

World press reports

The following reports present some indication of the systematic oppression of all Rumanian citizens and of the increasing terror and evolving genocide against 2.5 million Hungarians in that incarcerated country, Rumania:

„Rumanian policies since the advent to power two decades ago of Nicolae Ceausescu have been characterised by an increasingly virulent, frenetic and arrogant form of nationalism... The victims of this ideology of national-socialism — not unlike Naziism — are the country's numerous minority inhabitants: ...the 2.5 million Hungarians (the largest national minority in Europe), 350,000 Germans and sizable numbers of Ukrainians, Jews, Serbs, Greeks, Turks, Bulgars and others... The (Hungarian) minority population today is subjected to a relentless campaign of denationalization...” (*Submission of the Committee for Human Rights in Rumania to the Ottawa International Conference on Human Rights, May 7, 1985*).

„Rumania's dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, is pursuing an increasingly brazen program amounting to cultural genocide against the country's Hungarian, German and other minorities. The six major elements of this program are: 1.—Elimination of minority educational institutions... 2.—Suppression of minority languages... 3.—Falsification of historical data and population statistics: ...through manipulating statistics... the Rumanian government manages the statistical annihilation of at least 30% of the actual minority population... 4.—Confiscation of cultural archives... 5.—Obstructing contacts with relatives abroad... 6.—Dissolution of ethnic communities.”

(*New York Times, May 7, 1976*).

„The present (Rumanian) dictator's (Ceausescu) gross mismanagement of the economy, coupled with excesses of self-indulgence, threatened his tenure. To deflect the attention of Rumanian nationals from these and their own plight, the carefully orchestrated resurgence of nationalism made the Hungarians, and to a lesser extent the sizable German minority, the targets of frustration and hatred. Their vilification starts in primary school classes and extends into every sphere of life resulting in beatings, killings and suicides. The closure of Hungarian schools and universities, the systematic destruction of all signs of Hungarian history and culture (including headstones in cemeteries), the settling of Rumanians in formerly purely Hungarian districts and towns while scattering the dispossessed in Rumania proper, are all part of government policy...”

(*News Weekly*, April 8, 1987).

„Rumania,... is accused of gross and extensive abuses of human rights ...The allegations, by the world-wide human rights organisation *Amnesty International*, constitute probably the most severe indictment to date of President Ceausescu's regime. Specifically *Amnesty* alleges that the Rumanian government is: «Making widespread abuse of psychiatric hospitals and drugs to combat dissidents... Committing citizens who publicly criticise the government to terms of forced labour on false charges... Persecuting minorities as the Transylvanian Hungarians and various religious groups... » *Amnesty* says that despite constitutional guarantees of equality regardless of nationality, a number of decrees and laws have been enacted which impinge on the Hungarian community's religious and cultural heritage. Education has been a particular victim.”

(*The Age*, Nov.20. 1978).

„President Ceausescu has made no secret of his plans to raze thousands of Hungarian villages in an attempt to create a modern Rumania. The Hungarians see this scheme as nothing less than cultural genocide.”

(The Times, July 1, 1988).

„A bizarre plan by Ceausescu to raze some 7000 ancient villages across Transylvania and other parts of Rumania, replacing them with *agro-industrial complexes*...”

(Time, July 25, 1988).

„...Mr Ceausescu’s plan to bulldoze 7000 villages in Transylvania —until 1918 part of Hungary— and replace them with apartment blocks and *agro-industrial complexes*. The Rumanians say this will improve agricultural production, but the Hungarians believe Mr Ceausescu wants to wipe out their culture...”

(The Australian, July 4, 1988).

Resettlement experience of a Rumanian family:

„The police came early in the morning...: —*Be ready to move in 48 hours!* —Move? but where?... —*You will be told!*... 48 hours later the police came... to cart their belongings... to an eight-storey block of flats... no water, no gas, no electricity were available...”

(The West Australian, July 8, 1988).

„The rural population, mostly ethnic Hungarians living under Rumanian rule, are without the basic foodstuffs... there has been no flour, sugar, meat or coffee available since last spring... meanwhile, Rumanians are... hauling practically all that grew this year abroad to be sold for hard currency...”

(Calgary Sun, Canada, Sept.8, 1981).

The way to the „Final solution“

Genocide by any other name

„A recent World Human Rights Guide (London) ranks Rumania and the Soviet Union together among the five worst countries in the world in human rights violations.“

*(D.B. Funderbunk US ambassador to Rumania
1981-1985 —The Washington Times, Dec. 3, 1986).*

„We have proof of 37 cases when Hungarians were beaten to death by the Rumanian police for use of the Hungarian language. Those standing in line for hours in front of a bakery or other supply house are sent home empty handed if they dare to utter one single whispered word in Hungarian.“

*(Note to an article in the New York Times, May 7, 1976 as
quoted by the Transylvanian Quarterly, Jan. 1982).*

„On June 8, 1980 the Rev.I.András, minister of the Calvinist Hungarian Church of Dés (Transylvania) was arrested in his home, taken to police headquarters and beaten to death. The official police report stated that Rev. András refused to answer questions concerning an alleged *plot to overthrow the (Rumanian) government* and when left alone he threw himself out from a third storey window and then beat his head against the pavement until he died... His wife and son were sent into a mental institution for *observation*.“

(TWF Report from Dés, Rumania).

