

Romania

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FM BUCHAREST 291315Z AUG
TO PRIORITY FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 214 OF 29 AUGUST.
INFO
UKDEL NATO
WARSAW
MOSCOW
EAST BERLIN
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WASHINGTON

SAVING BELGRADE.

YOUR TELNO 157 TO UKDEL NATO: POLAND.

1. MY ASSESSMENT OF THE PROBABLE ROMANIAN ATTITUDE REMAINS AS SET OUT IN MY TELNO 208.
2. IT IS TRUE THAT THERE IS PLENTY OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DISCONTENT IN ROMANIA, BUT ROMANIANS ARE NOT POLES AND THE CONDITIONS WHICH MIGHT ENABLE DISCONTENT TO BE FOCUSSED INTO EFFECTIVE ACTION SEEM TO BE LACKING HERE. THE ILL-ORGANISED ATTEMPT LAST YEAR TO SET UP A FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT WAS RAPIDLY SUPPRESSED AND SEEMS TO HAVE SUNK WITHOUT TRACE. INTERNAL SECURITY IS TIGHT AND HARSH, AND THE ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES, FACED WITH ANY DISTURBANCES, WOULD NOT BE INHIBITED (AS FOR VARIOUS REASONS THE POLES ARE) FROM DEALING WITH THEM FIRMLY AND REPRESSIVELY.
3. ALTHOUGH FIRM EVIDENCE IS HARD TO COME BY, THERE SEEM TO HAVE BEEN SOME MANIFESTATIONS OF DISCONTENT IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY IN RECENT WEEKS, THOUGH SOME WESTERN PRESS REPORTS HAVE PROBABLY EXAGGERATED THE SITUATION. I WOULD NOT EXPECT UNREST TO ASSUME PROPORTIONS WHICH WOULD OBLIGE THE ROMANIAN LEADERSHIP TO MAKE REAL CONCESSIONS, AND CERTAINLY NOT CONCESSIONS OF A POLITICAL NATURE. IF SOVIET INTERVENTION IN POLAND SEEMED IMMINENT, I WOULD EXPECT CEAUSESCU TO TIGHTEN UP EVEN FURTHER, IN ORDER TO OFFER NO POSSIBLE PRETEXT FOR INTERVENTION HERE.

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4. THE 23 AUGUST CELEBRATIONS HERE WERE USED TO STAGE THE CUSTOMARY MASS EXPRESSIONS OF ORGANISED ENTHUSIASM IN FAVOUR OF CEAUSESCU, WHOSE PERSONALITY CULT IS AS STRONG AS EVER. HE IS DUE TO ADDRESS A MASS MEETING TOMORROW AT MOTRU, A MINING TOWN IN OLTENIA, WHEN HE WILL NO DOUBT WARN THE COUNTRY AGAINST GOING DOWN THE POLISH ROAD OF WORK-STOPPAGES ETC. WHILE HE MUST KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE ON THE POSSIBILITY OF ROMANIAN WORKERS BEING INFECTED BY POLISH ATTITUDES, HIS MAIN AND MOST WORRYING PREOCCUPATION MUST BE THE POSSIBILITY OF SOVIET OR BLOC INTERVENTION IN POLAND. COMING ON TOP OF AFGHANISTAN, THIS WOULD BE LIKELY TO BRING TO AN END THE ERA OF DETENTE WHICH HAS PROVIDED THE CONDITIONS FOR ROMANIA'S PURSUIT OF A RELATIVELY INDEPENDANT FOREIGN POLICY AND WOULD INCALCULABLY INCREASE THE DANGER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

FCO PASS SAVING TO BELGRADE.

(REPEATED AS REQUESTED)

HOLMER

POLAND STANDARD

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