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PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
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PROCEEDINGS OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The proceedings of the 4th session of the 6th legislature of the Grand National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Romania opened in March, were held, in plenary meeting, on July 10 and 11, 1970, in the presence of President Nicolae Ceaușescu, of Prime Minister Ion Gheorghe Maurer and of other Party and State leaders, of numerous invited guests, who included heads of diplomatic missions, Romanian and foreign journalists. In the period since the last plenary meeting - about which we informed in our bulletin No. 27-28, of April 6, 1970, the speciality standing commissions of the Grand National Assembly examined the draft bills included on the agenda of the present session.

The deputies debated documents of particular importance for the multilateral development of socialist Romania.

These documents are part of the measures taken for the improvement of the management and planning of the national economy, the increasing in the efficiency of economic activity, established by the National Conference and the Tenth Party Congress. Some of these documents have been submitted through the press to public debate so that as many working people as possible could contribute to their improvement and enriching.

The deputies debated and passed: the law on the organization of production and labour in agriculture; the law on the husbanding of the material and money resources, the organization and operation of financial control; the Report of the Council of Ministers on the measures to do away with the aftermaths of the natural calamities of the spring of 1970; the law on the organization and functioning of consumer cooperatives; draft bills for the endorsement of the decrees with power of law issued by the State Council since the last session of the Grand National Assembly; Report on the activity conducted in 1969 by the bodies of the General Procurator's Office; Report on the activity conducted in 1969 by the Supreme Court.

Stefan Voitec, Chairman of the Grand National Assembly, made the closing speech at the proceedings of the 4th session of the 6th legislature of the Grand National Assembly.

EXPOSITION OF DRAFT BILL ON THE ORGANIZATION OF
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND LABOUR

(Abridged Version)

Angelo Miculescu, Minister of Agriculture and Silviculture, who on behalf of the Council of Ministers submitted to the Grand National Assembly of Romania, the Draft Bill on the Organization of Agricultural Production and Labour, which had been drawn up by Ministry of Agriculture and Silviculture and the Council of the National Union of Agricultural Production Cooperatives, upon the initiative and under the direct guidance of the Party leadership, of the RCP General Secretary Nicolae Ceaușescu, a draft debated by the plenum of the CC of the RCP of July 8-9, 1970, pointed out the following: Its provisions ensure the perfecting of the organization of production and labour in agriculture with a view to their correlation with both prevailing equipment and conditions, and the demands of the growth of the productive forces in agriculture and throughout the national economy. This highly important Draft Bill accords with the objective demands of Romania's many-sided development and forms part and parcel of the set of measures taken by the Party and State for improving the methods and forms of economic management.

The Draft Bill stipulates the chief duties and rights of all those who are active in agriculture, promotes the experience and results won by the agricultural sciences and technique to the rank of law, lays down the organizational and operational principles of the agricultural units and provides on the main the legal framework apt to contribute to the implementation of the policy of the RCP and of the Romanian State, namely of achieving a modern, high-yield and most efficient agriculture.

The contents and provisions of the Draft Bill take

into account the role and the place held by agriculture in the national economy, the necessary correlation of the latter and some industrial branches, the export tasks of agriculture and aim at an intensified growth rate of agriculture, which is an objective necessity of Romania's national economy.

Stressing the importance the RCP leadership and the Romanian State have permanently attached to agricultural development, A. Miculescu pointed out that in the 1966-1969 period gross agricultural output increased by 25 per cent over the previous five years, while the annual average cereal output of 13.3 million tons exceeds by 2.4 million tons results achieved in 1961-1965; consequently, the growing needs of Romania's population in the matter of farm-food produce have been met, the steadily growing food industry was supplied with raw material, and appreciable export availabilities have been ensured.

The Party and State leadership has endorsed of late a set of measures for a vast programme of long-range agricultural development, a programme which will signify a real qualitative leap in terms of production, productivity and economic efficiency.

In the general context of its provisions, the Draft Bill establishes the duties and responsibilities of the central and local institutions in connection with the organization of production and labour in agriculture.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Silviculture - in its capacity of central body performing single guidance of agriculture - has to work out the compulsory regulations for agrotechny, phytotechniques, zootechny and regulations of a sanitary and veterinary character, as well as to keep an eye on the way in which these regulations are being applied and observed by all agricultural units and by all owners of plots of land and of animals; the Ministry

of Agriculture and Silviculture also has the duty to implement the Party and State policy in agriculture, and is answerable for the production and economic results in this chief compartment of the Romanian economy.

