



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

July 16, 2016

Case No. F-2017-16510

Segments: Bucharest-0001, ECA-00001, &
EUR-0001

Mr. William F. Marshall
Judicial Watch
425 Third Street, SW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Marshall:

In response to your request dated October 16, 2017, under the Freedom of Information Act (the "FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552, the Department has located seven documents responsive to your request. We have determined one document may be released in full and six documents may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made excisions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released. All released material is enclosed.

Review of additional records is ongoing. We will keep you informed as your case progresses.

If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Marina Braswell, Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (202) 252-2561. Please refer to the case number, F-2017-16510, and the civil action number, 18-cv-00667, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric F. Stein for". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Eric F. Stein, Director

Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

From: Armaselu, Mihaela (Bucharest) <ArmaseluM@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 8, 2018 2:57 AM
To: Carroll, Donald L
Cc: Hawkins, Ronald E (Bucharest); Stuparu, Simona Adela (Bucharest); Horvath, Rodica (Bucharest)
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE BY COB TODAY -- Updated Scenesetter Cable for A/DAS Palmer
Attachments: HoytYeeTranscript02222017.docx

Categories: Other RELEASE IN PART B5

Don,

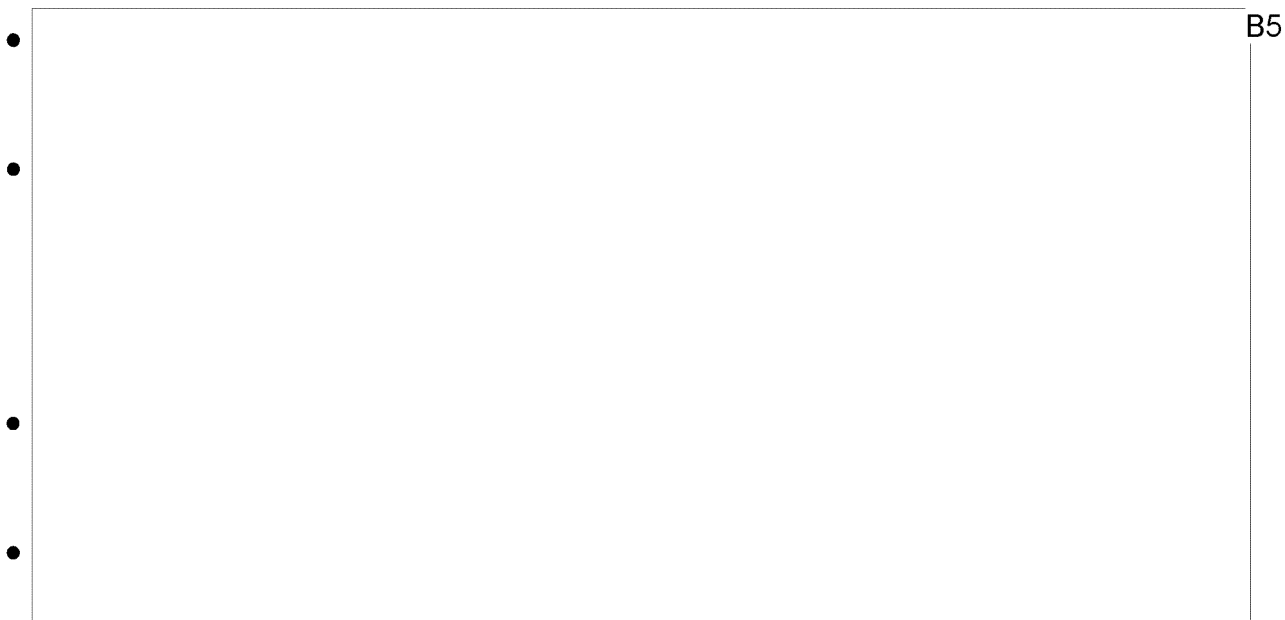
We issued only a press statement in April, 2014 about his visit. Please see below. The rest of Yee's visits included round tables and interviews.

"Deputy Assistant Secretary Hoyt Yee is visiting Bucharest April 29 as part of a routine visit to the region. He is meeting with a variety of Romanian leaders to discuss bilateral affairs and the strategic partnership."

US Embassy Bucharest

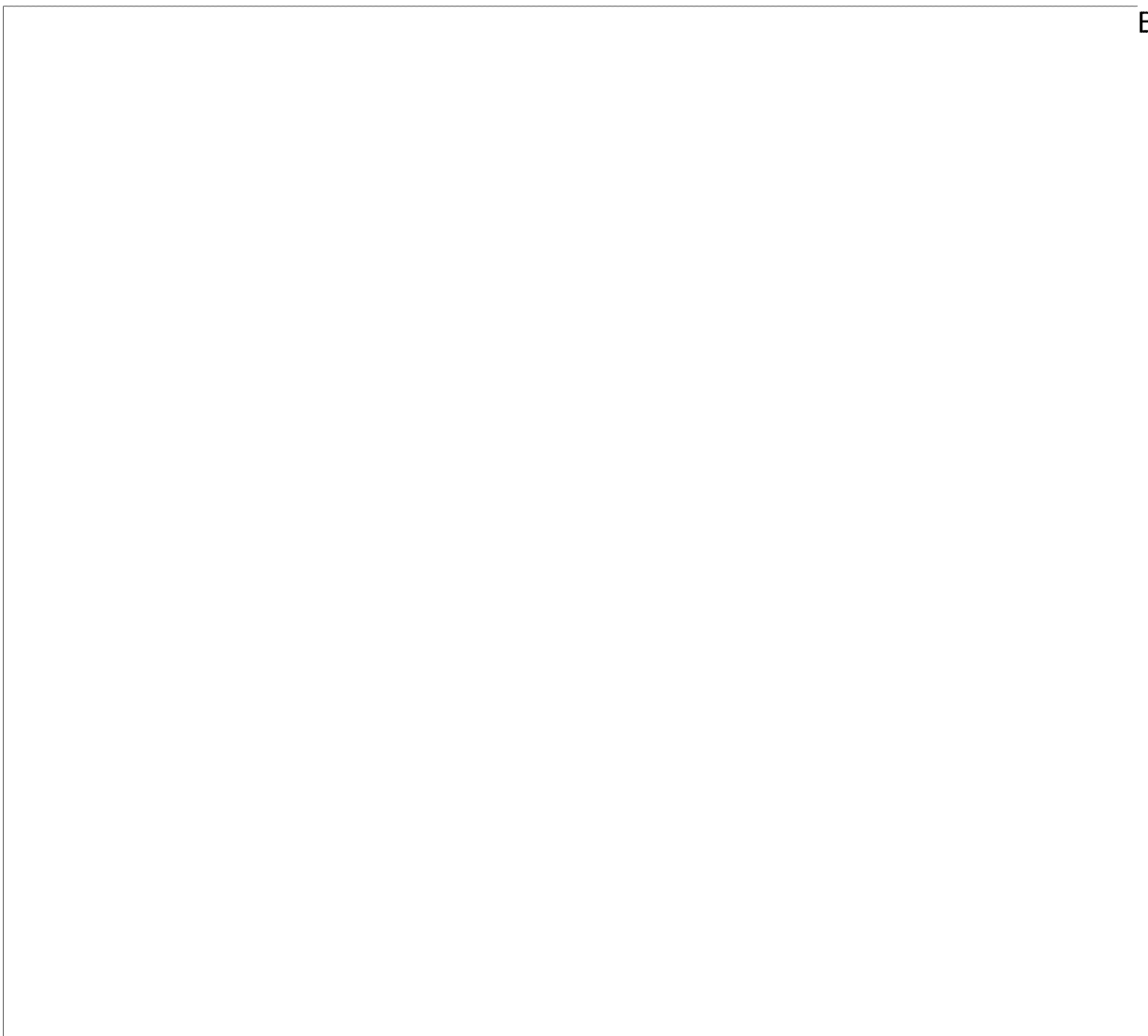
Please see in attach a transcript of Yee's latest round table with media, as well as some maybe useful materials we prepared and delivered for A/S Nuland

**A/S Nuland Press Availability
Hilton Hotel Bucharest Romania, 10:00, 11 January 2014**



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**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesperson**

For Immediate
Release

January 7, 2014

MEDIA NOTE

**Assistant Secretary Victoria Nuland Travel to the Netherlands,
Germany, Lithuania, Romania, and France, January 7 – 13**

On January 7, Assistant Secretary Nuland will travel to The Hague, Netherlands, where she will meet with senior Dutch government officials to discuss bilateral and other foreign policy issues, including planning for the Nuclear Security

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Summit, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, and U.S.-Dutch collaboration on European and global issues.

Assistant Secretary Nuland will then travel to Berlin, Germany, on January 8 to meet with senior German and other European government officials to discuss the range of bilateral and global issues.

On January 9, Assistant Secretary Nuland will travel to Vilnius, Lithuania, where she will meet with senior Lithuanian government officials and attend the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry's annual Snow Meeting on Euro-Atlantic security issues, which brings together key members of the transatlantic foreign policy community.

In Bucharest, Romania, from January 10-11, Assistant Secretary Nuland will meet with senior Romanian government officials and members of civil society to discuss bilateral and regional issues, including efforts to strengthen the rule of law.

