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A Magyar Demokrata Fórum 1988. február-márciusban angol nyelvű tanulmányt készített a romániai magyarság helyzetéről. A tanulmányt, amelyhez rövid - ugyancsak angol nyelvű - ismertetőt készítettek a Fórum megalakulásáról és tevékenységéről, külföldi terjesztésre szánták.

A dokumentum részletesen ismerteti a romániai magyarság történetét és jelenlegi helyzetét. Megállapítja, hogy egy egész népcsoport megfosztása nyelvétől, kultúrájától és történelmi hagyományaitól, egyenlő az alapvető emberi jogok megsértésével. Magyarország érzékenysége és felelőssége a kérdésben nagy, mivel a határ mindkét oldalán élő magyarok egyazon nemzethez tartoznak, közös a történelmük, kultúrájuk, nemzeti hagyományaik stb., s családi, baráti kötelékek csak még szorosabbá fűzik a köztük lévő kapcsolatokat. A román kormány kisebbség-ellenes politikája feszültségeket teremtett a magyar-román bilaterális kapcsolatokban, ami felmérhetetlen károkat okoz mindkét népnek, sőt a kontinens békéjét és biztonságát is veszélyezteti.

Mellékelten megküldjük a két angol nyelvű dokumentum másolatát.

/A dokumentumok *...telsoch* /

Megjegyzés: A ~~kor~~ vég dokumentum ~~1~~ a 30. és ~~1~~ 36. oldal ~~a~~ hiányzik.

Melléklet: ~~45~~ lap

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Hungarian Democratic Forum was formed in the autumn of 1987. At its meetings intellectuals and members of other social groups discuss specific, current problems concerning Hungary and Hungarian society, giving expression to their independent, personal opinions. Following the exchange of views, the participants usually agree on a collective standpoint and draw up a set of recommendations. These are then presented to the relevant Hungarian institutions and to the general public.

On the 6th of March, 1988, the Forum met to discuss, for the first time in its history, an issue of foreign policy, but one that affects the Hungarian nation closely and directly, viz. the deteriorating situation of ethnic Hungarians who live in the neighbouring state of Rumania. This was also the first time that the Forum decided to address the international community, too, and to request its support for the Hungarians and other minority groups in Rumania. Dramatic developments have prompted the Hungarian Democratic Forum to take this step.

The policies pursued by Rumania flagrantly disregard the human and civil rights of all the citizens, but they have created an especially grave situation for the ethnic and religious minorities within the country. In addition to the deprivations affecting everyone the discriminatory and forcefully assimilationist policy of an exceedingly nationalistic government is particularly harmful to the minorities. Rumania is carrying out a policy of cultural genocide, and since the beginning of the 1980's its methods have become more open and increasingly evident. This policy is directed primarily at the more than two million individuals comprising the Hungarian minority. A large European community, which is known to have lived in its homeland for more than a thousand years, is now facing the untenable alternative of unwilling emigration bordering upon expulsion or forced assimilation. Due both to its size and its strong national consciousness the members of this community are neither able nor willing to do either. Instead, they wish to remain in their native land as Hungarians and to exercise their individual and collective rights, in full equality with other individuals and communities.

The forceful deprivation of the language, culture, and historical traditions of an entire people is a violation of basic human rights. In the case of the Hungarian minority in Rumania the sensitivity and concern of Hungary is understandably great, since, in a historical and cultural sense, Hungarians living on either side of the border belong to one nation, possess a common history as well as identical traditions and values, reinforced by natural ties of family and friendship that bind them together.

The anti-minority policy of the Rumanian government has created enormous tensions, both inside the country and in Roumanian-Hungarian bilateral relations, which have done immeasurable harm to the interests of both peoples. Together with other political issues they threaten the peace and security of an entire region, or even that of a whole continent. Consequently, checking the worsening of this situation is not only in the interest of a minority, whose national existence is in danger, but it is also a task that vitally concerns both Hungarians and Rumanians, and the broader international community, too. One must bear in mind that the cultural harassment and annihilation of the Hungarians of Rumania is a deliberate trampling under foot of everything which has been amassed over centuries in universal human values. In such a case responsibility rests with mankind as a whole, and, as the tragic examples of the 20th century show, it cannot be declined by referring to the internal competency of the state concerned.

The Hungarian minority in Rumania is a completely defenceless people, who are in no way, shape and form masters of their own fate. Their only hope lies in help from external sources: from the state of Hungary, from Hungarian society, and from all democratic forces, whether social, governmental or intellectual, who are ready and able to take action on their behalf.

The enclosed report was prepared by Hungarian scholars and writers who are considered to be reliable authorities on Rumanian ethnic minority issues. For practical reasons the report has been drawn up in two versions. The enclosed shorter one is a kind of summary, and there is a longer version which includes primary documents like the most important decrees and legal regulations affecting the Hungarian minority, and also a list of sources, both unpublished and published. Both versions aim at providing factual information to all who do not want to remain indifferent when basic human and civil rights and the cultural identity of a whole people are being violated, whether in Europe or in other parts of the world; when people are discriminated against on the basis of their language, traditions, and national origin; and when deliberate and concerted efforts are being made to fan the flames of prejudice and national intolerance.

The Hungarian Democratic Forum requests the sympathy and active support of international public opinion in the defence of democratic ideals and the protection of a group whose very existence has become seriously endangered.

The organizers of the Hungarian Democratic Forum,
the following writers, scholars and professors:

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| Zoltán Bíró | Dénes Csengery | Sándor Csoóri |
| István Csurka | Gyula Fekete | Lajos Für |
| Rudolf Joó | Csaba Gy. Kiss | Sándor Lezsák |

Budapest, 25 April 1988.