

**DRAFT
CONSTITUTION
OF THE
RUMANIAN PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC**



1952

Proiectul de Constituție a Republicii Populare Române

442

Scanned / Transcribed by
The Socialist Truth in Cyprus – London Bureaux

<http://www.st-cyprus.co.uk/intro.htm>

<http://www.st-cyprus.co.uk/english/home/index.php>



Workers of all countries, unite!

N. J. Kligman

Bucharest August 1952

DRAFT
CONSTITUTION
OF THE
RUMANIAN PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC

1952

INTRODUCTORY CHAPTER

The Rumanian People's Republic is a state of working people of town and country.

The Rumanian People's Republic came into being as a result of the historic victory of the Soviet Union over German fascism and of Rumania's liberation by the glorious Soviet Army — a liberation which enabled the working people, headed by the working class, led by the Communist Party, to overthrow the fascist-Antonescu dictatorship, to destroy the power of the exploiting classes and to create the people's democratic state which fully corresponds to the interests and aspirations of the popular masses of Rumania.

It was thus possible to crown with an historic victory the century-old struggle

waged by the Rumanian working people for freedom and national independence, the heroic battles of the working class allied to the working peasantry for the overthrow of the capitalist-landlord regime and the shaking off of the imperialist yoke.

The setting up and strengthening of the people's democratic state, the friendship and alliance with the great Soviet Union, and the selfless and brotherly support and aid granted by the latter, ensure the independence, state sovereignty, development and flourishing of the Rumanian People's Republic.

The Armed Forces of the Rumanian People's Republic stand guard over the sovereignty and independence of the Rumanian people, their security and over peace.

The foreign policy of the Rumanian People's Republic is a policy of defending peace, a policy of friendship and alliance with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the countries of people's demo-

cracy, a policy of peace and friendship with all peace-loving peoples.

The national minorities in the Rumanian People's Republic enjoy full equality in rights with the Rumanian people. In the Rumanian People's Republic, administrative-territorial autonomy is ensured to the Magyar population of the Szekely districts, where it forms a compact mass.

The present Constitution of the Rumanian People's Republic embodies the results so far obtained by the working people, headed by the working class, in building socialist society in our country.

The policy of the people's democratic state is directed towards abolishing exploitation of man by man, and towards building Socialism.

CHAPTER I

The Social Structure

ART. 1. The Rumanian People's Republic is a state of working people of town and country.

ART. 2. The foundation of people's power in the Rumanian People's Republic is the alliance of the working class with the working peasantry, an alliance in which the leading role is held by the working class.

ART. 3. The Rumanian People's Republic came into being and strengthened as a result of the liberation of the country by the Armed Forces of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics from under the yoke of fascism and imperialist domination, as a result of the overthrow of the

power of the landlords and capitalists by the masses of the people in town and countryside headed by the working class under the leadership of the Rumanian Communist Party.

ART. 4. In the Rumanian People's Republic power belongs to the working people of town and country, who exercise it through the Grand National Assembly and the People's Councils.

The People's Councils are the political foundation of the Rumanian People's Republic.

ART. 5. The national economy of the Rumanian People's Republic includes three social-economic sectors: the socialist sector, the sector of small-scale production of commodities, and the private-capitalist sector.

ART. 6. The foundation of the socialist social-economic sector is the socialist ownership of the means of production, which exists either in the form of state property (belonging to the whole people)

or in the form of co-operative-collective property (property of collective farms or of co-operative organizations).

In the socialist sector of national economy, the exploitation of man by man is abolished.

The socialist sector, which plays the leading role in the national economy of the Rumanian People's Republic, constitutes the basis for the development of the country along the road of Socialism. The people's democratic state, proclaiming as its main task the building of Socialism, ceaselessly strengthens and widens the socialist sector, and ensures a steady rise in the material well-being and cultural level of the working people.

ART. 7. All the mineral wealth, the factories, plants and mines, forests, waters, sources of natural energy, communications of every kind, rail, river, sea and air transport, banks, post, telegraph, telephone, radio, printing means, cinematography and theatre, state farms, machine and tractor

stations, communal enterprises and the nationalised part of the fund of dwelling houses in the towns, are state property and belong to the whole people.

ART. 8. The land in the Rumanian People's Republic belongs to those who till it.

