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THE FIFTH CONGRESS OF CONSUMER
COOPERATIVES OF ROMANIA

Speech Made by Nicolae Ceaușescu

MEETING OF BASIC CADRES
OF SECURITY, MILITIA,
PROCURATOR'S OFFICE AND JUSTICE

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THE FIFTH CONGRESS OF CONSUMER COOPERATIVES OF ROMANIA

Part and parcel of the country's system of socialist economy, the consumer cooperative of Romania makes an important contribution to supplying the rural population with industrial products and other merchandises, to better turning to account the farm produce, to increasing the central stock of farm-food produce, to intensifying economic exchanges between village and town, to rendering services for the peasantry.

Including more than seven million members — over one third of the country's population — the consumer cooperative of Romania is a strong mass organization of the peasantry. As member of the Socialist Unity Front, it actively participates in socialist construction and to the steady perfecting of socialist democracy.

The 29,000 retail and public catering cooperative units are selling now in villages about one third of the commodities sold by the whole socialist trade network.

The consumer cooperative network in the villages sold last year four times more t.v. sets and refrigerators, over twice more washing machines and electro-technical articles, almost twofold more furniture than in 1963. The sales through public catering units also increased in the same period by 79 per cent, while those of foodstuffs from their own produce, by 2.3 times. No less than 54 million books were sold in the villages through the consumer cooperative in the last six years.

The volume of farm-food produce, bought by the cooperative from the peasants for the central fund, has increased in 1969 by almost 60 per cent over 1963.

There are at present over 20,000 service units in the country's villages. They perform over 150 kinds of services: dressmaking and tailoring, shoemaking, barber shops and hairdressers, repair of various electrical household goods. The volume of services in the villages per capita has grown three times in the last five years.

The 972 credit cooperatives have given loans worth 2.6 thousand million lei.

The volume of sales through cooperative units are to grow at an average annual rate of six per cent in

the 1971—1975 period. A sustained growth rhythm will also be witnessed by the contract—purchase volume, while the services volume will be twofold bigger than in 1966—1970.

In 1969 the value of exported products was twofold that of 1963. Nowadays, the products of the consumer cooperatives are sent to over 40 countries.

As a member of the International Cooperative Alliance, the Central Union of Consumer Cooperatives of the Socialist Republic of Romania actively supports the idea of steadily broadening and strengthening the cooperative movement, of developing the links of cooperation among all cooperative organizations in the world, irrespective of the social system of the countries where they carry on their activity, observing the principles of national independence and sovereignty, of fully equal rights, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual advantage.



The proceedings of the Fifth Congress of Consumer Cooperatives of the Socialist Republic of Romania took place in Bucharest over April 9—10. The proceedings were attended by 2,000 delegates, representing over seven million members of consumer cooperatives all over the country, representatives of the International Cooperative Alliance and representatives of the cooperative organizations from Austria, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Chinese People's Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, France, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Hungarian People's Republic, Italy, Jordan, the Korean Democratic People's Republic, Mauritius, the Polish People's Republic, Sweden, the United Arab Republic, the USSR, and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The Fifth Congress of the Consumer Cooperatives of Romania examined: the activity carried on since the last Congress held in 1963; the proposals concerning the working out of the draft bill on the organization and functioning of the consumer cooperatives in the Socialist Republic of Romania; modifications to the rules of the consumer cooperative organizations of Romania.

Dumitru Bejan was elected as Chairman of the Central Union of the Consumer Cooperatives, Ioan Bucşa

Iosif Popa and Francis Tapoş as Vice-Chairmen. Ion Smedescu was appointed General Secretary of CEN-TROCOOP.

Nicolae Ceauşescu, General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, made a speech at the Congress proceedings.

Pointing out that the Fifth Congress of the Consumer Cooperatives takes place in the conditions when the entire Romanian people channels its efforts towards the implementation of the present Five-Year Plan targets, towards the materialization of the vast programme mapped out by the Tenth Party Congress with a view to building the many-sidedly developed socialist society, the speaker stressed that the dynamism of the national economy of socialist Romania is reflected in the successful fulfilment, every year, of the economic plans, in the high rates of growth of all economic branches. The Plan for the first quarter of this year has been fulfilled 101.5 per cent in industry as a whole, and above-plan products to the value of one thousand million lei have been turned out. Compared with the same period of last year, gross industrial output went up, in the first quarter, by 13.3 per cent, while labour productivity by 9.2 per cent. The investments plan for these three months of the year was realized 102.4 per cent.

