RUMANIA OF YESTERDAY AND TODAY

After the end of the World War II great changes have taken place in Rumania, liberated from the fascist yoke by the Soviet Army. In the past, Rumania was known as one of the most backward countries both from the economic and social-cultural standpoint. Poverty, diseases, illiteracy were widely spread among the working strata of the population as a consequence of the deep social inequality characteristic of the Rumanian society of that time and the bloody exploitation to which Rumania was subjected by the foreign trusts.

Every landlord possessed on an average 2,000 times more land than the working peasant. The King possessed not less than 15,000 hectares of arable land, and 137,000 hectares of wood where tens of thousands of hungry peasants were toiling.

There was a similar condition in industry. The whole big industry was either directly in the hands of the foreign trusts, or in the hands of a group of big Rumanian industrialists, closely connected with those trusts. Out of 16 great enterprises which possessed 94% of the total output of oil, only three had Rumanian capital and they controlled only 6.7% of the total output of oil. What the exploitation of the Rumanian industry by the foreign capital has meant is testified by the fact that within 40 years, the "Racimo-Americana" company, a branch of the American trust "Standard Oil", succeeded in making fabulous profits that it increased its capital by 3,500 times.

The capitalist trusts not only plundered the riches of the country but they consciously hampered the development of the main branches of industry, limiting
it to the development of the extractive industry as in the colonial countries and striving to maintain our country in the position of a grain and raw material producing country of an "essentially agricultural" country - as they called it. Commenting upon the economic treaty concluded with the hitlerite Germany in 1939, a typical colonialist treaty which limited the development of the Romanian industry at the branches of oil, mining, wood and the working out of the agricultural products, the economist Virgil Madgearu wrote: "If the evolution of industrialization follows this normal course, no conflict of interests will appear between the Romanian economy and the national economies of the Big industrialized States". In the opinion of that economist, the "normal course" meant that Romania should continue to be an agrarian hinterland of the western powers.

From a few examples one can obviously see which were the effects of that political course upon the workers and peasants of our country: while the exploitation of labour deepened, the wages lowered and the dismissals followed in close succession. Only during the crisis years of 1929-1932 over 500,000 unemployed were wandering along the town streets. Between 1929-1933 the already low wages of the workers in Romania were reduced by half. In the foregoing years of the World War II this state of things grew still worse.

Women and young people received far lower wages than men, despite the fact they did an equal work. The so-called "apprenticeship contracts", applied in the years after the World War I according to the directions of the Ministry of Labour, obliged the young workers to put forth the same effort as the old workers did, however they were conceded only the right of claiming for far lower wages than the elder workers. For example: In 1932-1934 at the oil exploitations of the Romina Americana company in the Prahova Valley, the young workers received a wage of 12 lei per day against 35 lei per day received by the elder workers, a wage that represented itself a poverty retribution.
Poisons, repressions, bullets,—this was the only answer given by the past regimes to all attempts made by the workers who asked their natural rights and the improvement of their condition. This was the case on December 13th 1918 in the National Theatre Square in Bucharest when numerous printing workers were killed during a peaceful demonstration; in 1929 when tons of miners were slaughtered in the mines of Iași; in 1933 when hundreds of workers from Crivita, railway workshops in Bucharest were killed and in many other actions organised by the most advanced elements of the working class.

