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INTERVIEWS GRANTED BY NICOLAE CEAUȘESCU,
PRESIDENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL OF THE
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA

- TO "LE MONDE"
- TO FRENCH TELEVISION

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INTERVIEW GRANTED BY NICOLAE CEAUSESCU,
PRESIDENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL OF THE
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA
TO "LE MONDE"

Nicolae Ceaușescu, General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, President of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania, received André Fontaine, Chief Editor of "Le Monde", on June 12.

Participating in the talk was Dumitru Popescu, member of the Executive Committee, Secretary of the C.C. of the R.C.P.

Nicolae Ceaușescu granted on the occasion an interview to the French journalist, referring to a series of aspects of socialist construction in Romania, the cooperation relations between Romania and France, important facets of the foreign policy of the Socialist Republic of Romania, as well as to topical issues of the international situation.

QUESTION: Mr. President, your visit to France is the first you are paying to a West European country. What significance ought one to attach to this choice?

ANSWER: The visit I am to pay to France is, indeed, the first official visit to a West European country and is an expression of the relations of friendship between Romania and France. In fact, it is not fortuitous that the first visit to Romania by a State leader of West Europe was made, two years ago, precisely by the then President of France, General de Gaulle. As you know, the Romanian-French friendship and cooperation are of a long-standing tradition, resulting not only from the affinities of lan-

guage and culture, but also from the common aspirations for progress of the two peoples. The exchanges on multiple planes between our countries witness a fresh upsurge as also cooperation on the international arena for détente and peace.

As you know, France and Romania are countries with different social systems, but this is no obstacle in the path of good relations between them, of mutually advantageous economic, technical-scientific and cultural cooperation. I might say that both the visit of General de Gaulle in Romania and the visit I am to pay the next few days to your country, at the kind invitation of President Pompidou, demonstrate that if two states have a wish for cooperation and understanding, for mutual respect, they can - in spite of the differences of social system - cooperate fruitfully, contributing at the same time to the establishment of a lasting peace in the world. That is why the significance of this visit resides precisely in the fact that it demonstrates once again, the realism, correctness and efficiency of the policy of peaceful coexistence between countries with different social systems. By developing their friendship and cooperation, Romania and France act on the line of promoting in inter-state relations the principles of fully equal rights, national independence and sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs, mutual advantage and make their contribution to the creation of a climate of fruitful cooperation among peoples, of international peace and security.

QUESTION: Which is the chief result you expect from this visit?

ANSWER: I consider that the visit I am to pay to France, the meeting I shall have with President Pompidou and with other members of the French Government will contribute to the more marked development of the economic, technico-scientific and cultural collaboration and coope-

ration between our countries. At the same time, it will be an occasion for us to approach several problems of the current international life, to exchange views on the ways of achieving European security, for the creation of an atmosphere of understanding and cooperation on our continent, for extinguishing the hotbeds of conflict and of tension existing today on different meridians of the Globe and for ensuring peace in the whole world.

QUESTION: Romania has taken a categorical stand in favour of a conference on European security. Why?

ANSWER : Indeed, Romania actively militates for a meeting of the European countries to discuss security on the Continent. As you know, the idea of such a conference was launched as far back as 1966, in Bucharest, and renewed in 1969 at Budapest and Prague by seven European socialist countries, Romania included. We consider that the holding of a conference on European security should contribute to the opening of paths for the development of relations between the European countries on new bases - of equal rights, national sovereignty and independence, mutual respect, of the right of each people to independently decide its fate, without any outside interference. Such a conference should lead to the adoption by common agreement of decisions with regard to refraining from the use of force or threat with force in the solving of problems among European states and, should at the same time pave the way for the development of multilateral cooperation - economic, technico-scientific and cultural - without any discrimination. This would correspond both to the interests of all European peoples and the general cause of international peace and cooperation.

Naturally, many unsolved problems have piled up in the post-war period - an nobody deludes oneself into the belief that a first conference will be able to solve all

of them and at once; but there is no doubt, that this conference would create the premises for their peaceful settlement, would contribute to improving the international atmosphere. Among these essential problems I would list the ensuring of the inviolability of the frontiers established after the Second World War, the Oder-Neisse frontier included, the recognition of the existence of the two German states - the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany - the establishment of normal relations with them and the creation of conditions for their participation on equal footing, alongside of the other peoples, in international life, in the efforts for the implementation of European security.

