

Romanian refugees' New Year's message to the Hungarian people and to the Hungarian government

The "Free Romania Group" political organization, which fights for human rights to be respected in Romania, on the occasion of the New Year, says warm thanks to the Hungarian government and to the Hungarian people, because of its human behavior in the case of the refugees. The – yet without example – fact, that one socialist country accepted those, who had to flee because of political reasons from another socialist country, proved that ignoring human rights can't be regarded as only an interior affair. The humane gesture of the Hungarian people and the Hungarian government has called the attention of the whole world to all that happening in Romania today, in the country of the communist bloc, where Stalinist methods are still used – and with this, we hope once and for all has put an end to hushing up the problems there are between the two countries.

We know what problems cause that we are here. The nobility of the Hungarian gesture is especially emphasized by the fact that it was born in such a moment, when the country already has to face difficult questions. The political maturity of the Hungarian nation is certified by the recognition: the Hungarian-Romanian question is not a territorial question, but the subject of respecting human rights in Romania; the Hungarian people doesn't confuse the Bucharest government with the Romanian people.

We believe, that the Hungarian government will remain loyal in the future also to its humanistic attitude towards the refugees from Romania, that is irrespective of the refugees' nationality, and also irrespective of either they wish to choose, as their new home country, Hungary or a third country. With this, the Hungarian government in the truest meaning of the word contributes to consolidating the friendship between the two peoples.

We send our traditional Romanian New Year's Greetings to the whole, friendly Hungarian people: La MULTI ANI!

The Committee of the Free Romania Group:

Bajan Mircea, geologist,
Iovanescu Emil, translator,
Manea Traian, electrician,
Urioc Victor, gardener.
Budapest, 1988. XII. 28.

Government Spokesman

To the Committee of the Free Romania Group,
Budapest

Thank you on behalf of the government for the New Year's Greetings. According to our opinion, in the new year also, we can only get ahead, if both the Romanians and Hungarians recognize and undertake the common destiny and resist the nationalist temptations.

The Hungarian government – in this spirit – in 1989 also, aims to help the refugees from Romania, regardless of ethnicity.

You – Romanians and Hungarians resettled from Transylvania – can do much for the future of the two peoples, for establishing a lasting and honest cooperation.

We wish you strength, good health and happiness for the New Year.

Budapest, 1989 January 16.

György Marosán