On January 12, Assistant Secretary Nuland will travel to Paris, France.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesperson

For Immediate
Release

July 6, 2012

2012/1104

STATEMENT BY SPOKESPERSON VICTORIA NULAND

Concerns over Political Developments in Romania

We are concerned about recent developments occurring in Romania, our NATO Ally and partner, which threaten democratic checks and balances and weaken independent institutions, such as the courts. As the government contemplates the serious step of removing Romania's head of state, we urge that the process be conducted in a fully fair and transparent manner, with scrupulous respect for the rule of law and democratic ideals. The United States stands with our EU partners and urges that Romania uphold and protect the common values and principles that unite the European and trans-Atlantic community of nations.

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Official
UNCLASSIFIED

From: Carroll, Donald L
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2018 9:05 AM
To: Horvath, Rodica (Bucharest) <HorvathR@state.gov>
Cc: Hawkins, Ronald E (Bucharest) <HawkinsRE@state.gov>; Armaselu, Mihaela (Bucharest) <ArmaseluM@state.gov>; Stuparu, Simona Adela (Bucharest) <StuparuSA@state.gov>
Subject: FW: FOR CLEARANCE BY COB TODAY -- Updated Scen setter Cable for A/DAS Palmer

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Rodica,

Can you please find/pull for us a previous press statement regarding a visit? Please share it with Ernest in PD as a template for Acting DAS Palmer's brief visit next week.

Thanks so much,

Don

**Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED**

From: Abisellan, Ernest J (Bucharest)
Sent: Thursday, March 8, 2018 8:29 AM
To: Carroll, Donald L <CarrollDL@state.gov>; Hawkins, Ronald E (Bucharest) <HawkinsRE@state.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE BY COB TODAY -- Updated Scen setter Cable for A/DAS Palmer

DAO doesn't see any problem from OSD side on a statement.

I've not been here that long – could your office share a draft of a statement on something similar? Have we announced prior visits – for example, DAS Yee in early 2017.

Thanks, Ernest

**Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED**

From: Carroll, Donald L
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2018 1:14 PM
To: Hawkins, Ronald E (Bucharest); Abisellan, Ernest J (Bucharest)
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE BY COB TODAY -- Updated Scen setter Cable for A/DAS Palmer

Concur on the statement. I'll stop by Ernest-

Thanks!

Don

**Official - SBU
UNCLASSIFIED**

From: Hawkins, Ronald E (Bucharest)
Sent: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 12:45 PM
To: Abisellan, Ernest J (Bucharest) <AbisellanEJ@state.gov>
Cc: Carroll, Donald L <CarrollDL@state.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE BY COB TODAY -- Updated Scen setter Cable for A/DAS Palmer

A statement might be best. I'll ask Don to follow up

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Thanks,
Ron

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From: Abisellan, Ernest J (Bucharest)
Sent: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 12:19 PM
To: Hawkins, Ronald E (Bucharest) <HawkinsRE@state.gov>
Cc: Carroll, Donald L <CarrollDL@state.gov>
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE BY COB TODAY -- Updated Scen setter Cable for A/DAS Palmer

Ron,

Please see attached his draft schedule – in short, arrives Monday mid-day, departs Tuesday by 1800. Here’s what I got from the Desk. After you review this and the schedule, let me know your thoughts. I think putting out a statement might be better than putting an Acting DAS on the spot for an interview?

Given that the visit timing is short-ish, a press event is lower priority. More important to hit the big meetings first as noted earlier. If time remains for press, let’s work out the format (who, how long, audience, goal, etc.) to get the A/DAS’s take on it.

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From: Hawkins, Ronald E (Bucharest)
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2018 12:13 PM
To: Abisellan, Ernest J (Bucharest)
Cc: Carroll, Donald L
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE BY COB TODAY -- Updated Scen setter Cable for A/DAS Palmer

Clear

And Ernest, any thoughts on media engagement for DAS Palmer? Do you have a schedule you would like to take a look at and what is the primary message he is carrying?

Thanks
Ron

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From: Abisellan, Ernest J (Bucharest)
Sent: Wednesday, March 7, 2018 9:23 AM
To: Hawkins, Ronald E (Bucharest) <HawkinsRE@state.gov>; Ashenden, Russell A (Bucharest) <AshendenRA@state.gov>; Upton, Bradley W (Bucharest) <UptonBW@state.gov>; Gabriel, Brenda B (Bucharest) <GabrielBB2@state.gov>
Cc: Fitzgerald, Joseph J (Bucharest) <FitzgeraldJJ@state.gov>
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE BY COB TODAY -- Updated Scen setter Cable for A/DAS Palmer

All –

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We are prepping for the visit of STATE Acting DAS Palmer March 12-13 for the B9 Forum and bilat meetings. I took a stab at revising our scenesetter, consolidating in places, while maintaining overall focus on our key priorities. Could I ask you to review/clear by COB today so I can get to the FO for approval tomorrow?

Thanks and regards,
Ernest

Ernest Abisellan
Economic Counselor
U.S. Embassy Bucharest
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AbisellanEJ@state.gov

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Embassy of the
United States of America



PRESS RELEASE

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HOYT YEE, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN AFFAIRS -- ROUND TABLE WITH ROMANIAN JOURNALISTS

-- Transcript --

RELEASE IN FULL

February 22, 2017

DAS Hoyt Yee: Thank you all first for your patience and apologies for being late. I am very happy to be back in Bucharest after some time now. The purpose of my visit is to try to meet with officials in the Government since the elections, both in the United States but also here to reaffirm America's support for the Alliance we have with Romania and the Strategic Partnership we have with Romania; to also discuss our cooperation across many different areas and how we can strengthen that cooperation; and I am happy to answer any of your questions.

Reporter: You already know that the main events here in Bucharest were the protests because of an action of the Romanian Government on the night of January 31 when they tried to change the penal legislation overnight and we had an open letter signed by six foreign ambassadors, the U.S. was among them. I quote: "the Government action can only undermine Romania's stand in the international community and risks damaging partnerships that are based on common values." I would like you to elaborate a little bit on this – what exactly could happen if the Romanian Government would try again to weaken justice legislation. What do you exactly mean by saying about the risk of damaging partnerships? Thank you.

Hoyt Yee: Well, thank you for your question. Let me begin by emphasizing that the United States and Romania have a very strong Strategic Partnership and we fully expect that that is going to continue and to get even stronger. That's our goal. Also, Romania and United States of course are in NATO, we're NATO allies, NATO partners, we're friends and in every way we can we're going to

work to strengthen our cooperation. The incident that you mentioned Dan is something that Washington and other capitals I think around Europe have followed very closely. Because we believe – as we understand the people of Romania also believe – that rule of law in any democracy is extremely important. Important first of all for the country itself; it's important for a democracy in order to be strong, to be resilient, to be able to meet the needs and wishes of its citizens, must have rule of law. And you probably heard last week in Brussels, also in Munich from some of the leaders of my government – Vice President Pence, Secretary of State Tillerson – that we believe that the relationship between Europe and the United States is based on the common values of democracy, freedom and rule of law. In other words, our shared goal of promoting peace and prosperity in the transatlantic area is not simply one that we've chosen randomly, but it's based on a shared heritage, shared experience and most importantly shared values. And those values are important as a foundation for our cooperation. So in any country – whether it's Romania or any other country with whom we have a strong relationship, in particular NATO allies, we of course pay attention to the state of rule of law, just as we do the economies, the political situations in all of our partners and friends' countries because it is important for the stability and security of those countries, but it's also important to the NATO alliance when it involves NATO countries, it's important to the United States. So I think what our message in that statement was – both the statement that you referred to, Dan, that was a joint statement from six embassies I think, the statement from Washington that was issued about the same time – our emphasis is on our strong attachment to rule of law, our belief that it's important to the relationship for both countries, all countries involved to be committed, to demonstrate that commitment to those values and it's like any organization, any institution, any structure, there has to be a base, there has to be a foundation. And for us that base is the values that I mentioned. If those values are strong, if the commitment to those values is strong, if actions taken by the governments uphold, reinforce those values, then the organization structure is going to be strong. If the foundation is weakened, if the commitment to those values is weakened, that is inevitably going to affect the rest of the structure. So our goal again is to help strengthen the rule of law, help strengthen the commitment to all those values, to all the commitments, including you heard also our leadership in Munich and in Brussels talk about the need for all NATO allies for example to devote 2% of their gross domestic product towards defense. This is another example where we want to see our allies meeting their commitments, fulfilling their obligations. Fulfilling obligations also entails commitment to rule of law.

Reporter: Dan already mentioned the protests that we've seen in the last weeks in Romania, there have been some unprecedented street movements supporting

the rule of law. The international press was covering these protests. I was wondering what did you think of them, did they come as a surprise? And what do you think the political establishment should learn from these protests?

DAS Hoyt Yee: Well, it was not a surprise to us that the people of Romania would demonstrate in large numbers in favor of rule of law and against any perceived efforts to weaken rule of law. That didn't surprise us, in fact it was inspiring, it was something that in Washington and I am sure in many capitals people admired very much to see democracy in action, to see people standing up for their beliefs and sending clear messages to their elected representatives. And I think it was very notable and I think we appreciated that the Prime Minister shortly after the demonstrations backed away from the initiative, the changes to the Criminal Code that had been the impetus, the cause for the demonstrations. That shows responsiveness to what the people were protesting against. So that gives us confidence that democracy is strong in Romania. I think it also is something that we want to continue watching just as there are I saw even today some protesters maintaining their vigil outside the Government buildings. I think that's symbolically important but also a reminder that all of us are interested and should be interested in what the next steps will be. We are hopeful, we are confident the Government will take the right steps to reassure the citizens of its commitment to rule of law and that it will take the necessary steps to reassure its allies, including the United States, that it remains committed to this very important value on which the Strategic Partnership, the NATO Alliance in fact is based.

