

FOR P.C.
VISITS STEWART IN BUCHAREST TOMORROW

BUCHAREST, SEPT. 7, REUTER--BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY MICHAEL STEWART ARRIVES IN BUCHAREST TOMORROW EVENING (ED: 1900 MT) ON A FOUR-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT FOR TALKS WITH RUMANIAN LEADERS.

IT WILL BE THE FIRST VISIT BY ANY TOP WESTERN MINISTER TO EASTERN EUROPE SINCE THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY SOVIET AND SOME OTHER WARSAW PACT FORCES.

BRITAIN HAS STRONGLY CONDEMNED THE OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA WHILE RUMANIA, WHICH TAKES AN INDEPENDENT LINE ON SEVERAL ASPECTS OF SOVIET BLOC POLICY, HAS ALSO VOICED DISAPPROVAL OF IT.

MR STEWART ALSO HOPES TO REVIEW MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS AND THE VIETNAM SITUATION AND DISCUSS WORLD DISARMAMENT PROBLEMS AND UNITED NATIONS QUESTIONS.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE CURRENT UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IS THE RUMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, MR CORNELIU MANESCU, WHO WILL BE MR STEWART'S CHIEF HOST.

BESIDES MEETING MR MANESCU AND THE RUMANIAN PRIME MINISTER, MR ION GHEORGHE MAURER, MR STEWART WILL CALL ON PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU.

MR STEWART, ACOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE AND TOP FOREIGN OFFICE ADVISERS, IS FLYING TO BUCHAREST FROM LONDON BY WAY OF THE BLACK SEA PORT OF CONSTANTA. HE WILL RETURN TO LONDON ON WEDNESDAY EVENING.

MR STEWART HAD BEEN DUE TO PAY SIMILAR VISITS THIS WEEK TO BUDAPEST AND SOFIA BUT CANCELLED THEM AS A MARK OF BRITAIN'S CONDEMNATION OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK INVASION, IN WHICH HUNGARIAN AND BULGARIAN FORCES TOOK PART.

ASB/L 1618/68 *LB*