Naturally, we have in view the need of a good organization of the All-European Conference, and the participation in its thorough preparation of all the states concerned; at the same time, we consider necessary the intensification of the rate of preparations, so that the conference be held soonest possible, contributing to the positive evolution of the political life on our continent.

We consider that no condition of any kind ought to be put for the meeting of the conference. The Romanian people pays particular attention to the achievement of European security, aware as it is that only in the conditions of peace, only in an atmosphere of understanding and cooperation among states can it ensure its own development, its higher living standard. That is why Romania considers that the efforts should be multiplied for the preparation of the conference of European states.

QUESTION: Mr. President, French public opinion was deeply moved by the news about the floods that bereaved Romania and wrought ravages on her economy. Could you give us an all-round estimate of this catastrophe and could

you tell us to what extent it affects the Five-Year Plan provisions? What measures have been taken to right the situation?

ANSWER: Quite true, the floods occurred in Romania and which have started again in the last few days have been of an unprecedented scope in the whole history of the country; they have caused us extremely big losses.

As a result of this catastrophe more than 170 people have died; 20 towns and hundreds of villages were flooded; more than 70,000 homes in the urban and rural areas were destroyed. The floods damaged hundreds of industrial enterprises, destroyed or damaged hundreds of State farms and agricultural production cooperatives, tens of thousands of peasant farmsteads; agricultural production has been affected on some 900,000 hectares. Likewise, serious damage was also caused to the railway, road, and electric power networks. Consequently, the losses suffered by the national economy and the population are estimated to stand at over ten thousand million lei.

From the very first moments firm measures were taken for diminishing the effects of this catastrophe, of relief to the flood victims and for resuming in the shortest possible time the whole economic and social activity. Thanks to these firm measures - to which the population, the army, the patriotic detachments, the units for the training of youth for the homeland's defence have made their contribution - it was possible to avoid even bigger damages being caused by the onrushing waters, to limit losses of human lives and of material assets, it was possible to create conditions for a speediest resumption of normal activity in the flood-stricken counties.

An ample action was organized for erecting and consolidating embankments along the main overflowed river banks, especially along the Danube. Over 100,000 people took part

in this action. The embankments made on hundreds of kilometres along the Danube - and on which the population worked day and night - prevented the river from overflowing the most fertile plain of the country, the destruction of other hundreds of localities, the serious damage to the whole national economy. Almost all the industrial units have by now resumed activity; intensive work is going on for the re-sowing of the flooded lands, for the re-construction of the homes destroyed in towns and villages, for resuming normal life everywhere. What I would like to remark more particularly is the exemplary behaviour of our people in these difficult circumstances, the unity of the whole socialist nation in the struggle against the danger, the heroism of thousands upon thousands of citizens, the impressive solidarity and mutual help of workers, peasants and intellectuals in the effort to overcome the catastrophe, to rescue public property and to help the flood victims to recover rapidly the damages caused by the floods. As a result of the tremendous work and solidarity of our whole people, in spite of the big losses suffered by the economy, industrial activity has recorded special successes in May, entirely fulfilling the State Plan provisions. This gives us the conviction that we can assert that the big natural calamity occurred in our country will not affect the implementation of this year's Plan - and hence, of the 1966-1970 Five-Year Plan either - and will not impair the provisions of the next Five-Year Plan (1971-1975).

I would like to mention in this context the expressions of sympathy and support received both from the French Government and people and from other states and international organizations. We see this as an expression of solidarity with and sympathy for the Romanian people, an appreciation of the policy of international peace and cooperation promoted by our country on the world arena.

QUESTION: The rapid development of the Romanian economy in the 1966-1968 period, grew considerably slower in 1969. Certain industrial sectors, the chemical for example, and agricultural were particularly affected. What are, in your opinion, the reasons for these deficiencies?

ANSWER: Quite true, in the last few years the Romanian economy has powerfully developed. In 1969, compared with 1968, the gross industrial output rose by 10.7 per cent - which ranks Romania among the countries with the highest development rate. The gross plan for industrial production was fulfilled and overfulfilled. Hence, one cannot speak of slowdown in the development rate of the Romanian economy.

