



HOLLANDER'S ARTICLES AND INFORMATION ON
ROMANIA

**CATASTROPHIC FLOODS
IN ROMANIA
(IV)**

HX

632

A1

W9

NO. 644

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
GENEVA

EX LIBRIS
UNIVERSITATIS
ALBERTAENSIS



216

to 2

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

AFTER THREE WEEKS OF FLOODS IN ROMANIA

It was three weeks on June 2, since vast grounds of Romania have been flooded, overflows which - by their scope, duration and destructive effects - are unprecedented in the millenary history of the country.

The strong highwaters and overflows started on May 12 in the centre and north-west of Transylvania and north Moldova, were followed by another wave of floods, owing to torrential rains and unusually abundant snowfalls on May 23 and 24, which also continued early last week. The overflowed waters are still a painful presence on Romanian soil. In the Satu Mare, Alba, Hunedoara, Arad, Timiş, Covasna, Braşov, Buzău and Jassy counties tens of localities and vast areas are still inundated. The waters still cover thousand upon thousand of hectares in the Maramureş, Bihor, Harghita, Prahova, Neamţ, Bacău and Vrancea counties. On the lower courses of the Mureş, Siret and Prut rivers and almost along the whole Olt river course, due to the latest highfloods the water levels are still above the floodmark, and overflow on large areas. A situation of utmost tension persists in the riparian counties along the Danube; successive highfloods continue along the river, formed of the swollen waters of the inland rivers and tributaries of the other riparian countries, which also have unusually high discharges this spring. The Tisa river alone flows into the Danube with a volume of water almost tantamount to the usual discharge of the whole river. This hydrological conjuncture further aggravates the situation of the floods on the Romanian course of the Danube, where the rising water levels record the highest values for a century. From Baziaş to Sulina, all the Danube ports are now completely or partially inundated, while the climax of the current highfloods has only just started on the Romanian course of the river, bringing with it more and more threatening rises in the water level.

As already announced, the successive tides of high-floods and overflows affected in these dramatic weeks all the counties of Romania, causing human victims, inestimable sufferings to the population directly struck by the calamity, heavy losses to the whole national economy.

The latest centralised data of the Commission for Fighting the Floods make known the painful dimension of the destructions caused by the calamity in these last three weeks as well as the proportions of the present floods. Here are some data on the sad balance-sheet: since the beginning of the floods until and including June 1, the waters have covered 925,370 hectares (of which 490,510 hectares were cultivated with cereals, technical crops, vegetables and greens, etc). In spite of the fact that most of the inland rivers have receded to their beds, the flooded area continues to be quite high: 460,330 hectares.

Although the waters have ebbed from more than 1,000 localities, another 125 human settlements continue to be totally or partially flooded. Of the 83,141 flooded homes, 40,757 have been destroyed or damaged. Of the 19,238 constructions of other categories that were flooded, 8,092 were destroyed and 2,449 damaged. At present there are still 12,329 buildings inundated.

268,000 people were evacuated. After the waters had ebbed, many of them returned to their homes. There still are 77,347 people evacuated from the flooded localities or from those threatened by the floods. So far there are 161 dead and another 16 missing.

Hundreds of thousands of animals have been evacuated; nonetheless, 36,984 animals and 60,910 fowls have drowned.

The onrushing waters have destroyed or damaged 624 bridges, 1,518 smaller bridges, 412 km of asphalted highways, 1,788 km cobbled roads 2,175 km of forest roads, 474 km of railway lines, 1,863 km of electric lines, etc.

By the sustained efforts of the transport and communication workers, of electricians, with the help of the soldiers, some of the destructions caused by the calamity in these sectors of great significance have been given priority and re-made. Nonetheless there are still 417 bridges, 506 smaller bridges, 303 km of asphalted highways, 948 km of cobbled roads, 16 km of standard-gauge railway lines, 72 km of narrow-gauge railway lines and 75 km of electric lines destroyed or damaged.

