

# RADIO FREE EUROPE *Research*

## EAST EUROPE

Rumania  
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#### Manescu's Activities

According to RFE United Nations Special, of January 7 from New York, Foreign Minister Corneliu Manescu is reported by Rumanian diplomats to have received assurances from representatives of all regional blocs represented at the UN that there is no opposition to his announced candidacy (SR of 21 October 1966) as President of the 22nd UN General Assembly. The report said that Lord Caradon of Great Britain and Ambassador Seydoux of France had informed the Rumanian mission in New York by letter that Manescu's candidacy was acceptable to them. The US has not specifically endorsed Manescu's candidacy, but is not expected to oppose him, it was said. It may also be recalled here that U Thant and executives of all UN agencies will hold a series of meetings in Bucharest next July (RFE Special from New York of December 23).

According to the West German Bild Zeitung of January 12, GFR Foreign Minister Willi Brandt disclosed that he had renewed the invitation to Corneliu Manescu to visit the GFR and that Manescu had responded favorably. Brandt said that his country wanted to reach sensible agreements with the East European countries in trade and cultural questions. (On January 13, the Sueddeutsche Zeitung announced the implementation of a new stage in the announced program for liberalization of GFR imports from East European countries.) The West German Minister also said that scientific exchanges, tourism (which thus far has run only in one direction -- from West to East) and, where possible, discussion of political questions were also desirable.

An RFE Special from Bonn of January 12 said that a GFR Foreign Office spokesman had denied published reports that Bonn and Bucharest had reached definite agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations by the end of February.

On January 12, Radio Bucharest reported that Manescu had received Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Dimce Belowski. The two officials had discussed "cooperation in international organizations and cooperation at the European level." (It should be mentioned in this connection that according to a UPI report of January 11, Edvard Kardelj had called for a European parliamentary conference). On the same day Manescu also received Dutch Foreign Minister Joseph Luns. Relations between the two countries were discussed.

#### Party and State Leaders in Brasov

As reported by Radio Bucharest on January 12, the following officials who are "resting" in Brasov, had attended a national song and dance performance at the town's theater: Ceausescu (with his wife), Chivu Stoica, Maurer, Barladeanu, Draghici (with his wife), Niculescu-Mizil (with his wife), Moghioros (with his wife), Rautu (with his wife) and Manea Manescu (with his wife). The gala show was also attended by Gheorghe Pana, who replaced Ion Voinea last December as First Secretary of the Brasov Regional Party Committee. The presence of this group of officials in the winter resort of Brasov bears all the marks of a retreat conference.

#### Recent Developments in Agriculture

##### Pensions

Reporting on the Plenum of the Council of the Union of Agricultural Production Cooperatives held on December 19-20, Romania Libera said in its issue of December 21 that "the majority" of these units have paid (according to statutes) their 3.5 per cent contribution of total agricultural production into the Pension Fund.

About 2,400,000 cooperative peasants, the report said, have so far joined the Pension Fund. "Most of them" have also paid their contribution for the supplementary pension. Individual files have been established for 1,116,000 cooperative peasants, and for 93 per cent of them decisions, on their pensioning have been issued.

The payment of pensions will start this month. The Plenum also approved the statute of the Pension Fund and its budget.

##### New Work Norms

The same Plenum discussed a draft on the "orientation norms" in animal and crop production at cooperative farms, directives for "the establishment of management and administrative functions and their payment on cooperative farms. "On January 10, Radio Bucharest said that the National Union of Agricultural Production Cooperatives had distributed to all units booklets containing recommendations on the fixing and application of work norms in the vegetable and animal production spheres, and on the evaluation of the work day.



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No details were given. It may be recalled that the statutes of the National Union of Agricultural Cooperatives (Scanteia of 19 December 1965) provided for the establishment of labor norms by that organ. Scanteia said on 10 January 1966 that the new norms were aimed at a "more rational consumption of work days" in various branches of production and a fair correlation between the earnings achieved by cooperative peasants working in brigades in the fields, animal farms and other sectors. The purpose of these measures is to strengthen discipline and the spirit of responsibility and should contribute to stronger material incentive for higher qualitative results achieved by the cooperative farmers (Romania Libera of January 12)

#### Latest Production Figures.

On January 12, Radio Bucharest in its Special Program for foreign countries reported that the 1966 grain production of 13.8 million tons (1965: 12.6 million tons), included maize production of 7.9 million tons. This figure, also given by the Chairman of the Higher Council on Agriculture, Nicolae Giosan, in an article published in Viata Economica (No. 52 of 1966), is much higher than that for 1965 (5,877,000 tons). It may be recalled that on 12 December 1966, Agerpres reported that in 1966, 5.2 million tons of wheat had been harvested in 1966, compared with 5,937,000 tons in 1965.

It is surprising that the above-mentioned special program of Radio Bucharest gave the area sown to maize in 1966 as four million hectares. This is 700,000 hectares more than in 1965 and would mean that the per hectare yield for 1966 was rather low -- below 2,000 kg.