Parallel to the successes won in the constant development of economy, the national income has been growing, the accumulations of socialist society have increased and, on this basis, the living standard of the people has risen. As a result, especially of the wage rises for all categories of employees and the generalization of the new, experimental wage scheme, the population's earnings from the socialist sector have been by 11.6 per cent higher in the first quarter of this year than in the same period of last year. Commodity sales through the socialist trading network were by 1.8 thousand million lei more in the three months of this year than in the first quarter of 1969.

A series of measures have been carried through, which entailed a deepening of democracy in economic and social life, an increasingly firm promotion of the principles of socialist equity, an intensified participation of the mass of working people in running the state affairs and in the entire social life of the homeland.

Recalling the fact that within the general concern for the flourishing of socialist society, the Party and the State permanently pay particular attention to the economic and social advancement of the countryside and to the improvement of the working and living conditions of the entire peasantry, the speaker said that, in carrying through this policy, the consumer cooperatives have the duty to contribute to a better turning to account of farm produce, to the rural population's supply with industrial products, to the intensification of the economic exchange between the village and the town. The consumer cooperatives also play an increasingly important role in the formation of the central stock of agricultural produce destined to the population's consumption requirements, to the supply of industry with agricultural raw material as well as to the meeting of further requirements of economy.

Stressing the achievements registered by the consumer cooperatives, the speaker referred also to the shortcomings still manifest in their activity, in respect of supplies of the villages with industrial products, of providing services to the population, of selling the extra produce of the peasant farms, as well as in respect of economic and financial activity. In this connection he pointed to the necessity for the consumer cooperative organizations to ensure an as rational as possible sale of the commodity stock they possess, the distribution of products per zones and communes in keeping with the population's requirements; to see to it that low quality goods be not accepted in the trade network; to ensure a prompt and civilized manner of services, to display more initiative in promoting new, more flexible and efficient patterns of commodity sales, while taking account also of a series of traditions in this country.

The consumer cooperatives — the speaker further said — must focus their preoccupations on the purchase of increased amounts of farm-food produce from the peasant holdings, and a better selling of the extra produce of the farmers.

The consumer cooperatives are in duty bound also to organize the industrialization and semi-industrialization of farm-food produce, to expand their production activity, completing in this way the commodity resources with new assortments. Special attention must also be paid to the production of folk art items.

Referring to the obligation of the cooperative units to ensure the administration of the commonly-owned

property with heightened responsibility and efficiency, the speaker pointed out the necessity for a more active manifestation of the cooperative members' control over the administration of the cooperatives' property and for most firm actions against those who waste or steal from the commonly-owned property.

A guarantee of the successful implementation of the tasks incumbent on the consumer cooperatives, of their enhanced role and contribution in economic and social life — the speaker said — is to expand cooperative democracy, to stimulate an increasingly active participation of the millions of cooperative members in public government, in the entire activity of the cooperatives, in running our socialist state.

Stressing the obligations of the consumer cooperatives, the socialist trade network and the people's councils to ensure the supply of the villages, of the peasantry under best of conditions, the speaker mentioned the fact that within the 1971—1975 Five-Year Plan, which is to be submitted for debate and approval to the Party's Central Committee and the Grand National Assembly, envisaged are augmented tasks also for the consumer cooperatives; there will be a higher volume of products sold through the cooperative trading network, the assortments of commodities will be diversified and particular development will be witnessed by services.

At the same time, it is necessary to intensify the activity of sales of farm produce, which contributes to increased earnings and greater welfare of the peasantry.

In the last section of his speech, Nicolae Ceaușescu said:

While concerning themselves with the constant improvement of the activity of socialist construction in Romania, our Party and Government are intensively promoting, at the same time, an active policy of developing friendship and cooperation with all the socialist countries, many-sided links and exchanges with all states, irrespective of social-political system, based on the principles that have won increasingly broad recognition in international life, namely of national sovereignty and independence, non-interference in internal affairs, equal rights and mutual advantage.

Romania consistently acts along this line convinced as she is that this contributes to expanded international collaboration and cooperation, to the establishment of a climate of understanding, security and peace in Europe and the world over.

It is in the spirit of this policy that our consumer cooperatives, too, should continue acting, steadily expanding their links with the kindred cooperative organizations of the socialist countries and of all the countries in the membership of the International Cooperative Alliance, developing the world exchanges of experience of cooperatives, promoting forms and methods of cooperation to facilitate both exchanges of produce between national unions and a better mutual acquaintance, and strengthen friendship between peoples.

