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NICOLAE CEAUSESCU

New Year Message

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RADIO-TELEVISIE'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE BY NICOLAE CEAUŞEŞTIU,  
GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE RCP, PRESIDENT OF THE STATE  
COUNCIL OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA

Dear Comrades and Friends,

Citizens of the Socialist Republic of Romania,

In a few minutes another year comes to an end, which has been rich in events, facts and successes of the Romanian people in building socialism.

The most remarkable event of this year, entailing far-reaching effects on the future of our homeland, has been the Tenth Congress of the Romanian Communist Party, which mapped out the programme of the country's long-range development, of steadily strengthening the technical and material groundwork of the new system, of improving the relations of production and the whole of social organization, with the aim of building the many-sidedly developed socialist society.

The year 1969 has also marked a quarter of a century since the country's liberation, an anniversary providing an opportunity for summing up the radical changes come about in the structure of the Romanian society, in the mode of life of the people, in the existence of our socialist nation; it also marked the jubilee anniversary of a period during which the Romanian people - free and master of its destinies - has erected the shining edifice of socialism.

During this year of enthusiastic work, the magnificent creative abilities of our working class, of the peasantry and the intelligentsia have gained material expression in fresh achievements on the line of material and spiritual output, in a successful fulfilment of the state plan provisions, in boosting the national wealth. The Party and Government have carried on intensive activity for an organizational improvement of economy and its heightened efficiency, for an increasingly large-scale use of the tremendous resources of our socialist system.

New factories and mills, schools and health units, cultural establishments and flats have been built up and down the country. Against a background of successes won in economic progress new measures could be ensured for improving the living standard of the people, measures among which an important place was held by the wage rises for the chief categories of employees. For all these signal successes, for devoted work in the service of the socialist homeland's progress, I am extending my warmest congratulations to you, dear fellow countrymen.

All of us are looking forward to the year 1970. We are faced by the duty of turning to good account the material and human potential of society to a still higher degree, of working still more intensely in order to further socialist construction - to the interest of an enhanced welfare of the people, of the many-sided thriving of the homeland. Our advancement along the path of progress and civilization requires great efforts from each and every citizen. However, it is absolutely sure that our heroic working class, the cooperative farmers, the intellectuals, all working people regardless of nationality, inspired by profoundly patriotic feelings, by boundless devotion to the cause of socialism, will win fresh victories in the grand work they are undertaking under the leadership of the Party that they will fulfil and overfulfil the plan for 1970 - the last year of the Five-Year Plan - creating thus conditions for translating into life the programme charted by the Tenth Congress. Certainly, our strong Party and State active, the nearly two million communists of our homeland, will be in the first rows of this tumultuous, activity, will be there where the difficulties are greatest, where greater efforts and higher responsibility are required.

Dear Comrades,

Our Party and State have this year conducted an intensive international activity, making their contribution to the general effort for detente and peace. The number of socialist Romania's friends has further grown on all the meridians of the globe and so has her prestige in the world arena.

In international life the positive course towards understanding and cooperation has kept developing. Reality has corroborated once more the correctness of our country's foreign policy directed towards the creation of a climate of trust and cooperation among peoples. In spite of the attempts of the imperialist circles to check the progressive process of evolution of the contemporary society, the peoples are more and more imperatively asserting their determination to develop freely and as masters of their fortunes, to live in peace and understanding, on the basis of fully equal rights; progressive-minded public opinion is rising more and more resolutely against the policy of strength and domination, of dictate and aggression. The trend in favour of European security has grown increasingly marked on our continent; the popular masses, many politicians,- government quarters included - are speaking up for a conference dedicated to the attainment of this major desideratum of the European peoples, of high import for the achievement of general peace.

Of course, points of tension still exist in the world today, as for instance the war in Vietnam and the Near East conflict. This makes it a duty for each country - big or small - to untiringly work for the extinction of all hotbeds of war, for the enthronement of peace on all continents.

Being a socialist country, Romania will keep focusing her foreign policy on many-sided relations with the

other socialist states, will consistently act for the unity of the world socialist system, of the international communist and working-class movement, of all the anti-imperialist forces. Our country will also continue amplifying its links with all the states, irrespective of social and political system, increasing its share in the international exchange of values, in the expansion of world collaboration and co-operation, based on the principles, of national sovereignty and independence, fully equal rights, noninterference in the internal affairs, mutual advantage, respect for every people's right to decide on its own fate.

