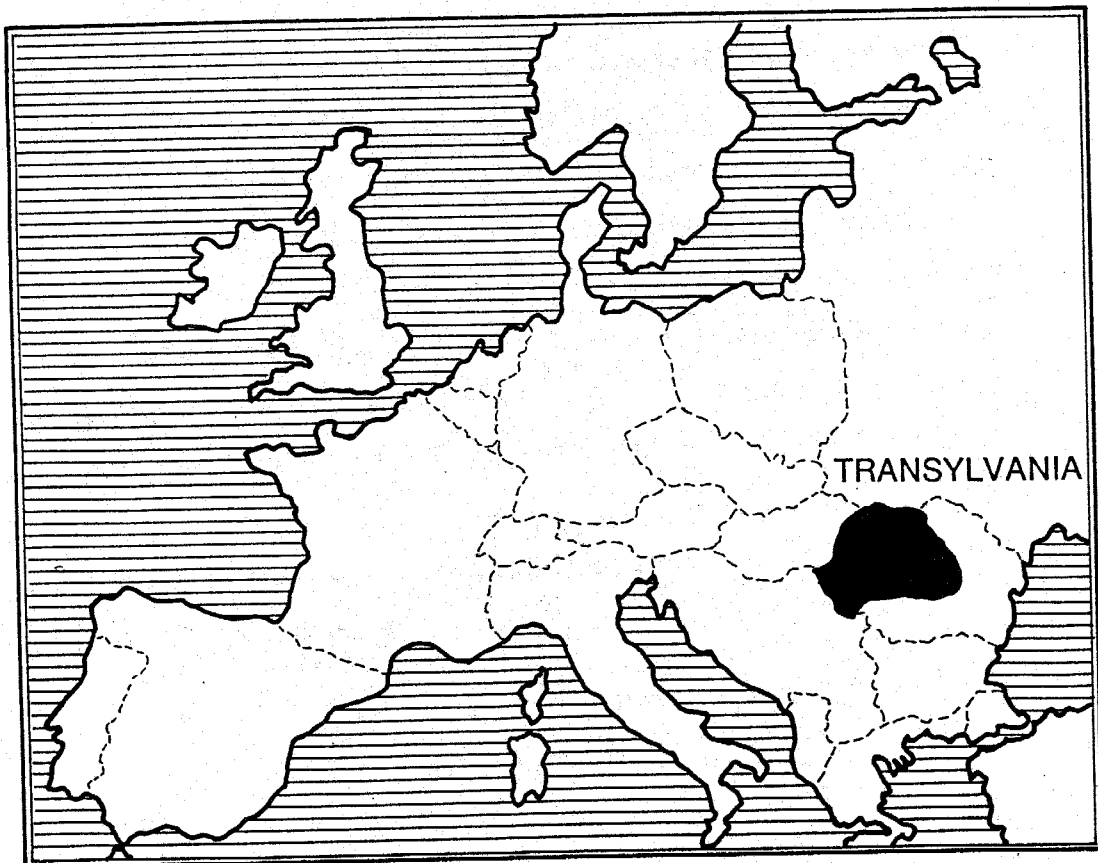


Transylvania

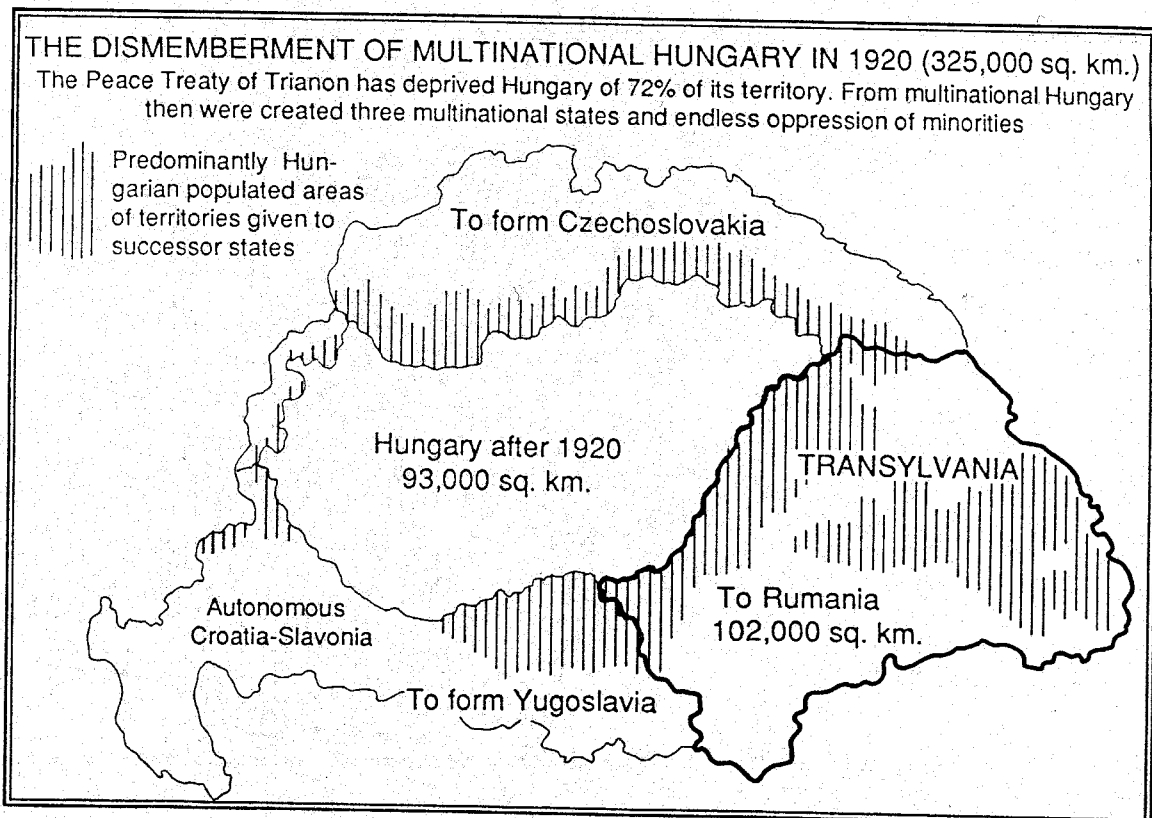
(A brief history)

The ancestral homeland of the 2.5 million-strong Hungarian minority in Rumania is the region called **Transylvania**: the north-western part of that country. It is a geographic region, a mountain-enclosed highland open only on the western side (toward Hungary). It is not a political unit with well-defined borders: the distinctive name (Latin *Transylvania*: The Land Beyond the Forest) conveys its socio-economic, historic and folkloric characteristics that left their common mark on all inhabitants: Hungarians, Rumanians, Germans alike. For centuries the multicultural population of Transylvania had lived in this „demi-paradise“ in harmonious coexistence, until the expansionist agitation of the new state of Rumania (created from two Rumanian provinces adjoining Transylvania in 1862) shattered the peace of their beautiful homeland.



Transylvania became part of the Hungarian State when the Hungarians conquered the Carpathian Basin at the turn of the 9th-10th centuries (895—896 A.D.) If anything, this region has an older Magyar settlement than the rest of Hungary: some of the indigenous population, the *Székely-s* („Szeklers”), who are actually Hungarians, lived there long before the 9th century Conquest. The rest of the indigenous population consisted of various semi-nomadic Germanic and Slavonic tribes and remnants of the Huns and Avars, who were related to the Hungarians. The Romans who had held this region for a short period, abandoned it in 271 A.D. There were **no Romans or „descendants of Romans”** in Transylvania when the Hungarians came.

