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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON


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MEETING WITH ION PATAN, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE OF ROMANIA

Tuesday, November 4, 1975

12:30 p.m. (10 minutes)

The Oval Office

From: Henry A. Kissinger 

State Dept. review completed

I. PURPOSE

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Trade Patan (puhTSAHN) serves as co-chairman (with Secretary Morton) of the US-Romanian Economic Commission, which is holding its second session in Washington this week. Your purpose in this meeting will be to underscore the importance you attach to the further development of US-Romanian economic relations in the context of continuing improvements in our bilateral relations. The meeting will permit you to note the important role played by the US-Romanian Economic Commission in this process.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

A. Background: During the second session of the Commission, the Romanian side has been particularly interested in discussing increased U.S. investment in Romania, joint ventures, business facilitation, and financial and banking cooperation. Patan reportedly has been instructed by President Ceausescu to obtain inclusion of Romania in the U.S. system of tariff preferences for developing countries (Generalized Schedule Preferences -- GSP). You discussed this briefly with President Ceausescu during your visit to Romania this August. The United States is prepared to accede to this Romanian request if Patan will provide assurances regarding the protection of U.S. interests through fair compensation in cases of Romanian nationalization of property.

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

Subject to GDS of E. O. 11652
Automatically declassified on
December 31, 1981.

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Implementation of the trade agreement during your visit has provided new impetus to the improvement in trade relations between the United States and Romania in recent years. Two way trade grew from \$79.8 million in 1970 to \$407.6 million in 1974 -- with our exports more than double our imports. However, so far in 1975 there has been about a 30 percent decline in trade -- attributable primarily to the artificially high level in 1974 resulting from several large sales of U.S. products (such as aircraft) to Romania and unusually large purchases by the U.S. of Romanian petroleum products.

Your meeting with Patan will reciprocate President Ceausescu's meeting with then-Secretary of Commerce Dent at the first session of the Commission last year. Patan is a key figure in the Romanian government, serving not only as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Trade, but also as a ranking member of the ruling Political Executive Committee. During his visit, his first to the United States, Patan will meet also with Secretary Butz, Ambassador Dent, the Chairman of the Export-Import Bank and Deputy Secretary of State Ingersoll. He will be the guest of honor at a Congressional breakfast on November 4.

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- B. Participants: Deputy Prime Minister Patan, Romanian Ambassador Bogdan, Secretary Morton and Henry A. Kissinger.
- C. Press Arrangements: The meeting will be announced and there will be a press photo session.

III. TALKING POINTS

1. It is a pleasure for me to welcome you to the White House on your first visit to the United States. I hope your stay has been as pleasant and productive as I found my visit to Romania this summer.
2. Please give President Ceausescu my best regards.
3. We are meeting at a time when our bilateral relations are at a new plateau with implementation of the bilateral trade agreement and my very positive meeting with President Ceausescu in August.

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4. Our relations continue to expand and improve. This is to be welcomed and this will continue to be the policy of my government.
5. The Trade Agreement in particular underscores our interest in expanding mutually beneficial relations. We are hopeful that its implementation will open the way to steady growth in mutually beneficial trade between our two countries.
6. I am informed of and have high regard for the work of the US-Romanian Economic Commission. The Commission has an important role to play in resolving differences and considering the opportunities for the further expansion of our economic relations.

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