We have every reason to confidently and optimistically enter the new year. Grand prospects of work and creative endeavours, of progress and prosperity are open to the Romanian people. We also express our conviction that the forces of progress from everywhere, the huge world anti-imperialist front will win fresh victories in the grandiose struggle for the attainment of mankind's advanced aspirations, for the attainment of the ideals of welfare and peace of the peoples. Developments provide premises for the year 1970 to mark fresh achievements along the path of detente and security in Europe and in the world.

These solemn moments of the traditional New Year celebration I am wishing wholeheartedly - on behalf of the Party and State leadership and on my own - all the citizens of our country - workers, peasants, men of science and culture, women and men, young and old, Romanians, Magyars, Germans and of other nationalities - a long life, good health and happiness, the coming true of their wishes, a great deal of personal satisfaction, big successes in the work dedicated to the flourishing of the homeland, to building its majestic communist future!

Happy New Year to you, comrades and friends!

INTERVIEW GRANTED BY NICOLAE CEAUSESCU, PRESIDENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIALIST PUBLIC OF ROMANIA, TO THE YOMIURI SHIMBUN NEWSPAPER OF TOKYO

Question: We believe that one of the characteristic features of international life today is the course towards détente, towards peaceful coexistence. Humanity is animated by the wish for this course to see further progress in the decade we are entering now.

Appreciating Romania's efforts for the promotion of a climate of peaceful cooperation among peoples and the ensuring of world peace, we would like to know, Mr.President, your opinion in connection with the prospective evolution of international life, with the policy that should suit best the demands of détente, progress and peace in the next decade.

Answer: Indeed, it is evident that the evolution of international life has been characterized of late by an increasingly resolute assertion of the peoples' wish to live in peace, to fruitfully cooperate in a climate of détente and security. Of course, the imperialist circles try to keep promoting a policy of domination, to perpetuate the scourge of colonialism and neo-colonialism; all these are factors acting negatively in international life, with respect to envenoming the atmosphere and preventing détente and co-operation. A positive course of the international situation demands from all the states - big or small - to make their contribution towards eliminating the hotbeds of strain and tension, of animosity and mistrust, towards the establishment of peaceful cooperation among peoples.

Underlying the relations among all the states should be in our view those principles which have been extensively acknowledged by the peoples and are winning over ever more supporters inclusive of within the government circles of many countries, namely the principles of national indepen-

dence and sovereignty, of equal rights, non-interference in the internal affairs and mutually advantageous cooperation. Life demonstrates that the observance of these principles is a sine qua non of peace and of détente; any maiming of this dialectical, inseparable sum-total of international rules may give rise to serious convulsions in the inter-state relations, may at any time generate conflicts, armed clashes included. The gist of this complex of principles is, in the last analysis, observance of the sacred, inalienable right of every people to freely and unhampered decide on its own fate, to follow that path of social and political development which suits its will and vital interests, to promote a foreign policy that accords with mankind's aspirations for peace, to participate with equal rights in the life of the world community of peoples. Steadfast realization of this desideratum opens wide possibilities to the settlement of international disputes, to the development of normal relations among states and the establishment of an enduring peace.

As to the concrete steps which should be taken in order to turn such possibilities into reality fastest, to the policy which would best meet the demands of détente and progress - these should materialize in the intensification of inter-state relations and contacts, of mutually advantageous cooperation, in absolutely refraining from the use of force in international life and from interference in the internal affairs of other states. Highly important would also be to end the arms race - and especially nuclear arming which spells tremendous danger on security and human civilization - to abolish the world's division into opposing military blocs, to refrain from any pressure and military demonstration meant to intimidate the peoples. An extremely important measure for détente would be the achievement of security on the European continent, the holding of

