

„RUMANIAN STATISTICS AND THE MAGYARS IN TRANSYLVANIA“

On February 20th, 1940, Dr. Alajos Kovács, former director of the Hungarian Statistical Bureau, gave a lecture in the Hungarian section of the International Demographic Union under the title: *“Rumanian Statistics and the Magyars in Transylvania”*. It will be useful to discuss a few points of this highly interesting lecture, which was published in *“Kisebbségvédelem”* (Minority Protection), the review of the Péter Pázmány University Institute for Minority Rights (Nos. 1—2., 1940).

Dr. Kovács, who is a statistician of high international repute, sums up his criticism of the Rumanian census statistics of 1930 as follows:

“It is to be considered as a distinct sign of improvement that the Rumanian census of 1930 accepted the idea of the “mother-tongue”, in addition to the principle of “ethnic origin.” In relation to the Magyar population of Transylvania the acceptance of the former criterion means the inclusion of 127.000 more Magyars, so that on this ground even the Rumanians have to admit that the Magyar population of Transylvania amounts to nearly a million-and-a-half (1.481.000). It has also shown the utter impossibility of the census based on the principle of “ethnic origin”, particularly in respect of the figures relating to Jews and Gipsies, which were evidently absolutely wrong and miscalculated. Since, however, the Rumanians observed an obviously anti-Hungarian tendency in the treatment of the problem of mother-tongue, they succeeded in decreasing the number of Magyars (i. e. those whose mother-tongue was Hungarian) by something like 197.000 in all. This fact may be proved by the figures of the statistical records concerning the members of the various denominations. The exact figures showing the relation between mother-tongue and the denominations are well known to Hungarian statistics, and it is most unlikely that there should have been any essential change. Since it is hardly possible to suppose that the figures concerning denominations should be false

or forged, we have to admit that the Rumanian element has made a considerable progress in Transylvania, owing partly to immigration from the Regat (the Old Kingdom) during the Rumanian régime; on the other hand, the Magyar population of Transylvania shows a declining tendency, particularly on account of considerable emigration since the beginning of the Rumanian régime, but even so its actual number in 1930 could not have been less than 1.678.000, which — in view of the natural growth of the population — must now have risen to at least 1.800.000. Moreover, if we add those 200.000 Magyars who were driven out of *Transylvania* by the Rumanian régime. — but who would no doubt return there in the event of a change of the present political situation — as well as the many thousands of Magyars living in Bucharest and several other places in Rumania, *the number of Magyars in Transylvania must be well over 2 millions now.*

It is also evident from the records of the Rumanian census that the Rumanians have endeavoured in every way to efface the Hungarian character of the towns in Transylvania; nevertheless, they were obliged to admit — in 1930 — that in respect of the mother-tongue the Magyars still represent the *relative* majority among the populations of the towns, and that their number exceeds that of the Rumanians by 101.000. We, on the other hand, are able to prove — on the basis of the denomination statistics — that in 1930 the Magyar town-dwellers still held the absolute majority in the towns of Transylvania. This is where the strength of the Magyar element in Transylvania actually lies; in the economic as well as the intellectual life of towns the Magyars still occupy a leading position; nevertheless, in view of the future this state of affairs is dangerous and detrimental too. The population of towns is always less prolific than that of the provinces, moreover it is continually fluctuating and, since it is not so completely bound to the soil and its place of abode, it is easier for the régime to deprive it of its national character. The decade between 1920 and 1930 is already a sad token in this respect.

Dr. Kovács draws his conclusions from a suitable grouping of statistical records; we would draw special attention to calculations concerning the actual number of the Magyars in Transylvania; his calculations are based on the records concern-

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ing denominations; as it has been the experience of Hungarian statisticians for many years that there is a close connection between denomination and nationality.

Denomination	No. of inhabitants in 1930, acc. to Rum. stat.	% of Magy. acc. to denom in 1910.	No. of Magy. in 1930, acc. to this %
<i>Roman Catholic</i>	947.351	63.9	605.000
<i>Greek Catholic</i>	1.385.445	6.8	94.200
<i>Greek Orthodox</i>	1.932.356	1.3	25.100
<i>Calvinist</i>	696.320	98.4	686.000
<i>Lutheran</i>	274.415	13.7	37.600
<i>Unitarian</i>	68.330	98.9	67.000
<i>Jewish</i>	192.833	73.5	141.800
<i>Others (unknown)</i>	51.313	39.8	20.400
Total:	5.548.363	30.2	1.677.700

The above calculation, then, shows that the Magyar population of Transylvania under the Rumanian régime must be at least 1.678.000. This figure exceeds the result shown by the Rumanian census — on the basis of the mother tongue — by 197.000, while it is not less than 325.000 more, if we consider the figure based on the principle of "ethnic origin" (which is 1.353.000).