The National Union of Agricultural Production Cooperatives and the county unions are responsible for a good unfolding of the activity of the agricultural cooperatives, for their improved inner life, for expanding and deepening democracy. The National Union of Agricultural Production Cooperatives and the county unions have to ensure a constantly improving participation of the cooperative farmers in work, so that all the agricultural cooperatives should fulfil the plan tasks and implement the established measures.

The county people's councils and their agricultural departments are in charge of directing agriculture on a local level and are also in duty bound to see to it that all workers, cooperative members and private farmers participate in carrying out farm operations in keeping with both conditions and schedules prescribed by the agrozootechnical regulations. The expanded rights, powers and responsibilities stipulated for the people's councils by the Draft Bill will contribute towards encouraging their activity, as well as the activity of the executives of farming units, of all agricultural workers, towards expanding and generalizing creative initiatives, towards ensuring an intensive participation of the workers, of the cooperative members in carrying out all the actions and measures required for stepping up farm output.

The Draft Bill assigns high importance to a careful administration of the country's land stock, and its rational exploitation. The Draft Bill comprises clear-cut legal provisions prohibiting any diminution of the agricultural and arable area - except in special cases stipulated by law - and also provisions according to which the timely performing of farm operations and their top quality is a duty of all

farmers.

The Draft Bill prescribes compulsory regulations related to selective measures aimed at raising the productive properties of cattle, to ensuring fodder in proper amounts and assortments, to applying the sanitary-veterinary measures and to rigorous observance of breeding and fattening technologies.

The Draft Bill pays special importance to the rights and duties of employees of the state agricultural units, the inter-cooperative associations and the other forms of associations and cooperatives, as well as of the employees and members of the agricultural production cooperatives.

The Minister of Agriculture concluded by informing the Grand National Assembly that the measures taken so far and the particular support given to agriculture by the Party and State leadership have greatly reduced the effects caused in agriculture by the big floods of last spring. The units affected by the floods were given assistance under the form of machines and equipment, fodder and seeds so that right after the water receded the land could be resown; concomitantly, extra expanses were sown in the other areas, to field crop and vegetables with a view to meeting the population's consumption requirements and the needs of the food industry. Moreover, measures were taken for sowing to double crops over 1.2 million hectares of land all over the country, right after the harvesting of cereals - now in full swing - is over.

The set of measures taken so far and the Draft Bill submitted for debate and approval to the Grand National Assembly justify the appreciation that under the conditions of this year too, an adequate harvest will be achieved to satisfy the population's consumption requirements, and for the years to come there is a guarantee of intensifying and modernizing agriculture so that an appreciable growth of farm output should be achieved, on a par with the tasks set

by the Tenth Congress of the Romanian Communist Party,
ensuring in this way the meeting of all the needs of the
national economy.

EXPOSITION OF DRAFT BILL ON HUSBANDING MATERIAL AND
MONEY RESOURCES, THE ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION OF
FINANCIAL CONTROL

(Abridged Version)

In his exposition to the Grand National Assembly, on the Draft Bill on husbanding material and money resources and the organization and operation of financial control, Minister of Finance Florea Dumitrescu stressed that it was part of the set of legislative measures taken of late in respect of regulating the economic contracts, the investments, the quality of products, the organization and discipline of labour, the organization of scientific research, and other measures meant to ensure an improved legal framework for the Romanian economic and social life as a whole.

The Draft Bill establishes the obligations and responsibilities incumbent on the ministries, executive committees of the people's councils, the managerial staff of the centrals, combines and of all the other socialist organizations in the field of husbanding the material and money resources, in exerting control at each and every unit. The Draft Bill also ensures the improvement of the content of preventive control and of internal financial control, their intensified contribution to the proper husbanding of the socialist units' funds. The Draft Bill also defines more precisely the tasks, the rights and responsibilities of the Ministry of Finance as regards the coordination, the orientation and operation of financial control, as well as the tasks and rights of the banks in connection with the operation of control at the units they work for.

A particularly important principle underlying the Draft Bill is that the responsibility in respect of operating a rigorous financial control must primarily be incumbent on the managers of the socialist organizations.

From the organizational point of view, the Draft Bill differentiates preventive financial control contingent upon the size of the units and the complexity of their activity.

The experimental operation, in 1969 and 1970, of specialist compartments within fifteen works and combines demonstrates the efficiency of this organizational pattern.

Taking account of the results obtained while experimenting, it is necessary to examine the possibility of applying this measure at other large units too.