As to the chemical sector, to whose lag you have referred, it is true that it fulfilled its plan only in a proportion of 99.8 per cent. Nonetheless, this branch of our industry has recorded a some 20 per cent increase in 1969, continuing to be, as regards development rate, at the top of the most dynamic branches of the Romanian economy. The non-fulfilment of the plan in the chemical industry is due to non-commissioning on time of some new units because of delayed deliveries or with defects in some equipment.

In agriculture, last year, owing to the unfavourable climatic conditions, some crops recorded a lower production than in the 1966-1968 period. In spite of this, the value of the gross agricultural production of our country, as a whole has increased by 4.8 per cent in 1969 compared with 1968, which has ensured the consumption requirements of the population and other demands of the national economy.

Naturally, the deficiencies manifest in a series of sectors in 1969 were due, apart of objective reasons, also to some shortcomings in the organization and management of the economic activity; the necessary measures have been taken to remove them.

In conclusion I would like to stress that in the first four years of the current Five-Year Plan, the plan provisions were not only fulfilled but also overfulfilled, recording an average annual growth rate of 11.9 per cent, compared with 11.4 per cent stipulated by the superior limit of the Five-Year Plan. The investments programme - a series of important projects were introduced above those initially established - is also being implemented at a high rate, and its topping by some six thousand million lei for the whole Five-Year Plan period is expected. In this lapse of time the national income grew at an average annual rate of 7.8 per cent, also higher than planned. This has created conditions for increasing the working people's incomes, for improving the people's living conditions.

The rise of wages and salaries has been generalized this year, in all branches, fact which has led to an increase of some 12 thousand million lei in the incomes of the wage-earning population. All this demonstrates that the Romanian economy is developing at an ascending rate, on a sound basis, is marking constant and multilateral progress.

QUESTION: Mr. President, some socialist countries have adopted general economic reforms. Does this problem also arise for Romania? In what spirit was the plan conceived and endorsed last year concerning the setting up of industrial centrals? Can one assess already now the value of this experience?

ANSWER: The steady improvement of management and planning of the national economy, the growing economic efficiency, as well as of production and labour productivity, the improvement of the products quality are in Romania, just as in the other socialist countries, a permanent preoccupation. Already at the National Conference of the Romanian Communist Party of December 1967, the directives were drawn up for perfecting the organisation, management and planning of the whole economic activity.

The setting up of industrial centrals, of management councils and management boards, the institutionalization of the general meetings of the employees - collective management bodies of the enterprises - as well as other measures ensuring a broader autonomy and independence to the productive units create conditions for a more and more intensive display initiatives of the people's masses, for the direct participation of all working people in management and in decision-making. The measures that have been endorsed ensure at the same time a single-plan based single management of the whole national economy.

Although only a relatively short time has elapsed since these measures have been carried into effect we can say that experience has justified them to the full. It has been proved that they contribute to a considerable extent to a better use of the material and human potential of our country, to the successful implementation of the tasks of building the multilaterally developed socialist society. At the same time, he specified, the measures adopted are an expression of the development of economic democracy - which proceeds in step with the deepening and general perfecting of socialist democracy in this country - ensuring an optimum climate for an all-round assertion of the aptitudes and creative capacities of the employees, for the participation of the working people - in their twofold ca-

capacity of owners of the means of production and of producers - in the management of the economy, in working out and carrying into effect the decisions concerning the steady improvement of their living conditions, of Romania's progress.

QUESTION: How do you appreciate, Mr. President, Romania's relations within the CMEA and the Warsaw Treaty Organisation?

ANSWER: As is known, Romania is among the foundation states of the CMEA - an organisation whose aim is the economic and technico-scientific collaboration and cooperation of its member-countries for the more rapid development of the individual national economies, for turning to account the material and human resources of the respective countries in the best conditions. We consider that the development of collaboration and cooperation with the CMEA member-countries, as well as with the other socialist countries, is an objective necessity; therefore, our country speaks up for the intensification of exchanges and of multilateral cooperation in varied forms, that are best suited to the purpose, in compliance with the interests of each country as well as with the general interests of socialism, of peace and cooperation among peoples.