ART. 9. The livestock and implements of collective farms and co-operatives, their products, as well as all their enterprises and buildings, constitute the common property of the collective farms and co-operatives.

Peasants who are members of collective farms are entitled to have as their personal property a dwelling house, a plot of household land, livestock, poultry and minor agricultural implements — in accordance with the rules of the collective farm.

ART. 10. Small-scale production of commodities in the Rumanian People's Republic includes small and medium peasant holdings with private land ownership based on the producer's own labour, as well as the workshops of artisans and handicrafts-

men who do not exploit the labour of others. The state protects the right of private ownership of the land of peasants with small and medium holdings, according to the laws in force.

The people's democratic state supports the peasants with small and medium holdings, and the artisans and handicraftsmen, with the aim of protecting them against capitalist exploitation, increasing their production and raising their well-being.

ART. 11. The private-capitalist sector in the Rumanian People's Republic includes kulak holdings, private commercial enterprises, small non-nationalised industrial enterprises based on the exploitation of wage labour.

The people's democratic state consistently pursues a policy of restricting and dislodging the capitalist elements.

ART. 12. The personal property right of the citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic in their incomes and savings from work, in their dwelling houses and sub-

subsidiary home enterprises, in articles of domestic and personal use, as well as the right of citizens to inherit personal property, is protected by law.

ART. 13. In the Rumanian People's Republic foreign trade constitutes state monopoly.

ART. 14. The economic and cultural life of the Rumanian People's Republic develops on the basis of the state national-economic plan, in the interests of building Socialism, of ceaselessly raising the material and cultural well-being of the working people, of strengthening the national independence of the country and its defensive capacity.

ART. 15. In the Rumanian People's Republic work is a duty and a matter of honour for every able-bodied citizen, in accordance with the principle: "He who does not work, neither shall he eat". In the Rumanian People's Republic there is carried into effect on an ever wider scale the

principle of Socialism: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work".

CHAPTER II

The State Structure

ART. 16. The state system of the Rumanian People's Republic is the system of people's democracy, representing the power of the working people.

ART. 17. The Rumanian people's democratic state

a) defends the independence and sovereignty of the Rumanian people, the gains of the working people of town and country, the rights, liberties and power of those who work against the enemies of the working people ;

b) ensures the strengthening and development of the productive forces of the country by means of socialist industrialisation, the liquidation of economic, technical

and cultural backwardness, the gradual socialist transformation of agriculture on the basis of voluntary agreement of the working peasants ;

c) organizes and develops planned economy, basing itself on state and co-operative enterprises;

d) organizes the defence of the Republic against external enemies and directs the Armed Forces of the R.P.R.; the Armed Forces of the Rumanian People's Republic defend the borders of the country, the independence, sovereignty and security of the Rumanian people, and peace ;

e) safeguards the internal security of the citizens, renders harmless and suppresses the enemies of the people ;

f) directs the monetary and credit system, drafts and fulfils the state budget, determines the taxes, levies and revenues needed for the requirements of the state ;

g) administers the banks and the state industrial, agricultural and trading enterprises and institutions ;

h) directs public education of all grades;
i) ensures a steady rise in the well-being and health of the masses of the people in town and country ;

j) ensures the development of the culture of the Rumanian people and of the culture of the national minorities, socialist in content, national in form ;

k) watches over the application and observance of the Constitution and the laws of the Rumanian People's Republic—the expression of the will and interests of the working people.

The exact observance and application of the Constitution and the laws of the country — compulsory throughout the territory of the Republic — are the main duty of every state institution and of every citizen.

ART. 18. The Rumanian People's Republic consists of the following administrative-territorial divisions :

The regions of Arad, Bacău, Baia Mare, Bârlad, Bucharest, Cluj, Constanța, Cra-

iova, Galați, Hunedoara, Iași, Oradea, Pitești, Ploești, Stalin, Suceava, Timișoara and the Magyar Autonomous Region.

ART. 19. The Magyar Autonomous Region of the Rumanian People's Republic consists of the territory inhabited by the compact Magyar Szekely population and has its autonomous administrative body elected by the population of the Autonomous Region.

The Magyar Autonomous Region includes the districts of Ciuc, Gheorgheni, Odorhei, Reghin, Sângeorgiu de Pădure, Sft. Gheorghe, Tg. Mureș, Tg. Secuesc, Toplița.

The administrative centre of the Magyar Autonomous Region is the town of Tg. Mureș.

