

~~Amendment of the Constitution~~
Munich, Dec. 22 1960-Rum E&A/CNR- Radio Bucharest announced on December 22 (1100hrs) that the agenda unanimously approved by the National Assembly at its 9th session opening here today included a draft law for the amendment of Articles 18, 19 and 39 of the Constitution.

Art 18 of the Constitution approved on September 27 1952(draft was published on July 18 1952) stipulated that :

"The Rumanian People's Republic is divided for administrative purposes into the following regions: Arad, Bacau, Baia-Mare, Barlad, Bucharest, Cluj, Constanta, Craiova, Galati, Hunedoara, Iasi, Oradea, Pitesti, Ploesti, Stalin, Suceava, Timisoara and the Hungarian Autonomous Region(RAM.)

Art. 19 said that:"The Hungarian Autonomous Region is the territory inhabited by a compact Hungarian population(Magyar-Sekler) and has an autonomous administration elected by the population of the region. The Hungarian Autonomous Region comprises the districts of Ciuc, Gheorgheni, Odorhei, Reghin, San Giorgiul de Padure, Sfantul Gheorghe, Targu-Mures, Targu-Secuiesc, Toplita. Its administrative center is Targu Mures."

Art. 39 said:"After the mandate^a(of the National Assembly) expires the ^aPresidium fixes new elections within three days, beginning with the day on which the mandate expired. The ^aPresidium in office retains its powers until the election of a new Praesidium by the new Assembly."

The amendment of Art, 18 and 19 must be considered in connection with another point of the agenda of the National Assembly's ninth session, namely the "Draft Law for the improvement of the administrative division of the territory of the Rumanian People's Republic."

It is expected that the number of regions(at present 16 plus the City of Bucharest) will be reduced(following similar examples in the CCSR, Bulgaria and Soviet Russia,) with a view^{to} establishing big economic units (by the elimination of less developed regions from an economic viewpoint.)

The amendment of Art. 19 indicates that the Hungarian Autonomous Region will be affected. Previous(unofficial) reports received here indicated that the latter region was to be abolished. However, the fact that Art-20, and 21 of the Constitution-which also deal with the Hungarian Autonomous Region- are not amended, indicates that the notion(and existence) of the Hungarian Autonomous Region might not be affected altogether and that the amendment of Art.19 will probably be related to the structure of this region, meaning a reduction of the area(loss of districts) and/or a division of the region into new districts.

(more)

The arrival on ^{Dec. 21} of the Hungarian Prime Minister in Bucharest(a vacation was given as official reason) indicates the need of having a representative of the Hungarian Government on hand who would by his very presence appease the Hungarian minority and consecrate the changes affecting the Hungarian Autonomous Region.

The amendment of Art. 39 indicates the desire to prolong the duration of the mandate (and ^{to postpone the} elections) of the present legislature of the National Assembly. The duration provided by the Constitution is four years. The last elections were held on February 3 1957; the first session of the present legislature took place on March 16-22 1957. It appears that this postponement of the elections is a consequence of the new administrative division of the country.

Note "Scanteia" announced on January 15 1956 that the afore-mentioned regions of Arad and Barlad (Art. 18 of the Constitution) have been abolished. A new district: Cristuru Secuiesc has been established on the same date within the borders of the Hungarian Autonomous Region.