

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Approved in M 1/29/65

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: January 22, 1965
11:30 A.M.

Governor Harriman's Office

SUBJECT: Gaston Marin Letter to Governor Harriman Regarding Current Visit of
Rumanian Trade Delegation to the US.

PARTICIPANTS:

USRumaniaGovernor Harriman, M.
Peter F. Warker, EUR/EE

Petre Balaceanu, Rumanian Ambassador.

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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.5

State Dept. Guidelines

By jc, NARA, Date 1-4-01

Ambassador Balaceanu said Mr. Gaston Marin, Vice Chairman of the Rumanian Council of Ministers, desired to take the occasion of a visit to the US of a Rumanian delegation to transmit a message to Governor Harriman. The delegation, which includes a Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and of the Petroleum and Chemical Industry, is here to arrange credit guarantees by Export-Import Bank and to sign contracts covering the sale to Rumania of two synthetic rubber plants by Firestone valued at about \$64 million and a catalytic cracking plant from Universal Oil Products valued at \$23 million. The Ambassador said all important aspects of the contracts, including price, had already been agreed to; only certain contract details and the question of the guarantees remain to be settled. EXIM Bank would be discussing the guarantee matter with the US firms and with US private banks, as well as with the Rumanian delegation. The Ambassador stressed that the cracking plant provided the input for the rubber plants and that there would be no point in purchasing either installation without the other. He said he hoped the negotiations could be concluded soon.

Governor Harriman read the letter from Gaston Marin. It expresses gratification that the first concrete results had followed from the US-Rumanian talks of last May and June in the form of initialed (preliminary) contracts with the Firestone and Universal Oil Products companies. It notes that the contracts provide for higher prices than anticipated because

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because two US companies withdrew from the bidding, and that the problem of EXIM Bank credit guarantees for these purchases remains to be settled. The letter gives assurances that the Rumanian delegation now in the US, as well as all Rumanian banking and commercial organizations, will be guided in Rumanian-American trade relations by the letter and spirit of, and will strictly observe the commitments contained in the documents signed last June 1 by Governor Harriman and Gaston Marin. The letter expresses the hope that Governor Harriman will lend his support in order that the Rumanian delegation will be able to carry out its mission and adds that Rumania looks forward with confidence to the future development of Rumanian-American trade relations.

Governor Harriman assured Ambassador Balaceanu of his interest in the successful conclusion of the transactions with Firestone and UOP and told the Ambassador not to hesitate to let him know if it was thought he could be of help.

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