As far as the Warsaw Treaty is concerned - this was conceived as a counter-measure to the setting up of the North Atlantic Pact, having a defensive character. The socialist countries have stressed more than once that they are determined to go over, concomitantly with the liquidation of NATO, to the dissolution of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation. Of course, until conditions will be created that will lead to the achievement of this target, Romania will fulfil her obligations within the Treaty, will permanently concern herself with developing her national army, with strengthening the

country's defence capacity. We would, however, like that an abolition of the military blocs should be reached earliest possible as well as the achievement of general disarmament, the creation of relations of trust and respect among peoples that should exclude the use of force in the settlement of the litigious issues among states - as this corresponds to the wish and interests of all peoples, to the cause of détente and peace in the whole world.

QUESTION: There is some talk periodically of the impending signing of the Soviet-Romanian Friendship Treaty, meant to replace the one that expired two years ago. In what stage are negotiations in this respect?

ANSWER: As is known, in May, during my visit to Moscow, I had meetings and talks with Comrade L.I.Brezhnev and other Party and State leaders of the Soviet Union, at which fresh measures have been established for the continuous strengthening of the multilateral cooperation between the Socialist Republic of Romania and the USSR, of solidarity and friendship between our Parties and peoples. There was also a visit to the Soviet Union by a government economic delegation and meetings between Comrades I.G.Maurer and A.N.Kosygin, on which occasion spotlighted were fresh possibilities of intensifying Romanian-Soviet mutually advantageous economic collaboration and cooperation.

Following the invitation from the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party and the Romanian Government, an official visit of friendship to our country will be paid, early in July, by a Party and Government delegation of the USSR at head with Comrade L.I.Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU. The signing is envisaged on that occasion of the new Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and

the Socialist Republic of Romania - a Treaty that has been worked out and initialled some time ago. There is no doubt that this visit, the signing of the Treaty will go down as a fresh and important contribution to the strengthening and development of the comradely friendship between our countries, parties and peoples, to cementing the Romanian-Soviet friendship, in the interest of the two countries, of the general cause of socialism and the strengthening of peace.

QUESTION: There are many signs, inclusive of a recent trip to Peking of the Romanian Foreign Trade Minister and the visit of a few days ago of the delegation of the Grand National Assembly and of the State Council of Romania demonstrating the continuous development of your relations with People's China. What significance, in your opinion, have these relations?

ANSWER: Indeed, Romania has good relations with the People's Republic of China and they are witnessing an ascending development.

During the visit the Romanian Foreign Trade Minister paid recently to the People's Republic of China agreement was reached on some measures which should lead to a considerable increase in the trade exchanges between Romania and the People's Republic of China, and should spur on still more economic cooperation between the two countries. The recent visit to Peking by a delegation of the Grand National Assembly and of the State Council of Romania at the invitation of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the talks conducted with Premier Chou En-lai, with Kang Sheng and further Chinese leaders, the delegation having been received by Comrade Mao Tse-Tung,

Chairman of the Communist Party of China, and on Lin Piao, Vice-Chairman of the Communist Party of China, are a telling expression of the relations of comradely friendship between Romania and China, between our parties, countries and peoples; they mark a fresh contribution to the strengthening of the multilateral cooperation between the Romanian Communist Party and the Communist Party of China, between the Socialist Republic of Romania and the People's Republic of China, of the traditional Romanian-Chinese relations, in the interest of both peoples, of the general cause of socialism and peace.

The good relations the Romanian Communist Party and the Government of our country have with the Communist Party of China and the Government of the People's Republic of China demonstrate once more the correctness of Romania's consistent policy of developing multilateral cooperation with all the socialist countries. The major significance of these relations - based on the sincere wish to cooperate, on fully equal rights, on mutual esteem and respect, the sole principles apt to ensure a normal evolution of interstate relations, the creation of a climate of international peace and cooperation - is provided by proof that conditions and possibilities exist for overcoming the difficulties between the socialist countries, for strengthening their unity and cooperation, which accord with the interests of socialism, of general progress and peace throughout the world.

QUESTION: Economic ally, these last few years have witnessed an ample development of Romania's trade with West Europe and especially with France. Do you think that these exchanges can develop still more? And in which sectors?