an all-European conference dedicated to this desideratum the attainment of which would clear the international political horizon not only in Europe and would serve not only the peoples on this continent, but would exert a wholesome influence on inter-state relations on all the continents, on the world political climate. We believe that an enhanced role in the attainment of the peoples' aspirations for peace, in respect for international law, devolves on the United Nations. Highly important for the fulfilment of its weighty tasks is the realization of the universality of the Organization, the restoration to the People's Republic of China of her legitimate rights in the UNO, and the representation of further states in the United Nations Organization. One of the chief targets of the progressive forces should be the abolition of all forms of colonial or neo-colonial rule, support for the newly-liberated states for consolidating their independence, for their economic, scientific and cultural progress so as to do away with the lag separating them from the world's advanced countries. It is a matter of deep-going equity that all the peoples should be able to embark upon the path of progress, be able to benefit by the gains of modern civilization and thus actively participate in international cooperation, in the general fight for peace and détente.

These are the major lines along which the peace-loving peoples, the progressive forces on all continents are ever more broadly deploying their efforts. Setting out from such ideas - and answering thus your question - I am viewing optimistically mankind's evolution in the next decade. I believe in the capability of the forces of peace and progress of imprinting a sound course, towards détente, security and peace on international life. There is no doubt, that progressive mankind will succeed at last in enforcing on international life its ideals of freedom, independence and progress, of enthroning relations of fruitful cooperation, of friend-

ship, esteem and trust among the peoples.

Question: At the Tenth Congress of the Romanian Communist Party you declared that Romania would continue conducting a policy of promoting understanding and of expanding economic cooperation with all the states of the world regardless of their social and political system.

Unfortunately, many incidents are taking place in the world, which may spell danger for cooperation and peace. It seems that the war in Vietnam is drawing to an end, but the prospects of the Paris talks cannot yet be considered completely optimistic. What are your views in connection with the means of settlement of the conflict in Vietnam?

Answer: One of the fundamentals of the foreign policy promoted by our country is broad expansion of international cooperation. Of course, being a socialist country, Romania focuses her policy on many-sided relations with the socialist states - to which she feels linked by the community of system, ideology and aims; at the same time, our country is expanding relations with all the world states, irrespective of social system, based on principles I have referred to in the foregoing.

We believe that expanded economic, diplomatic, technological and scientific as well as cultural cooperation is a vital necessity in our era when each people is called to contribute to the development of civilization, to amplifying the world exchange of material and spiritual assets; this contributes to the progress and welfare of all people. Cooperation is also the tested and efficient path allowing for better mutual acquaintance, for removing mistrust and suspicion and for promoting an atmosphere of international understanding which should enable the exclusion of war from the life of society, and the establishment of a lasting peace.

I believe that an ample expansion of international cooperation under conditions of détente and peace necessitates resolute action from the peoples for doing away with all existing or potential sources of tension, of all hotbeds that might give rise to a new world war. The hottest point on the Globe at present, the most acute and dangerous conflict for world peace - and which arouses anxiety among world public opinion and profound disapproval among progressive mankind - keeps being the war waged by the United States of America in Vietnam.

We maintain that a political settlement must be ensured of the Vietnam conflict - and not a settlement by continuing the military fighting. In this connection it is necessary for the United States of America to withdraw all its troops from Vietnam, it is necessary that the formation of a coalition government should be reached which would allow for a democratic and independent development of South Vietnam. The Vietnamese people must be allowed to solve its internal affairs - the question of its homeland's unification included - in keeping with its own will and desire, without any outside interference. This is the sole possibility of ending the Vietnam conflict. We hope that the Paris negotiations - which unfortunately are being procrastinated - will meet the peoples' hopes of an end to the war in Vietnam. We consider it a duty of all the peoples to support the peaceful settlement of this conflict. Romania will consistently act, together with the other peace-loving peoples, for the settlement of the Vietnam question in the spirit of observance of the Vietnamese people's right to freedom and independence, of general peace and security.

Question: As is known, there are big divergencies between the USSR and the People's Republic of China. The efforts made by Romania for smoothing away the differences between the two countries are well known and highly appre-

ciated in Japan. We would like to know your opinion in connection with these differences which the world peoples consider to be not only problems regarding the relations between the two big powers but also major problems of the ensuring of peace and security in Asia and the world over.