The waters have damaged 146 productive units, the majority of which have again been put into function thanks to efforts made by the respective staff, as also to the prompt support given by workers and experts from the localities that were not flooded. Of the productive units which were seriously damaged 17 have been unable to resume activity until now.

In these days of difficult battles with the vicissitudes of nature, the whole people is fighting with valour to remove at the earliest possible time the baneful effects of the floods. As the waters recede, big efforts are being made in all the flooded localities for social and economic life to resume its normal course. Concomitantly, the indefatigable battle continues along the Danube for harnessing the waters, for safeguarding the human settlements, the material assets which are threatened by the floods.

AN IMPERATIVE OF THESE DAYS

EVERYTHING FOR REBUILDING, EVERYTHING FOR NORMALIZATION

The serious losses caused to Romania by the catastrophic floods occurred in the greatest part of this country imposes sustained, heroic efforts by the entire people, efforts materialized in day and night work, in holidays turned into working days, in the unsparing support the whole nation is giving to the vast actions for rebuilding the localities and the industrial units destroyed or damaged by waters. Solidarity in work has become these days an expression illustrating a reality with ample significance. The destructions are huge: 40,000 houses, 600 bridges, thousands of kilometres of roads, over 700 km. of railwaylines, about 2,800 km of electric lines damaged, nearly 400 productive units flooded and damaged, over 925 thousand hectares of agricultural land covered by water, and so many others. In a unanimous consensus it is understood that these big wounds caused to the country can be healed only by work.

And such staunch effort can be seen everywhere: in Dej and Satu Mare - counties seriously affected by the fury of the waters -, in Ared and Sighișoara, in the Brăila and Galați counties, - where the great battle against the Danube and Siret continues -, in Hunedoara and Sălaj... The outcome of these efforts made, firstly by the working class, by technicians and engineers, by experts, have started to yield fruit. On June 2, over 370 productive units resumed activity; about 6,000 houses were rebuilt; almost 200 bridges and 1,000 km. of asphalted and cobbled roads, as well as about 400 km. of railwaylines were made good for traffic.

Ever more factories and large enterprises, and combines - such as those in Ared, Satu Mare, Sighișoara, the timber combines in Dej, etc. - announce that they have started

again the production process with full capacity. In Medias and Tîrnăveni - localities heavily affected by the inundation - work is going on with decupled efforts for activity to resume its normal course in the shortest possible time.

For remaking the losses caused by several-day interruption of production in many industrial enterprises, the other enterprises in all branches have supplemented their commitments, achieving products and benefits over the plan provisions. These enterprises have also sent teams of technicians and highly-trained experts to help re-assemble the equipment, the repair of the electric network, etc. in the flood-stricken areas.

Particular efforts are being made in the building materials industry. All the units producing cement, bricks and other building materials are working day and night with full capacity. Sundays, clerks and intellectuals, and also students work voluntarily in these units; the units of Bucharest city have pledged to achieve by end of the year, a record 50 million-piece output of bricks over the plan provisions.

Cement and bricks are the first materials needed for the building of new houses in the villages and towns destroyed by floods, for re-building the damaged economic units. In this respect, parcels of land started to be distributed for the erection of private houses in places out of the reach of possible inundations in Satu Mare - where the housing stock was seriously affected -, in Tîrgu Mureş and in other localities. The flood-victims are being moved into new blocks of flats and further ones are being built.

The great battle for the harvest is going on these days on over 800,000 hectares. It is a battle for sowing and re-sowing. A staunch struggle is waged not only against the waters, but also with the soil, whose fertile substances were destroyed by waters and have now to be ploughed, fertilized... A support to this struggle is being given by the enterprises

of the Ministry of the Chemical industry that are to supply a first quantity of 30,000 tons of nitrogenous fertilizer, to be used by the hundreds of thousands of peasants in this battle for the harvest. In the land where hoeing proceeds, young and old people, women, teen-agers are working day and night with machines, hoes, with everything that can help the fertilization of the soil. A great number of pumping installations are continuously functioning for draining the agricultural land and for evacuating the water.