At the same time the miserable condition of the working people in Romania is clearly pointed out by the following figures: Romania was unfortunately the first in Europe as regards illiteracy and mortality rate. The "Demographic Bulletin of Romania", an official document published in the past by the Institute of General Statistics of the Ministry of Interior ascertained that "the mortality rate attained in 1937 the level of 20 per thousand inhabitants." What concerns the mortality rate per thousand inhabitants— we are the first in Europe" was obliged to acknowledge "Dreptatea", newspaper of one of the so-called historical parties in Romania. "Neither the states which are more backward than ours, nor those which are poorer than ours, have such a high mortality rate as Romania". According to the official census of 1930, 43% of the country's population were illiterate. These data are obviously reduced. Nearly a quarter of the population consisted of Hungarians, Germans, Tartars, Jews, etc., and they were denied the access in the state apparatus, their activity in the field of national economy being hampered. In many cases Hungarian state officials from Transylvania were dismissed on the pretext that they had not taken their examination on the Romanian language. The exploitation of the working people and the national oppression went intensifying as more and more reactionary regimes, culminating with the legionar and Antonescu's dictatorship.—seized the
At the same time Romania was becoming a bridgehead for the Hitlerite aggression in Europe, against the Soviet Union and other eastern countries of Europe. The day of August 23rd, 1944 marks the starting point of the history of a new Romania; the working people became the master of the richness and destiny of their country, putting an end on December 30, 1947 to the last pillar of exploitation and national oppression.

Changes of historic importance have occurred in all economic branches of our country. In keeping with the will of the working people, in 1948 the Romanian Government nationalized the main industrial enterprises, banks and transport enterprises. This has served as a foundation to the further development of a planned economy. As early as the end of 1951 the industry of means of production attained 54.4% of the total value of the industrial output. The volume of industrial output in Romania is now about 2.5 times more than in 1938.

New industrial enterprises and electric power stations have been built in Romania during the years of the completion of the five-year plan (1951-1955) receiving a many-sided help from the Soviet Union. New branches of industry that had never existed in the past in our country such as the industries of tractors bearings, trucks of big capacity, chemical and pharmaceutical products, etc. have developed. The Soviet Union has helped us to set up and develop in our country our own industry for oil equipment, so that Romania is today the first example of a small country producing oil, which has succeeded in creating such an industry. Machinery, raw materials and technical advice received from the Soviet Union have been a most important factor in the work of rehabilitating the economy of Romania.
At present, great attention is paid to the development of consumer goods and food industry. All this has contributed to the fact that Romania which in the past was obliged to import at high prices even the simplest implements, has become itself a country exporting machines.

Together with the taking over of the industry in Romania by the people and together with its development, the creation of ever better labour conditions for the workers, the solicitude for the protection of their health and for the ceaseless rise of their technical and cultural level have become important state problems. The 8 hour working day in a reality guaranteed by law and achieved today in Romania and for some categories of hard work the State is ensuring a reduced program. In building new enterprises as in rehabilitating the existing ones, the requirements of labour safety and public health are taken into account. It should be mentioned that in the mines of Petrila, Anina, etc., new pneumatic and electric ventilators of great capacity have been introduced, air-conditioning services and rescue units in the mines have been created, the underground lighting has been extended, and large quantities of protective equipment were distributed, such as overalls, miners’ footwear, rubber-boots, miners’ packed caps, dust protecting macks, rubber clothes, wadded clothes, etc.

With a view to ensure the safety of work an institute and a station for mining experiences concerning the problem of the technique of exploding have been created.

With regard to health and medical assistance 39 underground health centres attended by hospital attendants have been set up, besides others, as well as 30
surface health centres attended by physicians, dispensaries for blood transfusions, sanitary care, ultra-violet rays (in Petrila) etc. Worth mentioning are also the labour conditions created in the "Casa Scinteii" Polygraphic Works, in "Gh. Georgiu-Dej" Clothing Factory and in so many other newly built factories as well as in numerous factories reconstructed and modernized after our liberation. A new attitude towards the work has developed within the working people in our country. This attitude is testified by the appearance of a great number of front-rank workers, innovators and rationalizers. These advanced workers consider as a honour and a patriotic deed the task of increasing production by means of advanced methods of work and using a higher technique. They are leading along the masses of workers to new successes in the struggle for increasing productivity of work and improving the quality of the products, applying the newest Soviet methods of work.

During 1953 the figure of frontrankers in production and of the innovators rose at 346,000. Only in the "23 August" metallurgical works in Bucharest, 90 innovating and rationalizing proposals have been put forward within a single month, November 1953, out of which 81 have already been put into practice bringing for the enterprise an annual economy of about one million lei.

