

## Land of Milk and Honey

Romania: as seen by Iosif Dolezal, First Romanian Secretary to the United States.

Romania, land of sparkling waters and fun-loving people, transformed from the oppressive days of the monarchy when the king and his mistress captivated the rich landowners, and spent years of revelry, allowing the more than forty monopolies owned by the bourgeoisie to strangle the economy of the country and ignoring the feudal conditions among the peasants, 40% of whom were illiterate. Romania, which was forced to endure the Nazi occupation by their new king, Michael, a mere boy.

August 23, 1944. Glorious day of the masses' overthrow of the Nazis, an armed uprising of the Communist party members, against the Fascist dictatorship. A period of nationalistic revival, getting ready . . . and then, 1947, and the monarchy is abolished.

The Romanian People's Republic. Already the land has been redistributed to the supporters of the revolution, the peasants. But now comes the second stage: Socialism. The banks become state-owned. The economy is nationalized. Down with the strangling monopolies and the self-interested foreign capital. Socialism is successful in the industry. From what was once a backward, agrarian country, to deriving 50% of the income from industry.

All of this money goes to the people. For now there are no classes. No landowners, no bourgeoisie. Intellectuals are present, but they are merely peasants of the higher intellects (I presume). Compulsory schools for seven years of education are required. Illiteracy was completely abolished in 1945. The people are on their way up. 50% of the students of the state universities have state scholarships. National minorities (Hungarians, Cezhs) have schools in their mother tongues, with their own histories. There are twenty-one Scientific Institutes, with 2500 scientific researchers. Already there is an atomic reactor.

The National Assembly is a place for the people to suggest improvements. 48% of the deputies are members of the party. The others do not belong to any political party: "What is important is not their political affiliation, but whom they represent." Criticism expressed in the newspaper constantly points out mistakes the leaders have made; they cannot long get away with mistakes in applying Socialism. No one questions the principle of Socialism upon which the government is based; do Americans question the desirability of Democracy?

Has the government been unsuccessful? To a certain extent, in socializing agriculture. The country did not have the facilities to produce the necessary tractors, and other machines. Mechanization must move slowly, but as the industry expands, collectivized farms will also. Already the production rates on the state farms have proved to be 20-50% higher than on private plots. Time is a necessary element.

What about Hungary? Not against the principle of socialism, but against mistakes which the government had made in applying their theories. The government had made mistakes. But this exuberant unrest among the students was exploited by what were obviously forces planning a fascist dictatorship. Many of the refugees who have fled were the former landowners, and naturally it is not the government's wish to please these people.

What are the aims? To equal in a relatively short time the advanced stage of the other socialist states. Does mean exclusion of non-socialist states from any contacts? Definitely not. There must be peaceful co-existence—no economic affiliations, even with the U. S. S. R. unless this can quickly be repaid. But culturally, we welcome Americans. In 1958 there were 500 to 600 tourists. The Philadelphia Orchestra came, an American painting exhibit—seen by 230,000 people. Naturally not all of your culture, though. (The American Soldier—Pfc. Presley?)

By Susan Foard

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## Castro Asks Cuban Unity; Promises Free Elections

By Sue Cooper

Fidel Castro took command in Cuba last week with a tumultuous welcome by his people. The warships in the harbors sounded a 21-gun salute and throngs mobbed him in the streets. He appealed for national unity and support to show the world the civic spirit of the Cuban people.

Events have taken place rapidly since the New Year's Day victory for the rebels. A Provisional Government has been proclaimed with Dr. Manuel Urrutia Lleo as President and Castro as "Delegate of the President to the Armed Forces." It was announced that constitutional guarantees suspended by Batista would be restored, including freedom of the press.

The Cuban Congress has been dissolved and all mayors, governors, and other officials under Batista have been removed. Free elections have been promised after 18-24 months rule by decree from the Provisional Government. The new Government has won international recognition and the believed pro-Batista U. S. Ambassador, Earl T. Smith, has resigned.

The New Government does face some problems and these will not be settled so rapidly. Castro forces face a much depleted treasury. Batista and his followers in the last seven years in power got from 200 million to a billion dollars. When Batista pulled out with his loot, the gold and dollar reserves behind the Cuban currency went way down. Government assets are frozen and nobody can take more than \$250 out of Cuba. The sugar crop going to market should bring in new cash, but it will be slow coming in because of battle damage to railroads, bridges, roads, and power lines (89 railroad bridges are out). Workers may become dissatisfied, and Castro may have to call on Washington for help.

Social and economic reforms will be two of the biggest problems. Castro will be expected to satisfy the people who supported him, and no doubt, the public will expect miracles.

Another problem is that of the tourist trade. It has been hard hit by the revolution, and the tourist business is second only to the sugar industry. Recovery may take place when things settle down again.

As in every situation the Communists also present a problem. The Communists have been underground for years and have come to light with the revolution. They want recognition for the part they played in the revolt. The new President has expressed his opposition to the Communists, but he has also said he wants fairness for all groups. In the recent reorganization of the governing body of the biggest labor confederation, the Communists got five out of eighteen posts.

Just what direction Castro and his new government will take remains to be seen. Much will depend on his skill as a leader in peacetime now that the smoke of revolution has died down.