ART. 20. The laws of the Rumanian People's Republic, the decisions and directives of the central organs of the state, are compulsory on the territory of the Magyar Autonomous Region.

ART. 21. The Statute of the Magyar Autonomous Region is elaborated by the

People's Council of the Autonomous Region and submitted for approval to the Grand National Assembly of the Rumanian People's Republic.

CHAPTER III

The highest Organ of State Power in the Rumanian People's Republic

ART. 22. The highest organ of state power in the Rumanian People's Republic is the Grand National Assembly of the Rumanian People's Republic.

ART. 23. The Grand National Assembly is the sole legislative organ of the Rumanian People's Republic.

ART. 24. The Grand National Assembly is directly competent:

- a) to elect the Presidium of the Grand National Assembly of the Rumanian People's Republic;
- b) to appoint the Government of the Rumanian People's Republic;
- c) to amend the Constitution;

d) to decide on questions of war and peace ;

e) to establish the national-economic plans ;

f) to approve the state budget and the report on fulfilment of the state budget ;

g) to establish the number and names of Ministries, to fuse and abolish Ministries ;

h) to amend the division into regions of the territory of the Rumanian People's Republic ;

i) to grant amnesty ;

j) to exercise general control over the application of the Constitution.

ART. 25. The Grand National Assembly is elected by the working people, citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic, voting by election districts on the basis of one deputy for every 40,000 of the population.

The Grand National Assembly is elected for a term of four years.

ART. 26. A law is considered adopted if passed by a simple majority of the Grand National Assembly.

ART. 27. Laws adopted by the Grand National Assembly are signed by the President and Secretary of the Presidium and published in the Official Bulletin of the Grand National Assembly.

The observance of laws adopted by the Grand National Assembly is binding for all citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic.

ART. 28. Sessions of the Grand National Assembly are held twice a year. The Presidium of the Grand National Assembly convenes the sessions of the Grand National Assembly.

ART. 29. Extraordinary sessions of the Grand National Assembly may be convened by the Presidium of the Grand National Assembly or on the demand of one-third of the total number of deputies.

ART. 30. The Grand National Assembly elects at every session a President and two Vice-Presidents who conduct the sittings of the Grand National Assembly in accordance with the internal regulations.

ART. 31. The Grand National Assembly validates the mandates of the deputies elected.

With a view to verifying the conditions in which the election of each deputy has taken place, the Grand National Assembly elects a Credentials Commission. This Commission submits its report for approval to the Grand National Assembly, which decides whether to validate or to annul the election of this or that deputy.

ART. 32. The Grand National Assembly may appoint commissions of investigation and audit on various problems.

All state authorities and officials are obliged to submit to these commissions any information and documents required.

The Grand National Assembly establishes separately for each commission its powers and mode of functioning.

ART. 33. Every deputy has the right to put questions or interpellate the Government or any of the Ministers. The Government or the Minister to whom a question

has been addressed is obliged to give a verbal or written reply within a maximum of three days.

ART. 34. No deputy may be prosecuted or arrested without the consent of the Grand National Assembly during sessions, or, when the Grand National Assembly is not in session, without the consent of the Presidium of the Grand National Assembly.

ART. 35. The Grand National Assembly of the Rumanian People's Republic elects the Presidium of the Grand National Assembly, consisting of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and thirteen members.

ART. 36. The Presidium of the Grand National Assembly is accountable to the Grand National Assembly of the Rumanian People's Republic for all its activities.

ART. 37. The Presidium of the Grand National Assembly of the Rumanian People's Republic:

a) convenes the sessions of the Grand National Assembly;

b) issues decrees;

c) gives interpretations of the laws passed by the Grand National Assembly;

d) conducts nation-wide polls (referendums);

e) annuls decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers if they do not conform to law;

f) in the intervals between sessions of the Grand National Assembly, releases and appoints Ministers in the Government on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, subject to subsequent confirmation by the Grand National Assembly;

g) institutes decorations, medals and titles of honour of the Rumanian People's Republic;

h) awards decorations and medals and confers titles of honour of the Rumanian People's Republic; institutes military titles, diplomatic ranks and other special titles;

i) in the interval between sessions of the Grand National Assembly of the Rumanian People's Republic, on the recommendation of the Government, proclaims a state of war in the event of armed aggression directed against the Rumanian People's Republic or against any other state towards which the Rumanian People's Republic has mutual defence obligations arising from international treaties;