Reporter: I guess you are aware or were briefed that many Romanians don't trust their government because they tried to pass the Emergency Decree no. 13... I have a simple question: do you trust this government as a reliable partner?

DAS Hoyt Yee: You know, it's a new government just as my government is relatively new and I think both governments are going through a process of discovery of initial steps and of reviewing policies, launching new initiatives. So, I think both governments are now getting to know one another, that's one of the reasons for my visit here, to get a better idea of which direction the government is going on various issues, including on rule of law – but also, beyond, of course, on security, economy, energy security. And all these issues are going to be examined very carefully through dialogue, through the normal diplomatic discourse before we make any definitive conclusions. What's important I think is that we do have this dialogue between all of our NATO allies. We have the open lines of communication, our Ambassador here, Ambassador Klemm, who you know is quite active, was quite active

over the last several weeks in explaining to the Government our concerns, our views on what should happen. We are confident the Government listened; the Government heard what our concerns were. And that is what is important at this stage, that we're able to exchange views, listen to each other, respect each other's views, and eventually to reach conclusions. So, I would say we are confident again that the Government is listening to us, the Government is aware of what's at stake and of the need to reassure its partners, its allies, that it is still committed to those values on which we have built, on which we want to continue building the strongest possible partnerships.

Reporter: The provisions of Emergency Ordinance no. 13 are no longer the problem of the Government because the Government abrogated the Emergency Ordinance. But we have reasons to believe that many politicians in the Parliament want to reenact the provisions of the Ordinance. So we have this problem now: what if the Parliament will really do such a thing because the rule of law includes all the law, not only... [incomprehensible]. How do you see this possible development in the future?

DAS Hoyt Yee: Well, you raise a very good question because of course let me begin answer by saying that we obviously, the United States obviously respects the sovereign right of Romania and its elected leaders to pass laws, to propose laws, to pass laws, to make policy, to make decisions. And the views I am expressing, again, are expressed on behalf of a country that is a close friend and ally of Romania. We certainly believe it's important for any friend, for any ally of Romania to express our views, to explain when we have concerns, as we have done and we should continue to do that. As I mentioned earlier, we certainly hope that the Government is going to take steps that first strengthen the rule of law, not weaken it...

Reporter: The law, not the rule of law...

DAS Hoyt Yee: Again, there are going to be I think a number of options and a number of possibilities and I don't want to speculate on which is the best one, on which is the right one. That's really up to the Government and the Parliament and ultimately the people to decide. But what I can say is that this new government in Washington, the Government of President Trump, through his Secretary of State, through his Vice President, has made very clear that an important value for us is rule of law, an important principle with regard to our relations with other countries is accountability; that we will hold accountable our allies and partners; just as we've heard for many weeks now, we will hold accountable our allies

for meeting their obligations within NATO, to meet the defense investment pledge – 2% of the GDP; we will also hold them accountable, in other words we expect that they will fulfill their commitment to rule of law, democracy and freedom. So we will be vigilant, we will express our concerns if we have them. Again, we expect, we are hopeful, we are even confident the Government is going to take steps that are going to reassure its citizens and its allies.

Reporter: Can you tell us who you met from the Government, Mr Grindeanu, the Prime Minister and who else? Mr. Dragnea?

DAS Hoyt Yee: Unfortunately I did not have that opportunity but I did meet with a member of the President's Office, an advisor to the President. I met with an official at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I met with a prosecutor at the DNA and I'm meeting with you. Tomorrow I will see the Mayor of Constanta and speak to students at the Ovidius University.

Reporter: A very, very short question: do you have any information that Russia is involved in the recent decision of the Romanian Government or in the propaganda field in a way or another, or that it is intensifying actions in Romania?

DAS Hoyt Yee: I don't have any evidence that Russia has played a role in the Government's decisions, any of the Government's decisions. As far as Russia's involvement in media, you would know better than I, I think about Russian activities there. But we are concerned in Washington about what we describe as Russian malign influence, the spreading of misinformation, the spreading of rumors, reports through media outlets that are supported by or sympathetic to Russia or certain Russian politicians, not only in this part of Europe, but more widely and even in my country. That's why we feel it's very important to support free media, freedom of speech, professional free media; also to support civil society, not any one particular orientation or type of civil society, but a vibrant, diverse civil society that is able to act freely, without fear of retribution. We also feel it's very important for governments to have strong institutions generally, judicial, executive or legislative. Countries with weak institutions tend to be less able or less capable of resisting Russian malign influence or other outside malign influence. And that's another reason why we believe it's important for rule of law to be strong. Where rule of law is strong, where the free media is strong, where institutions are strong, Russian propaganda, Russian malign influence is less successful. And of course, I should mention

also economically, from the standpoint of growing economies, in difficult times in Europe, those economies which have rule of law, which have the advantages of functioning judiciary, functioning prosecutions and functioning legislatures, there is a better investment environment generally. Companies, whether they're American, or they're European countries, like to go where the rule of law is strong. So that's another reason why we hope very much the rule of law will continue to be strong in Romania.

Reporter: You have said that both governments are taking the initial steps to know each other after the elections in the U.S. and Romania. What would you say would be the main point of concern for the Strategic Partnership after the election, in this new situation, if there is any point of concern?

DAS Hoyt Yee: Well, I think our main concern, our main desire for the relationship between Romania and the United States is that it gets stronger, that our partnership and cooperation is broadened and deepened. So the many areas of cooperation we have now, particularly the area of security, where we have the closest possible cooperation, where our troops are shoulder to shoulder in Afghanistan. As you know there are American troops recently arrived here to Romania to show part of our reinforced deterrence in this part of Europe. In so many ways our security partnership is strong. We want to see it become even stronger; we don't want to see it weaken in any way. The same in the area of commerce and investment, we think there is potential to grow that relationship. So our concern again is that that continues to grow, not get weaker. And on specific area, not to repeat too often, but on rule of law, again, our desire is to see the rule of law strengthened, not weakened, and for that to continue to be one of the bases, one of the foundations of our relationship and of our Strategic Partnership.

Reporter: There are many American corporations in Romania. Do they feel threatened by the recent hostile messages from the Government? What is the risk of this kind of message? And I have another small question: what would you tell someone who believes that George Soros is behind the protests in Romania?

DAS Hoyt Yee: Well, the first question: I think you probably saw the statement from the American Chamber of Commerce, early in February, about the same time as the six embassies released their statement and Washington and European capitals released their statement. There was obviously a lot of concern for the reason I mentioned earlier: that there is a direct

connection between the rule of law and the attractiveness of a country as a destination for investment, commerce. So I think the businesses were alarmed by the change to the Criminal Code and the signal that sent about the Government's commitment to rule of law. By the same token I think governments were relieved to see the Government's step back from that move and hopefulness from businesses that have been quite happy in Romania, quite successful in Romania, that there will continue to be rule of law, there will continue to be an interest in maintaining – interest by the Government, institutions here – in maintaining an attractive business environment that will continue to receive foreign direct investment and more interest from other companies from around the world.

I think I have seen no evidence that there is any complicity, any kind of role by corporations, companies – whether American or others – in protests. Is that the rumor you're referring to? I have seen no evidence of that. In fact, at least for American companies I think it's highly unlikely that they would be involved. It's not something that American companies could justify to their stockholders. It would probably be illegal to participate in some kind of political process without transparency. So, I think it's highly unlikely. What seemed apparent to me is that the hundreds of thousands of people that were protesting peacefully – and I want to repeat, peacefully – in Romania, is that there was a genuine concern and a genuine desire to send a message to the Government. I don't think it was something that was fabricated or abetted somehow by corporations.

DAS Hoyt Yee: Soros? I'll be very quick on that. Again, I see no evidence, no factual basis for a claim that any one NGO, including the Soros Foundation or Open Society is somehow behind these protests or any of the demonstrations around Romania or I could say around Europe, because many other countries where there are demonstrations, where there is civil society activity that is not completely in line with the Government's, we see these same accusations, that somehow it is through Soros, or the United States Government or the European Union behind it. I think governments will begin to see that these citizens don't need this kind of encouragement or financial support to stand up for their rights, that the citizens themselves have a strong desire for rule of law, for a better future, for jobs and higher standards of living. No one needs to bribe them or fund them to stand up for that.

Reporter: One final question: this visit of yours was provoked by this Emergency Ordinance affair or was previously scheduled?

DAS Hoyt Yee: It was the wonderful weather that I heard Romania has. I have been planning to come to Romania for several weeks. In fact, I was trying to come earlier but there was a snow storm that interfered, so it's not in connection to the events. It's overdue, I would have preferred to come sometime earlier. Even though we've focused on this issue of rule of law and understandably, quite justifiably so, there are many areas in which we're cooperating extremely closely with the government and military of Romania. There are many areas in which we're trying to increase the cooperation and that was the main focus of my visit today. Of course, the rule of law issue did come up, but we will continue this dialogue, getting to know the new government, both ways, finding how and discussing specific ways we can strengthen the partnership and preventing it from getting weaker.

Richard Silver (U.S. Embassy Press Attaché): Thank you all very much. Deputy Assistant Secretary Yee, would you like to offer one final sentence to sum up your time here.