## Around The Square

Salemmites trekked back to "the square" with suitcases and boxes full of Santa's loot. New furs were paraded to the dining room Sunday afternoon, new record collections became old familiar albums as the "hi-fi" or "sterro" set daddy bought you rejects and plays and rejects and replays and new luggage will soon be packed to run back home between semesters.

be top-heavy with foreign students! Agnes and Katherine are moving in with the seniors after exams. Agnes was a little dubious about taking

The faculty has its sweet memories of Christmas, too. Mrs. Hixson and Dean Heidbreder spent their free hours together on the island of Nassau while "the Globetrotting" Miss Battle divided her busy schedule between Nassau, Atlanta, Miami, and New York City. Mr. Pete's unusually wide grin is evidence that "St. Nick" brought a special package to the Peterson's household—a new baby boy.

Enough of this "remembering." Forgetting those things that are past, I must press forward . . . Looks as if Biting Dorm is going to the room that was given her because she claimed, "the beds are too soft." Katherine complained that it wasn't so much the beds were too soft—but certainly they are too big. It will be refreshing to live with these girls, their complaints are so unusual. Most Salemmites can hardly keep themselves on what they term "these narrow cots" and most assuredly the last thing some girls would say is that the springs that poke you in the ribs when you squirm—are soft.

I rather hesitantly (tongue in cheek) mention new jewelry collections. Jerome Moore, Noel Vosseler, Nancy Neese, and Mary Ann Townsend have spent considerably too much time watching the glittering stone on their "third finger left hand." Mary Louise Lineberger has now taken on the same problem peculiar to all "pinned females"—the job of properly placing and replacing a little jeweled object on everything she owns. Miss White, naturally distinguished herself as the one faculty member who is engaged but Audrey Kennedy, Mignon Ross, and Pat Lonax went the second mile and tied "the proverbial knots". Ladies, if you need any helpful household hints see the college Home Economics majors.

Most men are so unoriginal when it comes to giving their sweetheart's presents, but Clarice Long's male friend is to be highly commended for his originality. Wonder what tender little thought motivated him to send Clarice an alligator from the Everglades? Clarice is frantic. Salem offers courses in child care, child development—but what of the girl who has an alligator to rear? Mr. Campbell sympathetically recommended Clarice bring the "wee beast" to his lab for a good dose of chloroform. Until Clarice finds a better solution to her problem, you will probably find her in Lehman dormitory reading article on "the proper diet for baby alligators".

"Around the Square" purposely has that light tone for depressed Salemmites who are dreading next Thursday. We will all be permanently "around the square"—so sit back, relax, and cram for all you're worth—this may be your last opportunity to pass.

"Best wishes to you . . ."

## Is There Hope For Freedom In Russia?

By Sarah Ann Price

INSIDE RUSSIA TODAY, written by John Gunther after his recent visit there, is an informative and fascinating study of contemporary Russia, its people, their social life, the political system under which they live and that system's effect on the economic situation within the country.

Socially, in Russia the people are freer now than at any time under Joseph Stalin. When they are dissatisfied, the people grumble openly and as long as it isn't about anything political, they are astonishingly free with criticism.

Another aspect of the new freedom in Russia today is seen in the amount of travel within the country. A few years ago, the people were not allowed to travel. Now families take vacations to various parts of the country with little or no trouble. The main difficulty in traveling today is that the modes of travel are somewhat limited. Cars are still scarce although production has been stepped up greatly and there are long waiting lists for those who wish to buy cars. Also, a driver's license is extremely hard to obtain in Russia. Among other requirements in getting a driver's permit, one must prove that he or she can take apart and put together an automobile engine!

The Russian people are also hungry for reading material of any kind. Bookstores are invariably packed. A story is told of a Russian author who had an autograph party at a Moscow bookstore. In a matter of a half hour every one of his books was sold. The author then began autographing any book in the store including biology books and highly technical physics books. These too, were sold in record time.

I was surprised to learn that English is taught in the Russian schools. One of the reasons for its being taught is evident, however, in this paragraph from Mr. Gunther's book. He describes his visit to a fifth grade English class.

" . . . I managed to get a quick look at a textbook. One story was called "Black Jimmie," and described the adventures of a Negro boy in the American South. Black Jimmie lives in Niggertown. His father is out of work. Jimmie is very hungry, and he is not allowed to go into the "white man's city." He shivers, sleeping on the floor. Jimmie must be out in the street at eight o'clock. At that time the workers' demonstration against the factory will begin. Jimmie's father was the first in line . . ."

Khrushchev the present party boss in Russia, is as ugly and fat as he appears in his pictures. He is also witty and somewhat of a rogue and is known for speaking out as he pleases. For instance, when a visiting delegation at a party commented that so many Russian women work, Khrushchev replied: "Yes, our women work, and they are honest women — not like the women in France who are all whores!" Not a very diplomatic comment, to say the least.

Some people have the mistaken idea that Khrushchev is a perpetual drinker of Vodka. While he does like to imbibe, he can never be called an alcoholic.

Communism is a way of life in Russia just as Democracy is the basis of our American way of life. The Russian people do not know about democracy. However, they are becoming curious. This curiosity, it is hoped (by the free world), will lead to the gradual enlightenment of the Russian people to the concept of democracy—and of freedom. Perhaps this is what is beginning to happen "inside Russia today."