Along with the development and transformation of industry, great changes have occurred in agriculture.

In 1945, an age-old dream of the working peasants has been fulfilled: land was taken from the hands of the landowners and given to the poor and middle peasants, 918,000 poor peasants have received 1,109,000 hectares of land. In addition, through a decision of the Government other 500,000 hectares of land from the State reserves have been distributed recently to the working peasants.
Hundredsof State farms (GAS) set up on the State-owned land have an important role in the development of agriculture in Rumania. Beside the fact that these units are yielding a higher qualitative and quantitative production, new sorts of plants and seeds as well as new methods of farming are studied and experienced, here, animal husbandry for reproduction is practised, selected seeds, etc. are supplied to the working peasants. An ever increasing number of working peasants in Rumania being convinced that only an agriculture on large fields, provided with mechanized means, could ensure the growth of the welfare at country side, have made up their minds to pass from the small, split individual farm, having a backward technique and being not lucrative, to the great mechanized collective farm giving a high productivity. 280,000 families of working peasants have united so far on the basis of voluntary agreement in 4300 collective farms and joint cultivation associations with a total area of 1,000,000 hectares. In 1953 the number of collective farms has increased by 202 and that of joint cultivation associations by 192. At the same time the people's democratic state is backing the peasants that have small and middle individual farms in order to achieve a high productivity of work.

In order to back the development of the agriculture as regards both the individual farms and the collective and state farms, the Government has taken a series of measures concerning the endowment of the agriculture with agricultural machines.

Under the people's power the agriculture has been endowed with thousands and thousands of tractors and agricultural machines, which constitute the technical basis for its upsurge. 220 machine-tractor stations (M.T.S.) have been created so far and they are hiring machines to the working peasants at a suitable price.
The government of the Romanian People's Republic has of late taken important measures for the further development of the agriculture for raising of the welfare of the working peasants. The production of tractors, machines and simple implements for agriculture has increased. Credits have been granted to the working peasants in order to buy machines and implements. Agricultural taxation has been reduced. The working peasants are widely co-interested in order to work better the land, to increase the vegetable and animal production to create plenty of agricultural products. Those working peasants who are giving an increased productivity are receiving in turn increased quantities of industrial goods. The workers in the town giving more industrial products are backing the measures in view of raising agricultural production. A great number of workers and technicians from town have voluntarily decided to go to the countryside to help the campaign of development of the agriculture.

As a result of the policy of the people's democratic state the life of the working people from town and countryside of Romania is ceaselessly improving. For example, in 1953 25.3% more goods were sold than in 1952. In the towns, last year, the consumption of food-stuffs has grown as regards previous year as follows: bread by 35%, flour by 3%, farinaceous paste by 3.8%, edible oil by 30%, tinned meat by 13%, rice by 32%, marmalade by 43% etc.

The working peasant is better nourished. Culture, art, science, medical assistance, sports are penetrating into the Romanian villages through all ways. In 1952 only, the working peasants received through the co-operative societies industrial goods in value of 6000 million lei, that is ten times more than in 1948. As compared with 1952 the quantity of industrial goods sold in the villages has grown still more in 1953: in 1953 20% more cotton werts have been sold, 4% more clothing, 73% more tiles, 19% more cement, 17% more...
timber, 39% more agricultural tools, a.s.o. In the last years hundreds and hundreds of villages were electrified.

Political and social rights of which one could never speak in old Romania were ensured the working people in Romania during the people's power. Today, the broad masses of the people are directly participating in leading the state through the people's councils, organs of the state power. In the last elections to the people's Councils of November 1953, 135,220 deputies were elected, out of whom 13.07% represent the national minorities. Today every paragraph of the constitution of the Rumanian People's Republic is put into operation.

The right to work has become possible through the steady and systematic growth of the productive forces through the elimination of the possibility of economic crises and doing away with unemployment. On the gates of the factories in Romania and along the columns of the newspapers one often meets today advertisements stating the claim for manpower. It was only during the years of planned economy that the number of workers and employees has grown on an average by over 200,000 annually. The people's democratic state not only guarantees the right to work but ensures the payment of the wages according to the quality and quantity of the work. The right to old age pension or pension for disability to work is also guaranteed.