DAS Hoyt Yee: Just that it's wonderful to be here. I can't emphasize enough how much we respect the role of media in any democracy. You have a very difficult job, you have to deal with people like me, but we appreciate very much the effort that you put into ensuring that the citizens of Romania are informed about what is happening, about what people like me have to say and we hope that you will continue. We look forward to continuing our contacts.

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

Hickson, Diamonece

From: Wetzler, Jennryn M RELEASE IN PART B2, B6
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2016 9:12 AM
To: Wetzler, Jennryn M
Subject: UPDATE: Invitation to the monthly OGP and open education network call: 9/28 at 14:00 UTC/ 10:00 EDT

Dear colleagues,

I'm delighted to update the invitation to tomorrow's open education and OGP call with the following news: Mr. Radu Puchiu, Romanian OGP lead and State Secretary in the Prime Minister's Chancellery will also present remarks.

Please join us for the conversation with Ovidiu Voicu and Radu Puchiu at 14:00 UTC tomorrow, on the following conference line: <https://www.uberconference.com/SPARCconference> or dial +1 [redacted] (no pin needed). B2

Access the recent Romanian National Action Plan with commitments to OER and open data & transparency in education here: <http://www.opengovpartnership.org/country/romania/action-plan> . We look forward to your country updates and questions for our speakers. Feel free to share this invite with interested colleagues.

Best regards,
Jennryn

Jennryn Wetzler
Senior Program Designer, The Collaboratory
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)
U.S. Department of State | Kenjya-Trusant Contractor
Desk: (202) 632 9358, BlackBerry [redacted]
wetzlerjm@state.gov

B6

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Wetzler, Jennryn M
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2016 2:36 PM
To: Wetzler, Jennryn M
Cc: 'Jan Gondol'; 'Nicole Allen'; 'Ovidiu Voicu'; ECACollaboratory
Subject: Invitation to the monthly OGP and open education network call: 9/28 at 14:00 UTC/ 10:00 EDT

Hickson, Diamonece

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

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Dear colleagues,

I hope this email finds you well. This is to remind you of our monthly open education and Open Government Partnership call on 9/28 at 14:00 UTC/ 10:00 EDT on the following conference line:

<https://www.uberconference.com/SPARCconference> or dial +1 [redacted] (no pin needed).

B2

Please join us for a conversation with Ovidiu Voicu, Executive Director of Romania's Center for Public Innovation. Ovidiu will share updates from Romania, including *recent OGP commitments to OER and open data & transparency in education!* We encourage everyone to share thoughts and questions, as well as their own country updates.

Speaker Bio: Ovidiu Voicu leads the Center Public Innovation, a spin-off of the Open Society Foundation Romania. He joined the Foundation in 2000 to coordinate its social research programs, and in April 2012, he took the leadership of the newly created public policy unit. In 2015, with the Foundation phasing-out its activities in Romania, Ovidiu and his team created the Center for Public Innovation, to continue the open society legacy and work on the ground. Ovidiu has an academic background in Computer Sciences and Political Sciences, and he specialized in social statistics. The Foundation, and now the Center, are the leading Romanian NGOs working in the field of open government, monitoring the implementation of the OGP Action Plan and actively supporting the public institutions responsible with it.

For background and notes from our last call, featuring SPARC's Director of Open Education, Nicole Allen, please see the bottom of this email.

Feel free to forward this invitation to interested colleagues.

Best,
Jennryn

Jennryn Wetzler

Senior Program Designer, The Collaboratory
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)
U.S. Department of State | Kenjya-Trusant Contractor
Desk: (202) 632 9358, BlackBerry: [redacted]
wetzlerjm@state.gov

B6

Background: Last fall, we hosted an open education workshop at the Open Government Partnership Summit in Mexico City. From the conversations started, we realized there was growing international interest in open educational resources (OER), and their overlap with OGP goals, including: government transparency, civil society and government collaboration, effective use of federal funds, and increased access to education. We wanted to create opportunities to continue momentum from the in person discussions, & provide additional support.

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Hickson, Diamonece

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

2

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

How to be an effective advocate and work with the policy process:

1. When you have identified a policy goal, understand the process by which the policy decision will be made. (Write out steps to see where you as an advocate can influence.)
2. Understanding where key decision makers are and what influences them.
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4. Worked with champions inside the government. Ideally civil society and government work in partnership.
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This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

Hickson, Diamonece

From: Wetzler, Jennryn M RELEASE IN PART B2, B6
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2016 8:21 AM
To: Hawkins, Ronald E; Findlay, Edward F.
Cc: Ellis, Brinille E; ECACollaboratory
Subject: RE: Invitation to the monthly OGP and open education network call: 9/28 at 14:00 UTC/ 10:00 EDT

Hi Ronald and Edward,

Quick update about tomorrow's Open Government Partnership and Open Education call: Radu Puchiu will also be speaking on behalf of the Ministry. Should you be able to attend, the conference line is:
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Jennryn

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B6

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Dear Ronald and Edward,

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Should you like further background on open educational resources (OER) and the ways in which OER can support Open Government Partnership goals of transparency, engagement with civil society and access to information, I would be happy to follow up.

Warm regards,
Hickson, Diamonece

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1

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Jennryn

Jennryn Wetzler

Senior Program Designer, The Collaboratory
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)
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Desk: (202) 632 9358, BlackBerry: [REDACTED]
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B6

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From: Wetzler, Jennryn M
Sent: Friday, September 16, 2016 2:36 PM
To: Wetzler, Jennryn M
Cc: 'Jan Gondol'; 'Nicole Allen'; 'Ovidiu Voicu'; ECACollaboratory
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Jennryn Wetzler

Hickson, Diamonece

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Senior Program Designer, The Collaboratory
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)
U.S. Department of State | Kenjya-Trusant Contractor
Desk: (202) 632 9358, BlackBerry:
wetzlerjm@state.gov

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Hickson, Diamonece

From: Zarek, Corinna J. EOP/OSTP <Corinna_J_Zarek [redacted]>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2016 2:24 PM
To: Wetzler, Jennryn M; Eiss, Camille; Hawkins, Ronald E; Robinson, Scott A
Cc: ECACollaboratory; Ellis, Brinille E
Subject: RE: Open Education and Open Government opportunity: invitation for Romania

B6

+Nancy

RELEASE IN PART B2, B5, B6

This is great news!!

B5

Cori

-----Original Message-----

From: Wetzler, Jennryn M [<http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=mailto:WetzlerJM@state.gov>]
Sent: Friday, June 3, 2016 9:35 AM
To: Zarek, Corinna J. EOP/OSTP ; Eiss, Camille ; Hawkins, Ronald E ; Robinson, Scott A
Cc: ECACollaboratory ; Ellis, Brinille E
Subject: FW: Open Education and Open Government opportunity: invitation for Romania

Dear colleagues,

A happy update for your Fridays: here is the draft National Action Plan for Romania, which integrates the government and civil society perspectives. This was forwarded through civil society colleagues that are part of the network calls referenced below.

Please see the commitment to open educational resources.

Cheers,

Jennryn

Jennryn Wetzler

Senior Program Designer, The Collaboratory

Hickson, Diamonece

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

1

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

U.S. Department of State

Desk: (202) 632 9358, BlackBerry:

B6

wetzlerjm@state.gov

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Wetzler, Jennryn M

Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2016 4:56 PM

To: 'Radu Puchiu'

Cc: OGP

Subject: RE: Open Education and Open Government opportunity: invitation for Romania

Dear Radu,

Nice to speak to you on the phone a few days ago. Per conversation, I'm delighted you and colleagues can join the call rescheduled for tomorrow and we look forward to hearing from you.

Thursday, April 28th at 14:00 UTC: Dial +1 , PIN , or join:
><https://redirect.state.sbu/?url=https://www.uberconference.com/SPARCconference><

B2

Also, I've attached links for a little background below.

Warm regards,

Jennryn

Hickson, Diamonece

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

2

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- * What is OGP? "The Open Government Partnership is a multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance." (OGP website).
- * The Open Government Guide is a resource for people working to make their governments more transparent, responsive, accountable and effective. It is designed in particular to support the Open Government Partnership (OGP).
- * "Open Government Partnership as a platform for advancing open education policy." Open Praxis, vol. 7 issue 3, July–September 2015, pp. 273–280 (ISSN 2304-070X)
- * Example OGP National Action Plans with open education commitments: USA, Slovakia.
- * Network calls about open government and open education: information on SPARC website.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Radu Puchiu [<http://redirect.state.sbu/?url=>] B6
Sent: Wednesday, April 20, 2016 1:47 AM
To: Wetzler, Jennryn M
Cc: Hawkins, Ronald E; Zarek, Corinna J. EOP/OSTP; Ison, A Sunshine; Kruchoski, Paul H; Robinson, Scott A; Ellis, Brinille E; OGP
Subject: Re: Open Education and Open Government opportunity: invitation for Romania

Dear Jennryn,

Thank you very much for your email.

Indeed we are working together with a number of CSOs to include a commitment to OER in the new action plan.

I'll be more than happy to join the call on April 27.

I also copy in this email the OGP Romania team to be in the loop.

Thank you once again.

