

Summary

After WWII the organization of the political life of Hungarians of Transylvania was influenced on the one hand by the *interests of the Soviet Union* growing more and more into the only political power of the region and by the ability of the Hungarian Popular Union founded with communist help and of its leaders to enforce their *political interests as a national minority within the policy regarding Hungarians of Romania of the state and of the leadership of the national majority's party*.

Due to the shortness of the work hereby a comprehensive presentation of the HPU cannot be undertaken, instead focus will be directed to outlining the *role played* by the HPU in this context. The HPU's function will be presented both from the perspective of the *policy regarding Hungarians*² of the Romanian state, respectively from the perspective of the *changes in power relations* and from that of the *self-organizational, integration and institutionalization* of the Hungarian minority. At the same time the HPU had to face two challenges: to keep up the function of securing votes and to do political „reeducation” as one of the *mass organizations* of the Romanian Communist Party and to be the *organization protecting the interests* of the Hungarians of Romania, i.e. to be a *Hungarian party*.

Since 1948 the Hungarian population of Romania could no longer act as an independent political community having pretensions to participate to the governance, due to the fact that from then on the power was no longer exerted by *representatives of the national majority or national minority*, but by the members of the *working class*. As a consequence the mass organization of a national minority was no longer needed in the newly created situation and therefore the party „*dissolved itself*” in 1953.

The volume hereby contains primarily documents from the central archive of the HPU, which was considered „lost” until recently. The next most numerous category is that of the diplomatic reports drawn up at the foreign representation of the Hungarian government in Bucharest. Then it was attempted to „decode” documents from the National Council for Research on the Communist Secret Service Archive and personal letters of some of the leading HPU politicians of the time. The volume was intended mainly for those conducting researches on the history of national minorities, respectively history of politics, but we consider

2 We accept in this work the definition given by Nándor Bárdi for the term *policy regarding Hungarians*, i.e. the policy of states and governments applied to Hungarians as a national minority, while we accept the term *policy of national minorities* to mean the political aims formulated by the political elite representing the society of Hungarians of Transylvania. *Bárdi*, 2004. p.9.

it a must also for those proposing to analyze the policy on national minorities of Central and Eastern European communist states.

Elucidation of the historic role of the HPU will probably help us understand the social and political integration process of the Hungarian community of Romania after WWII, the political role of the Hungarian political elite of the left wing in Transylvania after 1944 and interpret the policy on national minorities of the Central and Eastern European communist regimes.