The Draft Bill submitted for debate to the Grand National Assembly includes a series of measures for perfecting the internal financial control, exerted at various organizational levels by the higher body on the subordinate units.

The Draft Bill establishes more precisely the tasks of the internal financial control which, besides the checking up of the existence of the material and money assets, will have to pay in the future a special attention to the way of their utilization, to the observance of the relevant norms, to finding out the causes leading to non-economical expenditures.

In keeping with the Draft Bill, internal financial control will operate subordinated to both the management of the respective socialist organization and to the Ministry of Finance. This will result in a more direct link between the Finance Ministry and the various financial control bodies, and will facilitate single orientation, guidance and instructions to the letter, and will enhance their authority in performing control.

The Draft Bill submitted to debate stresses and specifies the tasks incumbent on the Ministry of Finance in the activity of financial control as a whole.

A series of provisions of the Draft Bill are meant to raise the qualitative level of labour in the field of control,

to contribute to the implementation of the central tasks of the present stage, to enhancing the economic efficiency in all the sectors. As the recent Plenary Meeting of the CC of the RCP stressed, taking account of the fact that the true masters of all the material assets are the working people - Florea Dumitrescu said in conclusion - we have the duty to organize the activity in such a way that all the working people be aware of their responsibility and participate actually in the proper husbanding of the material and money resources. The new regulation will contribute thus to strenghtening our socialist patrimony, to judiciously using the funds, to enhancing the economic efficiency at all levels, to multilaterally developing the Romanian economy.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' REPORT ON MEASURES TO DO
AWAY WITH AFTERMATHS OF NATURAL CALAMITIES
OF THE SPRING OF 1970

(Abridged Version)

Iosif Banc, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers, who on behalf of the Council of Ministers expounded to the Grand National Assembly of Romania some conclusions concerning the inundations of last spring, as well as the measures which have to be taken in order to make up for the losses and to ensure the fulfilment of the State plan for 1970, cited some hydrological data:

The ample scope of the floods was due to the unusually big quantities of precipitations which in some regions reached even 300 litres per square metre, as well as to the sudden melting of snow in the mountains, which caused a from 20fold to 30fold increase in the discharge of the Somes and Mures rivers and their tributaries.

A mighty growth of the waters was also recorded in the basins of the Olt, Prut, Siret, Suceava, Tîrnava Mare, Tîrnava Mica, Arieş, Jiul and Criş rivers as well as of some rivulets which overflowed their banks, flooding large areas and populated centres some of which were inundated even two or three times.

During the same period, the Danube levels were growing to some 80 cm higher than ever before.

Concomitantly there was a rise of ground-water levels, which caused exaggerated humidity and swamps on large agricultural areas. During the same period, important land slides over 20,500 hectares occurred.

The speaker next referred to the damages caused by the floods: more than 1,500 localities had to suffer directly from the disaster; about 85,000 houses were flooded, out of which nearly 45,000 buildings collapsed or suffered se-

rious damage; another some 20,000 buildings - storage space, ware-houses, shed for animals, etc., - were also destroyed, fully or partially.

Over 1,700 km of railways were destroyed or damaged, as well as 6,700 km of national, local and industrial road, about 30,000 linear metres of bridges and footbridges, nearly 10,000 km of electric power transport and distribution lines, as well as over 2,000 km of telecommunication lines, and numerous buildings serving for social and cultural purposes, and for public facilities.

As many as 621 industrial units and sub-units, and 309 building sites were flooded, where great damage was caused following the destruction and deterioration of installations, machines, raw material and auxiliary material, as also in consequence of the fact that big amounts of commodities could not be manufactured as productive activities had stopped.

In agriculture, over one million hectares of land were inundated, including some 700,000 hectares sown to wheat, maize, sugar-beet and vegetables, and the crops destroyed totally on most of this area. Scores of thousands of cattle and fowls were drowned and important quantities of grain and fodder were damaged seriously; hothouses, solaria, irrigation systems, vineyards and orchards were destroyed as well as piscicultural facilities, etc.

It results from the estimates that were made, that the damages caused to the national economy amount to more than ten thousand million lei. 166 identified dead and 14 missing were recorded.

The speaker next referred to the expeditious and energetic actions carried out by the Party, by the State and economic bodies, the mass and civic organizations and the entire population, and as a result of which the damages caused to the national economy did not assume still bigger scope.