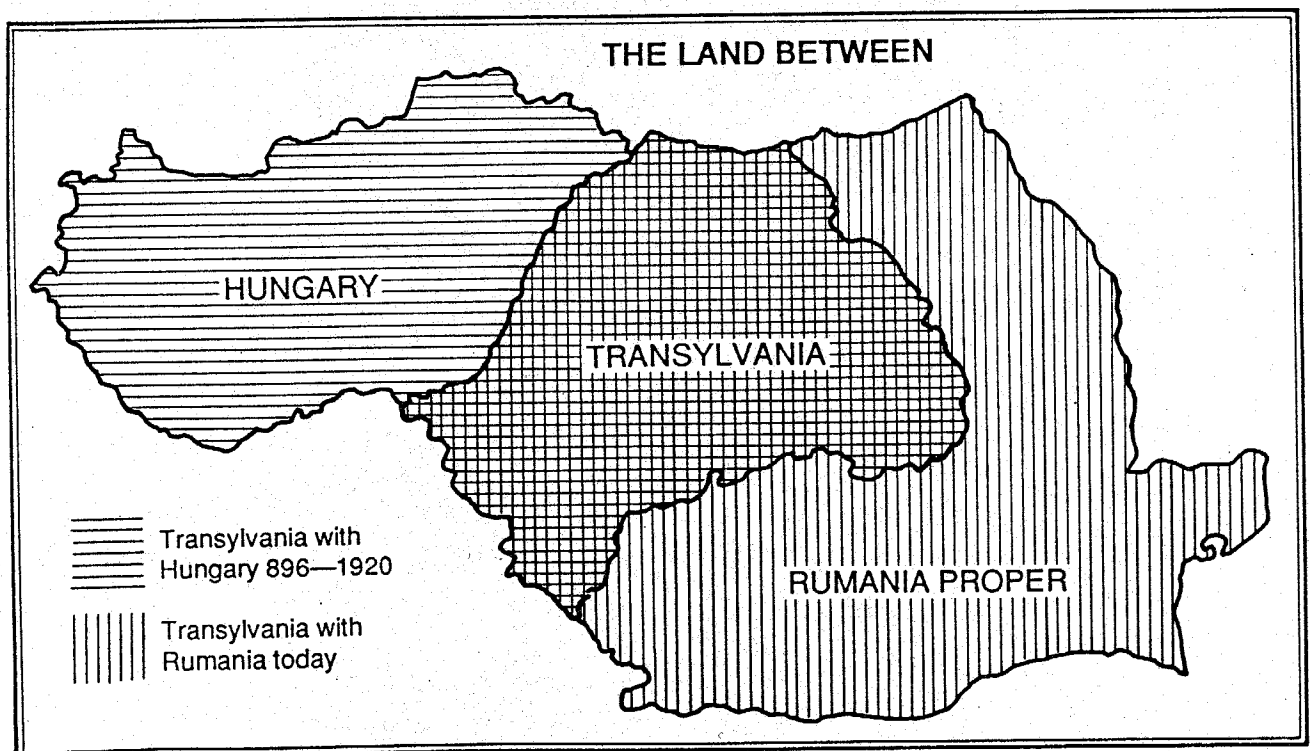
During the 12th and 13th centuries the kings of Hungary encouraged the immigration of German (Saxon) settlers. Later, during the 13th century, the first Rumanian (Wlach) refugees came from their war-torn Balkan homeland (Walachia). (The first documented mention of Rumanians in Hungarian Transylvania dates from 1224).



During the following centuries, the pressure of the Turkish expansion forced more Rumanians and other Balkan nationalities to seek refuge in the eastern and southern regions of Hungary. Here they found protection and peace: they were allowed to preserve their national identity, language and religion. (The first Rumanian language books were printed in Transylvania).

During the 16th-17th centuries this region was cut off from the rest of Hungary by the Turkish conquest. Though still an integral part of Hungary, the region maintained a precarious semi-independence as the **Principality of Transylvania** under selected Hungarian rulers and thus became the bulwark of Hungarian national identity. It had never been part of Rumania prior to 1920.

