

# Hungary's intellectuals appeal to Romanians

*"Freedom is in Common, Appeal to Romanian Intellectuals": Under this headline, the Budapest daily Magyar Menzset (Hungarian Nation) published on Feb. 7 an appeal by Hungarian intellectuals to their Romanian colleagues. Below are extracts of the text, translated from the French version provided by Hungarians living in France.*

. . . The Hungarian and Romanian peoples must no longer confront or compete with each other. Let us listen to this message from the past by Avram Iancu: "The Hungarian people cannot, neither today nor in the future, speak without the Romanian one, no more than the Romanian without the Hungarian." And let us listen to Lajos Kossuth, who said that Hungarians and Romanians "will find a better future in fraternal union."

This better future is still to come: We must build the road that leads there in common. The tyranny marked by Ceausescu's name used low and brutal means to ensure that the Hungarian and Romanian peoples could never unify: In the vile arsenal of those means, are found the manipulations to kindle Great Romanian chauvinism and xenophobia, as well as the destruction of the national identity of the Hungarians of Transylvania.

It was all Europe's good fortune that these plans failed and that all the peoples of Romania—Romanian and Hungarian—stood up together to win their common freedom. The Hungarians of Transylvania must have their share of this common freedom, not only as individuals, but also as an ethnic, historical, and cultural community. This is also what is prescribed by the decisions of the Great Romanian gathering of Guylafehervar as well as the Helsinki Final Act of 1975. Both desire to regulate the coexistence of peoples on the basis of the right to self-determination. As a result of this we must ensure that the Hungarians of Transylvania have their own institutions, that their mother tongue be reestablished in all domains of public life and society, and that they may develop their culture in their own schools and cultural institutions. . . .

We are very worried in saying all of this, because we receive reports from Romania according to which, still today, national and local political forces are denying rights to the Hungarians who live there. At the same time, those who wish to keep the barriers erected under the tyrannical regime even after the victory of the revolution, wish to impede the Hungarians from recovering their schools. Since the Romanian people's rights will no longer be complete if the rights of national minorities cannot be exercised, it would be impor-

tant that Romanian intellectuals unite to pronounce themselves in favor of the exercise, in full liberty, of the rights of minorities, and that they not be abused by those who are trying to safeguard their privileges—obtained thanks to the good graces of tyranny—masquerading as champions of Romanian national sovereignty.

## Let dialogue begin

Our revolutions, in 1956 and 1989, link us together. Between these two historic dates an entire generation has passed, a very harsh period of the common history of our peoples. There are many things which we must take up again from scratch, and in this process we must acknowledge the past: our common past, and each one's own past. In this re-beginning, let us hear the counsels of Avram Iancu, of Nicolae Balcescu, of Lajos Kossuth, and of Lajos Mocsary, who represented the interests of the Romanians of Hungary and the National Assembly of 100 years ago. They expressed the message of this freedom, which is one and indivisible, the reason why it is the rightful property of all nations and of all national minorities.

In order to discuss our common problems and in the interest of our common future, we propose that dialogue begin between Hungarian and Romanian intellectuals: as soon as possible, alternating in a Hungarian and a Romanian city. It will be the mission of our encounters and our exchange of views, to realize our common hopes, under which banner we can open a new page in the common history of our peoples.

*The signators' names follow (for reasons of space, only the English translations of their affiliations are given, except for periodicals):* Gabor Albert, secretary, Hungarian Protestant Cultural Association; Andras Baka, Trade Union Grouping of Intellectuals; György Beke, writer; Kalman Benda, president, Cis-Carpathian Circle; Imre Csepella, managing director, Transylvanian Alliance; Miklós Czenthe, Rakoczi Association; Laszlo Dura, manager, *Szoszolo*; Arpad Goncz, president, Union of Hungarian Journalists; Andras B. Hegedus, secretary, Committee for Historical Truth; Tamas Kipke, editor of *Uj Ember*; Ferenc Kun, Rakoczi Association; Gusztav Lang, university professor; Laszlo Lukacs, editor in chief, *Vigilia*; Andras Nagy-Balo, professor; Csaba Nagy-Balo, professor; Geza Nemeth, pastor, Reformed Church; Istvan Oszi, political scientist; Bela Pomogats, co-chairman, Committee of Sponsors, Conference of the Mother Tongue; Tamas Jozsef Remenyi, editor in chief, *Magyar Naplo*; Laszlo Ronay, principal collaborator, *Vigilia*; Elek Selmeczi, Rakoczi Association; Ferenc Szakaly, secretary general, Hungarian History Society; Imre Szokai, chief columnist, *Tiszataj*; Attila Toth, spokesman, Union of Scientific Workers; Miklos Vasarhelyi, president, Committee for Historical Truth; Tamas Zala, member, executive committee, Jewish Hungarian Cultural Association; Tibor Zimanyi, president, Recs Alliance.