j) appoints and recalls the Commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces of the Rumanian People's Republic;

k) orders general or partial mobilization;

l) exercises the right of pardon and commutation of punishment;

m) ratifies and denounces international treaties of the Rumanian People's Republic;

n) appoints and recalls plenipotentiary representatives of the Rumanian People's Republic to foreign states;

o) receives the letters of credence and recall of diplomatic representatives accredited to it by foreign states;

p) in the interests of the defence of the Rumanian People's Republic or of the maintenance of public order and the security of the state, proclaims a state of emergency in certain localities or throughout the Rumanian People's Republic.

ART. 38. The Grand National Assembly dissolves on the expiration of the term of office for which it has been elected.

ART. 39. On the expiration of the term of office of the Grand National Assembly of the Rumanian People's Republic, the Presidium of the Grand National Assembly orders new elections to be held within a period not exceeding three months from the date of expiration of the term of office of the Grand National Assembly.

The Presidium in office retains its powers until the election of the new Presidium by the new Grand National Assembly of the Rumanian People's Republic.

ART. 40. In the event of war or other emergency, the Grand National Assembly

may prolong its term of office for the duration of the emergency.

ART. 41. The newly elected Grand National Assembly is convened by the outgoing Presidium within a period not exceeding three months after the elections.

CHAPTER IV

The Organs of State Administration of the Rumanian People's Republic

ART. 42. The highest executive and administrative organ of the state power of the Rumanian People's Republic is the Council of Ministers of the Rumanian People's Republic.

ART. 43. The Council of Ministers is appointed by the Grand National Assembly of the Rumanian People's Republic and consists of :

The Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Rumanian People's Republic ;

The Vice-Chairmen of the Council of Ministers of the Rumanian People's Republic ;

The Chairman of the State Planning Committee ;

The Chairman of the State Control Commission ;

The Ministers of the Rumanian People's Republic ;

The Chairman of the State Supply Committee ;

The Chairman of the State Agricultural Products Delivery Committee ;

The Chairman of the Committee for Higher Education ;

The Chairman of the Arts Committee.

ART. 44. The Council of Ministers is responsible and accountable for its activity to the Grand National Assembly, or, in the intervals between sessions of the Grand National Assembly, to the Presidium of the Grand National Assembly.

ART. 45. The Council of Ministers of the Rumanian People's Republic issues decisions and orders on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in operation and verifies their execution.

ART. 46. Decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers of the Rumanian People's Republic are binding throughout the territory of the Rumanian People's Republic.

ART. 47. The Council of Ministers of the Rumanian People's Republic:

a) coordinates and directs the work of the Ministries and of other institutions under its jurisdiction ;

b) adopts measures to carry out the national-economic plan and the state budget and to consolidate the monetary and credit system ;

c) adopts measures for the maintenance of public order, for the protection of the interests of the state, and for the safeguarding of the rights of citizens ;

d) exercises general guidance in the sphere of relations with foreign states ;

e) fixes the annual contingent of citizens to be called up for active military service and directs the general organization of the Armed Forces of the country ;

f) sets up, whenever necessary, special committees and commissions as well as central administrations under the Council of Ministers, for economic, cultural, juridical and military affairs.

ART. 48. The Council of Ministers of the Rumanian People's Republic may annul orders and instructions of Ministers which do not conform with the laws and with the decisions of the Council of Ministers.

ART. 49. Within the limits of the jurisdiction of their respective Ministries, the Ministers issue orders and instructions on the basis and in pursuance of the laws in operation, and also of decisions and orders of the Council of Ministers, and verify their execution.

ART. 50. The Ministries of the Rumanian People's Republic are the following :

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs ;

The Ministry of Internal Affairs ;

The Ministry of Agriculture ;

The Ministry of Foreign Trade ;

The Ministry of Trade ;

The Ministry of Constructions and of the Building Materials Industry ;

The Ministry of Cults ;

The Ministry of Power Stations and the Electrical Equipment Industry ;

The Ministry of Finance ;

The Ministry of the Armed Forces ;

The Ministry of State Farms ;

The Ministry of Communal Economy and Local Industry ;

The Ministry of Forestry ;

The Ministry of the Food Industry ;

The Ministry of the Meat, Fish and Dairy Industry ;

The Ministry of the Coal Industry ;

The Ministry of the Chemical Industry ;

The Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry ;

The Ministry of the Oil Industry ;

The Ministry of the Timber, Paper and Cellulose Industry ;

The Ministry of Light Industry ;

The Ministry of Public Education ;

The Ministry of Justice ;

The Ministry of Postal Administration and Tele-Communication ;

The Ministry of Social Maintenance ;

The Ministry of Health ;

The Ministry of Transport.