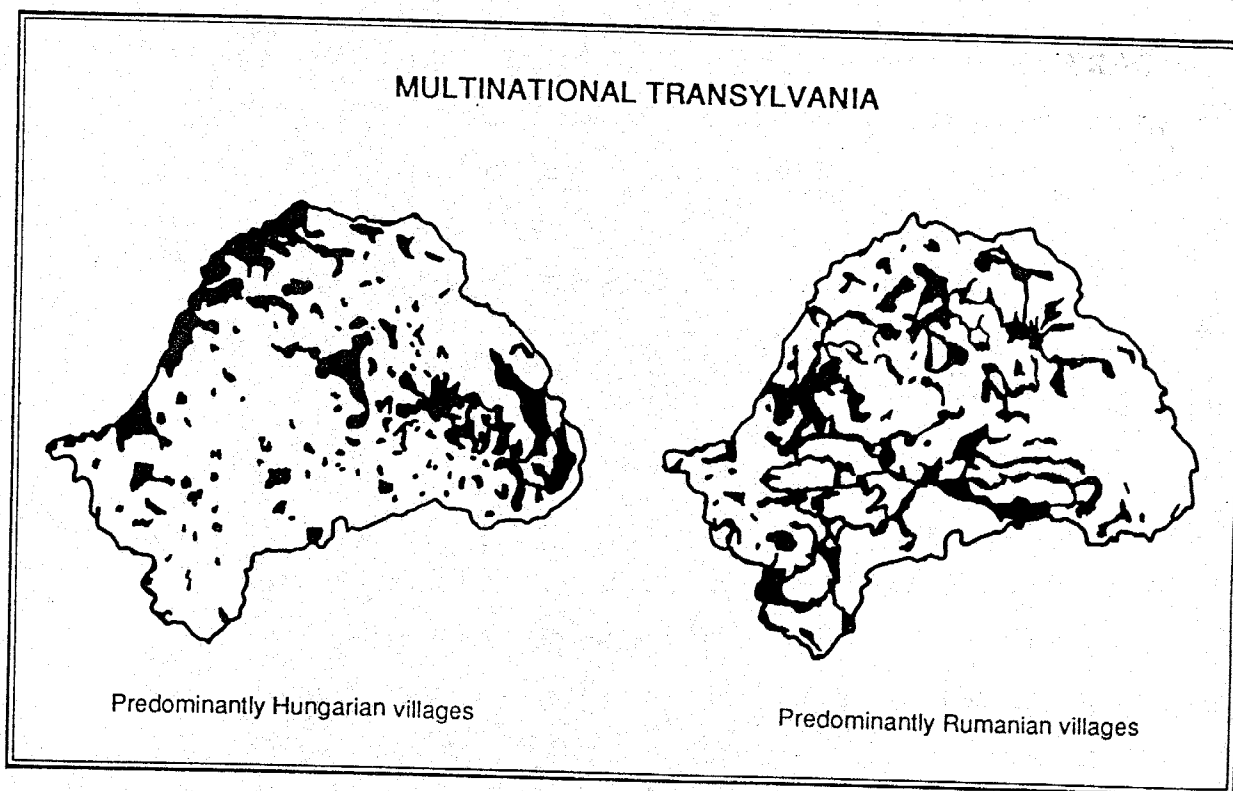
During the 16th-18th centuries the constant struggle against the Turkish conquest and German oppression depleted the number of the Hungarians whilst the number of the Balkan refugees, especially Rumanians increased rapidly.



The 1910 Hungarian census found that many eastern (Transylvanian) counties had a Rumanian population slightly in excess of the Hungarians.

After WW1 the Trianon Peace Treaty dismembered historic Hungary. Transylvania and the adjoining counties were given to Rumania with a Hungarian population of 2 million together with 2.8 million Rumanians.

It has since been the endeavour of all Rumanian regimes to assimilate this large Hungarian minority. During Ceausescu's regime (since 1965) this intolerance has deteriorated into brutal persecution bordering on genocide. Rumania's Hungarians, deprived of their human rights are threatened with cultural, even physical annihilation.



What have we Australians to do with this ?

„No man is an Island...every man is a
piece of the Continent...any man's death
diminishes me because I am involved
in Mankind: and therefore never send
to know for whom the bell tolls: it tolls for thee.”

John Donne

Treaty of peace with Rumania - 1947.

« The Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,... The United
Kingdom,... Australia,... of the one part and Rumania of the
other part...

.....

PART II. Section I. Article 3.I. Rumania shall take all
measures necessary to secure to all persons under Rumanian
jurisdiction, **without distinction as to race, sex, language or
religion**, the enjoyment of human rights and of the
fundamental freedoms, including freedom of expression, of
press and publication, of religious worship, of political opinion
and of public meeting.