ANSWER: In the last 7-8 years, the Romanian economy has experienced a powerful upsurge and diversification. That is why concomitantly with the expansion of the economic relations with the CMEA member-countries and with the other socialist countries - which account for some 55 per cent of our foreign trade - Romania develops increasingly wide economic relations with the other countries of the world as well. It is in this context that proceed also the economic relations with the countries of Western Europe and especially with France, which in the last five years have doubled.

In developing relations with all the world countries, we proceed from the fact that in the present era - an era of a huge technico-scientific revolution of a world-wide character - the states' participation in the international division of labour and the fruitful cooperation of peoples are a law-like demand of an objective character. Setting out from this consideration and bearing in mind the fact that also in the years to come Romania's economy is to develop at an intensive rate, we believe that ample possibilities exist for expanding the economic relations between Romania and France. We consider that cooperation can be expanded in the field of automobile construction - where a good cooperation already exists between the Romanian enterprises and the "Renault" company - in electronics and information technics, especially concerning computing machines, the production of machine-tools, in the chemical industry as well as in further domains. With this end in view, we consider it necessary to find higher forms of bilateral collaboration and cooperation, as well as of cooperation on third markets. We also believe that increase possibilities are at hand for developing our cooperation in the field of technology and scientific research which, under present conditions, have a growing role in the production of material assets, in speeding up progress and civil

zation.

It is quite sure that the intensification in the years to come of the economic, technical, scientific and cultural relations between Romania and France will contribute to strengthening friendship between the two countries, to the benefit of our both peoples, of international cooperation.

QUESTION: Mr. President, French public opinion is greatly concerned about the aggravation of the conflicts in the Near East and in Indochina. Would you tell us how do you view the settlement of those two conflicts?

ANSWER: The same as the French public opinion and all peace-loving peoples, the Romanian people is profoundly worried about the aggravation of the conflicts in Indochina and in the Near East which cause great losses of human lives and huge material damages, and hamper the normal development of the respective peoples on the path of progress. This anxiety is also determined by the fact that today the existence of an inter-state conflict, no matter in which part of the planet would it occur, affects in some way all the peoples, threatens to extend and to involve further and further states and might develop into a large-scale war with inestimable consequences for the whole mankind. The military actions of the United States and of the Saigonesse troops in Cambodia fully prove this. Romania categorically speaks up for the cessation of the war waged by the United States in Vietnam, in Indochina. The Vietnamese, Cambodian and Laotian peoples should be allowed to solve their own problems in keeping with their wish and interests, without any outside interference!

We also consider that the prolonged conflict and

intensified military actions in the Near East greatly endanger peace. Romania speaks up for the settlement of this conflict on political, peaceful bases, by applying the November 1967 Resolution of the Security Council. We consider it imperative that the Israeli troops be withdrawn from the occupied Arab territories, and the right to independent existence and development of each state in that area be observed. We also think it necessary for the ensuring of a lasting peace, that the problem of Palestine refugees should be solved in keeping with their national interests, the legitimate demands of the Palestine population be granted, inclusive of its constituting itself - if it demands this - into an independent national state. We hope that reason will triumph, at last, that re-establishment of peace in that part of the world will be achieved.

Romania considers it imperative for the extinction of the hotbeds of war existing today in the world and for preventing the emergence of further ones, that the imperialist policy of domination over other nations, should be abandoned for ever, as well as the attempts to impose by force the will of some states on other peoples. The sound development of international life requires strictest observance of the inalienable right of each people to independence and sovereignty, of its will to decide by itself on its destiny. It is necessary to actually carry through a policy of cooperation and mutual assistance between states with a view to bridging the great economic gaps existing in today's world between various peoples, to eliminating the lag persisting in vast areas of the globe, with a view to building a better world where all the nations should fully enjoy peace and the blessings of contemporary civilization.

QUESTION: Do you think that the unrest manifest in various parts of the globe, especially among students, are but the product of a certain

economic and social system or do they rather reflect a general crisis of confidence in the future of modern society? Do you think that the Romanian youth is definitely safe from such temptations? If so why?

