

THE FIRST ROMANIA POLL

Editor's Note: The impulse is clearly irresistible: As soon as a repressive regime is either overturned or significantly "liberalized," to the end that opinions can be publically expressed, the public opinion survey makes its appearance within the country in question. Romania strikingly illustrates this development. On January 11-13, just weeks after the Ceaucescu regime was overthrown and the dictator executed, Brulé Ville Associés (BVA), the French survey firm, conducted the first-ever Romania poll for *Paris-Match*. Eight hundred and seventeen persons were interviewed, all in the capital city, Bucharest.

Conditions are changing rapidly, and many of the poll's findings — notably, the public's confidence that democracy would now triumph in Romania — may no longer hold true. Nonetheless, the poll's snapshot of Romanian opinion early on in the revolution yields some striking views. A few examples:

QUESTION: Did December's revolution surprise you, or do you feel it had been developing for some time?

Surprised	38%
Had been Developing	59
Don't Know	3

Q: Do you approve of the way the trial and execution of Nicolae and Elena Ceaucescu was carried out?

Yes	84%
No	14
DK	2

Q: All things considered, are you confident about the future of democracy in Romania?

Yes	96%
No	2
DK	2

Q: Do you think that Mikhail Gorbachev played a role in the fall of the Ceaucescu regime?

Yes	31%
No	57
DK	12

Q: In your view, should Romania establish a market economy similar to what western countries have?

Yes	92%
No	4
DK	4

Q: Do you feel an attachment to a religious group?

	<u>Everyone</u>	<u>Young (under 25 yrs. of age)</u>
Yes	86%	84%
No	10	14
DK	4	2