**Statement by Professor MANEA MĂNESCU,**
**Corresponding Member of the Romanian Academy,**
**President of the Economic Council**




**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**Dear guests from foreign countries.**

The very agreeable task is incumbent upon me, on behalf of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania, to convey to participants attending the present international meeting, which takes place under the high authority of the United Nations Organization, the welcome greeting to our guests and the wish for your proceedings to be crowned with success.

The Romanian Government bestows a particular emphasis on international co-operation in the technical and scientific areas, a highly important factor for the economic and social progress of mankind, for the setting up of a climate of mutual unterstanding among peoples, with a view to strenghten*ing peace all over the world in accordance with man's loftiest ideal.*

Never before did science and technique hold such a considerable place in social life as they do in our time. Nor were the implications of science on the peoples' social and economic development so strong as in the context of the

present technical and scientific revolution, whose symbol is cybernetics, this grand conquest of human genius. We have the opportunity to witness the large-scale introduction of computers in technique, economy and science. Their rapid diffusion in all fields of activity causes a revolution of concepts and of data processing methods, making available considerable resources for labour efficiency growth, placed in the service of social programmes development and economic policy decision making, with a view to achieve the peoples' welfare and prosperity.

The Romanian Government is aware of the truth and current interest of these problems and, consequently, is carrying out a vast programme — spaced out along a number of years — for the economic information system improvement, through the endowment of mechanographic and electronic computation centres with up-to-date equipment, a system designed to contribute to the continuous improvement of production and work organization, to the development of economic activity as a whole. This is why our concern for the proceedings of the present meeting is self evident, and our genuine desire is equally understandable for this meeting to bear as fruitful results as possible, for all participating countries, in the spirit of the loftiest international collaboration.

I cannot conclude this short address without expressing our gratitude towards the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe, for entrusting Romania with the honour of being the host of this important international meeting, as well as to all Governments and countries which have sent scientists and well known specialists and experts with acknowledged authority and whose presence among us is a warrant for the successful issue of this meeting.

Will you permit me, ladies and gentlemen, to express once more my total confidence in the fruitful results of the proceedings of the international meeting on electronic data processing.