

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT'S FILE

SUBJECT: President Ford's Meeting with Romanian Presidential Counselor Vasile Pungan

PARTICIPANTS: Vasile Pungan, Counselor to President Ceausescu of Romania
 President Ford
 Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Secretary of State and Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
 Lt. General Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Tuesday, August 27, 1974
 10:30 a. m.

PLACE: Oval Office - The White House

[The Press was admitted for photographs.]

Pungan: You got the Ceausescu invitation.

President: Yes. I want to visit Romania as soon as our mutual schedules can be worked out.

[The press is ushered out.]

President: I appreciate very much the invitation of President Ceausescu, and I will accept as soon as I can work it out.

Pungan: Perhaps when you come to Europe, you can do it. It is important for us to exchange views and maintain relations.

President: I want you to know Secretary Kissinger has my full confidence. I subscribe completely to President Nixon's foreign policy.

~~SECRET/SENSITIVE~~



~~TOP SECRET~~ - XGDS (3)
 CLASSIFIED BY: HENRY A. KISSINGER

DECLASSIFIED

E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.6

NSC MEMO, 11/24/74, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES, State Review 3/19/04
 BY: [initials], NARA, DATE 3/25/04

Pungan: I bring you the greetings and best wishes of President Ceausescu. He appreciated the message he received and he asked me to emphasize his desire and efforts to improve relations, and to have personal relations with you. Our relationship is important to us, and a visit from time to time is important in this regards.

President: The American people, the Congress and I treasure our friendship with the Romanians, and if we can get over all the problems here we can strengthen those ties.

Pungan: President Ceausescu asked me to bring a few matters to your attention.

First, Europe. He is pleased with the results of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, but there is some delay in the Conference and in having the final phase at the highest level by the end of the year. He asked your help to see the second stage finalized and preparations made for the third stage. We think this Conference can bring more cooperation and confidence.

President: I think we are eager to move it along, aren't we?

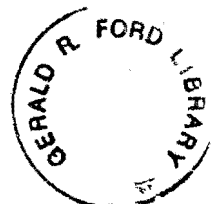
Kissinger: Yes, we are prepared to encourage the Europeans, but not to strain our relations with them in order to do it.

Pungan: We understand but we see some favorable benefits which would make desirable an early Conference at the highest level. It is especially important on Confidence-Building Measures and those measures leading to detente. We think the United States can help.

Kissinger: We support the Romanian position. But in the area of human contacts, the West Europeans are being extreme. In the areas of maneuvers and movement of forces, our views are similar to the Romanians!

Pungan: We want to see increased contacts, but it is a delicate matter.

Kissinger: Mr. President, I told him yesterday that the Communists have specialized in taking and holding power and aren't likely to be overthrown by accident through increased contacts. What the Romanians want is to prevent the large movement of forces to bring pressure.



President: I know you are interested in the Trade Bill and MFN. We are working for a good bill and I think we are close to a good compromise.

Pungan: I think you will succeed by the end of the year.

President: We will be very disappointed if it doesn't happen.

Pungan: Another problem is Cyprus. It is close to us, and prolongation of the conflict increases the danger. At some time, we want to see the right solution--withdrawal of foreign troops, the independence of Cyprus, and both sides to live in peace on the island.

President: We are working to try to be helpful. We want withdrawal, a ceasefire until then, and a stable solution. We have been working with the Greeks, Turks and the Cypriots.

Pungan: I am sure the United States can help find a good solution.

Another problem is Korea. The North Korean leadership wants to have confidential contacts with the United States for discussions. They have suggested Romania. President Ceausescu has offered to help if you want to do it.

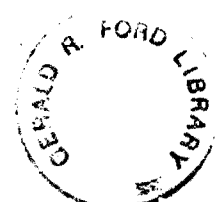
President: We are grateful for your offer. Secretary Kissinger and I will discuss it in detail. Certain things must precede such contacts. We don't want to go in without firm understandings. Secretary Kissinger will contact your Ambassador.

Kissinger: We will talk and then relay our ideas through your Ambassador.

Pungan: I will tell the North Koreans and hope you will have a good answer.

The last question is the Middle East. President Ceausescu thinks a delay in further progress is leading to new tensions and the possibility of war. We think the Geneva Conference should start again.

President: We are keeping the process moving. We have been meeting with Arab leaders, and we will meet soon with Saqqaf and Rabin. We agree that more movement is essential, and we are working toward that, but we may differ on whether the best way is Geneva or bilaterally.