CHAPTER V

The Local Organs of State Power

ART. 51. The organs of state power in regions, districts, towns and rural localities are the People's Councils of the working people of town and country.

ART. 52. The People's Councils consist of deputies elected for a term of two years by the working people, citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic, of the respective regions, districts, towns and rural localities.

The basis of representation for the People's Councils is determined by law.

ART. 53. The People's Councils direct the work of the organs of administration subordinate to them, direct local economic and cultural affairs, ensure the

maintenance of public order, the observance of the laws and the protection of the rights of citizens, and draw up the local budgets.

ART. 54. The People's Councils adopt decisions and issue orders within the limits of the rights vested in them by the laws of the Rumanian People's Republic.

ART. 55. The People's Councils organize the active participation of the working people in the management of state and public affairs and in the building of Socialism.

ART. 56. The executive and administrative organs of the People's Councils of regions, districts, towns and rural localities are the Executive Committees elected by the deputies of the People's Councils and consisting of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary and members.

ART. 57. The organ of state power of the Autonomous Magyar Region is the People's Council of the Autonomous Region.

The executive organ of the People's Council of the Autonomous Magyar Region is the Executive Committee elected by it.

ART. 58. The People's Council of the Autonomous Magyar Region is elected by the working people of the Autonomous Region, citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic, for a term of two years; the basis of representation is determined by law.

ART. 59. The executive and administrative organ of the People's Councils in small localities consists of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary, elected by the deputies of the respective People's Council.

ART. 60. The executive and administrative organs of the People's Councils are accountable for their activities both to the People's Council which elected them and to the Executive Committee of the directly superior People's Council.

ART. 61. The People's Councils of regions, districts and towns set up sections of the Executive Committees.

The organization, functions and activities of the sections are determined by law.

ART. 62. The sections of the Executive Committees of the People's Councils are subordinate to the respective People's Council and Executive Committee, as well as to the corresponding section of the Executive Committee of the directly superior People's Council and to the respective Ministries.

ART. 63. On the expiration of the term of office of the People's Councils, the Executive Committees retain their powers until the newly elected People's Councils have formed new executive organs.

CHAPTER VI

The Courts and the Procurator's Office

ART. 64. In the Rumanian People's Republic, justice is administered by the Supreme Court of the Rumanian People's Republic, the Regional Courts and the People's Courts.

Special Courts may be established by law.

The organization, competence and procedure of the Courts are established by law.

ART. 65. The Courts defend the system of people's democracy and the gains of the working people; they ensure public law, public property and the rights of the citizens.

ART. 66. In all Courts cases are tried with the participation of people's assessors,

except in cases for which the law provides otherwise.

ART. 67. The Supreme Court of the Rumanian People's Republic is elected by the Grand National Assembly for a term of five years.

Judges and people's assessors are elected in accordance with the procedure established by law.

The appointment of judges to special Courts is also established by law.

ART. 68. In the Rumanian People's Republic, judicial proceedings are conducted in the Rumanian language; in regions and districts inhabited by a population of non-Rumanian nationality, the use of the own language of that population is ensured.

Persons not knowing the language in which the judicial proceedings are conducted, are guaranteed the opportunity of acquainting themselves, through an interpreter, with the material of the case, and likewise the right to use their own lan-

guage in Court and in the conclusions to the case.

ART. 69. In all Courts cases are heard in public, unless otherwise provided for by law.

The accused is guaranteed the right to defence.

ART. 70. Judges are independent and subject only to the law.

ART. 71. The Courts deliver their sentences on behalf of the people.

ART. 72. The Supreme Court of the Rumanian People's Republic supervises the judicial activities of all Courts of the Rumanian People's Republic.

ART. 73. Supreme supervisory power to ensure the observance of the law by the Ministries and other central organs, by the local organs of state power and administration, as well as by officials and other citizens, is vested in the Procurator-General of the Rumanian People's Republic.

