

Some ethnic communities, above all the Hungarians of Transylvania, protest what they regard as discriminatory measures against them. The lack of Hungarian-language institutions of higher learning in Transylvania is cited as an example.

President Iliescu's appeal to a group of miners to suppress a series of peaceful demonstrations in the centre of Bucharest and the very violent clashes that ensued from June 14 to 16 spread consternation in Romania and abroad. A major segment of public opinion was indignant about what, in many respects, resembled the practices of the old regime. One of the most contentious points in recent months has been the pre-trial detention of many participants (more than 180) in the June demonstrations. It appears that all except one have been released in recent weeks, but it goes without saying that their trials will attract great attention. The fact that a much smaller number of miners was arrested is also disturbing. Since June there have been many demonstrations in the capital and in the provinces demanding the resignation of the President and of Prime Minister Roman, whom many accuse of being former Communists. The results of a parliamentary commission of inquiry into "the events of June," if made public within a reasonable period of time, might improve Romania's image.

#### CANADA'S POSITION

Like other Western countries, Canada is monitoring the situation very closely and is concerned about certain issues that remain unsatisfactory, while acknowledging the considerable progress achieved. The Canadian government was pleased that the first democratic elections in 40 years were able to take place without too many problems. We have already told the Romanian government of our satisfaction with the progress made, while pointing out what, in our opinion, still needs to be corrected.

Canada has for a long time insisted on protection of the rights of minorities in Romania. We were particularly troubled by certain violent inter-ethnic disturbances in March 1990 and have encouraged the Romanian government to take action to improve the situation. Canada has vigorously condemned the violence used against the demonstrators in June 1990. Since the announcement of government measures to improve the human rights situation, we have been devoting special attention to ensuring that these measures are indeed implemented.