ANSWER: We have been witness these last few years to intensified actions by the people's masses in various regions of the world - inclusive of youth and students media - against social injustice, for a juster world, free for ever, from any social and national inequality. Undoubtedly, the intensification of these actions, in the framework of which youth and students hold an important place, is generated by the economic and social systems based on exploitation, which are unable to solve the great problems preoccupying mankind today; the intensification of these actions is also a result of the policy of domination and oppression, of the existence in the world today of a great number of underdeveloped states, inclusive of countries still under the yoke of colonialism. These actions are - I may say - the expression of a general crisis of the system based on social and national exploitation, on inequality; they do not reflect lack of confidence in the future, but in that society, they reflect the wish to change it, to create a social system allowing the peoples, the youth to attain their aspirations for a free, dignified and independent life. The intensification of the youth actions - and especially of students - is linked to the fact that society does not ensure to them certitude of a social activity in keeping with their training, conditions for displaying their working and creative capacities and, at the same time, does not offer them any clear-cut perspective of the future. Thus is quite natural the youth's wish, its invariable wish, to see the creation of

a society able to guarantee the present and provide prospects of the attainment of its aspirations and ideals. I consider that these preoccupations of youth are just, that they correspond to the interests of mankind's general progress, to the peoples' wish to build a world of social justice, of national equality, of cooperation and peace.

As to the Romanian youth, it too is naturally preoccupied with the improvement of the society it lives in, it too aspires after a more and more happy future, after the progress and prosperity of its homeland. The socialist society being built in Romania ensures, however, the attainment of the aspirations of youth, creates optimum studying and working conditions to the younger generation, ensures to them the possibility of their incorporation into social activity in keeping with their training and aptitudes, their active participation in economic, scientific and cultural advancement in building the system where man should actually feel free and master of his destiny, on his own will. That is why, the Romanian youth, the same as our whole people, actively participates in social life and fully supports the home and foreign policy of our homeland.

INTERVIEW TO FRENCH TELEVISION BY
NICOLAE CEAUSESCU
PRESIDENT OF THE STATE COUNCIL OF THE
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA

Nicolae Ceaușescu, President of the State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania, received the French journalists Claude Manuel and Claude Brovelli, and granted them a filmed interview for the first-channel and second, colour channel of the French Television, on June 2. The text of the interview was broadcast on the French Television programmes on June 15, on the Romanian State Council President's arrival in France.

QUESTION: Which, do you think Mr. President, would be the two or three most important subjects you will discuss with President Pompidou? Which is Romania's standpoint on these big problems?

ANSWER: The visit I am to pay to your country at the kind invitation of President Pompidou, is in the context of the relations of friendship between France and Romania. In a certain sense, the interviews and talks with President Pompidou will be a continuation of the dialogue started in 1968 during the historical visit to Romania by the then President of France, General de Gaulle.

I believe that the questions to be discussed during my visit and during the meetings to take place will refer to the economic, technico-scientific and cultural relations between our countries; of course, the discussions will also cover European security questions which are of equal interest to both countries as well as to all the

other peoples of our continent, and the general international problems, especially those concerning the two main hotbeds of war existing today in the world.

As to the cooperation between our countries, I am noting with satisfaction that the economic exchanges and cooperation between France and Romania in recent years have witnessed a powerful development. I consider that fine prospects exist for Romania and France to realize still greater progress in the future in the field of economic exchanges, of economic cooperation, in the scientific and cultural domains.

QUESTION: You have always been preoccupied with the situation of the European countries - divided into East and West. How do you view France's role in European political developments and in expanding the East-West dialogue?

ANSWER: Romania is anxious, indeed, to see an end of the division of the European countries. We consider it necessary that relations of fully equal rights be established between the countries on our continent, relations which should exclude their division into "East and West" or into blocs, which should ensure many-sided cooperation in all spheres of activity. In this context, I think that France, which made an important contribution to the development of civilization on our continent and in the world, and which at present promotes a policy of cooperation based on respect for the independence and sovereignty of all countries, can - by continuing this policy - play an important part in the surmounting of the European countries' present division into blocs, in the achievement of a fruitful and peaceful cooperation between states.

QUESTION: You have been recently to Moscow. What is the present situation of Romania's relations with the U.S.S.R.?

ANSWER: The visit I paid to Moscow has been part of the relations of cooperation and friendship existing between the Soviet Union and Romania. At present I can state with satisfaction that the relations between our countries witness an ascending growth, that broad possibilities exist for a multilateral cooperation between the two countries, which accords both with our peoples' interests and the cause of international peace and cooperation.

