THE SALZBURG SEMINAR IN AMERICAN STUDIES

The Seminar in American studies, set up in 1947, having its own leading council and a European consultative council aims at promoting an exchange of information and opinions among the representatives of scientific and economic-social life in the United States of America and in the European countries. By rallying in sessions and on specialities the representatives of various European countries with American professors and personalities of prestige in the economic and social fields, the Salzburg Seminar represents a useful form of international scientific collaboration.

The session 139 — Challange to American Management — took place as part of the Seminar, between February 20 and March 11, 1972. The lectures, debates and application seminars of the session have approached a series of major and topical issues of economic and social management at various levels of American society, being at the same time a useful exchange of opinions both among the American professors and the participants from the European countries and among the Europeans. At this session, importance was attached to the problems linked with the utilization of the efficient methods and means of management, to the applications of operations research and informatics systems based on the use of electronic computers as indispensible instruments of management. Besides these problems, the subject-matter of the lectures and debates included a varied range of social aspects of management activity, among which are problems linked with the training and employment of personnel, the use of labour force, the ensurance of jobs, the relations between management and the other categories of personnel, etc.

The presentation of the models for investment optimization in the chemical fertilizers industry for the 1971—1980 period, elaborated in the research laboratories of the Economic Cybernetics Department of the Bucha-

rest Academy of Economic Studies, models used in the substantiation of the decisions for the development of this branch in Romania aroused particular interest among the participants in the session. *)

The ensurance of a continous scientific dialogue among the professors and the participants, as a main form of unfolding of the session, as well as the intense exchange of experience among the participants, facilitated by their composition, varied as regards representation of the countries (representatives from 20 countries have participated in it) and as regards profession (academic staff, research workers, economists, engineers, mathematicians, leading cadres from research, designing units, productive economic units, banking units, ministries, departments, etc.) and appropriate as regards present preoccupations in the field of social-economic management, represented one of the important factors for the success of the respective session

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*) See the article "Models for Investment Optimization in Chemical Fertilizers Industry" published in Economic Computation and Economic Cybernetics Studies and Research". No. 1/1971