Hickson, Diamonece

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

3

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

Best regards,

Radu Puchiu

Secretar de stat

Cancelaria Primului Ministru

email:

tel: +4

B6

On 19 Apr 2016, at 16:25, Wetzler, Jennryn M wrote:

Dear Mr. Puchiu,

Greetings from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA). In ECA, my colleagues and I are working on an Open Government Partnership commitment to expand access to open educational resources (OER).*

Last week, at an Open Education Global Conference in Poland, I had the pleasure of meeting with an Open Society Romania colleague engaged in OER. He noted the possibility of Romania including a commitment to OER in the next National Action Plan. My colleagues and I are delighted to learn about this, and wanted to reach out to you with an opportunity:

The U.S. government is co-organizing a series of international calls as an accessible way for government and civil society leaders to learn about using free and open educational resources as tools to support OGP commitments in technical modernization, education, transparency, and engagement with civil society. If you have the time, we would like to invite you to these calls, or follow up with you individually. I realize this is short notice, but might you be available to join the next call between 14:00-17:00 UTC on April 27? If that time doesn't work, we can follow up with you on April 28 or 29, or on our next call in May.

Hickson, Diamonece

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

4

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

Thanks in advance and we look forward to connecting with you.

Kind regards,

Jennryn

Jennryn Wetzler

Senior Program Designer, The Collaboratory

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)

U.S. Department of State | Kenjya-Trusant Group Contractor

Desk: (202) 632 9358, BlackBerry:



wetzlerjm@state.gov

B6

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Hickson, Diamonece

From: Wetzler, Jennryn M
Sent: Tuesday, September 27, 2016 8:13 AM
To: Radu Puchiu
Cc: Nicole Allen; Jan Gondol; Ovidiu Voicu; ECACollaboratory
Subject: RE: Open Education and Open Government opportunity: invitation for Romania

Wonderful. Thank you, Radu!

RELEASE IN PART
B2, B6

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Radu Puchiu [redacted]
Sent: Monday, September 26, 2016 1:18 AM
To: Wetzler, Jennryn M
Cc: Nicole Allen; Jan Gondol; Ovidiu Voicu; ECACollaboratory
Subject: Re: Open Education and Open Government opportunity: invitation for Romania

B6

Thank you once again, Jennryn.

Sure, I can have a 3-4 minutes intervention about the general context of OGP in Romania.

Warm regards,

Radu Puchiu

Secretar de stat
Cancelaria Primului Ministru
email: [redacted]
tel: +4 [redacted]

B6

On 22 Sep 2016, at 15:35, Wetzler, Jennryn M <WetzlerJM@state.gov> wrote:

Dear Radu,

If you are willing, it would be our honor to reserve some time on the call to hear from you, as OGP lead in Romania, and representative of the Prime Minister's Chancellery. If you confirm, we would be happy to update the invitation to colleagues and include your role.

Warm regards,
Jennryn

Hickson, Diamonece

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

1

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This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Wetzler, Jennryn M
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2016 3:34 PM
To: Radu Puchiu
Subject: RE: Open Education and Open Government opportunity: invitation for Romania

Thank you, Radu.

Warm regards,
Jennryn

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

From: Radu Puchiu [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2016 1:53 PM
To: Wetzler, Jennryn M
Cc: OGP; Jan Gondol; Nicole Allen; Ovidiu Voicu; ECACollaboratory
Subject: Re: Open Education and Open Government opportunity: invitation for Romania

B6

Dear Jennryn,

Thank you very much for the invitation.

We'll be on the call.

Thanks again,

Radu Puchiu

Secretar de stat
Cancelaria Primului Ministru

email: [redacted]

tel: +4 [redacted]

B6

On 16 Sep 2016, at 19:54, Wetzler, Jennryn M <WetzlerJM@state.gov> wrote:

Dear Radu,

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

I hope this email finds you well.

I wanted to personally invite you to the next OGP and open education network call, on 9/29 at 14:00 UTC. We will be hearing from your colleague, Ovidiu Voicu, Executive Director at Romania's Center for Public Innovation. Should you have time and interest, we would welcome your comments on the call as well.

An invitation with further information is forthcoming.

Warm regards,
Jennryn

Jennryn Wetzler

Senior Program Designer, The Collaboratory
Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)
U.S. Department of State | Kenjya-Trusant Contractor
Desk: (202) 632 9358, BlackBerry:
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RELEASE IN
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Senior Program Designer, The Collaboratory

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Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA)
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B6

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6. Start by asking for more than you expect to get. You can scale down later.
7. At the same time, understand that smaller commitments are better than no commitments. In other words: sometimes it's necessary to just get a 'foot in the door.' Look for easy wins.
8. Advocacy is a process. Recognize it will be hard and you will sometimes lose. That's ok--don't give up. (Note Gandhi quote: first they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you... then you win).

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 16, 2018

Case No. F-2017-16510

Segments: Bucharest-0001

Mr. William F. Marshall
Judicial Watch
425 Third Street, SW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Mr. Marshall:

I refer to our letter dated July 16, 2018, under the Freedom of Information Act (the "FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552, the Department has located two documents responsive to your request and determined that both documents may be released in part.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made excisions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each document. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released. All released material is enclosed.

This completes the processing of your request. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Marina Braswell, Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (202) 252-2561. Please refer to the case number, F-2017-16510, and the civil action number, 18-cv-00667, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

Eric F. Stein, Director

Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

FOIA Exemptions

- (b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:
- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
 - 1.4(b) Foreign government information
 - 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
 - 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
 - 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
 - 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
 - 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction
- (b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency
- (b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:
- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ARMSEXP | Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c) |
| CIA PERS/ORG | Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g) |
| EXPORT CONTROL | Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c) |
| FS ACT | Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004 |
| INA | Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f) |
| IRAN | Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505 |
- (b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information
- (b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product
- (b)(6) Personal privacy information
- (b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:
- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
 - (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
 - (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
 - (D) disclose confidential sources
 - (E) disclose investigation techniques
 - (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual
- (b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions
- (b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

Other Grounds for Withholding

- NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

From: Silver, Richard R <SilverRR@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 1:44 AM
To: Klemm, Hans G;Thompson, Dean R;Schlaefer, David A;Stewart, Michael P;Miles, Bryce A;Matier, Paul T;Hawkins, Ronald E;Dayringer, James R;O'Connor, Gregory - Bucharest NO SBU;Perrone, Daniel M;Traven, Peter E;McKeon, Stephen P;Ashenden, Russell A
Cc: Fitzgerald, Joseph J;Bradley, Lauren M;Hegendorfer, Daryl R;Estes, Katherine L
Subject: Draft morning news summary - October 13

Categories: Other

RELEASE IN PART B5

Good morning!

Please send me your comments NLT 10am for inclusion. THANK YOU!

Richard



MORNING NEWS SUMMARY
October 13, 2016

The Morning News Summary compiles Romanian language press stories relevant to Embassy Bucharest, and other USG officials. The information is not independently verified.

Bilateral– Regional/NATO

Domestic

Economic

Domestic

Plagiarism: the European Commission and PM React

While in Bucharest, Science, Research and Innovation Commissioner Carlos Moedas issued a press statement saying that it is a priority of the European Union to be stricter and tougher on plagiarism. He warned that if the rules are not respected, Romania will pay a very expensive price. Separately, PM Ciolos said in the Government meeting that he regrets the decision made by Parliament to cut the National Council for Certification of Titles, Diplomas and University Certificates (CNATDCU) powers, and the way that plagiarism is being dealt with. He regretted the resignation of CNATDCU president, Viorel Barbu, calling him a neutral professional. Ciolos warned that there are too many doctoral schools in Romania, adding that no law can decide whether a paper has been plagiarized, but only honest and objective researchers and professionals. Yesterday, CNATDCU issued a final verdict concerning plagiarism charges against former Interior Minister Petre Toba and Voluntari Mayor Florin Pandele.* Separately, the Prosecutor General started the criminal investigation against the Bucharest Sector 3 Mayor Robert Negoita for instigation to falsify documents, abuse of office, and use of false documents in connection with his PhD paper. Police Academy asked the withdrawal of Negoita's PhD title claiming his paper was plagiarized. (Mediafax, Digi24, mainstream media)

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1

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

**Comment: After extensive technical research into the PhD theses for Petre Toba and Florin Pandeale, the General Council of CNATDCU concluded that their papers were plagiarized. The vote was 36 in favor and one against. It is important to note that this is not a final conclusion. CNATDCU is only one body on the circuit of institutions analyzing PhD papers. The final decision regarding the withdrawal of the PhD title stands with the Education Minister.*

Press One: Laura Codruta Kovesi's PhD papers included a series of suspicious paragraphs

Press One analyzed the DNA Chief Prosecutor's paper and said that several paragraphs over three pages are copied without quotations from a book on organized crime by Damian Miclea. Three other paragraphs are copied from a paper on fighting trans-border crime by an SRI officer. Kovesi has also mistakenly written the name of a Scottish author, and used quotations which similarly appeared in the work of another author. She also used quotations from her previous published articles without quoting them. Press One comments that Kovesi's case is not similar with those of Victor Ponta, Gabriel Oprea or Petre Toba who have massively plagiarized their papers but it raises suspicions due to the numbers of omissions and mistakes. **(Press One)**

Comment: Press One journalist and university teacher Emilia Sercan has analyzed most PhD papers by top Romanian politicians suspected of plagiarism.

