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Rumania: The ending on 6 September of a Bulgarian military exercise near the Rumanian border probably has contributed to a relaxation of tensions in the Rumanian regime.

The Bulgarian exercise started on 26 August. It was conducted primarily in central and northeast Bulgaria, while naval elements may also have participated in the Black Sea area adjacent to Bulgaria. Rumania and Yugoslavia apparently have not reduced the alert status of their armed forces, however.

Meanwhile, the Rumanian regime continues to put forward a "business as usual" appearance. The press continues a restrained tone on Czechoslovakia, but is still publishing statements from various organizations supporting the regime.

In addition, Dutch and West German parliamentarians are visiting the country and British Foreign Secretary Stewart arrived in Bucharest yesterday in a demonstration of support for the Ceausescu regime's stand against the occupation of Czechoslovakia. As might be expected, Pravda criticized Stewart's trip as anti-Soviet. On 6 September, Ceausescu met with columnist Drew Pearson for more than two hours, appearing relaxed and unworried throughout the meeting.

Over the weekend, Ceausescu also met with the Hungarian ambassador to Bucharest at the latter's request in what the Rumanian news agency described as a "cordial atmosphere." By holding such talks, Ceausescu seems to be trying to give the appearance of normalcy, emphasizing again Rumania's desire to maintain its all-around contacts.

Rumania's interest in cultivating support among Western European Communist parties was demonstrated on 6 September when a high-level Italian party official arrived in Bucharest. A similar visit is going on simultaneously in Belgrade. The purpose of the

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meetings is unclear, but they are bound to be regarded with a jaundiced eye by the Soviets because all three parties object to the occupation of Czechoslovakia.

The East German party press criticism on 6 September of the presence of West German politicians in Rumania "at this time" will probably raise hackles in Bucharest inasmuch as such criticism was central to the case in Czechoslovakia.

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