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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
31 August 1955

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Possible Soviet Military Threat to Rumania

1. Several alarming reports were received early on the evening of 30 August suggesting a possible Russian military intervention in Rumania was imminent. While such an action by Moscow cannot be ruled out, and we are not prepared to write off the prospect of such an invasion, our information is conflicting and does not necessarily lead to the conclusion that the USSR, accompanied by its neighboring allies, is about to move into Rumania.

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3. A number of unconfirmed press reports have also been received last evening of troop concentrations by the USSR and Bulgaria along the Rumanian borders. These may be accounted for by indications of exercise activity in the Odessa and Kiev Military Districts, plus a report of the movement of a large convoy toward the southwest from Rovno, in the central part of the Carpathian Military District.

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4. Available information is inconclusive as concerns the possible build-up of Hungarian and Bulgarian units along the Rumanian borders--which could be reasonably expected if a Warsaw Pact invasion of Rumania was imminent. Western military attaches in Hungary have been making frequent trips to the Hungarian-Rumanian border (from 23 to 28 August daily) and have seen no evidence of a Soviet build-up in the area. On 27 August, the US Attache in Bulgaria reported seeing a variety of logistic and communications troops in northeast Bulgaria, but no combat troops, in what were evidently preparations for a command post exercise. There was no evidence that any Soviet troops had been moved into Bulgaria. The estimated 107 Bulgarian aircraft which deployed to northeast Bulgaria on 28 August continued to be located there through 30 August.

5. There are sufficient uncommitted ground and air forces available in the western USSR should the Soviets and their Warsaw Pact allies decide to move into Rumania. There are at least six Soviet ground force divisions in the Odessa Military District adjacent to Rumania and at least eight divisions in the Kiev Military District, to the north. There are also several divisions in the Carpathian Military District which were not moved into Czechoslovakia and would presumably be available. Although most of these divisions are normally understrength, they may have been filled out during the recent "rear services" exercise which took place in the western USSR, Poland, and East Germany.

6. In Hungary, there are four Soviet divisions in addition to six Hungarian divisions. Bulgaria has 12 divisions, most of which are oriented toward Greece. Hungarian and Bulgarian participation in the occupation of Czechoslovakia was probably limited to token forces.

7. Three Soviet tactical air armies, one in Hungary and one each in the Carpathian and Odessa Military Districts, could provide adequate air cover for ground force operations against Rumania.

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8. Rumania has a total of nine ground force divisions, four of which are understrength. The Rumanian air force has about 235 combat aircraft.

9. On 27 August Rumanian Foreign Minister Manescu told US officials that his government was not concerned about the possibility of Russian interventions. Possibly the most telling negative indication is that Rumanian diplomatic officials elsewhere through 30 August were not playing up the possibility of a Soviet intervention in their country, in clear contrast to their behavior of a week earlier. It should also be noted that for the past several days Moscow has muted its propaganda attacks against Rumania.

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