QUESTION : Which is your attitude towards the presence of foreign troops on foreign territories?

ANSWER: Naturally, this is a question concerning first and foremost the respective countries. There are no foreign troops on Romania's territory. We consider, however, that, in a certain sense, this question is of interest to all peoples of Europe and of the world, because under no circumstances does the presence of foreign troops favour good understanding and relations between states. Therefore, we consider that, as part of the realization of European security, the withdrawal of foreign troops from Europe, from the territories of other states will have to be achieved, as well as the establishment of inter-state relations which should exclude the use of force or threat with force.

QUESTION : In what lies the originality of the Romanian socialism and how do you view Romania's membership in the Warsaw Treaty and in the C.M.E.A.?

ANSWER: Socialism is being built in Romania by setting out from the economic, social and historical conditions

of our country and, in this respect, it has of course a series of particularities. It is based, however, on the general principles which must underlie any socialist society, namely a society free from exploitation of man by man, where the production means are owned in common by those who work. Romania has registered remarkable success in building up a society to secure welfare and happiness to man.

As to Romania's membership in the Warsaw Pact, I would like to mention firstly that it was founded in response to the inception of NATO, and that right from its coming into being it was envisaged that concomitantly with the abolition of NATO, the Warsaw Pact, too, would discontinue. We are militating for this end. Certainly, until then, we shall fulfil all the obligations incumbent on us in case of an attack against any member-country in Europe, and we will permanently concern ourselves with the strengthening of collaboration and cooperation between the member countries, between their armies.

As to CMEA, Romania is one of the founding countries of this organization. The aim of CMEA is to ensure a better economic collaboration and cooperation which should lead to the development of the individual national economies, to a better use of material and human resources and also, to create conditions for expanding collaboration and cooperation with further states as well. In this context, we do not think Romania's CMEA membership to be an obstacle in expanding cooperation with other states but, on the contrary, a factor which, while favouring the growth of the Romanian economy, creates conditions for a broad economic cooperation with all states of the world.

QUESTION: You have always promoted Romania's independence in international life. Would you tell us whether your country will continue

this political attitude and whether your government will continue towards a certain pattern of democratization?

ANSWER: In her international policy, Romania sets out from the premise that each nation should be able to assert itself in keeping with its economic and spiritual potentiality. In this respect, we maintain that it is only in the conditions when each state, each nation enjoys full independence and sovereignty that it can make its contribution to the general progress of mankind, to the cause of cooperation and peace among peoples. Undoubtedly, proceeding from these principles, Romania will militate henceforth, too, for the assertion in international life, in interstate relations, of the full equality of nations and states, of respect for national sovereignty and independence, of non-interference in internal affairs, of each people's right to decide on its fate in keeping with its will, without any outside interference. We hold that these principles, enjoying broad support, are the only ones apt to ensure world peace and cooperation.

As to the Romanian democracy, I think that this question should have been posed differently, for we believe that the democracy in practice with the Romanian society is superior to many Western countries and, in certain respect, even to France. I am referring first of all to the fact that in our society all economic, social and national inequality of men has been abolished, to the fact that, in our society, the whole people actively participates in shaping the country's home and foreign policy and also in carrying this policy into effect. As a matter of fact, this accounts also for the success of our policy and for the whole people's supporting this policy.

In concluding, I would like to convey to the French people, through the French Television, wishes of prosperity

and peace, many success in the attainment of its aspirations for the better.

QUESTION: Would you tell us something about the calamity which has befallen your country of late?

ANSWER : The inundations which took place in Romania are considered as unprecedented in our country's history. They have caused great damages indeed. 170 dead were reported, and almost 20 towns, hundreds of villages and numerous industrial enterprises were flooded. In towns and villages, over 70,000 dwellings have been destroyed, while in agriculture, the floods affected the production on some 900,000 hectares. Of course, we have not yet the final figures, but the general damages are estimated to stand at several thousand million lei.

I would like to mention that our whole people closed their ranks and acted firmly so as to cope with these difficulties, to re-establish soonest possible a normal course to life; and I must state with satisfaction that we have registered good results in this respect.

I also would like to express thanks for the relief sent by France as well as for that received from other peoples.

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