Immediately as the danger of floods became conspicuous and throughout the period of inundations - the speaker pointed out - the central and county State bodies took steps for

promptly informing the neighbour countries, taking into account the fact that the torrents on some joint water courses called for concerted protective measures. More than 150 men equipped with outfit and materials came from the Hungarian People's Republic who, together with the population of Satu Mare county, participated in remaking some embankments on Somes river. Fruitful cooperation was carried out with Yugoslavia for protecting the project at the Iron Gates where, by joint effort it has been possible to save all the objectives endangered by the rise of the Danube waters.

We consider - Iosif Banc said - that it would be useful in the future too, to establish a closer and more organized cooperation between the specialist bodies of Romania and of the neighbour countries in the matter of protection against floods.

The speaker then pointed out that answering the Party's call, the workers, engineers, technicians, cooperative farmers, and other working people proceeded immediately after the withdrawal of the waters, to remaking what had been destroyed, to making up for the losses, normalizing economic activity and carrying through the tasks established under the State plan.

The employees of the industrial enterprises analyzed their possibilities and resources and greatly increased their commitments taken at the beginning of the year, and decided to realize over and above these commitments a marketable output to the value of nearly 2.5 thousand million lei, and to provide extra profits to the value of 569 million lei.

In agriculture the resowing of the areas whence the water had withdrawn was started immediately, as well as reconstruction of sheds for animals and of other buildings serving productive purposes.

Thanks to the heroic efforts of the whole people it can be said that some of the difficulties caused by the disaster have been surmounted. Almost all the enterprises affected by inundations operate now at full capacity, while the

measures taken in agriculture ensured the mobilization of all the forces for realizing the tasks incumbent on this important sector. Worthy of stress is the fact that in the first half of the year, in spite of every difficulty the gross industrial output plan was fulfilled 101.1 per cent, and a 12.4 per cent rise compared with the same period of last year has been achieved.

Stressing the results that have been recorded, the speaker pointed out that there was still much to do in order to do away completely with the serious effects of the calamities. Taking into account the selfless work carried on by the whole nation to surmount the difficulties, one may aptly assess that the effects of the inundations could be eliminated already this year, that the industrial output plan be fulfilled and overfulfilled, the targets set for agriculture achieved, the present Five-Year Plan carried out successfully and a firm foundation be ensured for the next five-year plan.

Iosif Banc then referred to relief to the flood victims, to the measures taken for ensuring to them food, clothing and other necessities, as well as medical assistance and accommodation; full wages to all employees of the enterprises and institutions which interrupted their activity because of the inundations; assistance granted to agricultural cooperatives for remaking constructions, livestock and crops that had been destroyed, assistance to flood victims for rebuilding their dwellings, household annexes and assets of personal use; exemption from or reduction of taxes and dues for the flood-stricken population; and the building this year of 5,000 flats above plan provisions in the flood-stricken localities.

The country's population has shown its full solidarity with the flood victims in most varied ways. The employees donated from their salaries over two thousand million lei, the members of the agricultural production cooperatives offered the amount of 100 million lei, the mass and public organizations gave 200 million lei, and the deposits on the account no.2000

exceed 75,000,000 lei.

At the same time, the population donated over 10 million pieces of clothing, footwear and household items, as well as important quantities of foodstuff, which were distributed to the flood-stricken families.

The Romanian people enjoyed solidarity from world public opinion in those difficult moments - the speaker said. All the socialist countries, numerous communist and workers' parties, organizations of the working class, many heads of state and politicians, international organizations, Red Cross societies, public and professional organizations, economic companies and organizations, religious associations and denominations, citizens of states in different areas of the world, friends of Romania, as well as Romanian-borns living abroad, sent telegrams and letters expressing compassion for the country's sufferings, and their appreciation of the heroism and determination with which the Romanian people was coping with the calamities.

Romania received and continues to receive important material and money support from 65 countries and from international organizations. A series of companies of various countries have sent or offered experts and spare parts in order to contribute to the remaking of the damaged installations. The value of the material and money relief for the Romanian people from abroad is of nearly 1,5 thousand million lei, of which relief worth over 160 million lei, has been received so far.

The Romanian people - Iosif Banc said - is grateful to the fraternal socialist countries, to the other states, to the governments, the international organizations and associations, to all those who have granted material and moral support, viewing these evidences of sympathy and solidarity as an expression of the valuation and prestige enjoyed by socialist Romania internationally, by her consistent policy of peace and cooperation with all the world states.