Social insurance and protection of labour have been extended.

In 1953 only funds of over 1,160 million lei, that is over 170 million lei, more than in 1952 and in 1954, 1,582.5 million lei, an increase of 26.2%, as compared with 1953 were assigned in the budget of Romania. The medical assistance has become a reality;
the number of beds in hospitals, of polyclinics and health services have increased, the prices for medicines have been reduced.

The right to rest is another achievement scored during the regime of people's democracy, right guaranteed by the law of 8-hour working day for workers and employees. The working people in Rumania enjoy paid leaves. In 1953 only the number of people sent to vacations rose up to 445,000, - out of whom 118,000 were children - the expenses being paid by the State and Trade Unions.

There are rest homes of the Central Council of Trade Unions of the Rumanian People's Republic, of the Ministry of Health, a.s.o. in the most picturesque regions of the country where the working people rest enjoying favourable conditions of accommodation, canteens and entertainments.

The steady growing of natality rate and the decrease of mortality rate are a result of the rise of the living standards in our country.

For the last five years only the population of Rumania has grown by 1,062,000 inhabitants, much exceeding the rate of growth of population in the past.

In the Rumanian People's Republic equal pay for equal work is ensured to the working woman. The working women from plants and factories constitute outstanding examples of patriotic attitude towards work.

Last year, over 39,000 women employed in industry have distinguished themselves in production. During the same period over 28,000 women participated in the socialist emulation and over 36,000 women were trained in various branches of the national economy. At the same time women are actively participating in the governing of the State and public organizations. 66 women are now deputies to the Grand National Assembly and over 33,000
women are deputies to the people's councils. The Romanian state has granted orders and medals to more than 3,500 women appreciating their merits and successes obtained in the struggle for developing and strengthening the Fatherland. State ensures to the working women free medical assistance, hospitalisation for confinement, paid leave before and after confinement, allowances for birth and nursing. Thousands of day nurseries and seasonal kindergartens have been created where thousands of children of the working people are enjoying special care. In 1955 family allowances amounting at 70 million lei have been granted by the State to mothers of large families. Tens of thousands women were awarded the title of "Heroine Mother" or the order "Maternal Glory" and the "Medal of Maternity".

Wide political rights are secured to youth. Over 100 young people were elected deputies to the Grand National Assembly, highest body of the State power in Romania. State secures to the young people between 16-16 joining the production the right to 6 hour working day and integral payment. Young workers under 18 get paid annual leaves of at least 18 working days. Special attention is paid to the professional training of youth.

To all citizens of the Romanian People's Republic the freedom of opinion and conscience is guaranteed; to those belonging to various religious cults (there are 15 cults in the Romanian People's Republic) the right to maintain and practise their faith undisturbed is ensured.

In the Romanian People's Republic nobody is hindered or constraint as to the position towards religious faith; any insult brought to religious feelings is punished by law.

In the past, working people lived in poverty; in the cities near the palaces and buildings belonging to the exploiters there were the well-known
quarters of miserable dwellings of the workers in order to do away with this bitter heritage and prove the housing conditions of the working population. New dwellings representing an area of 1,730,000 square meters have been constructed during the people's power. In 1955, beside the dwellings scheduled in the plan, for some 50,000 families are to be built in addition to the new and crowded workers centres.

Beside this the State backs the construction of individual lodgings and lodgings built on the basis of co-operation between tenants, granting long term credits and a series of advantages concerning the supply of building material. Long term credits in value of over 100 million leis have been assigned in the budget of 1954.

The people's democratic regime has ensured a remarkable impetus to education, science, literature and art. Important successes have been scored in the struggle for the liquidation of illiteracy, shameful heritage of the past regimes that will be liquidated before the end of the first five year plan. The total number of those attending schools of all degrees has doubled as compared with 1938.