Pungan: But it is useful to have talks going on and some sense of progress. We need confidence that the next step will come.

Kissinger: Romania is the only country in Eastern Europe that did not break relations with Israel.

President: We have to keep things moving.

Pungan: You have done so much, but we hope you will do more. Any time there are mutual problems which you think we should discuss, please get in touch and we will cooperate closely for the best solution.

President: You have been extremely helpful. Our relationship with Romania is excellent and we want to make it better. We appreciate your offer on North Korea. We will be back to you.

Kissinger: Counselor Pungan is willing to come here from time to time when something is urgent.

[The meeting then ended.]



Ceausescu

P/Pungan IK

27 Aug

Transcribed by PWR

Uhr You got a ~~Ceausescu~~ invitation

Y Yes. I want to visit as soon as our invitation

Y schedule can be worked out

P I appreciate very much invitation of C & I except as soon as I can make it out.

R perhaps when you come to E. we. It important for us to change some relations.

d This very full day time. I submit completely to N.Y. P. P. P.

R I bring you the greeting & best wishes of C. He appreciated very much & ask us to emphasize his desire & efforts to improve relations & to have personal relations w/ you (delecting) in a visit from time to time drop in this year.

P The Group, C, & I treasure friendship w/R & if we can get over a photo here we can strengthen those ties

R Ceausescu to bring a few matters to your attention.

First E. we. Please w/ results of C S C E but there is some delay in conf & in final phase at highest level by end year. He asks your help to see 2nd stage finalized & prep work for 3rd stage. We think this conf can bring more conf & conf.

P I think we ought to want to do it as soon as

Y Yes, we prepared to encourage C. E. we. but not to strain our relations w/ them

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 12958, SEC. 3.5

NSC MEMO, 11/24/98, STATE DEPT. GUIDELINES State review 3/9/04
BY NARA DATE 3/25/04



CSE Toronto

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to do it

P We understand but we see some fundamental benefits which would be desirable early implementation at highest level. Esp. things are CBMT that leading to contacts - We think US can help.

K We support Rumanian position. But in a case of human contacts & Excess are being attempted. In case of managements & movement ^{of assets} ~~are~~ views are similar to Rumanian.

P We want to see improved contacts, but it is a delicate matter.

K I told him yesterday that Combs have specialized in taking & holding power & arent likely to be overthrown by accident than our improved contacts. What Rumanian want to prevent a large movement of forces to any pressure.

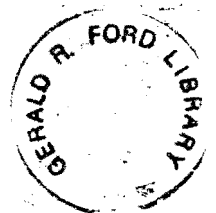
P I know you interested in Trade Deal & in FR. We working for a good bill - I think we are close to a good compromise.

P I think you will succeed by a end of a year.

P We will be very disappointed if doesn't happen.

P Another problem is Cyprus. It close to us & prolongation of conflict increases danger. At some time we want to see a right solution - w/ demand of troops, withdrawal of Cyprus & both sides to find a peaceful solution.

P We working to try to be helpful. We ~~are~~ ^{arent} w/ demand, & F. Tal. start ~~to~~ solution. Have been working w/ G, I & Cypriotes.



Pu I sure we can help find a good solution.
Another is Korea. The NK leadership wants
to have confidential contacts w/ US for discussion.
They have suggested Penman. C has offered
to help if ~~we~~ you want to do it.

P Grieved for your offer. Re dwell details in
detail. Certain things ~~we~~ must precede
such contacts. We don't want to go in w/o
firm understandings. K will contact
Arak.

K We will talk & relay what then Arak.

Pu I will tell NK's & hope you have agreed on
last is ME. C thinks delay leading to
tension & possibility of war. We think
Penman should start again.

P We ~~are~~ keeping moving. We have been
meeting w/ Arak leaders & w/ Staff of
Robin. We agree we movement essential
and working toward that, but we may differ
on whether best way America or bilaterally.

Pu But it is useful to have talks going out
sense of progress. Real confidence that next
steps will come.

K Penman only not break w/ T

P We know to keep things moving.

Pu You have done so much, but hope
you will do more.

Any time there are vital purchases which you
think we should discuss, please get



in touch and we will copy closely for
best solution.

P You have been extremely helpful - Our
relationship w/ Pennine is excellent &
want to make it better - Appreciate your offer
as N.H. & we look forward to

R Pennine willing to come here from time to
time when something urgent.

