

DANIEL DUMITRAN, *Debates on Enacting Tolerance Politics in Transylvania (1781-1782) and their Meanings*

Abstract: Investigation of the defining way of tolerance politics in Transylvania at the beginning of the Josephine decade constitutes a preliminary stage to research of evolution rapports between the Transylvanian confessions towards the end of 18th century. This is realized firstly by comparison of projects and versions of the Tolerance Edict destined to Hungary and Transylvania, capable to evidence characteristics specific to the confessional environment from the Transylvanian principality. Already noticeable through the mentioned projects, the opinions of the representatives of Transylvanian Aulic Chancellery stand out more clearly in rapport with observations of members from the Council of State alongside their propositions. In the first case we deal with attempt of justifying the maintenance of a confessional system specific to the Principality, and in the second with the tendency of completion or modification of this system on the basis of essential principles of Josephine tolerant politics. Investigation in continuation of the main decrees referring to confessional reports issued in 1782 reveals essentially the imposing of a more restrictive meaning of tolerance, by comparison with the initial one. What significance receives the concept of tolerance in this period, how the rapports between officially accepted denominations (*receptae*) and tolerated denomination are defined are a few questions to which we are trying to suggest some answers, even temporary ones.

Keywords: Transylvanian confessions, Tolerance Edict, Josephine tolerant policy, Council of State, Transylvanian Aulic Chancellery.