



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

25 March 1983

*Would you
refer the telegram
to the H.O. if
time - it seems
worth referring.
Not*

See John.

Prime Minister

To note.

A.S.C. 25/3

Papasoiu

You may wish to see the enclosed copy of Bucharest telno 71 in which Mr Holmer records his discussion with the Romanians about Papasoiu.

The claim by Badescu that the Romanian Embassy had raised doubts about Papasoiu's status with the FCO some days before his return is untrue. The Romanian Ambassador himself complained mildly to Mr Rifkind, during a call on other business on 22 March, that the Romanian Embassy had not been consulted about the case despite the fact that they were 'always ready to co-operate with the British authorities'. That apart, the Embassy here have made no reference to the case.

A copy of this letter goes to Tony Rawsthorne in the Home Office.

Yes

[Signature]

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

GR 308

CONFIDENTIAL

DESKBY 241600Z

FM BUCHAREST 241450Z MAR 83
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NUMBER 071 OF 24 MAR

YOUR TELEGRAMS NOS 72, 73 AND 74. PAPASOIU.

1. I SPOKE ACCORDINGLY TO BADESCU, HEAD OF THE CONSULAR DIRECTORATE IN THE MFA, AT 241315Z MARCH.

2. IN REPLY BADESCU SAID THAT THE ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN DISTURBED BY THIS CASE AND HAD INSTRUCTED THEIR AMBASSADOR IN LONDON TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL DEMARCHE ABOUT IT (PRESUMABLY THE APPROACH REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF YOUR TELNO 72). THE ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES TOOK EXCEPTION TO THE FACT THAT A PERSON HAD BEEN PUT ON TO THE TAROM AIRCRAFT BY FORCE AND AT THE LAST MOMENT. THEY WERE ALSO CONCERNED BY THE FACT THAT PAPASOIU HAD NONE OF THE DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED BY ROMANIAN LAW TO PROVE THAT HE WAS A ROMANIAN CITIZEN SEMI COLON NAMELY, NO VALID PASSPORT, OR DOCUMENT FROM THE ROMANIAN EMBASSY CERTIFYING HIM AS SUCH. BADESCU ADDED THAT THE ROMANIAN EMBASSY HAD POINTED OUT TO THE FCO SOME DAYS BEFORE PAPASOIU'S DEPORTATION THAT HE HAD NO VALID PROOF OF HIS CLAIM TO BE A ROMANIAN CITIZEN. BADESCU SAID THAT IT WAS TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT THE PRESENT CASE BUT IF ANY SIMILAR CASES AROSE IN THE FUTURE THE ROMANIANS WOULD FORCIBLY RETURN THE PERSON TO THE UNITED KINGDOM. SO FAR AS BADESCU KNEW, THE QUESTION OF PAPASOIU'S NATIONALITY WAS STILL BEING CLARIFIED. X

3. I PRESSED BADESCU TO CONFIRM THAT PAPASOIU WOULD BE DEALT WITH ONLY FOR BREACH OF ANY ROMANIAN LAWS AND NOT ON A POLITICAL BASIS. BADESCU INSISTED THAT HE HAD NO DETAILS CONCERNING THIS CASE AND SO COULD NOT GIVE A PRECISE REPLY. SO FAR AS HE KNEW, THE MAIN CHARGE AGAINST PAPASOIU WOULD BE FOR ILLEGALLY CROSSING THE FRONTIER SEMI COLON HE DID NOT AS YET KNOW OF ANYTHING ELSE AND HE DID NOT PERSONALLY SEE THAT THE CASE COULD HAVE ANY POLITICAL DIMENSION.

HOLMER

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ZZ BUCHAREST

GRS 91

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FM FCO 241000Z MAR 83

TO FLASH BUCHAREST

TELEGRAM NUMBER 74 OF 24 MARCH

MY TELNO 72 : PAPASOIU

ENR 020/3		
NO. 15		
24 MAR 1983		
INDEX	PA	REGISTRY
		Action Taken

1. YOU SHOULD NOW (NOW) TAKE ACTION AND REPORT BY IMMEDIATE TELEGRAM.

2. YOU SHOULD TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL GLOSS ON THE INSTRUCTIONS IN TUR. YOU SHOULD SAY THAT PAPASOIU'S CASE HAS BEEN DEALT WITH AS AN IMMIGRATION ISSUE AND NOT A POLITICAL QUESTION FROM WHICH POLITICAL CAPITAL MIGHT HAVE BEEN DERIVED. WE WOULD VERY MUCH HOPE, FOR THE SAKE OF UK/ROMANIAN RELATIONS, THAT THE ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES WILL ADOPT THE SAME APPROACH.

PYM

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FILE 80

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

28 March, 1983

Papasoiu

BT 1
The Prime Minister has seen Roger Bone's letter of 25 March and the enclosed telegram from Bucharest. Mrs. Thatcher has asked for further information on the statement by the Romanian authorities that Papasoiu had no valid proof of his claim to be a Romanian citizen. I should be grateful for your comments.

I am copying this letter to Roger Bone (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

A. J. COLES

A. R. Rawsthorne, Esq.,
Home Office

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MR