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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4682  
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RUFHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 0289  
RUFHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 1807  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 05552

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: SREF, PHUM, RO, HU  
SUBJ: ESTIMATE OF ROMANIAN REFUGEES IN HUNGARY

REF: STATE S234355 (NOTAL)

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTREE TEXT.

2. WE NOT THAT THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT (REFTEL) CONTAINS AN ESTIMATE IN PARA 18 THAT THERE ARE "ABOUT 30,000 ETHNIC HUNGARIANS AND ABOUT 6,000 ETHNIC ROMANIANS FROM TRANSYLVANIA IN HUNGARY" AS REFUGEES. WHILE EMBASSY BUDAPEST IS UNDOUBTEDLY IN THE BEST POSITION TO JUDGE THIS ESTIMATE, WE FIND IT MUCH HIGHER THEN THE 12,000 OR SO FIGURE THAT WAS THE HIGHEST WE HAD PREVIOUSLY HEARD. WE HAVE TRIED TO FOLLOW EMBASSY BUDAPEST'S REPORTING ON THIS VERY CLOSELY.

3. HUNGARIAN DAILY MAGYAR HIRLAP REPORTED ON JUNE 10 THAT ALMOST 5,000 ROMANIANS OF ALL ETHNIC GROUPS HAD RECEIVED TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMITS. IN APRIL, BUDAPEST OFFICIALS HAD ESTIMATED THAT ONLY ABOUT TEN PERCENT OF REGISTERING REFUGEES WERE ETHNIC ROMANIAN OR GERMAN. THEREFORE, ALTHOUGH THERE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY A LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES WHO ARE AFRAID TO COME FORWARD, 36,000 STILL SEEMS VERY HIGH.

4. WE WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED IN KNOWING THE SOURCE AND PRESUMED RELIABILITY OF THIS ESTIMATE. AS A COMPARISON, WE NOTE THAT ONLY ABOUT 2,000 ROMANIAN REFUGEES ARE POCESSED ANNUALLY IN THE REFUGEE CENTER IN NEIGHBORING YUGOSLAVIA, LONG A FAVORED DESTINATION FOR ROMANIAN REFUGEES. CLARKE  
END OF MESSAGE

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