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Control: 17892
Rec'd: April 28, 1957
9:40 a.m.

FROM: Bucharest

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 628, April 27, 3 p.m.

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Since signing of Rumanian-Soviet agreement on retention Soviet forces in Rumania rumors have been increasing re Soviet plans to install here large bodies troops. Figures of 200 to 300,000 mentioned and some figures even higher. Reason ascribed is combination desire deploy Soviet forces strategically to meet possible eventuality trouble in Middle East and rearrangement Soviet defensive barrier resulting from conviction since Hungarian events that satellite armies are potential liability rather than asset.

In last two days western diplomats known to have good local sources as well as our own local sources have not (repeat not) only repeated to me these rumors but added reports tending to partially confirm them. Four hundred houses in Sibiu are said to have been ordered evacuated to prepare for large number Soviet civilians attached to army staff. In Constanta section of city reported to have been emptied of civilians and set apart to receive daily arrivals of Soviet army technicians and special equipment from Odessa. Large numbers of young men with technical training said to have been drafted into labor battalions to carry out special projects connected with building new military installations. Work on roads considered of particular strategic importance running north and south from Vatra Mornai through St. George and Urziceni reported being speeded up at expense other road work. April 26 ARMA observed 12 foot grassmat fence being erected between highway and Bucharest/Otopeni airfield obvious to deny observation. Also rumored Soviets arriving this airfield at night.

Legation is not (repeat not) prepared to subscribe to accuracy of all these reports but in view their increasing numbers, sources and cogency, they are forwarded with reminder of Rumanian propensity to dramatize and recite as having taken place events which they fear will occur.

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-2- 628, April 27, 3 p.m., from Bucharest.

ARMA comment: Army, Sig and Inf OCS schools located Sibiu. No (repeat no) evidence to support rumor OCSR by ARMA 14-15 April en route Bucharest. April 25 Turkish MA had prearranged code message from Turkish Consul Constanta requesting visit Constanta ASAP by MA. No (repeat not) details in message. ARMA plans visit Constanta May 1. Rumors on reserve call-up received from many sources. Fence at Otopeni probably indicates added importance this airfield with possible arrival later type aircraft than currently located here. Reported OCSR of accelerated training by Rumanian troops indicate new role of Rumanian armed forces more important than previous role. To effect transformation rapidly will require additional Soviet technical and advisory personnel and possibly additional Soviet units for control and as safety precaution.

THAYER

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