Answer: We have always considered that the existence of normal relations of friendly cooperation between the two big socialist states - the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China - the peaceful, negotiated settlement of the disputed issues and differences between them are of paramount international importance, accounting for an essential factor of peace and détente. We are convinced that the divergencies between the two states are of transient nature. We have hailed and continue to hail the start of negotiations between the official representatives of the Soviet people and the Chinese people and voice our hope that in this way a settlement of the disputed issues will be reached. This would accord both with the interests of the two countries and of the general cause of peace and progress, with international development and cooperation.

Question: One of the essential facets of present-day diplomacy dedicated to the cause of peace and the relaxation of tension - promoted also by the Government of your country - is the intensification of contacts, of exchanges of views between state leaders, above any differences of social and political system. In this context we remember as a positive element, the visit President Nixon made in Romania a few months ago. We appreciate that this visit - which has been actually the first visit - which has been actually the first visit made by a President of America in a socialist country - has been a symbolical event along the line of East-West détente, that it signified an important contribution to the development of links, of economic and cultural exchanges between the countries belonging to the two systems. We would

like you to state your views in connection with the prospects of development of such exchanges in the future, with the actions Romania will undertake in this respect.

Answer: Applying the principle of peaceful coexistence in practice, Romania promotes a policy of broad contacts, of meetings and negotiations with the leaders of many countries, regardless of social system. An intensive exchange of visits, meetings and talks at various levels have taken place in recent years between the representatives of our state and of other states of Europe and of other continents. Within this context has also been the visit paid to Romania by President Richard Nixon of the USA.

This visit has in our opinion occasioned a useful exchange of views, a frank and open confrontation on the problems of interest to the two countries and on other problems preoccupying mankind today. It has meant a step forward in respect of developing cooperation between Romania and the USA to the benefit of both peoples; at the same time, this visit has been - we are convinced - a contribution to the general cause of international détente and cooperation.

It is notorious that Romania and the United States of America are states with different social systems and as such have different concepts on the world's social and political development and on a series of other international issues. We hold, however, that the existence of such differences cannot and must not prevent normal relations between countries; on the contrary, it is precisely the actual existence of such differences between states that imposes - in the interest of peace and cooperation - the active promotion of contacts, discussions and negotiations in international life. In this way the countries may contribute to seeking out by joint efforts the means and possibilities of liquidating disputes, of efficiently solving the intricate problems of the present-day international life, of paving the way

to trust and cooperation among all the peoples. It is only such a profoundly constructive, realistic and lucid policy that can serve the interests of international détente, peace and security. We think that it is on this line that should act each state, irrespective of social system and no matter on what continent it should be.

Romania will henceforth, too, continue developing contacts and exchanges of views with all the countries, regarding it as a chief premise of rapprochement and understanding among peoples, of consolidating peace on our planet.

Question: Yours is one of the East-European countries with which Japan has re-established diplomatic relations the economic links and cultural exchanges between the two countries are witnessing an evident growth, in spite of their different social systems. We would like you to tell us your opinion in connection with the evolution of these relations, with what you do expect from them in the future.

Answer: We may state that Romania's relations with Japan are progressing positively; the economic, technico-scientific, cultural and other interchanges are developing - and this serves both peoples, as well as the cause of international peace and cooperation. Of course, between Romania and Japan there are not only differences as to social system but also great geographic distances - yet, this does not prevent good relations of cooperation based on mutual trust and regard, on reciprocal advantage. Obviously, one could not state that all the possibilities of developing the Romanian-Japanese relations of cooperation have been exhausted; on the contrary, we believe that unexplored reserves still exist in this respect, which could be prospected and brought to light by the joint efforts and wish of both countries.

What do we expect from these relations in the future? We want them to expand ever more, we want the exchanges and cooperation between Romania and Japan to grow increas-

gly fruitful so that our peoples should more and more actively cooperate for international détente and cooperation. We are convinced that the Romanian-Japanese relations will develop in the future on an ascending line, to the benefit of the two peoples, of cooperation and general peace.

I avail myself of this opportunity to address through your newspaper, warm New Year greetings to the Japanese people, to the advanced forces of Japan that are militating for progress, democracy and peace; to express on behalf of the Romanian people and my own behalf, most cordial wishes of success to the Japanese people in the activity dedicated to its prosperity and happiness.

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