„Géza Pálfi, parish priest from Székelyudvarhely (Rumania)... mentioned to the congregation that while in Hungary Christmas was a public holiday... in Rumania (it) was a workday... The next morning the secret police dragged him off

and beat him half to death. The blows at his liver literally split it apart. He was taken to Marosvásárhely, where after two months... he died at 43 years of age!"

(*Sources in Rumania, Hungarian Press of Transylvania, Release No. 10., March 21, 1984*)

In Brasso (Transylvania) „Two Hungarian teachers, Jenő Szikszai and Lajos Kuthy... were asked by Rumanian officials... to sign a statement that there was no need for a Hungarian language school in the district. They refused. A week later both were found dead in a forest: one hanged, the other shot. Official verdict: «suicide!» ”.

(*The Age, Melbourne, Nov. 11, 1978*).

„Interrogations, threats, intimidation, repression, torture can be expected by those who give the smallest sign of being Hungarian”

(*Paul Goma Rumanian dissident, USA*).

„...the Hungarian minority (in Rumania) is threatened with cultural and linguistic extinction as a result of the Rumanian government's discriminatory policies. A number of persons who had criticised official policies have been... maltreated. Some have died under mysterious circumstances. Some of the cases listed by Amnesty International are those of Z. Zsufka, J. Szikszai, L. Kuthy, T. Sima, Károly Király representative of the Hungarian minority, J. Török, B. Niszly and many others.

(*Amnesty International, Report on Rumania, 1980*).

„...More than 60,000 dissidents, priests, minority Hungarians... were put to work on the (Black Sea — Danube) canal, as slave labourers. Many died under appalling conditions.”

(*M.R.Meyer, Newsweek, Jan. 30.,1984*).

„Resolved, that the House of Representatives — 1. Deplores the activities of the (Rumanian) Government denying the rights of the Hungarians and people of other nationalities in Transylvania...”

*(USA House of Representatives, 98th Congress,
1st Session, March 22, 1985, Resolution).*

„The nations and the governments... must realise that it is not only in South Africa, America, the Middle and Far East that nations, minorities are subjected to *apartheid*, to linguistic, cultural and ethnic intolerance, but here, in the heart of Europe a European national group is subjected to cultural genocide...”

*(Writer Z.Bíró at the session of the Hungarian
Democratic Forum, Budapest, March 6., 1988).*

„This is much more than an internal business of a State. This is a violation of fundamental international laws. The United Nation's Charter and the Helsinki Accord acknowledge the rights of national minorities as a universal human right...”

*(Statement by the Hungarian Government, Aug. 1988
as reported by SBS Radio, Aug. 4., 1988).*

„In Kispujon, (Transylvania) L. Szakács and I. Bertalan were arrested on May 1984, severely beaten and deported into an unknown location for singing Hungarian folk songs.”

*(Report by Danubian Research Centre,
Astor, Florida, USA).*

„...Out of 2,898,356 Hungarians in Transylvania in 1944, today there are only 2,217,897 listed on... administrative records (in 1984), but 236,981 were born after 1944. During the 40 years between 1944 and 1984 194,562 Hungarians died (according to

official records). We find a discrepancy of **722,868 Hungarians unaccounted for**. Assuming that about 100,000 Hungarians have left their Transylvanian homeland, there are still **622,878 Hungarians missing!**... The answer is... based on estimated figures. About 100,000 were supposedly evacuated and resettled in Rumania proper... About another 100,000 were killed by Rumanian terrorists between October and December 1944. About 50,000 Hungarians were driven away on foot by the Russians to the Soviet Union, and never were seen again. The rest were either deported by Rumanian authorities into forced labour camps (e.g. Danube Canal) or... arrested by the Police and tortured to death („committed suicide“)..

(Reliable sources from Rumania based on Church, party and municipal records. Danubian Research Centre, Astor, Florida, USA, July 1984).

„According to the statistics of the Rumanian Armed Forces during the ten years between 1973 and 1983 1,687 recruits (draftees) were reported to have committed **suicide**... among these **1,639** were of **Hungarian** nationality. During the same ten years 1,511 recruits died as the result of „accidents“, among them **1,386 Hungarians**. The bodies of 3,025 Hungarian boys were sent home for burial, according to the official reports attached to the files. (Note: Hungarians constitute 10% of the population of Rumania!).

(Ministry of National Defence, Bucharest, Room 42, File No: 247 U).