



From the Secretary of State

The Rt Hon Julian Amery MP
112 Eaton Square
London
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7 February 1983

Dear Julian,

Thank you for your letter about your recent talk with the new Romanian Minister of Foreign Trade.

I am not sure that there is any question of strict reciprocity over visits; the last Trade Minister to go to Romania was Cecil Parkinson as Minister of State (you were of course there at the same time). We would however have been very happy in the normal course of events for Mr Pungan to come here and the Romanian Ambassador informally suggested this to my Department shortly before Christmas. The real problem is Romania's financial position; it is difficult to envisage any very effective dialogue at my level on the significant expansion of mutual trade while Romania is not only the subject of a rescheduling agreement for past debt maturities but has also announced its inability to make capital repayments this year. We are not now in a position to give the country further help on the commercial front so that it seems all too likely that, were Mr Pungan to make an early visit, he would go away disappointed. For this reason my officials have indicated to the Ambassador that Ministers' programmes of both inward and outward visits in 1983 are now pretty congested, which is indeed the case. We would therefore feel it best to postpone the issue of a visit by Mr Pungan for a while.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary.

Yours,
Arthur
LORD COCKFIELD

Romania: Relations

Nov 79

FROM: THE RT. HON. JULIAN AMERY, M.P.



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Dr. Pungam

I was in Romania the week before last. In the course of other meetings had a talk with Mr. Pungam.

As you will know he is now their Minister of Trade. Previously he was personal adviser to the President and at an earlier stage Ambassador in London.

It is, I believe, our turn to invite him to come to London. He told me, however, that a Romanian delegation was due to come to London in the course of this month or early next month.

✓ As it may be difficult for the Prime Minister or Foreign Secretary to visit Romania this year you may like to consider in the light of the delegations talks whether to invite Mr. Pungam. On purely political grounds I would be inclined to think that this is advisable.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary.

Julian Amery

The Lord Cockfield,