THE CEREMONY

from the Palace of State Council

The President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, Nicolae Ceauşescu has been awarded, on Thursday, December 7, as part of a ceremony which took place at the State Council Palace, the first "Norbert Wiener" Gold Medal of the World Organization of General Systems and Cybernetics, in token of high regard for his merits in promoting science, in general and cybernetics, in particular and in using them for the benefit of peace, cooperation and progress.

The diploma of the awarding of the gold medal contains the following text: "The World Organization of General Systems and Cybernetics. The "Norbert Wiener" Memorial Gold Medal awarded to His Excellency, Nicolae Ceauşescu, President of the Socialist Republic of Romania, as a reward and recognition of the interest and support given to the work and goals of this organization. Awarded at the Fourth Congress of Cybernetics and Systems in Amsterdam—Holland, August 1978".

Present at the ceremony were Mrs. Elena Ceauşescu, Mssrs. Manea Mănescu, Iosif Banc, Emil Bobu, Cornel Burtică, Virgil Cazacu, Lina Ciobanu, Ion Dincă, Emil Drăgănescu, Janos Fazekas, Ion Ioniţă, Petre Lupu, Gheorghe Oprea, Gheorghe Pană, Ion Păţan, Gheorghe Rădulescu, Virgil Trofin, Ştefan Voitec, Ştefan Andrei, Miu Dobrescu, Ludovic Fazekas, Mihai Gere, Nicolae Giosan, Vasile Patilineţ, Ion Ursu, Richard Winter, ministers, members of the leadership of the National Council for Science and Technology, of the academies of sciences of our country, of higher education institutes in Bucharest, Romanian scientists.

Also present was a delegation of the World Organization of General Systems and Cybernetics made up of professors John Rose — Great Britain, Radmila Stojanovic-Yugoslavia, Alexander Miller Andrew — Great Britain, Tibor Charles Helvey— U.S.A., Robert Vallée—France.

At the opening of the ceremony, prof. Ion Ursu, chairman of the National Council for Science and Technology introduced to President Nicolae Ceauşescu the group of scientists invested by the Fourth Congress of Cybernetics and Systems in Amsterdam with the high mission of handing over to the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania the "Norbert Wiener" Memorial Gold Medal.

"The decision to award this high distinction to the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania — the speaker further said — was taken by the Amsterdam congress, in the full unanimity of the over 600 participants, outstanding representatives of the international community of scientists in the field of cybernetics and the applied theory of systems.

Allow me to express, on this solemn occasion, the feelings of deep esteem, admiration and patriotic pride which are again inspiring, during these moments, all those working in the field of science and technology of our country towards the beloved leader of our state, the man who embodies for the entire Romanian people a brilliant guarantee of their free and independent development, both materially and spiritually, in keeping with their will and with their own aspirations to peace and progress".

Addressing warm congratulations to the Romanian head of state, Alexander Miller Andrew, Professor at the Faculty of Cybernetics of the Reading University (Great Britain) said that cybernetics is a science which originated in the desire for peace, understanding and goodwill. Therefore, the University staff was happy and at the same time honoured by the fact that President Nicolae Ceaușescu continued to support the development of cybernetics in the spirit of this good tradition. People in Great Britain are honoured and happy that President Nicolae Ceaușescu and Mrs. Elena Ceaușescu had the possibility, on the occasion of the state visit paid to Great Britain, to also make an exchange of information in the field of science and technology in general, and of cybernetics in particular.

Prof. dr. Tibor Charles Helvey, Director of the World Organization of General Systems and Cybernetics, president of the Institute for Information and Control Systems of the U.S.A said that he was occupied with the study of human behaviour and therefore he manifested particular interest in this aspect of the activity of the President of Romania. He was most impressed by the President's efforts devoted to the promotion of world peace and to supporting social progress. Prof. Tibor Charles Helvey said he had heard about the important effort made by the Romanian head of state for the reduction of military expenditures, with a view to alloting the funds thus saved for the promotion of social progress.

After having referred to the multiple domains of the application of cybernetics, dr. Radmila Stojanovic, professor at the Belgrade University, member of the Executive Committee of the Economists' Union of the Federative Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia said:

"By taking this decision, our Organization had in view the outstanding contribution of the Socialist Republic of Romania, under your leadership, enjoying your full support and exceptional understanding to the development of science in general and of the general theory of systems and cybernetics in particular...

Scientists, the members of our Organization know right well what Romania has done for the development of cybernetics and for its application in economic and social practice: the large network of specialized institutes for cybernetics, the Cybernetics Department attached to your Academy, a special Faculty of Cybernetics, a large editorial activity in the specialized scientific field as well as the presence of cybernetics in the curricula, are conclusive examples in this direction."

Dr. Robert Vallée, Professor at the Paris—North University pointed out: "This distinction wants to mark the high value of Mr. Nicolae Ceaușescu's studies in the field of social, economic and political sciences, the sustained support he has granted to the development of science and technology, in general and of cybernetics in particular, not only in the Romanian national scene but also in the international scene, having honoured under his eminent sponsorship the organization of the International Congress for Cybernetics and Systems Theory, held in Bucharest, in 1975."

Prof. dr. John Rose, General Director of the World Organization of General Systems and Cybernetics, Rector of the Blackburn College of Technology (Great Britain) said that he wished to thank the distinguished hosts, the Socialist Republic of Romania for the honour and privilege to hand over, on behalf of the World Organization of General Systems and Cybernetics, the first "Norbert Wiener" Gold Medal to His Excellency, Mister Nicolae Ceaușescu. It is also a historic occasion because it marks an important moment in the history of cybernetics. We are experiencing times of great transformations, of a rapid development in science and technology. In fact, it is an exponential rate of development in various sectors of human knowledge. In this respect, cybernetics is playing a vital role. Therefore, Prof. John Rose said he was happy to note that the President of Romania was among the pioneers who had from the very beginning realized the important role cybernetics could play in raising the welbeing of mankind. He also said he was not surprised at the fact that President Nicolae Ceaușescu acted for peace, because his field of activity required, in the last analysis, the peace of the entire world. He underlined that the President of Romania had the clearsightedness and imagination to see and conceive this fact, which confers on him a special place among the heads of state...

The speaker also said that President Nicolae Ceaușescu was not only a promoter of peace throughout the world and a courageous stateman, but also a head of state — in fact, one of the few in the world — who understood the significance of this new science — cybernetics — which, just like all sciences contains the potential of essential contributions to the progress and prosperity of mankind. He also pointed out that our President had a comprehensive outlook, and was among those people with a great courage and among those who promoted peace. He said he hoped that the President of Romania will continue to grant also in the future, as he had done in the past, a valuable support to the development of cybernetics.

The medal has been handed over to President Nicolae Ceaușescu by prof. dr. John Rose.

President Nicolae Ceaușescu warmly thanked for the distinction awarded.

The members of the delegation of the World Organization of General Systems and Cybernetics warmly congratulated the President of the Socialist Republic of Romania for the distinction awarded to him.

President Nicolae Ceaușescu was also warmly congratulated by the comrades of the leadership of our party and state, by scientists and researchers in the field of cybernetics, present at the ceremony.