

VISITS - STEWART TO SEE CEAUSESCU

LONDON, SEPT 4, REUTER - BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY MICHAEL STEWART WILL CALL ON PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU AND HAVE TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT LEADERS DURING AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO RUMANIA NEXT WEEK, IT WAS ANNOUNCED HERE TODAY.

IT WILL BE THE RUMANIAN LEADERS FIRST MEETING WITH A TOP WESTERN MINISTER SINCE THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY SOVIET AND SOME OTHER WARSAW PACT FORCES, OF WHICH RUMANIA HAS VOICED DISAPPROVAL. RUMANIA TAKES AN INDEPENDENT LINE ON MANY ASPECTS OF SOVIET BLOC POLICY.

THE VISIT IS PART OF THE BRITISH LABOUR GOVERNMENTS POLICY OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, MR STEWART HAD BEEN DUE TO PAY SIMILAR VISITS THIS WEEK TO HUNGARY AND BULGARIA BUT CANCELLED THEM AS A MARK OF BRITAINS STRONG CONDEMNATION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK INVASION, IN WHICH HUNGARIAN AND BULGARIAN FORCES TOOK PART.

APART FROM CALLING ON PRESIDENT CEAUSESCU ON TUESDAY, MR STEWART WILL HAVE SEPARATE WIDE-RANGING TALKS WITH THE RUMANIAN PRIME MINISTER, MR ION GHEORGHE MAURER, AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER, MR CORNELIU MANESCU.

MR MANESCU IS PRESIDENT OF THE CURRENT U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY. HE FLEW HERE FROM NEW YORK YESTERDAY ON HIS WAY BACK TO BUCHAREST BUT DID NOT CALL AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

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