

VISITS -- MORNING INTRO-- STEWART VISIT

MUNICH, SEPT. 9 (CNR) -- BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY MICHAEL STEWART OPENS HIS TALKS WITH RUMANIAN MINISTERS THIS MORNING BY CALLING ON FOREIGN MINISTER CORNELIU MANESCU AT 0930 MT.

STEWART ARRIVED IN RUMANIA YESTERDAY IN THE FIRST VISIT TO EASTERN EUROPE BY A WESTERN MINISTER SINCE CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS INVADED. HE HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN SCHEDULED TO VISIT SOFIA AND BUDAPEST BUT CANCELED THOSE TRIPS AFTER BULGARIAN AND HUNGARIAN TROOPS MARCHED INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

HE ARRIVED IN RUMANIA AMID CHARGES BY PRAVDA, THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY NEWSPAPER, THAT UNNAMED BRITISH LEADERS WERE TRYING TO REVIVE THE COLD WAR.

IN AN AIRPORT STATEMENT IN LONDON BEFORE LEAVING FOR BUCHAREST, STEWART SAID RUMANIA OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO COUNT ON INDEPENDENCE AND BE ABLE TO PURSUE ITS OWN POLICY.

STEWART SAID THE COUNTRY SHOULD NOT BE IN ANY DANGER FROM SOVIET ACTION. BUT, HE ADDED, THE WHOLE WORLD IS BOUND TO WATCH WITH ANXIETY.

THE SEARCH FOR EAST-WEST UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN SET BACK BY THE INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA, BUT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE CONTACTS BETWEEN BOTH SIDES WHEREVER POSSIBLE, HE ADDED.

ASKED WHAT MORAL SUPPORT HE THOUGHT THE WEST COULD GIVE TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, STEWART SAID THE ATLANTIC ALLIES MUST SEE THAT THEIR OWN DEFENCES ARE READY.

AT THE SAME TIME, HE SAID, IT MUST BE MADE CLEAR TO THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES THAT IF THEY WANT BETTER UNDERSTANDING ON REASONABLE TERMS IT IS AVAILABLE.

STEWART'S STAY IN RUMANIA, WHICH BEGAN SUNDAY WITH SIGHTSEEING ALONG THE BLACK SEA, IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO INCLUDE TALKS WITH RUMANIAN PRESIDENT NICOLAE CEAUSESCU AND PREMIER ION GHEORGHE MAURER.