Last year only 2,000,000 pupils and students attended schools of all degrees. Through the Reform of Education carried out in 1948 the organizing principles of the school have radically changed, a new orientation was given to education in order to meet the tasks connected with building a new life, the need to prepare the cadres necessary for all fields of the economic and social life.

Numerous labour reserve schools and technical medium schools have been created (these are schools in which young pupils are learning a trade). During the school year of 1952-1953 the number of pupils in these schools was by 62% greater than that of 1938-1939 in the trade schools.
The number of preschool institutions (for children under 7) has increased so far by 27.4% as compared with 1938, and the number of children included over 366%. The number of elementary schools has increased by over 2,500 as compared with the same year. Higher education in Rumania has taken today a considerable development. The number of faculties is four times greater as compared with the school year of 1938-1939, while the number of students is today 62,000 against 29,000 which existed in the school year of 1938-1939.

In the past higher education institutions to train cadres for oil, coal industry were lacking; institutes for high skilled technical and economic cadres were generally lacking. Though the reform of education many institutes have been created such as mining, oil and gas, economic, science and planning, transports/engineering, light industry, forestry, wood exploitation and industrialization, food industry, art of cinematography, fine-arts, theatre, architecture.

In the past faculties and institutes existed only in the Capital of our country and in two or three towns. Today there are institutes and faculties in nearly all big towns such as Jassy, Cluj, Timișoara, Brașov Stală, Tîrgu Mureș, Craiova, Galați and various mining centres. In Rumania there are nearly 3,500 schools of various degrees teaching in the languages of the national minorities and 16 faculties teaching in Hungarian.

Living and educational conditions not known under the former regime have been created to pupils and students. Today, they are living in well fit up hostels, taking their meals in students' canteens, their health being cared for in polyclinics. Pupils and students are sent to camps or rest homes on the mountain or seaside resorts during their vacations, making instructive free excursions, etc. In addition the state grants various
kinds of scholarships to meritorious students.

Those who have finished their studies in the various schools or faculties are obtaining from a special committee jobs according to their training in production.

Sporting has become an asset of the youth and of the whole people. In the Capital of Rumania numerous new stadiums and sports grounds - as the stadiums "23 August", "Republica", "Dinamo", etc. - have been built and fit up. In many towns and villages of the country stadiums and sport grounds have been fit up as well. In 1952 the number of people participating in various sports demonstrations has increased four times as compared with 1948.

Since the introduction of the Complex G M A (Ready for Work and Defence) sports in the Rumanian People's Republic have known a new and widespread among the masses. Scores of thousands of young and old people from factories and plants, from fields and schools are participating today in the competitions of the various sports disciplines, in order to conquer the honour of wearing the G M A badge.

Scores of thousands of young people participate in the traditional crosses organized in the whole country on the occasion of national celebrations; hundreds of young sporting people who have distinguished themselves in various branches of sports were awarded titles and distinctions. Rumanian sportsmen are present in numerous international sports events. In some branches such as athletics, ping-pong, shooting-gallery, etc. they have scored remarkable results.

To working people in town and countryside paths to culture and art have been widely opened, paths that in the past were entirely barred. 1,732 clubs and nearly 5,000 libraries are operating by the plants, factories of the Rumanian People's Republic.

Through these clubs the working people have got the possibility to attend conferences dealing with various problems of literature and art, technique a.s.o.
An intense artistic activity is carried on in the clubs. Over 5,500 artistic teams for choir, dance, theatre, orchestras and brass band in which 120,000 working people entered in competition during the 3rd national competition of the amateur artistic trade-unions teams which took place in 1953.

An intense cultural activity is taking place at countryside as well. In 1952 12,000 cultural homes and over 12,000 libraries including 6,000,000 books were operating. In the last few years, cultural homes have been endowed with 6,180 wireless sets and nearly 1,000 cinema machinery.

In the cultural homes 5,000 circles for general culture and agrotechnical circles are operating for the working people and ever more bees and cultural evenings are being organized.