ART. 74. The Procurator-General of the Rumanian People's Republic is appointed

by the Grand National Assembly for a term of five years.

Deputies of the Procurator-General of the Rumanian People's Republic and procurators of the local units of the Procurator's Office are appointed by the Procurator-General for a term of four years.

ART. 75. The Procurator-General is responsible to the Grand National Assembly of the Rumanian People's Republic and — in the interval between sessions — to the Presidium of the Grand National Assembly and to the Council of Ministers.

ART. 76. The organs of the Procurator's Office are independent of any local organs, being subordinate solely to the Procurator-General of the Rumanian People's Republic.

CHAPTER VII

Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens

ART. 77. Citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic are ensured the right to work, that is, the right to guaranteed employment and payment for their work in accordance with its quantity and quality.

The right to work is guaranteed by the existence and development of the socialist organization of the national economy, the steady and systematic growth of the productive forces in the Rumanian People's Republic, the elimination of the possibility of economic crises and the abolition of unemployment.

ART. 78. Citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic have the right to rest and leisure.

The right to rest and leisure is ensured by the establishment of an eight-hour day for factory and office workers; by the reduction of the working day to less than eight hours for certain trades in which conditions of work are arduous, and for sections where conditions of work are particularly arduous; by the institution of annual vacations with full pay for all factory and office workers, and by the provision of rest-homes, sanatoria and cultural establishments for the accomodation of the working people.

ART. 79. Citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic have the right to maintenance in old age and also in case of sickness or disability.

This right is guaranteed by the broad development of social insurance of factory and office workers at state expense, free medical service for the working people, and by the provision of health resorts for the use of the working people.

ART. 80. Citizens of the Rumanian

People's Republic have the right to education.

This right is ensured by universal, compulsory and free elementary education; by a system of state stipends for deserving students and pupils of higher educational establishments and medium and elementary schools; and by the organization in industrial enterprises, state farms, machine and tractor stations and collective farms of free vocational training for the working people.

Education of all categories is provided for by the state.

The state takes care of the development of science, literature and art.

ART. 81. The working people, citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic, irrespective of their nationality, race or sex, are ensured full equality of rights in all spheres of economic, political and cultural activity.

Any direct or indirect restriction of the rights of the working people, citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic, the establishment of any direct or indirect privileges for

citizens on account of their race or nationality, as well as any manifestation of chauvinism, race hatred, national hatred or nationalist chauvinistic propaganda, is punishable by law.

ART. 82. In the Rumanian People's Republic, the national minorities are guaranteed the free use of their own language, tuition of all categories in their own language, and books, newspapers, and theatres in their own language. In administrative divisions inhabited also by populations of a nationality other than the Rumanian, all organs and institutions shall use orally and in writing the language of the respective nationalities as well, and shall appoint officials from among the ranks of the respective nationality or of other local inhabitants conversant with the language and the way of life of the local population.

ART. 83. Women in the Rumanian People's Republic have equal rights with men in all spheres of economic, political, government and cultural activity.

Women have equal rights with men to work, payment for work, rest and leisure, social insurance and education.

The state protects marriage and the family, and defends the interests of mother and child. The state grants aid to mothers of large families and unmarried mothers, maternity leave with full pay, and provides maternity homes, crèches and day-nurseries.

ART. 84. All citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic are guaranteed freedom of conscience.

Religious cults are free to organize themselves and may function freely. All citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic are guaranteed freedom of religious worship.

The school is separated from the church. No religious creed, congregation or community may open or maintain institutions of general education, but only special schools for training the personnel of the cult.

The manner of organization and func-

tioning of religious cults is regulated by law.

ART. 85. In conformity with the interests of the working people and in order to strengthen the system of people's democracy, the citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic are guaranteed by law :

- a) freedom of speech;
- b) freedom of the press;
- c) freedom of assembly, including the holding of mass meetings;
- d) freedom of street processions and demonstrations.

These rights are ensured by placing at the disposal of the working masses and their organizations, printing presses, stocks of paper, public buildings, the streets, communications facilities and other material requisites for the exercise of these rights.

ART. 86. In conformity with the interests of the working people and in order to develop the political and public activity of the masses of the people, the citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic are guaranteed

the right to unite in public organizations, trade unions, co-operative societies, women and youth organizations, sports organizations and cultural, technical and scientific societies.