There is no doubt that by expanding and intensifying their collaboration, the cooperative organizations of all countries may provide a valuable contribution to the development of understanding and cooperation among peoples, to ensuring peace and international security.

MEETING OF BASIC CADRES OF SECURITY, MILITIA, PROCURATOR'S OFFICE AND JUSTICE

The proceedings of the meeting of the basic cadres employed in Security, Militia, Procurator's Office and Justice of the Socialist Republic of Romania, took place in Bucharest, over April 6—9. The activity carried on by these bodies for preventing and combating offences and anti-social manifestations was reviewed on the occasion.

Stress was laid during the debates within the meeting on the unanimous resolve of the basic cadres, of all the employees of Security, Militia, Justice and Procurator's Office, to act consistently for the observance of socialist legality, of the norms of socialist community life, for preventing and combating offences and other anti-social manifestations, for strengthening public order, the development of mass socialist opinion, the enthronement in social life of the Party and State's principles of ethics and equity.

Nicolae Ceaușescu, General Secretary of the Romanian Communist Party, President of the State Council, took the floor in conclusion of the meeting's proceedings.

After having shown that the Militia, Security, Procurator's Office and Justice — bodies of the working people and socialist state's power — are aimed at defending the revolutionary gains of the people, state socialist and cooperative property, at watching for the observance of the norms of the socialist system and of the country's laws, the speaker said :

"In 1969, compared with previous years, the number of infringements were considerably reduced. The damages caused to public property have particularly diminished, being over 50 per cent lower in 1969 compared with 1967. Nevertheless, infringements are still numerous, and the damages caused to public property still account for tens of millions of lei annually".

After having referred to the necessity for a more firm combating of some manifestations of hooliganism and violation of the norms of community life as well as of some manifestations of social parasitism from those wishing to lead their existence without working or to increase their personal incomes by dishonest means, the speaker went on to say:

"An analysis of the state of infringement and of the activity of the State bodies called to ensure socialist order and legality entitles us to draw the conclusion that, these last few years, we witnessed an improvement in the state of affairs in this domain.

"Generally speaking we can say that the state of mind of the citizens of our homeland is good. This is manifest in the unanimous support given by the people to the home and foreign policy of the Party and State, in the results registered by the working people in implementing the targets of the State plan.

"The activity carried on by the State bodies called to safeguard the revolutionary gains and the peaceful work of the people enjoys the powerful support of the broad people's masses. Following consistent actions for the steady strengthening of the socialist order and legality, a series of norms were adopted of late, meant to contribute to the improvement of social organization". In this context, the speaker mentioned the improvement of economic management and planning, and, in the respective framework, the measures for improving the activity of the bodies of Security, Militia, Procurator's Office and Justice. "Characteristic of all these measures for improving our social life, — the speaker said — is the ever broader drawing of working people in solving the problems". In this connection the speaker pointed out the broad cooperation of the militia, security, and frontier guard bodies with the patriotic guards and the youth military training detachments.

"In drawing the people's masses to support the activity of the state bodies" — Nicolae Ceaușescu went on to say — "we proceed from the fact that the defence of socialist order and property is a patriotic obligation of the entire people, that only with the active and organized support of the people can the State bodies implement, in the best of conditions, the tasks they were entrusted with.

The fact that people violating the laws of the State or disregarding the norms of ethics, of social equity

and justice still exist in our society, is greatly due to some backward mentalities still prevailing, but also to shortcomings and mistakes in our activity. The fight against the violation of the norms of community life must be regarded as a problem concerning all Party and State bodies, the entire socialist society".

In this connection the speaker pointed out that a more intense preoccupation is necessary for all citizens to be drawn in work and social activity and, at the same time, firm measures for strengthening order and discipline in production. Required is also a sustained preoccupation for better material services to the working people and an improved cultural activity, with a greater attention being paid, on the one hand to the manufacturing of consumer goods and, on the other hand, to civilized services to the working people.

The speaker pointed out the necessity for a radical improvement of the educational-political activity among the masses, for every measure to be taken for a better use, to this end, of the educational means society possesses, such as radio, television, the press, the book, the theatre, cinema and the other arts, mass artistic activity a.s.o. "One has to see to it that the educational contents of the works of art, of the radio and television programmes, of films and of other artistic events be more directly channelled towards the moulding of socialist consciousness, the combating of some negative state of affairs in society, that all this should contribute to a greater extent to the promotion of the advanced outlook on world and life, to the socialist education of the working people".

