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Action CONTROL: 6248
EUR RECEIVED: JUNE 7, 1965 2:07 P.M.

Info

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SAH

FROM: BUCHAREST

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FE

ACTION: SECSTATE 1278

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USIA

NSC

INFO: MOSCOW 145

INR

CIA

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5
State Dept. Guidelines
By jc, NARA, Date 1-4-01

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ JUNE 7

IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY WIFE AT INFORMAL SOCIAL EVENT JUNE 4, MFA DIRECTOR PUNGAN STATED RUMANIA UNDER STRONG PRESSURES FROM MOSCOW OVER PAST SEVERAL WEEKS, PARTICULARLY IN REGARD TO ITS POSITION ON VIETNAM. HE NOTED NORTH VIETNAMESE AND SOVIET AMBASSADORS HAVE RECENTLY CALLED ON CEAUSESCU, INDICATING THEY DEMANDED THAT RUMANIA ABANDON ITS EQUIVOCAL POSITION ON VIETNAM. (ACCORDING PRESS, SOVIET AMBASSADOR ZHEGALIN SAW CEAUSESCU JUNE 3 AND NVN AMBASSADOR HOANG TU CALLED ON HIM MAY 28, IN BOTH CASES AT REQUEST OF RESPECTIVE AMBASSADOR.) ALSO MENTIONED THAT SOVIETS HAD RECENTLY SENT EMISSARY FROM MOSCOW TO BUCHAREST TO PROTEST RUMANIAN ACTIONS. (NOT CLEAR FROM PUNGAN'S REMARKS WHETHER THIS IN CONNECTION WITH VIETNAM SITUATION. HE MAY HAVE HAD IN MIND VISIT OF WARSAW PACT COMMANDER MARSHAL GRECHKO AND HIS TALK WITH MAURER MAY 24.) EXPLAINING RUMANIA'S STANCE, PUNGAN SAID THAT THOUGH IT CONCERNED ABOUT DANGER OF NUCLEAR WAR (APPARENT REFERENCE TO US BOMBING RAIDS), IT DOES NOT WANT TO TIE ITS POLICY TO THAT OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY. FURTHER IN CONVERSATION, PUNGAN REMARKED THAT RUMANIA, SMALL COUNTRY WITH SMALL ARMY NOT CAPABLE OF SELF-DEFENSE, HAS FEELING OF BEING HEMMED IN.

COMMENT: FROM CIRCUMSTANCES OF CONVERSATION, EMBASSY BELIEVES PUNGAN WAS VOICING GENUINE CONCERN. IN ANY EVENT, HIS REMARKS IN ACCORD WITH OUR RECENT OBSERVATIONS THAT MOSCOW PRESSURING RUMANIA ON VIETNAM AND POSSIBLY ON WARSAW PACT MATTERS. (EMBTELS 1240, 1254.) IN OUR OPINION, MOSCOW'S PRIMARY MOTIVE IN VIETNAM DEMARCHES WOULD BE TO MAKE RUMANIA TAKE STANCE WHICH WOULD CAUSE FRICTIONS IN RELATIONS WITH US; WHAT RUMANIA SAYS OR DOES NOT SAY ABOUT VIETNAM OTHERWISE OF LITTLE PRACTICAL CONCERN TO USSR. GP-3. CRAWFORD

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