Romania refuses Canada's offer on visas

Unlike Bulgaria, the Romanian Government refused Canada's first offer to gradually lift visas for Romanians until May 2018. Romanian officials were not satisfied with the offer and asked for a firmer deadline of 2017. **(Digi24)**

PSD lawmakers calls for action against Soros people

Over the past days, the PSD Deputy Ninel Peia (of Ilfov) launched several public messages urging Romanians to take action against "the 22,000 Soros people" who are national traitors, attack Romania's religion, have key positions, and work with all their powers against Romania. The list of "traitors" includes politicians, magistrates, NGO members, intellectuals, artists, students, etc. He posted several photos with personalities including members of the Ciolos government. These include: USR leaders Clotilde Armand and Nicusor Dan, MEP Monica Macovei, Former Foreign Affairs Minister Andrei Plesu, philosopher Horia Roman Patapievici, singer and artist Tudor Chirila, NGO's representatives Alina Mungiu Pippidi and Cristina Guseth, etc.

In additional Soros news, Revista 22 reports that two weeks ago, PUR politicians Sebastian Ghita and Bogdan Diaconu announced the introduction of a draft law to ban NGOs members which received funding from George Soros to occupy any public position in Romania. Analyst Cristian Campeanu compared these stances with those of Erdogan in Turkey. Campeanu warned that the nationalists intend to separate Romania from the West, and re-orient it towards the Orthodox Russia which they say it is closer in space and spirit than the American, capitalist even Jewish foreigners embodied by Soros. Campeanu warned that the new nationalist parties PRU, ANR, FN were set up to electorally help an alliance between Liviu Dragnea and Calin Popescu Tariceanu who pose as the saviors of Romanian farmers, capital, ancient Orthodoxy protecting it from the assault of the western neo-colonialists. Separately, analyst Ioan Bujor explained in **Vice Romania** that the nationalist message promoted by Marian Munteanu and his ANR is very appealing and skillfully constructed, considering that Munteanu is trained in anthropology and political sciences. ANR targets foreigners, banks, foreign investments claiming that they support national values and family. **(Romania Curata, Revista 22, Vice Romania, others)**

Comment: Since 1990, the Soros's Foundation for Open Society was one of the main donors in Romania and other former communist countries, financing sociological research, education, social inclusion, good governance, civic culture and integrated community intervention. The most influential Romanian NGOs as well as politicians, researchers and other players who had scholarships abroad benefitted by its financing. Over the

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past 26 years, a series of political parties, mainly PSD and its political allies, have blamed NGOs, intellectuals, cultural personalities of eroding Romania's economy, territorial autonomy, public order or the health of the population. Independent analysts warned about the danger of such messaging which creates social shifts and turns Romania back to communist practices.

Media NGOs warn that the annulment of the TV and radio tax will turn public media services in political services

Three media organizations warned that Liviu Dragnea's draft law aimed to annul 102 taxes, including those for public radio and TV, is profoundly altering the public mission these media outlets and that it will subordinate them to politics. The proposal was made without any impact study on the budget or a public debate in a non-transparent manner, aimed to trivialize the subject. The NGOs recalled that the laws governing public media are organic and any changes need to answer the Constitutional requirements and the Parliament's regulations. Active Watch, Center for Independent Journalism and the Convention Media Organizations urged politicians to act responsible, transparent and organize public debates on the issue. (**FreeEx, Pagina de Media**, others)

Economic News

Official: Catastrophe risk coefficients in Romania are among the highest in the region

Misu Negritoiu, President of the Financial Supervisory Authority (ASF) in Romania, pointed out that the catastrophe risks (floods and earthquake) in Romania are among the highest in the region. In the first half of 2016, the household insurance policies penetration degree had reached 19.4% in Romania, compared with 17.7% in 2015. "The activity (on the household insurance segment) is increasing, but the number of contracts is still small," Negritoiu added. Overall, in the first semester of 2016, the household insurance segment (both mandatory and voluntary policies) reported a 10% increase of gross written premiums compared with the same period last year, reaching RON 249.4 (approximately USD 61 million). On June 30, the number of active household insurance contracts had reached 3.3 million. Romania has 8.9 million households. Negritoiu made the statement at the he International Catastrophic Risks Forum in Bucharest. Floods which hit Romania over the past days affected 25 counties, mostly eastern counties of Galati, Bacau and Buzau. Interior Ministry announced the evacuation of 530 people. The Government allotted RON 87 million (USD 21 mn) to local authorities to repair damaged infrastructure. (**Asig.ro; most media**)



B5

Cernavoda's 3, 4 nuclear units to be included in Romania's future energy strategy

"In almost all scenarios, there is room for the reactors 3 and 4 in the nuclear industry," said Minister of Energy, Victor Grigorescu. He added that Cernavoda reactors 3 and 4 will be included in Romania's energy strategy, and the Government has already invested EUR 1 billion in this project and has the necessary experience for developing it. However, the coal will remain an important resource of Romanian energy mix. Currently, the coal provides about 30 percent of the national electricity production in Romania through Oltenia and Hunedoara energy plants. Nuclear energy provides about 20 percent of the electric power generated nationally through reactors Cernavoda's 1 and 2 reactors. Romania is currently negotiating with the Chinese company CGN the construction of 3 and 4 Cernavoda units. The project of reactors 3 and 4 will create 16,000 new jobs in the domestic industry, according to specialists (**Romania Journal, Agerpres**, etc.)

Bilateral/Regional – NATO

U.S. DOS official: Without sanctions against Russia the situation would be worse

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Daniel Fried the State Department's Coordinator for Sanctions Policy said that "...without the sanctions the situation might well be much worse." In an interview in Bucharest at the middle of September, Fried outlined that it is important in every generation to remind why Western solidarity is critical. He said that sanctions work in two ways. One way -- is that without the sanctions the situation might well be much worse. The Russians could have driven deeper into Ukraine and they could have tried to seize Mariupol or driven on land all the way to Crimea or attack Harkhiv. The sanctions may have stopped the Russians from going further. Second, and related, the sanctions may have provided a greater opening for diplomacy than would have been otherwise the case. Without sanctions there might not have even been the Minsk framework. So they've worked in these two ways but they've not yet worked in a third way because there is still Russian support for separatists and indeed Russians all over the Donbas. But with sanctions patience is important. Fried said Romania has to be congratulated for its role in NATO and its wish to spend more on defense matters. The U.S. is likely to enter in this kind of burden-sharing discussion. The argument for NATO being a valuable investment is strong, it is even stronger now than when Secretary Gates spoke because what happened in Ukraine, because of the Russian aggression. But his point is still a good one: we must recall what it is we set out to achieve, said Fried. (**Adevarul, Defence Matters**)

Republic of Moldova poll: increased support for union with Romania

Some 34% Moldovans will vote for a union between Republic of Moldova and Romania, said a poll by the Center of Sociological Research (CSR) quoted by **Radio Chisinau**. A May 2016 poll said that 17% are in favor of the union. However, this month poll says only 4% of Moldovans will vote for unionists at the elections that will take place on October 30. A CSR official said that 31% of those polled in October are totally against a union. Some 51% want Moldova to join the EU, and 43% want it to join the Customs Union. Some 42% are in favor of joining NATO, while 35% could not give an answer. (**Hotnews**)

Romania, France conducted Black Sea military exercise

An air and navy live fire exercise occurred this week in the Black Sea, staged by five Romanian military ships of the Fleet Command and France's Le Premier-Maître L'Her (F 792) frigate. Le Premier-Maître L'Her joined Romania's King Ferdinand frigate (which had a helicopter aboard), two corvettes, two missile-bearing ships and three MIG 21 Lancer aircraft of the Romanian Air Force, in what was said to be a very complex exercise that allowed the crews to train in air, surface and submarine combat. (**Digi24, Agerpres, Hotnews, etc.**)

Guccifer returns to Romania after U.S. conviction

Marcel Lehel Lazar, the 44-year-old Romanian national known online as "Guccifer," has returned to Romania on Tuesday after being convicted in the US on hacking and identity theft charges. Guccifer has been incarcerated at the Rahova Penitentiary, where he will spend 21 days before authorities decide where he will serve his time. Lazar was sentenced in early September by a court in the Eastern District of Virginia to 52 months in prison. Lazar was initially charged with wire fraud, unauthorized access to a protected computer, cyber stalking, aggravated identity theft and obstruction of justice. After being extradited from Romania to the U.S., he pleaded guilty to unauthorized access to a protected computer and aggravated identity theft. Guccifer became famous after hacking the online accounts of members of the Bush family. He later targeted the accounts of former Secretary of State Colin Powell, journalists, actors, former members of the U.S. Cabinet and the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and a former presidential advisor. He also claimed to have hacked Hillary Clinton's private email server, but failed to prove it. Lazar was arrested in Romania in 2014 and sentenced to 7 years in prison for accessing the email accounts of politician Corina Cretu and of George Maior, who at the time was the head of the country's intelligence service. Lazar had previously received a three-year suspended sentence for breaking into the online accounts of numerous local celebrities. (**Mediafax, ProTV, etc.**)

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION**Key media:**

Agerpres – Romanian government-owned national wire service.

Adevarul – national, generally-independent daily owned by businessman Cristian Burci.

Aktual24 – news and analyses website run by journalist Andrei Badin

Antena 1 & 3 – ratings-leading TV channels owned by mogul Dan Voiculescu's (PC party, PSD) Intact Media. Often stridently critical of rule of law institutions, prosecutors, the U.S. and EU. Voiculescu is in prison for corruption and Intact Media has been charged with blackmailing cable provider RCS&RDS.

Azi - PSD's newspaper, with small circulation. It is run by the PSD's former secretary general Octavian Stireanu.

B1TV –all-news television owned by businessmen Sorin Oancea (50%) and George Constantin Paunescu (50%).

BreakingNews24.ro –news website, close to PSD, Antena 3.