Hundreds of thousands working peasants young and old, men and women are included in 23,482 artistic teams which are regularly giving performances in the cultural homes.

In the Romanian People's Republic millions of books of Romanian literature are printed every year, works written by: Mihail Sadoveanu, Cezar Petrescu, Camil Petrescu, Busebiu Camliar, Petre Dumitriu and others as well as editions of the works of Dickens, Mark Twain, Howard Fast, Dreiser, Ehrenburg, Aragon and many others. Through the building of the big "Casa Scinteii" Polygraphic Works in Bucharest vast prospects have been opened to publishing and editorial activities in Rumania.

Beside the millions of copies of bulles, these polygraphic works can print nearly 200,000 books and booklets daily.

In the Romanian People's Republic possibilities for the development of science have been created. An important event in this respect was the creation of the
Academy of the Rumanian People's Republic in 1948 around which the prominent figures of our culture who have understood that the interests of a real culture are closely connected with the interests of the people have gathered.

Over 30 institutions for scientific researches and 47 groups of contributors to the Academy of the Rumanian People's Republic play an important role in the development of science. The Academy cooperates with 26 institutes of various departments for solving the problems concerning industry, agriculture, forestry, public health a.s.o.

The foundation of the Society for Spreading Science and Culture in the Rumanian People's Republic constitutes a further important step for spreading science and technique among masses. Numerous scientists and literates of the Rumanian People's Republic give their active support to the activity of the Society for Spreading Science and Culture which is carried out first of all through thousands of conferences delivered in all corners of the country. These conferences are widely popularizing the conquests of science and technique, spreading the progresses recorded in the various branches of culture by the peoples all over the world.

The creators of literature and art are mirroring in their works the preoccupations and aspirations of the working people, the transformations which have taken place in the life of the people, they are illustrating what is new and grows up in the social life of the Rumanian People's Republic. Writers and artists depict the image of the new man, the magnificent prospects of the future, all of them making up a wide front of the writers who are close to the people. Their works encourage the working people in their work of forging a new life.

Theatre has become a cultural asset of the masses. 29 state theatres out of which 21 in provinces. The new House of the Opera and Ballet Theatre...
in Bucharest, having a capacity of 1,200 seats and modern equipment as well as two new theatres in open air in the parks for culture and rest were inaugurated in the Capital in August 1953. State theatres performing in the languages of national minorities and puppet theatres have also been created.

Their repertoires have recorded a qualitative change through the introduction on a large scale of the valuable creations of the Romanian classic and contemporary theatre and of the progressive world theatre. The treasure of national and universal music is ever better known by the broad masses through numerous concerts that have been organised. The number of symphonic and semi-symphonic orchestras, light music orchestras, folk music teams and orchestras and the choral teams has increased. The Romanian composers Matei Scoară, Paul Constantinescu, Anatol Vieru, Constantin Palade, Alfed Mendelechn, Mihail Anicu, the conductors George Georgescu and Constantin Silvestri, the soloists Valentin Gheorghiu, Mindru Kats, Badu Afulescu, G.Dumitrescu, M.JoSa etc. are well known and appreciated.

As to cinematography, new art born during the people’s power, is enriched with studies, films, artists, film operators etc. Feature films were shot such as*Miea Scoară*, *Nepoții Cornistului* (Trumpeter’s Grandchildren) *Răsună Valea* (The Valley Echoes), *In sat la noi* (In Our Village), etc.; as well as documentaries, cartoons and puppet films. For the first time Romania has produced in series projection machinery which are sent to the cultural homes in the country enriching the number of film caravans.

At the annual exhibition of plastic arts of 1953 hundreds of painters and sculptors exhibited valuable works which are mirroring significant aspects from the
new life of Rumania and from the struggle for peace of the peoples.

Surrounded by the respect and love of the entire people, the most valuable scientists, artists, literates are awarded orders, medals and titles of high appreciation. Besides this they enjoy particular living and working conditions ensured through special houses for creations and rest, the House of scientists, the House of writers.