"Permanent concern must be shown for the creation of a powerful mass opinion against any anti-social manifestations, against those violating the norms of socialist community life. The speaker further spotlighted the necessity for a better organization and intensification of public control in all spheres of activity, in order to prevent a series of manifestations prejudicing various sectors, and finally, the society in general.

In connection with the activity of the State bodies called to take repressive measures against those eluding the norms and laws of society, President Nicolae Ceaușescu said that their role is of actively participating in the carrying through of all measures for education and for preventing the state of infringement. The Militia, Security, Procurator's Office and Justice must

closely cooperate with the other State and public bodies under the guidance of the Party bodies and organizations, participate in the entire activity meant to combat by every means — both organizational and educational — the anti-social manifestations.

In this respect, the speaker stressed the necessity for the State bodies to attach a greater attention to the thorough acquaintance of all the citizens of the homeland with the laws, to explain them periodically, at least annually, the contents and meaning of laws and of decisions, the way in which one has to act in order to observe them.

Special attention must be paid to the discussion at the work place with those who violated the law or have committed various infringements, by organizing the trial of those guilty of such infringements at the very work place or in the districts or villages they live in, making public the sentences passed and the measures taken — this being a way for promoting socialist legality and an important form of mass education, of mobilising public opinion against those who violate the law.

President Nicolae Ceaușescu called on the Security bodies to give proof of greater combativity against any manifestation affecting the interests of our socialist system. Our Security bodies must be merciless with declassed elements capable of taking to sabotage or espionage actions, of placing themselves in the service of the enemy, of the imperialist circles, of betraying their people. We refer to this — he said — not because the activity of such elements could be a danger for our society, for the security of our socialist State. Our socialist system is powerful, is invincible; it is based on the boundless devotion and the unanimous attachment to the cause of socialism of the millions of working people in towns and villages, on our whole people's boundless love of the homeland and confidence in the Party. I have referred to this because we have the permanent obligation to prevent even the smallest prejudice being brought to our socialist society, to the interests of the working people — the builders of socialism.

Referring to the necessity of great attention to be paid for keeping and defending State secret, the speaker recalled that in the present conditions when some foreign circles persist and will persist in trying to take possession of some secret documents, to know the strictly

internal activity of State bodies, the Security bodies are obliged to firmly watch that all the units of the State apparatus, all economic and social organizations strictly observe the laws and the stipulations for keeping State secret.

Asking the Militia to intensify its activity against those who steal from the commonly-owned property, against those committing such infringements undermining commonly-owned property, most resolute actions must be taken — the speaker said: nobody in our society must venture to steal or to prejudice under any form the commonly-owned property.

It is the duty of the Militia bodies to more actively help the citizens, victims of some declassed elements.

The Procurator's Office and Justice are obliged to closely cooperate with the Militia and the Security for taking measures in defence of commonly-owned property, of the revolutionary gains and the peaceful work of the people., of giving proof of more exigency in applying legal punishments to those who ignore the country's order and laws.

Recalling that the Party and Government have taken measures in order to put an end to abuses and illegalities, the speaker said that everything must be done that those who are not guilty should not be subjected to any punishment. At the same time if those guilty are unpunished this also means an abuse and an illegality, also means a violation of the law. The struggle for the observance of socialist legality means the firm application of the country's laws in any circumstance.

In connection with the attention that has to be paid to preventive measures the speaker said that the special State bodies should consider that they acted well only if they succeeded in preventing offences and anti-social manifestations.

In improving the activity of the Security bodies, of the Militia, the Procurator's Office and Justice, the speaker said, a great responsibility is incumbent on the communists working in these sectors, on the Party organisations within these bodies, on all the Party bodies and organisations that must organise and lead the whole activity of combating anti-social manifestations, of mobilising the large people's masses and creating a strong public opinion against all those who infringe upon the country's laws.

These problems must permanently focus the attention of people's councils and national bodies, starting with the Party's Central Committee.

In concluding, President Nicolae Ceaușescu appreciated the activity of the Security, Militia, Procurator's Office and Justice, stressing that by the measures taken of late all conditions have been created for them to carry on a still better activity, to implement all the important tasks incumbent on them.

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