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NLS.019.019.002/20 2753

SUBJECT: Rumanian Reaction to the Johnson-Maurer Meeting
of 26 June 1967

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1. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] from Rumanian Premier Ion Gheorghe Maurer. Maurer interpreted his 26 June 1967 meeting with President Johnson as a very important meeting and one which contributed to the enhancement of Rumania's prestige in the international sphere. Maurer said that the fact that President Johnson invited him to this meeting will give Rumania's political position on international problems increased weight, and especially on those problems regarding the Near East. Premier Maurer described the President as being an intelligent man, well-balanced, and receptive to Rumania's political position. He was impressed by the fact that President Johnson listened and showed courteous regard even though Rumania is a small country.

2. Maurer commented that, in general, the meeting gave him an opportunity to learn in an indirect manner the position of the United States on various international problems, particularly the Near East, and to a lesser degree Vietnam. Maurer believes that the United States government has a reasonable stand toward the Near East conflict and that the United States wishes to find an equitable solution for peace in that zone of the world. In connection with the Near East, Maurer reported that a large measure of responsibility for the provocation of the conflict in the Near East rests with the Soviet Union and a lesser measure rests with Communist China--it does not rest with the United States. [REDACTED] said that this was an interesting observation to hear from Maurer. In this same context, Maurer mentioned that Rumania could not rally to Moscow's position on the Near East because the Soviet Union is carrying out an adventurous and dangerous policy in that part of the world and is interfering in a rude manner in the internal affairs of the Arab countries.

3. Maurer manifested his regret that relations between Rumania and the United States are developing very slowly and said that he told President Johnson that Rumania

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wishes to establish good relations but that this will depend henceforth on the United States government. He went on to say that it is regrettable and unfortunate that relations with the United States are not better because Rumania could obtain many advantages from collaboration--economic, scientific, cultural and political.

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4. According to our source, [REDACTED] the State and Party cadres in Rumania regard the Johnson-Maurer meeting as a positive, favorable development. It is a spark of hope, a ray of light, which could help Rumania in her policy of independence.

5. We have received a second report, [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] which states that in a briefing paper sent to Party organizations in Rumanian embassies abroad, the Rumanian Communist Party defined the role of Rumania as that of a mediator between East and West. In commenting on the recent meeting between Premier Ion Gheorghe Maurer and President Johnson, the paper implied that the President had given Maurer the mission of mediator between the United States and China. The paper added that President Johnson appears to know Rumania's problems in depth and, moreover, appreciates Rumania's desire and ability to act as a mediator. The President recognizes the fact that Rumania has good relations with the French government and that Rumania's "game" with China has given Bucharest stature with the Chinese. The briefing paper went on to state that the Rumanian Communist Party was pleased with the manner in which President Johnson treated Maurer but that the Party leadership would have to move with care since the Americans were following their actions closely.

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