The development of the economy and the increase of the welfare of the population is now one of the main preoccupations of the government of the Romanian People's Republic.

Along with the national development of the heavy industry steps have been taken with a view to increase the output of consumer goods, especially through a raise in the agricultural output, as well as measures for improving the wage system, stimulating the workers' training and the growth of labour productivity, reducing the taxation on wages and revenues of art and science workers by 30% on an average, building dwellings on the basis of cooperation among tenants and building individual dwellings through credits granted by the state. The rates for water, salubrity and canalization were reduced by 25%. Electric power rates by 35%, medicines by 30% on an average.

Rents have been cut down as well as parents' contribution for orches and hostels, the pensioning regime has improved. All these advantages will bring to workers and employees in Rumania a gain of about 2,000 million leis until the end of 1954.

The deep desire of the Rumanian people is that the new life, their achievements and aspirations, the truth about their country would be known beyond the boundaries as a testimony of their will of peace and friendship among all peoples. In this respect, the magnificent World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship which has taken place in Bucharest in August 1955 was a wonderful occasion of knowing Rumania beyond its boundaries.

Converting into practice the Rumanian people's
will for Peace the Government of the Romanian People's Republic carry on a consistent policy of peace and reinforcement of the international cooperation among peoples. Together with the Soviet Union and with all peace-loving countries Romania struggles for easing the tension in the international relations and preventing the danger of a new war. The recent statement by the government of the Romanian People's Republic testifies that the Romanian people support the proposals made by the Soviet Union concerning the ensuring of collective security in Europe and throughout the world, a sure path for easing the international tension, for eliminating the danger of a revival of German militarism, for normalising and strengthening economic and cultural relations among the states.

Romania resolutely voices for the development of the international trade. The great advances scored in the work for developing the industry and the entire economy create favourable prerequisites for the development of a many-sided trade between Romania and all countries interested in a fruitful cooperation with her, on the basis of equality of rights and mutual respect. From 1950 until now the trade between Romania and the countries of Western Europe increased by 50%. In 1953 Romania maintained commercial relations with 44 capitalist countries. Romania has a trade agreement and a trilateral clearing agreement with Finland.

For the first time after the war, trade agreements with Egypt, India and Turkey were concluded. Trade exchanges with the Argentina, Australia, Italy and other countries are very active.

The Romanian people bring their contribution to the treasure of the world culture. At the same time they strive to know the past and present treasures of this culture.

Numerous foreign delegations from 25 countries who visited our country among which were writers, journalists, lawyers a.s.o. as well as various outstanding people from England, Latin America, Sweden, France, Norway etc. Plays by Shakespeare and Molière are performed on the
stages of the Rumanian theatres, the works of the best writers and poets from abroad are printed in thousand copies (Victor Hugo, Jack London, Louis Aragon, Jules Verne, Charles Dickens), the paintings of the foreign artists for plastic arts are exhibited in shows and in the Art Museum of the Rumanian People's Republic while artistic ensembles and soloists of art from abroad are appreciated by the Rumanian people.

In view of cultural exchanges numerous delegations of the Rumanian cultural or trade union organisations, scientists, poets, artists have answered to the invitations from abroad popularising there the Rumanian art.

The exhibition of Rumanian folk-art in Paris and of Rumanian painting and sculpture in Berlin, organised by the Rumanian Institute for Cultural Relations with the Foreign Countries and that of Rumanian folk art organized in Helsinki by the Friendship Association Finland-Romania as well as the exhibition presented in Sweden, Vienna, Santiago de Chile etc. contributed to a considerable extent to get a knowledge of the Rumanian folk-art. Such cultural events constitute an opportunity for strengthening cultural relation between the Rumanian people and other peoples throughout the world.

This year is the tenth anniversary since Romania was liberated from fascism by the Soviet Army. These years are testifying that the people of the Rumanian People's Republic have firmly advanced on the path of progress and welfare and they score successes everyday in forging a happy and plentiful life.