The cereals shoot into ear. Harvest time is near, and thus activity is going on for repairing the harvest equipment, and new combines are arriving directly from the factories.

Everywhere in the villages that suffered the consequences of floods intensive work is going on for rebuilding the stables, winter stables, of the farms for fast-growing poultry and cattle, hotbed and glasshouses destroyed by the fury of waters. The great battle for harvest is full swing all over Romania.

But maybe, the most significant illustration of life coming into normal in the flood-stricken areas is the so peaceful and at the same time such a specific picture of our days of groups of noisy children going to their schools, that were re-opened these last few days, in Mediaş, Sighişoara and in other localities on the banks of the Mureş, Someş, and Olt rivers. The situation, however, is more difficult in Satu Mare where the Mureş waters destroyed schools with almost 100 class-rooms; there were 6,803 homeless children, 2,741 of whom were pupils in the first-eight forms and who are now housed in different school camps in the country; and 1,184 flood victims of pre-school age are housed in creches and kindergarten in other counties.... But here, just as everywhere, the school courses were resumed. Owing to the efforts made the children were directed towards

schools situated in the vicinity, or in improvised schools in various houses, or in tents, etc. Scores of thousands of textbooks were collected for the children and also school supplies. The entire professorial staff in these localities is engaged in a sustained campaign of preparing the compulsory-school leavers so that they too can continue training in general-education or professional schools, or in apprentice schools.

All the heroic actions meant to recover and to normalize the entire life in the localities affected by the devastating waters generate a robust optimism, the optimism so characteristic of the Romanian people that can be easily understood, and only from the few words said by the Mayor of one of the most affected towns: "Although twice stricken by the fury of waters, Mediaş town is determined to further participate, with equal chances, in the traditional emulation drive for the embellishment and administration of the towns".

THE DANUBE LEVEL THESE DAYS

All along the over 1,000 km. the Danube traverses on the Romanian territory, the strangest and most agitated changes, especially as regards the water level and its flow, are being registered these June days.

This spring the Danube has broken, in an alarming manner, all its previous records of levels and one cannot say yet whether they will or not rise still higher.

After collecting before entering the Romanian territory, the waters of the Tisa, a river whose flow was 4-5fold over the average, as well as the waters of other rivers in the Danube basin - all of them with high levels owing to the rainfalls and to the sudden melting of the snow in the mountains - the Danube has produced on May 21, ever since it entered Romania, a high flood that has risen with another 1 m., in only 10 days. The Danube water whose flow on the Romanian territory was of 14,500 cu.m./sec, along its course, by gathering the waters of its tributaries and of rainfalls, has considerably risen in its middle course, starting from Turnu Severin; it is expected that the water level rises still more in the lower portion towards its course to the Black Sea, but without overflowing the levels and the resistance power of the erected embankments. This situation calls for greater attention, and permanent supervision all along the 1,012 km. of embankment. Scores of thousands of people are engaged in what is called today "the great battle with the Danube", untiringly working for the consolidation of the existing reinforcements, for heightening them wherever necessary, for repairing the cracks caused by waves. It is a massiv confrontation between two forces, a confrontation from which man must most definitively come out triumphant.

Although on its way the high flood, surpassing all the Danube levels known until now, has flooded the majority of the riparian ports, there is every premise for the battle to be won. Wherever the highflood has passed - at the Iron Gates, Turnu Severin, Calafat, Corabia and Turnu Măgurele - as well as in other important hydrometrical points, the threatening wave has found the people on duty. The embankments successfully resisted the pressure of waters, in spite of the fact that there were some infiltrations, etc. There still is a distance of one metre from the maximum level of the river up to the safety coping of the embankments, able to resist any surprise. But the Danube still threatens 18 towns and 30 communes having very important buildings, namely the shipyards and other important industrial enterprises and port installations, as well as 400,000 hectares of dammed agricultural land.

As much water will still flow on the Danube until the total disappearance of the danger, the local commissions for protection against floods, special teams set up in each locality, are permanently watching the evolution of the high flood all along the Danube course towards the Black Sea.