Outlined in conclusion of the report were the main tasks incumbent on the Party and State bodies, the mass and civic organizations, the working class, the peasantry, the intelligentsia, the entire people, for recovering, already this year, the damages caused by the floods, for fulfilling and topping the State Plan and the pledges taken for 1970.

It has been stressed that highly important for preventing in the future the occurrence of such calamities is the implementation of the national programme on a rational administration of water resources, expanding irrigation systems, embankments, draining work and operations to fight soil erosion in 1971-1975, and of the long-range provisions until 1985 in this domain that were endorsed by the Plenum of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party in March 1970.

Based on instructions from the Party leadership, from the Party's General Secretary Nicolae Ceaușescu personally, a supplementary programme is now being drawn up, of operations which have to be carried out in defence against a recurrence of floods, especially by creating some water storage basins, by correcting and adjusting water courses, consolidating and raising higher existing embankments and building new ones, as well as by expanding land melioration and afforestations.

Besides the great efforts made by the State, an ample participation of the population - by patriotic labour and material contribution - has to be ensured in the implementation of the national programme of water administration as well as in the supplementary operations envisioned in protection against floods.

The measures which were established at the recent Plenary Meeting of the Party's Central Committee, the determination with which the working people strive to make up for the losses - the speaker pointed out in concluding - reinforce the conviction that by the efforts of the socialist nation as a whole, the plan tasks for this year as well as the entire 1966-1970

Five-Year Plan will be carried out successfully, ensuring firm foundations to the implementation of the programme of the homeland's development mapped out by the Tenth Congress of the Romanian Communist Party.

EXPOSITION OF THE DRAFT BILL ON THE ORGANIZATION

AND

FUNCTIONING OF CONSUMER COOPERATIVES

- Abridged Version -

Recalling the fact that the cooperative movement of Romania has over seven million members and that it is in the membership of the Socialist Unity Front, Dumitru Bejan, Chairman of the Central Union of Consumer Cooperatives (UCECOM), stressed in his exposition of the Draft Bill on the organization and functioning of the consumer cooperatives, delivered at the Grand National Assembly session, the active participation of the consumer cooperatives in the building of socialism in Romania, in the development of the economic exchange between village and town, in the steady deepening and perfection of socialist democracy, in the ascending course of the Romanian society. Compared with the 1966-1970 period, in the next five-year plan, the speaker said, the volume of goods to be sold through the consumer cooperatives will be with 44,3 thousand million lei bigger, of the purchased agricultural produce - with 2.2 thousand million lei, of the marketable output and services to the population - with 4.8 thousand million lei. The technical-material base will be developed following the investment of over 2.2 thousand million lei.

Referring to the Draft Bill submitted to the Grand National Assembly for debate, the UCECOM Chairman pointed to the fact that unlike the previous regulations, under this Draft Bill the consumer cooperatives are defined as public socialist organizations, with an economic character, created by the association by free consent of the inhabitants, with the aim of satisfying some material and cultural requirements, by common actions and means, and of contributing, in an organized manner, to the steady broadening and improvement of the technico-material base of the country, to

the building of the multilaterally developed socialist society in the Socialist Republic of Romania. At the same time, by more precisely establishing the goal of the consumer cooperatives' activity, the Draft Bill creates favourable premises for the more active participation of the cooperative organizations to facilitate the exchange of goods between village and town, by the supply of the rural population with goods, the turning to account of the extra farmfood produce of individual farmsteads, the manufacturing of consumer goods and the better meeting of the population's requirements in terms of services. The Draft Bill specifies that the activity of the consumer cooperatives proceeds within the system of the socialist economy and is carried on within the legal forms of planning and management of the national economy, and is being taken account in the working out of the Stat Plan. Specified is also the fact that the activity of the consumer cooperative organizations proceeds on the basis of the programmes approved by their statutory bodies and correlated to the development plans of the national economy.

The Draft Bill stresses the role of the collective management at all levels as a supreme principle, the promotion of the democratic norms of work and management being thus conditioned by law.

Pointing out the public character of the organizations, the Draft Bill envisages the authorization of the Central Union of Consumer Cooperatives to issue obligatory norms for all the consumer cooperative organizations, concerning their entire activity. Envisaged is also the authorization of the bodies of the Ministry of Finance and of the State banks to control the discharge of all the consumer cooperative organizations and enterprises' obligations towards the State, the use of the credits granted by the State, as well as the observance of financial discipline.

It is for the first time that the juridical régime of the cooperative assets is entirely established, the Draft Bill creating the legal framework for the protection and de-

velopment of the property of the consumer cooperative organizations which is an inseparable part of the socialist property, of our national wealth.