2. Rumania further undertakes that the laws in force in
Rumania shall not, either in their content or in their
application, discriminate or entail any **discrimination between
persons of Rumanian nationality on the ground of their race,
sex, language or religion**, whether in reference to their persons,
property, business, professional or financial interest, status,
political or civil rights or any other matter.»

U.N. ad hoc Committee on Genocide, 1948.

[U.N. DOC. E/447. Ratified by all states including Australia and Rumania.]

«Cultural genocide is... systematic destruction of historical and religious monuments or their diversion to alien uses, destruction or dispersion of documents and objects of historical, artistic or religious value and of objects used in religious worship.»

U.N. Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

[Article 27, 1966. Ratified by all States, including Australia and Rumania.]

«In those States in which ethnic, religious or linguistic minorities exist, persons belonging to such minorities shall not be denied the right in community with the other members of their group, to enjoy their own culture, to profess and practice their religion or to use their own language...»

Because

Australia is the signatory of the treaties the Ceausescu regime has broken; Australians are „*involved in Mankind*“ : they do care for people oppressed by apartheid, sentenced to slow starvation, threatened with cultural genocide and total annihilation.

The Ceausescu regime is committing atrocious crimes against humanity. The principal victims are the 2.5 million Hungarians of Rumania who are not immigrants but original inhabitants. They face cultural and physical annihilation.

The native Rumanians, the Germans, Serbs, Jews, Ukrainians, Bulgarians, Slovaks, Greeks, Turks, Armenians and other national minorities are also being deprived of their basic human rights.

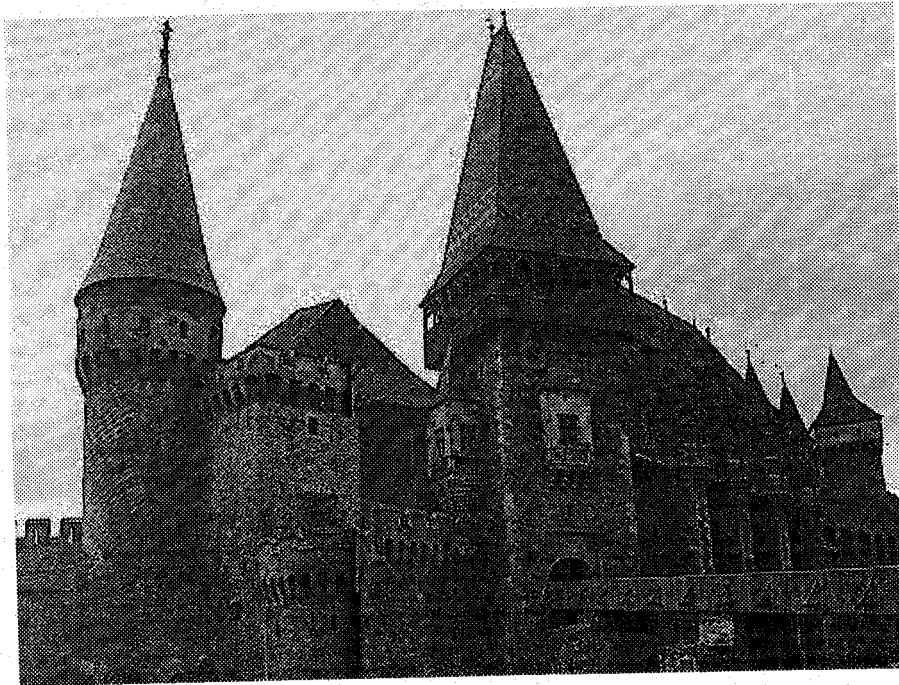
Therefore

we, concerned Australians ask the Australian Government to

1. take notice of the documented cases of human rights' violations in Rumania,

2. to ask the UNO and the Human Rights Commission to study and discuss the problem,

3. to protest to the present Rumanian government —our trading partner— and to appeal to Ceausescu to stop the on-going deportation of the rural population and the destruction of 8000 villages.



VAJDAHUNYAD