EARTH SLIDES - ANOTHER NATURAL CALAMITY IN

ROMANIA

A disquieting phenomenon is occurring in some counties of Romania which, this spring, have already been affected by serious floods, namely earth slides which endanger houses, socio-cultural establishments, deteriorate forests and agricultural crops, causing in this way further material damages besides those suffered previously following the overflows.

Being in fact another natural calamity, the earth slides are caused by the selfsame factor which generated the floods, namely the huge quantity of precipitations fallen on most of the country's territory.

By their consequences, these earth slides are somehow related to those caused by seismic phenomena: hundreds of houses and public buildings have collapsed, and many others have been damaged; communication means have been deteriorated and important damages of an economic nature have been caused. Fortunately, however there is a difference: these earth slides occur slowly and consequently, no human victim was registered.

Particularly affected by this unexpected calamity are the localities sited in the hilly regions in the radius of Bacău county - where, according to data so far, over 640 houses have been destroyed - and in Vrancea county - where over 220 houses and public buildings have collapsed. In a hilly region in Moldova, the phenomenon provoked the displacement of scores of hectares of forests. A whole village - Lacu lui Baban - has to be rubbed off the map of Vrancea county. In that village, 182 houses collapsed in a few days. The new buildings of the school and of the townhall, which have not yet been inaugurated, suffered irreparable "frac-

tures". That village can no longer be rebuilt on the same place, because there the soil "flows" like a "cold lava". But the villagers who now provisionally live in tents the same as the citizens in the flood-stricken localities, will be effectively supported by authorities to rebuild on new grounds their destroyed houses.

PARDON GRANTED TO PERSONS IN THE FLOODED AREAS

The State Council of the Socialist Republic of Romania has issued a decree concerning the pardon granted to persons sentenced to imprisonment, to fines or infringement penalties, living in the counties suffering the consequences of the natural calamity, and whose houses are seriously damaged.

The pardon granted to persons under less severe punishment with imprisonment, to some persons punished with fines, as well as the non-execution of penalties for some offences offer the possibility to those who were granted pardon to return to their homes and to contribute to the doing away with the effects of the calamity.

Those condemned to pay some fines should be able by the granting of pardon to concentrate their material efforts on re-making their personal assets that were damaged.

The endorsement of this decree is an act of humaneness and a moral support given by the Romanian State to the families of those sentenced, heavily tried by the recent calamity.

GREAT HUMAN SOLIDARITY

The floods occurred in Romania in the second half of May 1970 - and which have not even now, early June, come to an end - seem to be the biggest natural catastrophe known in Europe. Above the unprecedented dimensions of the cold and destructive waves rose the incandescent tide of human solidarity which protectingly surrounded those who were hard hit in everything they held dear - life, children, home and their work place, streets and alleys along which they walked every day, the fields that gave them their bread, the whole normal course of life suddenly disturbed.

The whole country rallied in tremendous tension to heal the wounds caused by this unexpected calamity, to put again on a normal course the disturbed existence, to start up again the machines that were brought to a stand-still by the mud, the soil drowned in waters. These last few weeks will certainly leave in the memory of the Romanian people not only numberless horrors caused by the onrushing waters, but especially the infinitely more examples of abnegation and anonymous heroism given calmly and with lucidity by young and old, by workers and intellectuals, civilians and soldiers, who in an unprecedented effort reduced as far as possible the losses of human lives and of material assets. An extreme effort of organization and efficiency started from a vital centre from the leadership of this country and taken up at the same **high** tension by the local bodies of state power made possible that the large-scale rescue activity and of preventing other catastrophes be inscribed in precise and efficient coordinates, be supported by tremendous material means, all of them systematically concentrated and guided.