Any association of a fascist or anti-democratic character is prohibited. Participation in such associations is punishable by law.

The most active and conscious citizens in the ranks of the working class and of other sections of the working people unite in the Rumanian Workers' Party, the vanguard of the working people, in their struggle to strengthen and develop the people's democratic system and to build the socialist society.

The Rumanian Workers' Party is the leading force of the organizations of the working people as well as of the state organs and institutions. All organizations of the working people in the Rumanian People's Republic rally round it.

ART. 87. Citizens of the Rumanian

People's Republic are guaranteed inviolability of the person.

No person may be placed under arrest except by decision of a Court or of the Procurator, in conformity with the provisions of the law.

ART. 88. The inviolability of the homes of citizens and privacy of correspondence are protected by law.

ART. 89. The Rumanian People's Republic affords the right of asylum to foreign citizens persecuted for defending the interests of the working people, or for scientific activity, or for participating in the struggle for national liberation or the defence of peace.

ART. 90. It is the duty of every citizen of the Rumanian People's Republic to abide by the Constitution and to observe the laws of the people's democratic state; to safeguard, fortify and develop public socialist property; to maintain labour discipline; actively to contribute to the strengthening of the power of people's democracy

and to the economic and cultural advancement of the country.

ART. 91. Military service is compulsory. Military service in the Armed Forces of the Rumanian People's Republic is an honourable duty of the citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic.

ART. 92. To defend the motherland is the sacred duty of every citizen of the Rumanian People's Republic. Treason to the motherland, violation of the oath of allegiance, desertion to the enemy, impairing the defence capacity of the state, espionage, constitute the gravest of crimes against the people and state and are punishable with all the severity of the law.

CHAPTER VIII

The Electoral System

ART. 93. The deputies to the Grand National Assembly and to the People's Councils are elected on the basis of universal, equal and direct suffrage by secret ballot.

ART. 94. All working people, citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic, who have reached the age of eighteen, irrespective of race or nationality, sex, religion, education, profession or domicile, have the right to vote in the election of deputies, with the exception of insane persons, of persons who have been sentenced by a court of law to deprivation of electoral rights, and of persons declared unworthy by law.

Any working person, citizen of the Ru-

Rumanian People's Republic, who has reached the age of twenty-three and who has the right to vote, is eligible for election to the Grand National Assembly.

ART. 95. All working people, citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic, participate in elections on an equal footing, each citizen being entitled to one vote.

ART. 96. Women have the right to elect and be elected to the Grand National Assembly and the People's Councils on equal terms with men.

ART. 97. Citizens serving in the Armed Forces of the Rumanian People's Republic have the right to elect and be elected on equal terms with all working people, citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic.

ART. 98. The deputies to the Grand National Assembly and to all People's Councils are elected by the working people, citizens of the Rumanian People's Republic, by direct vote.

ART. 99. Voting at elections of deputies is secret.

ART. 100. Candidates are nominated by election districts, according to norms established by law.

The right to nominate candidates is secured to all organizations of the working people, organizations of the Rumanian Workers' Party, trade unions, co-operatives, youth organizations and other mass organizations and cultural societies.

ART. 101. It is the duty of every deputy to report to his electors on his work and on the work of the elected body to which he belongs.

The deputy may be recalled at any time upon decision of a majority of the electors in the manner established by law.

CHAPTER IX

Arms, Flag and Capital of the Rumanian People's Republic

ART. 102. The arms of the Rumanian People's Republic are wooded mountains over which the sun is rising, with an oil-derrick at the left and surrounded by ears of grain. At the top of the arms is a five-pointed star.

ART. 103. The flag of the Rumanian People's Republic bears the colours: red, yellow and blue arranged vertically, with the blue stripe next to the staff. In the centre are the arms of the Rumanian People's Republic.

ART. 104. The capital of the Rumanian People's Republic is the City of Bucharest.

CHAPTER X

Procedure for Amending the Constitution of the Rumanian People's Republic

ART. 105. The Constitution of the Rumanian People's Republic may be amended only by a law adopted by the Grand National Assembly.

The bill on amending the Constitution is considered adopted if not less than two-thirds of the total number of members of the Grand National Assembly of the Rumanian People's Republic have voted for it.
