

SECRET

OLL 84-4842
5 December 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Pre-trip Briefing on Romania for Congressman
Mark Siljander (R., MI)

1. On 5 December 1984, Congressman Mark Siljander (R., MI) was given a pre-trip briefing on the political/economic/social situation in Romania. Mr. Siljander is travelling to Romania on 9 December with a non-official delegation sponsored by the Christian Watch International. The purpose of the trip is to look into allegations that the Romanian government is persecuting religious minority groups, particularly Pentacostals and Baptists. (C)

25X1 2. [redacted] from the Office of European Analysis presented an overview of the current situation in Romania. He discussed President Ceausescu's declining popularity which comes amid a deteriorating economic situation that features food and energy shortages, low industrial
25X1 productivity, and labor discontent. [redacted] described the concerns of the Hungarian minority and the continuing exodus of Germans to West Germany. He cautioned Mr. Siljander

25X6 [redacted]

25X1 3. With regard to the religious affiliation of Romanian citizens, [redacted] briefly outlined the various religious communities and the government's treatment of them. He pointed out that it is not possible to verify most charges of persecution against evangelical groups, although discrimination and harrassment appear commonplace. It was pointed out that Romanian officials will make every effort to convince Mr. Siljander that Romania is not persecuting the so-called "neo-protestants." (C)

25X1 [redacted]

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25X1 4. The briefing concluded with a brief security-
awareness briefing by [redacted] from the Office of
Security. She described the atmosphere in Bucharest and
offered suggestions on how visitors to Bloc countries can
best avoid any difficult or potentially embarrassing
situations. Mr. Siljander expressed appreciation for the
briefing. There are no follow-up matters. [redacted]

25X1

25X1 [redacted]
Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

25X1 [redacted]
Chief, Liaison Division

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