Besides the relief measures taken by the Romanian State, of which we have already informed, the population

in the flood-stricken regions receive warm support from all corners of the country. For these people, donation payments have been made in the well-known account CEC 2,000 to the amount of 40 million lei by citizens in towns and villages, and even in the regions that were affected by the floods. Tons of clothing and household goods offered by the citizens from all over the country are sent and operatively distributed where the greatest need for them is felt. Men of art and culture take part with their means in this big relief work - painters and sculptors organize exhibitions and donate works, writers donate their works, actors and musicians give shows and concerts to help the homeless.

An exemplary expression of solidarity of the whole country with the affected regions is the huge movement of support and re-building of the damaged factories and mills, some of them to a very great extent. Tens of highly trained experts, technicians and workers from other regions of the country went to these places to help repair the damages, to start up again the destroyed plant, accompany machines, equipment and raw materials sent by kindred units from the regions that were not affected by the floods. Finished products and raw materials degraded by the waters - especially in the textile industry - were sent to various enterprises in the country for reconditioning. A solidary effort is being made throughout Romania to reduce the damages, to compensate the losses caused by the big calamity to the country's industry and agriculture, to its whole economy.

In these last few weeks of utmost tension of all its physical and spiritual forces the Romanian people has received heartfelt proofs of friendship and sympathy from all the corners of the world, expressed in moving telegrams sent to its leadership, to its public organizations, by governments, political figures and organizations from abroad.

In the desire to ease as much as possible the difficulties she goes through these days, Romania has received most varied relief for the homeless population, donations in money, clothing, tents and blankets, building materials, equipment and spare parts, transport means, food and medicines. The Red Cross societies of 30 countries have donated, by the end of May, relief to the value of four million Swiss francs. Under the aegis of the League of Red Cross Societies large actions were organized for relief to children in the flood-stricken regions of Romania, initiated by the International Child Welfare Union. Important donations in money, objects and materials were offered to Romania in token of warm solidarity by governments, organizations, economic firms and citizens of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, West Berlin, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, the People's Republic of China, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Iceland, India, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, the Korean Democratic People's Republic, the Lebanon, Malta, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, the USSR, the USA, the Vatican, Venezuela and Yugoslavia, as well as by a big number of international organizations. Various donations were received from members of the Bucharest embassies of Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, the People's Republic of China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, Greece, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Korean Democratic People's Republic, the Mongolian People's Republic, the Netherlands, Pakistan, the Republic of Peru, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, the USA, the USSR and Yugoslavia, as well as from

students from Ethiopia, Morocco and other African countries, Iraq, the Vietnam Democratic Republic and Yemen, who are studying in Romania. These relief actions continue and the gifts arrive without delay at their destination.

The Romanian people convey heartfelt thanks to all those who, beyond the country's borders, supported in these days of heavy trial, by warm words of confidence and optimism, by concrete help. It considers that these are expressions of the esteem and sympathy aroused in the world by the consistent policy promoted by the Romanian State, policy of friendship and cooperation with all nations, of international peace and understanding.

GOOD STATE OF HEALTH OF THE POPULATION OF THE

ROMANIAN FLOOD-STRICKEN ZONES

Interviewed by an Agerpres reporter about the health condition of the population in the flood-stricken areas, Dr. Dan Enăchescu, Minister of Health of Romania, stated the following:

In spite of the special situation created in the flood-stricken zones, just as throughout the country, no breaking out of epidemics or epidemic hotbeds have been recorded so far. The general state of health of the population affected by the calamity is good. It is not different from that registered in the relevant period of the previous years. The situation created by floods did not require quarantine measures or other emergency actions, neither for the foreign tourists visiting Romania, nor for the numerous Romanian citizens passing through the afflicted zones. In fact, the hospital places made available in the flood-stricken areas, as well as in their immediate vicinity, continue to be unused.

The prophylactic orientation which characterized the entire activity of health protection in Romania has proved also its special value in the case of calamity which has stricken regions of Romania, - the Minister of Health stressed, mentioning that the preventive measures taken were included in this ample programme of health protection, a programme aiming at the prevention of diseases for a wide period of time. The respondent also pointed to the selfless and conscious work done by the entire sanitary staff, as well as the active and conscious participation of the population in the application of the sanitary measure.

