

~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~

LIBRARY  
Mandatory Review  
Case # NUJ 94-1871  
Document # 12a

72a

SUBJECT: Views of Premier Ion Gheorghe Maurer as the Result of his Meeting with President Johnson

1. [REDACTED]

1.3(a)(4)(5)  
C

2. Maurer believes that it is in Rumania's interest to develop relations with the United States in the economic, cultural, scientific, and political fields. He believes that his meeting with President Lyndon B. Johnson was a good start in this direction and is satisfied with the discussions they held. Maurer informed the Party leadership of his talks with President Johnson and the same unanimous conclusion was reached.

3. Maurer found in the person of President Johnson a great realistic politician and believes that he made Johnson understand Rumania's position.

4. [REDACTED] it is interesting that the meeting between Maurer and President Johnson determined changes in Secretary General Nicolae Ceausescu's remarks on the United States in his talk before the Grand National Assembly on 24 July 1967 and an entire paragraph on the United States was modified. Before the revision, the United States was treated harshly and accused as an aggressor, but ultimately, in the actual published version, Rumania manifested in an open manner her desire for collaboration between the two countries. Even the Vietnam conflict was treated in a more sober tone than has been the practice of late.

1.3(a)(4)  
C

5. In connection with Vietnam, Maurer made the assessment that President Johnson is not alone responsible for the existing state of affairs and that, in fact, the mistake can be traced back to President Kennedy--and President Johnson inherited the problem. Maurer believes, however, that President Johnson, in trying to find a political solution to Vietnam, is giving too much weight to domestic considerations in the United States which are manifested through the pressures of some influential political, military, and economic groups. For example, on one hand President Johnson makes a proposal for peace

~~SECRET SENSITIVE~~

APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
JAN 1995

and, on the other, he intensifies military actions--and this is a result of the pressures exerted by these different groups. In spite of this, Maurer believes that President Johnson is sincere in wanting peace in the world.

6. Regarding Vietnam, Maurer said it is difficult to find a solution there because the United States has gone too far in destroying North Vietnam--and the North Vietnamese have nothing more to lose. He compared North Vietnam with a Communist who has been beaten by the Siguranta (the State security organization during the Royalist regime) who, after having his nails pulled, eyes gored, nose and tongue cut, has nothing else to lose--so why give in.

7. In connection with Rumania, Maurer believes that in the next stage it is necessary for Rumania to take initiatives in expanding relations with the United States without, however, making great declarations of friendship on one side or the other. Maurer hopes that the United States will also turn in this direction and get down to concrete cooperation.

8. Rather illustrative of Rumania's situation is the following joke which Maurer related: "As Johnson was being driven down a road, his chauffeur stopped the car when they reached a fork in the road asking which way to turn. Johnson instructed the chauffeur to turn right, and right he turned. A few moments later, Kosygin reached the same fork in the road in his chauffeur-driven limousine. Asked the same question by his chauffeur, Kosygin told him to turn left, and left he turned. After a few additional moments, Nicolae Ceausescu found himself in the same spot. When his chauffeur asked him what to do Ceausescu said, after looking the situation over, "Signal to the left, but turn right."