A special chapter includes the provisions concerning the support given by the State to consumer cooperatives.

The Draft Bill envisages the possibility for the consumer cooperative organizations to affiliate to international cooperative organizations whose activities are guided by the principles of cooperation, peace and understanding among peoples, being thus supported by the State in the actions for the steady development of economic, commercial, technical and production cooperation with the cooperative organizations of other countries.

EXPOSITION OF THE REPORT CONCERNING THE ACTIVITY

CARRIED ON BY PROCURATOR'S OFFICE BODIES IN

1969

The bodies of the Procurator's Office - Alexa Augustin, Procurator-General of the Socialist Republic of Romania, stressed in the report read during the current session of the Grand National Assembly - have unabatedly campaigned for the translation into life of the policy promoted by the Party in the spirit of social justice and equity, of strict observance of the law by all State bodies and by all citizens, a primordial condition for achieving a propitious atmosphere for the unfolding of peaceful and creative work by the entire people.

Compared with the previous periods, the report spotlights that the action for hindering and liquidating transgression of law is more actively manifest as a process proper to the present stage of development of our socialist society, the observance of law by all State bodies and public organizations, by all citizens, becomes a more pregnant reality with every passing day. Those on whom final sentences had been passed decreased in 1969, by 36 per cent compared with the average of the last three years.

Although anti-social manifestations have substantially decreased, the number of infringements as well as of other transgressions of law is still quite big.

The Report contained also the conclusions related to the main causes and circumstances favouring infringements with stress being laid on the bad conscience of those committing infringements, the superficiality or dishonesty of some employees, the deficiencies in the recording, circulation and keeping of assets, the inappropriate organization of administration control, of watch.

The Report also referred to the main deficiencies in the activity of the bodies of the Procurator's Office especially to the lack of firmness shown by procurators in some cases, as to open proceedings or to order preventive arrest whenever it was necessary and the conditions envisaged by law were implemented, as well as to cases of unjustified penal procedures against some citizens.

In concluding, the speaker expressed his opinion that the examination of the activity of the Procurator's Office by the Grand National Assembly would contribute to the improvement of this important institution of the Romanian Socialist State, to the implementation of the role of the bodies of the Procurator's Office in the fulfilment of the tasks incumbent on them under the documents of the Tenth Party Congress.

EXPOSITION OF THE REPORT REFERRING TO THE ACTIVITY
OF THE SUPREME COURT IN 1969

Emilian Nucescu, Chairman of the Supreme Court, who presented to the current session of the Grand National Assembly the report on the activity carried on in 1969 by the Supreme Court, stressed inter alia that the members of the Supreme Court were always concerned with the most efficient contribution to be made for the defence and strengthening of legality and of socialist order. Exercizing its attribution of general control over the activity of all courts, the Supreme Court has noted that their activity has improved compared with previous years, that the magistrates have shown more care and feeling of responsibility in the correct and unitary application of law, in safeguarding social assets, for the re-establishment to persons of their infringed rights and the fullest possible achievement of the educational-preventive role of justice.

However, the Supreme Court has noted, during cases tried, also some deficiencies in the courts' activity consisting of an erroneous determination of the actual situation in the trial following failure to handle all the necessary evidence or to verify the defence invoked by the sides, as well as deficiencies consisting of an erroneous application of law or incorrectly proportionated punishments. A tendency to slacken firmness in punishment of serious offences has been noted with some judges who at times easily granted extenuating circumstances or suspension of serving the sentence.

In order to right the deficiencies that had been noted, the Supreme Court had to repeal erroneous verdicts - both penal and civil -, instructing the courts with a view to correctly applying law, by ensuring observance of guarantees of legal procedure and of the lawful rights of all sides

involved in the lawsuit. This concern is along the line set by the Party documents concerning the need for firmly doing away with all expressions of subjectivism, of transgressing law, which in the past led to abuses, and unjust reprisals.

Besides its solutions for cases in question, the Supreme Court has made an important contribution to a correct orientation of the courts and to ensuring a single applying of law, by furnishing the courts with guiding decisions indicating the principles to be used in the settlement of controversial cases in point.

In concluding, the speaker pointed out that the members of the Supreme Court would in the future too dedicate all their skills and power of work to exemplarily fulfil their mandate from the Grand National Assembly, so that by the verdicts they bring, the citizens' confidence in law should increase and the contribution made by the courts to the building of socialism in Romania should acquire new valences.

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