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RUMANIA CAUTIOUSLY ASSESSES COMMITMENTS AND PROSPECTS

Rumanian leader Ceausescu is tailoring his regime's contacts with the Communist and non-Communist worlds to reflect the "new realities" stemming from the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

Since 26 August Bucharest has refrained from further polemics directed against the five Warsaw Pact invaders of Czechoslovakia. The regime has retrenched in this manner in the past following strong public differences with its allies. Bucharest has not shown itself any less determined, however, to pursue its independent foreign policy.

This stance is reflected in the arrival in Bucharest on 8 September of British Foreign Secretary Stewart and in the planned visit by Belgian Foreign Minister Harmel, slated to start on 13 September. Each visit comes at the insistence of the Rumanians, and demonstrates Western support for Ceausescu's ticklish anti-invasion stand.

Rumania has been quietly doing as much as it can to focus attention on the invasion of Czechoslovakia while saying as little as possible about it. This policy will face a severe test at the upcoming session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA). Rumania's Foreign Minister Manescu is president of the UNGA and faces the dilemma of addressing himself to this is-

sue without incurring Moscow's criticism. He may opt to use his UN office to issue a plea for reason and for the self-determination of peoples without specifically naming Czechoslovakia. He may also make some broadly stated proposals for nonintervention or try to have the UNGA define aggression.

Rumanian relations with other Communist parties also will be subject to change. It is still uncertain whether Bucharest will send representatives to the international Communist conference scheduled for November in Moscow. Bilateral party contacts with the Warsaw Five can be expected to be proper, however, and perhaps even more closely spaced.

Rumanian contacts with the Yugoslav and Western European Communist parties probably will gain in substance and cordiality in coming months as Bucharest seeks abroad the support that it is unlikely to find among its nominal allies. The visit to Bucharest from 6 to 9 September of Giancarlo Pajetta, a high-level Italian Communist Party official, is a case in point.

The politically shrewd and realistic Ceausescu probably will strive for a modus vivendi with the Warsaw Five while continuing to pursue Rumania's national interests. His success will depend, however, on the attitude of the Russians and their hard-core allies.

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