Bursa - private business daily published by Meta Ring SRL (coordinated by senior journalist Florian Goldstein).

Click – Tabloid controlled by Adevarul Holding. No political stance.

Contributors.ro – Independent platform of analyses and commentaries

Cotidianul – online newspaper, owned by controversial senior journalist Cornel Nistorescu.

Curentul – national online daily owned by businessman Mihai Iacob.

Curierul National - private business daily coordinated by Adrian Voinea. Independent.

DCNews – online outlet, serving Dan Voiculescu's interests, controlled by Antena 3 employees and commentators.

Digi24 – professional TV news channel owned by cable provider RCS&RDS

Economica.net - Independent, private, online business website.

Europa FM – private radio owned by French company Lagardere. News oriented.

Evenimentul Zilei – national daily controlled by political consultant Dan Andronic. Two of the newspaper's alleged shareholders are Elena Udrea and Sebastian Ghita. Changing political agenda, supportive of Traian Basescu, Victor Ponta.

Formula AS – independent weekly founded in 1990 by journalist Sanziana Pop. Christian, pro-nature and healthy living orientation.

Flux24 – independent online outlet which sometimes posts sensationalist news, without any source. Unknown ownership.

Gandul –online news and feature portal owned by Mediafax Group (controlled by Adrian Sarbu).

Hotnews – independent online news publication supportive of rule of law institutions, small and medium entrepreneurs.

In Linie Dreapta – anti-communist, conservative news and analyses platform.

In Politics – news, analyses platform close to the PNL. Editor-in-Chief Bogdan Tiberiu Iacob.

Jurnalul National – national daily owned by mogul Dan Voiculescu's Intact Media. Often critical of rule of law, the U.S. and EU. Voiculescu is in prison for corruption and Intact Media has been charged with blackmailing cable provider RCS&RDS.

Kamikaze – independent investigative and satirical weekly

La Punkt - Independent platform of analyses and commentaries

Libertatea – Tabloid, owned by Swiss trust Ringier. Pro-PSD stances.

Mediafax – nationwide wire service part of Mediafax Group (controlled by Adrian Sarbu).

National – tabloid controlled by controversial businessman Iliuta Naghi. Changing political agenda.

News.Ro – Independent, private online news agency.

Politic Scan - A portal of political analyses, news and interviews, connected with sociologist Sebastian Lazaroiu.

Press One – independent online media outlet, owned by American businessman and philanthropist Don Lothrop

Pro TV – ratings-leading general television owned by Media Pro (owned by Central Media Enterprises. Time Warner has 39.10% of CME).

PS News – online news site operated by supporters of mogul Dan Voiculescu (PC party, PSD) and Sebastian Ghita

Profit.ro - Independent, private, online business website.

Puterea – according to media reports, the owners are unknown Russian investors, represented by Romanian businessman Adrian Thiess. Controlled by Georgian Puiu. Changing political agenda.

Radio Romania – Romanian public radio service with several channels. Includes **Rador**, wire service offering radio and TV transcripts.

Realitatea TV – all-news channel owned by political consultant and businessman Cozmin Gusa, supportive of PNL.

Republica – online independent outlet controlled by three reporters. Focused on features, interviews, young entrepreneurs.

Revista 22 – academic, intellectual, independent magazine

Ring – free newspaper distributed in Bucharest subway. It is the property of the PSD mayor of sector 3 Robert Negoita.

Romania Libera – independent national broadsheet daily owned by controversial businessman Dan Adamescu, often critical of PSD and outspoken in favor of rule of law institutions.

Romania Mare – extremist weekly founded by communist writers Corneliu Vadim Tudor and Eugen Barbu. Unknown ownership.

Romania TV (RTV) – all-news television owned by mogul and PSD deputy Sebastian Ghita, supportive of PSD.

Reporter Virtual – independent online platform for news and analyses

Stiri pe Surse – online news platform close to Dan Voiculescu and PNL. It features the controversial commentator Sorin Rosca Stanescu.

TVR – Romanian public national television network with several channels.

Voice of Russia (VOR), Russia Today, Sputnik.md –online websites in Romanian language; owned by the Government of Russia (virulently anti-West).

Wall-Street.ro - Independent, private, online business website.

Ziare.com – independent online news and editorial platform owned by U.S. investment fund Broadhurst, often serving as an aggregator.

Ziarul Financiar – private business daily published by Mediafax Group.

This email is UNCLASSIFIED.

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

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NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

From: Silver, Richard R <SilverRR@state.gov>
Sent: Thursday, October 13, 2016 4:05 AM
To: Silver, Richard R
Cc: Silver, Richard R
Subject: Bucharest Morning News Summary (October 13, 2016)
Categories: Other

Classified by Director
A/GIS/IPS, DoS on
07/31/2018 ~ Class:
CONFIDENTIAL ~ Reason:
1.4(D), B1 ~ Declassify on:
10/12/2045



RELEASE IN PART 1.4(D),B6

MORNING NEWS SUMMARY
October 13, 2016

The Morning News Summary compiles Romanian language press stories relevant to Embassy Bucharest, and other USG officials. The information is not independently verified.

Bilateral— Regional/NATO
Domestic
Economic

Domestic

Plagiarism: the European Commission and PM React

While in Bucharest, Science, Research and Innovation Commissioner Carlos Moedas issued a press statement saying that it is a priority of the European Union to be stricter and tougher on plagiarism. He warned that if the rules are not respected, Romania will pay a very expensive price. Separately, PM Ciolos said in the Government meeting that he regrets the decision made by Parliament to cut the National Council for Certification of Titles, Diplomas and University Certificates (CNATDCU) powers, and the way that plagiarism is being dealt with. He regretted the resignation of CNATDCU president, Viorel Barbu, calling him a neutral professional. Ciolos warned that there are too many doctoral schools in Romania, adding that no law can decide whether a paper has been plagiarized, but only honest and objective researchers and professionals. Yesterday, CNATDCU issued a final verdict concerning plagiarism charges against former Interior Minister Petre Toba and Voluntari Mayor Florin Pandeale.* Separately, the Prosecutor General started the criminal investigation against the Bucharest Sector 3 Mayor Robert Negoita for instigation to falsify documents, abuse of office, and use of false documents in connection with his PhD paper. Police Academy asked the withdrawal of Negoita's PhD title claiming his paper was plagiarized. (**Mediafax, Digi24**, mainstream media)

**Comment: After extensive technical research into the PhD theses of Petre Toba and Florin Pandeale, the General Council of CNATDCU concluded that their papers were plagiarized. The vote was 36 in favor and one against. It is important to note that this is not a final conclusion. CNATDCU is only one body on the circuit of institutions analyzing PhD papers. The final decision regarding the withdrawal of the PhD title stands with the Education Minister. Media continued to comment negatively on the future fallout from the recently passed education bill on academia and public integrity writ large.*

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

7

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION**Press One: Laura Codruta Kovesi's PhD papers included a series of suspicious paragraphs**

Press One analyzed the DNA Chief Prosecutor's paper and said that several paragraphs over three pages are copied without quotations from a book on organized crime by Damian Miclea. Three other paragraphs are copied from a paper on fighting trans-border crime by an SRI officer. Kovesi has also mistakenly written the name of a Scottish author, and used quotations which similarly appeared in the work of another author. She also used quotations from her previous published articles without quoting them. Press One comments that Kovesi's case is not similar with those of Victor Ponta, Gabriel Oprea of Petre Toba who have massively plagiarized their papers but it raises suspicions due to the numbers of omissions and mistakes. High-profile defense attorney Gheorghe Mateut, who looked at Kovesi's PhD paper at CNATCDU's request in 2012, said on Realitatea TV in his opinion the paper was not plagiarized and blamed what he saw as a very consequential, "orchestrated campaign to damage trust in the judiciary." (**Press One, Realitatea TV**)

Comment: Press One journalist and university teacher Emilia Sercan has analyzed most PhD papers by top Romanian politicians suspected of plagiarism. Most independent observers increasingly note that the issue of Kovesi's alleged plagiarism needs to be swiftly looked into and clarified.

Romania refuses Canada's offer on visas

Unlike Bulgaria, the Romanian Government refused Canada's first offer to gradually lift visas for Romanians until May 2018. Romanian officials were not satisfied with the offer and asked for a firmer deadline of 2017. (**Digi24**)

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Over the past days, the PSD Deputy Ninel Peia (of Ilfov) launched several public messages urging Romanians to take action against "the 22,000 Soros people" who are national traitors, attack Romania's religion, have key positions, and work with all their powers against Romania. The list of "traitors" includes politicians, magistrates, NGO members, intellectuals, artists, students, etc. He posted several photos with personalities including members of the Ciolos government. These include: USR leaders Clotilde Armand and Nicusor Dan, MEP Monica Macovei, Former Foreign Affairs Minister Andrei Plesu, philosopher Horia Roman Patapievici, singer and artist Tudor Chirila, NGO's representatives Alina Mungiu Pippidi and Cristina Guseth, etc.

