



General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/180
23 March 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
Items 71 and 142 of the preliminary list*

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS
BETWEEN STATES

Note verbale dated 23 March 1990 from the Permanent Mission of
Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Romania to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement issued by the Government of Romania on 21 March 1990 in connection with the recent events in the north-west of the country (see annex).

It would be greatly appreciated if the present note and its annex were circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 71 and 142 of the preliminary list.

* A/45/50.

ANNEX

Statement issued on 21 March 1990 by the Government of Romania

In connection with the events that have taken place during recent days in certain areas of the north-west of Romania, the Romanian Government states the following.

The people of our country have followed with concern the serious events that have occurred since 15 March 1990 in a series of cities and villages in Transylvania, and which culminated with the manifestations of violence in the municipal city of Tîrgu-Mureş.

The Romanian Government is of the view that a correct and objective assessment of the situation can only be based on the precise knowledge of the way in which the facts have occurred.

On the occasion of the 142nd anniversary of the beginning of the 1848 revolution in Budapest, the authorities of the Republic of Hungary requested the authorities of Romania to allow the Hungarian Ambassador to Bucharest and his deputy to lay flower wreaths at the monuments to Nicolae Bălcescu and Sandor Petöfi, prominent personalities of that revolution, in the cities of Miercurea Ciuc, Cristuru Secuiesc, Tîrgu-Mureş and Albeşti. The Romanian authorities created the necessary conditions for that request to be satisfied.

Unfortunately, this anniversary occasion was used by the citizens of the Republic of Hungary who, on 15 March, crossing the border with Romania in massive numbers and, in numerous Romanian cities, including Satu Mare, Tîrgu-Mureş and Sovata, ostentatiously hoisted Hungarian State flags, proceeded to replace Romanian-language signs of cities and villages, commercial units and public institutions, and instigated manifestations by songs and provocative slogans, wounding the national sentiments of the Romanians.

In the city of Satu Mare, about 4,000 Hungarian citizens participated in the hoisting of the Hungarian flag on the catholic Cathedral, as well as in the desecration of Nicolae Bălcescu's statue. On a sign at the entrance to the city, the official name of "Satu Mare" was replaced by a Hungarian name. In the city of Tîrgu-Mureş, the ceremony of laying wreaths was used by instigators - citizens of the Republic of Hungary - to hoist the Hungarian national flag and anti-Romanian slogans on various buildings.

The Romanian population majority received with concern these actions, which obviously went beyond the framework of a solemn commemoration, taking the form of open attacks on the national feelings of the Romanian people.

During the following days, the tension and the acts of violence escalated in the city of Tîrgu-Mureş because of the nationalistic, chauvinistic and revisionist instigations against Romania.

The Romanian Government took the necessary measures to restore calm and public order in all cities and villages in the area.

The implementation of these measures was unfortunately undermined by actions undertaken by officials of the Republic of Hungary, which culminated with the press appeal addressed by the provisional president Mátyás Szüros on 18 March 1990 to the ethnic Hungarians in Romania, calling on them to intensify their activity and to organize themselves as if Transylvania were an "ancestral Hungarian land".

The same patronage was provided for the wide propaganda actions carried out by the authorities of the Hungarian State on the territory of Romania by sending cultural assistance consisting of great quantities of school textbooks in the Hungarian language, but also sending, unfortunately, history and geography studies, as well as books and posters, presenting Transylvania as a component part of Hungary.

As a result, a situation was created in which earlier demonstrations held jointly by the Romanians and the ethnic Hungarians of Romania in support of the December 1989 revolution degenerated into extremist actions that have increased anxiety, tension and suspicion and that do not serve in any way the interests of our citizens, both Romanians and ethnic Hungarians.

Thus, in the evening of 19 March, a series of violent confrontations took place in Tîrgu-Mureş, in which Romanians as well as Hungarians, including the famous cultural personality-writer, Suto Andras, were wounded.

The Romanian Government as well as the entire public opinion in Romania categorically disapproved of these condemnable acts and decided to take measures to reduce tensions and ensure public tranquillity.

Despite all this, in the afternoon of 20 March, new violent confrontations occurred that resulted in victims among Romanians, as well as ethnic Hungarians.

At present, the Government has taken the necessary measures to prevent such confrontations in the municipal city of Tîrgu-Mureş.

As was repeatedly stated by the Romanian authorities and by all political parties, including the organizations of the citizens of Hungarian nationality, the December 1989 revolution - historic act of the entire people - has created conditions for the settlement, on the basis of a democratic platform, of all problems relating to the guarantee of the equality of rights and the exercise of human rights, including for the national minorities.

These problems have already been the object of a number of normative acts and measures, particularly in the fields of education and culture. The electoral law recently adopted by the Provisional Council of National Unity holds an important place in this process.

The Romanian Government, while demanding the immediate cessation of the instigations, disapproves of the way in which the Hungarian authorities have manipulated the news and presented the situation in Romania.

These are unfriendly manifestations and attitudes at a time when the country is faced with a series of difficulties in various fields.

Under such circumstances, the Romanian Government expects Hungary to have an attitude of understanding and support for the efforts made by Romania with a view to overcoming the difficulties.

It should be recognized, however, that the actions taken by the Hungarian authorities and officials in the relations with Romania, as well as at the international level, not only do not contribute to the solution of problems, but, on the contrary, dangerously stir up spirits, raising additional obstacles in the way of Romanian-Hungarian good-neighbourliness, understanding and co-operation.

At the same time, these manifestations contravene the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Romanian Government appeals to the Hungarian Government to call on its own citizens to show calm and reason, to refrain from any action of instigation and interference with the internal affairs of Romania, to adopt an attitude of solidarity with the efforts and measures undertaken by the Romanian authorities and aimed at the calming down of spirits and creating a less tense atmosphere, which would permit the lucid settlement of all problems.

The Romanian Government expresses its conviction that the other countries, the United Nations and world public opinion will correctly understand the prevailing situation and will support the efforts of the Romanian people aimed at stability, democracy and national dignity, on the basis of equality of rights for all the citizens of the country, of strict respect of the territorial integrity and national unity, of all principles of international law and of the Charter of the United Nations.

On this basis, the Romanian Government is firmly determined to act for the establishment of relations of friendship and co-operation with all neighbouring countries, for the promotion of peace, security and co-operation in Europe and throughout the world.