TOURIST SEASON OPENS IN ROMANIA

Professor A.Sobaru, Chairman of the National Travel Office, stated the following to an AGERPRES reporter in connection with the opening on June 1st of the tourist season in Romania.

In the mountain areas as well as along the Black Sea coast we expect to have a busy season with an important touristic traffic. Last year 1.8 million foreigners visited Romania. This year contracts were concluded with over 400 foreign travel companies and agencies. Optimum conditions have also been created to meet the current bookings from people travelling on their own, especially from motoring tourists.

All resorts in Romania are ready, from all points of view, to receive their guests. The over 400,000 foreign tourists who came to Romania since the beginning of this year, as well as the well-nigh 250,000 who announced their forthcoming arrival, can see by themselves the optimum conditions offered by the Romanian resorts for holidaymakers. Over 20,000 foreign tourists announced their arrival in Romania by June 1st. Most of the tourists come to Romania this week have reached the country by air. Both the airport at Otopeni (Bucharest) and at Constanța (for the sea coast) provide the best services to tourists. Special measures have been taken for the motoring tourists come of late and those to arrive the next few days. At all frontier points personnel of the National Travel Office bureaux are present to ensure the necessary technical assistance as well as advice to drivers along best roads. Some changes of itineraries are of a temporary character and will not interfere with the tourist schedule.

Romania ensures now good tourist transport by air—a transport means which is mostly preferred. The Otopeni

airport - one of the most up-to-date in Europe - has a passenger turnover capable of handling 1.2 million passengers, and this turnover may be extended to some four million passengers. At the same time, the airports of the country's main tourist centres - Constanța, Suceava, Arad, Timișoara, Cluj and Tîrgu Mureș - have been modernized allowing for an intensive international traffic. We have at present a network of over 10,000 km. of modernized road ranking Romania from this point of view as well among the countries with proper tourist facilities. The tourists to come this year to Romania will be able to see novelties also in this field, including a highroad built on altitude - a genuine work of art, unique in Europe - in the vicinity of the building site at the Iron Gates, as well as the first portions of the modern motorways Bucharest-Pitești, Bucharest-Snagov, and Mamaia-Constanța-Mangalia.

A diversification of arrangements offered by the National Travel Office in 1970 is intended. The programmes for 100 excursions we will offer to foreign visitors in the mountain resorts or on the seaside have been drawn up. We intend to arrange trips to the churches in North Moldova, along the Argeș Valley and the Olt Valley ending with visits to two large hydropower stations: the one on the Argeș and the other on the Lotru; new itineraries for excursions will also be included in the schedules: the churches in Maramureș, in North Oltenia - an area of rare beauty -, along the Brașov route, Bran, Cîmpulung-Muscel, Curtea de Argeș and Bucharest, as well as to the Ceahlău, Apuseni, Făgăraș and other mountains. Moreover, we will arrange this year more excursions by air and more cruises from the littoral to Istanbul, Cairo, Varna, Kiev, etc.

These programmes and arrangements are tied up with existing accommodation conditions. From the end of season last year until now, about 30 hotels, motels and chalets with a total accommodation capacity for some 6,700, have been

made available in all the counties of Romania, and especially in the areas of more intensive tourist traffic. The foreign visitor come to Romania will find new hotels already commissioned or under way of being turned over for occupancy in Bacău, Jassy, Suceava, Pitești, Craiova, Turnu Severin, Arad, Cluj, Oradea, Timișoara, etc. Motoring tourists may benefit by over 200 camping grounds along the main tourists routes. Consequently, we are in a position to provide at any moment sufficient accommodation capacity, irrespective of the amount of requests - the Chairman of the the National Travel Office said in conclusion.

HX 632 A1 W9 NO-644
WORLD COMMUNISM IN THE 20TH
CENTURY A COLLECTION OF
PAMPHLETS ACCOMPANIED BY A
39268382 HSS



000003983855

HX 632 A1 W9 no.644
World communism in the 20th
century.

0172047A MAIN

644

