's forced industrialisation (in the seventies) many farmers (mainly Hungarians) have been forced into secondary industries as unskilled workers to support their families. Now, the new wave of Ceausescu's *industrial offensive* will uproot all farmers from their ancestral homes. They will not be able to supplement the starvation diet by their domestic produce. The old and the infirm, the widows will not be able to perform fulltime work in the planned *agro-industrial* complexes: they will starve to death. Many workers and peasants of all nationalities have already been forced (deported) to work in the giant state-projects (such as the Danube-Black Sea canal) under slave labour conditions, similar to those existing in Germany during WW2.

It is to be noted that the *accommodation* intended for the *agro-industrial complexes* consists of multi-storey buildings with two-room *apartments* for each family (not two bedrooms, just one small bed-sitting room, one utility kitchen) without

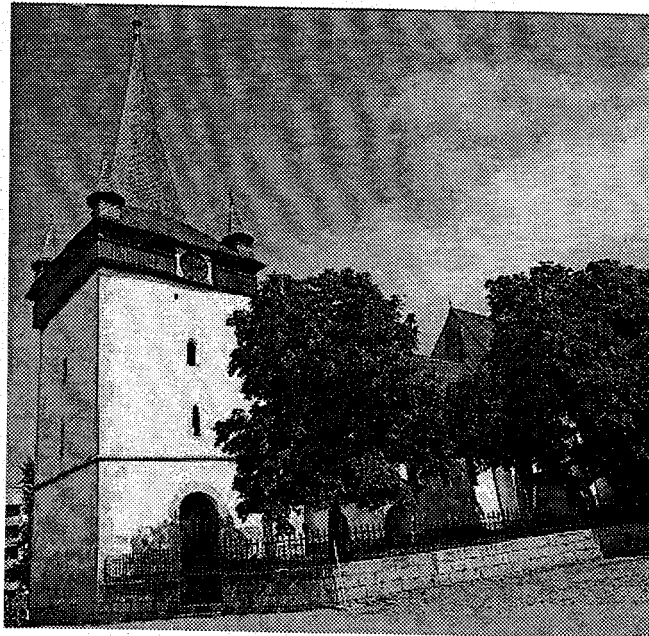


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private bath/washing and toilet facilities, without running water, gas, electricity or heating. (Cf. Report in *The West Australian*, July 8, 1988). The German concentration camps offered similar „comforts“.

Needless to say, the deportees will be housed in mixed communities, to facilitate their assimilation and police supervision. It will not be possible to maintain Hungarian schools and cultural institutions. One can imagine the plight of the aged Hungarians living on the 5th-6th floor of a barrack-like building without conveniences, among Rumanians whose language they do not know, without adequate earnings, without physical comfort or friendly, family environment.

The choice for the Hungarians of Rumania is: to turn Rumanian and eke out a miserable living in Ceausescu's *paradise* or to die as Hungarians.



BÁNFFYHUNYAD

A nation in quarantine

We hear very little of these happenings. Why?

While dictator Ceausescu and his government (shored up with members of the Ceausescu dynasty) keep a very high international profile, the 23 million Rumanians are practically cut off from the world by the draconian censorship, the political police control and the wily state propaganda machinery. This explains why the otherwise gregarious commercial wayfarer and diplomatic „mediator“, Ceausescu refuses to participate in any international conference, forum or agreement which deals with human rights.

In 1987 all foreign news agencies were expelled from Rumania. Since that time, only the Rumanian state News Agency (*Agerpress*) is allowed to provide information for the foreign media. By the same token, the Rumanian citizen receives only the information diffused by *Agerpress* — vetted by the state censorship and „predigested“ by Ceausescu's propaganda organisation. The censorship of local media is severe, customs checks forbid the importation of foreign media material. Needless to say, Rumanian radio-TV stations spread only information supplied by the State. Newspapers, TV-radio stations are not allowed to acquire, let alone use foreign material.

What little information we have reaches us through diplomatic channels and by eye-witnesses. But the diplomats' movements are restricted and travellers cannot take photos, or bring documentary evidence.