In additional Soros news, Revista 22 recently reported that PRU politicians Sebastian Ghita and Bogdan Diaconu announced the introduction of a draft law to ban NGOs members which received funding from George Soros to occupy any public position in Romania. Analyst Cristian Campeanu compared these stances with those of Erdogan in Turkey. Campeanu warned that the nationalists intend to separate Romania from the West, and re-orient it towards the Orthodox Russia which they say it is closer in space and spirit than the American, capitalist even Jewish foreigners embodied by Soros. Campeanu warned that the new nationalist parties PRU, ANR, FN were set up to electorally help an alliance between Liviu Dragnea and Calin Popescu Tariceanu who pose as the saviors of Romanian farmers, capital, ancient Orthodoxy protecting it from the assault of the western neo-colonialists. Separately, analyst Ioan Bujor explained in **Vice Romania** that the nationalist message promoted by Marian Munteanu and his ANR is very appealing and skillfully constructed, considering that Munteanu is trained in anthropology and political sciences. ANR targets foreigners, banks, foreign investments claiming that they support national values and family. (**Romania Curata, Revista 22, Vice Romania, others**)

Comment: Since 1990, the Soros's Foundation for Open Society was one of the main donors in Romania and other former communist countries, financing sociological research, education, social inclusion, good governance, civic culture and integrated community intervention. The most influential Romanian NGOs, politicians, researchers and others have benefitted from its scholarships. Over the past 26 years, a series of political parties, mainly PSD and its political allies, have blamed NGOs, intellectuals, cultural personalities of eroding Romania's economy, territorial autonomy, public order or the health of the population. Independent

NO DISCERNIBLE CLASSIFICATION

analysts warned about the danger of such messaging which creates social shifts and turns Romania back to communist practices.

1.4(D)

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Three media organizations warned that Liviu Dragnea's draft law aimed to annul 102 taxes, including those for public radio and TV, is profoundly altering the public mission these media outlets and that it will subordinate them to politics. The proposal was made without any impact study on the budget or a public debate in a non-transparent manner, aimed to trivialize the subject. The NGOs recalled that the laws governing public media are organic and any changes need to answer the Constitutional requirements and the Parliament's regulations. Active Watch, Center for Independent Journalism and the Convention Media Organizations urged politicians to act responsible, transparent and organize public debates on the issue. (**FreeEx, Pagina de Media, others**)

Economic News

Official: Catastrophe risk coefficients in Romania are among the highest in the region

Misu Negritoiu, President of the Financial Supervisory Authority (ASF) in Romania, pointed out that the catastrophe risks (floods and earthquake) in Romania are among the highest in the region. In the first half of 2016, the household insurance policies penetration degree had reached 19.4% in Romania, compared with 17.7% in 2015. "The activity (on the household insurance segment) is increasing, but the number of contracts is still small," Negritoiu added. Overall, in the first semester of 2016, the household insurance segment (both mandatory and voluntary policies) reported a 10% increase of gross written premiums compared with the same period last year, reaching RON 249.4 (approximately USD 61 million). On June 30, the number of active household insurance contracts had reached 3.3 million. Romania has 8.9 million households. Negritoiu made the statement at the he International Catastrophic Risks Forum in Bucharest. Floods which hit Romania over the past days affected 25 counties, mostly eastern counties of Galati, Bacau and Buzau. Interior Ministry announced the evacuation of 530 people. The Government allotted RON 87 million (USD 21 mn) to local authorities to repair damaged infrastructure. (**Asig.ro; most media**)

Cernavoda's 3, 4 nuclear units to be included in Romania's future energy strategy

"In almost all scenarios, there is room for the reactors 3 and 4 in the nuclear industry," said Minister of Energy, Victor Grigorescu. He added that Cernavoda reactors 3 and 4 will be included in Romania's energy strategy, and the Government has already invested EUR 1 billion in this project and has the necessary experience for developing it. However, the coal will remain an important resource of Romanian energy mix. Currently, the coal provides about 30 percent of the national electricity production in Romania through Oltenia and Hunedoara energy plants. Nuclear energy provides about 20 percent of the electric power generated nationally through reactors Cernavoda's 1 and 2 reactors. Romania is currently negotiating with the Chinese company CGN the construction of 3 and 4 Cernavoda units. The project of reactors 3 and 4 will create 16,000 new jobs in the domestic industry, according to specialists (**Romania Journal, Agerpres, etc.**)

Bilateral/Regional – NATO

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U.S. DOS official: Without sanctions against Russia the situation would be worse

Daniel Fried the State Department's Coordinator for Sanctions Policy said that "...without the sanctions the situation might well be much worse." In an interview in Bucharest at the middle of September, Fried outlined that it is important in every generation to remind why Western solidarity is critical. He said that sanctions work in two ways. One way -- is that without the sanctions the situation might well be much worse. The Russians could have driven deeper into Ukraine and they could have tried to seize Mariupol or driven on land all the way to Crimea or attack Harkhiv. The sanctions may have stopped the Russians from going further. Second, and related, the sanctions may have provided a greater opening for diplomacy than would have been otherwise the case. Without sanctions there might not have even been the Minsk framework. So they've worked in these two ways but they've not yet worked in a third way because there is still Russian support for separatists and indeed Russians all over the Donbas. But with sanctions patience is important. Fried said Romania has to be congratulated for its role in NATO and its wish to spend more on defense matters. The U.S. is likely to enter in this kind of burden-sharing discussion. The argument for NATO being a valuable investment is strong, it is even stronger now than when Secretary Gates spoke because what happened in Ukraine, because of the Russian aggression. But his point is still a good one: we must recall what it is we set out to achieve, said Fried. (**Adevarul, Defence Matters**)

Republic of Moldova poll: increased support for union with Romania

Some 34% Moldovans will vote for a union between Republic of Moldova and Romania, said a poll by the Center of Sociological Research (CSR) quoted by **Radio Chisinau**. A May 2016 poll said that 17% are in favor of the union. However, this month poll says only 4% of Moldovans will vote for unionists at the elections that will take place on October 30. A CSR official said that 31% of those polled in October are totally against a union. Some 51% want Moldova to join the EU, and 43% want it to join the Customs Union. Some 42% are in favor of joining NATO, while 35% could not give an answer. (**Hotnews**)

Romania, France conducted Black Sea military exercise

An air and navy live fire exercise occurred this week in the Black Sea, staged by five Romanian military ships of the Fleet Command and France's Le Premier-Maître L'Her (F 792) frigate. Le Premier-Maître L'Her joined Romania's King Ferdinand frigate (which had a helicopter aboard), two corvettes, two missile-bearing ships and three MIG 21 Lancer aircraft of the Romanian Air Force, in what was said to be a very complex exercise that allowed the crews to train in air, surface and submarine combat. (**Digi24, Agerpres, Hotnews, etc.**)

Guccifer returns to Romania after U.S. conviction

Marcel Lehel Lazar, the 44-year-old Romanian national known online as "Guccifer," has returned to Romania on Tuesday after being convicted in the US on hacking and identity theft charges. Guccifer has been incarcerated at the Rahova Penitentiary, where he will spend 21 days before authorities decide where he will serve his time. Lazar was sentenced in early September by a court in the Eastern District of Virginia to 52 months in prison. Lazar was initially charged with wire fraud, unauthorized access to a protected computer, cyber stalking, aggravated identity theft and obstruction of justice. After being extradited from Romania to the U.S., he pleaded guilty to unauthorized access to a protected computer and aggravated identity theft. Guccifer became famous after hacking the online accounts of members of the Bush family. He later targeted the accounts of former Secretary of State Colin Powell, journalists, actors, former members of the U.S. Cabinet and the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and a former presidential advisor. He also claimed to have hacked Hillary Clinton's private email server, but failed to prove it. Lazar was arrested in Romania in 2014 and sentenced to 7 years in prison for accessing the email accounts of politician Corina Cretu and of George Maior, who at the time was the head of the country's intelligence service. Lazar had previously received a three-year suspended sentence for breaking into the online accounts of numerous local celebrities. (**Mediafax, ProTV, etc.**)

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Agerpres – Romanian government-owned national wire service.

Adevarul – national, generally-independent daily owned by businessman Cristian Burci.

Aktual24 – news and analyses website run by journalist Andrei Badin

Antena 1 & 3 – ratings-leading TV channels owned by mogul Dan Voiculescu's (PC party, PSD) Intact Media. Often stridently critical of rule of law institutions, prosecutors, the U.S. and EU. Voiculescu is in prison for corruption and Intact Media has been charged with blackmailing cable provider RCS&RDS.

Azi - PSD's newspaper, with small circulation. It is run by the PSD's former secretary general Octavian Stireanu.

B1TV –all-news television owned by businessmen Sorin Oancea (50%) and George Constantin Paunescu (50%).

BreakingNews24.ro –news website, close to PSD, Antena 3.

Bursa - private business daily published by Meta Ring SRL (coordinated by senior journalist Florian Goldstein).

Click – Tabloid controlled by Adevarul Holding. No political stance.

Contributors.ro – Independent platform of analyses and commentaries

Cotidianul – online newspaper, owned by controversial senior journalist Cornel Nistorescu.

Curentul – national online daily owned by businessman Mihai Iacob.

Curierul National - private business daily coordinated by Adrian Voinea. Independent.

DCNews – online outlet, serving Dan Voiculescu's interests, controlled by Antena 3 employees and commentators.

Digi24 – professional TV news channel owned by cable provider RCS&RDS

Economica.net - Independent, private, online business website.

Europa FM – private radio owned by French company Lagardere. News oriented.

Evenimentul Zilei – national daily controlled by political consultant Dan Andronic. Two of the newspaper's alleged shareholders are Elena Udrea and Sebastian Ghita. Changing political agenda, supportive of Traian Basescu, Victor Ponta.

Formula AS – independent weekly founded in 1990 by journalist Sanziana Pop. Christian, pro-nature and healthy living orientation.

Flux24 – independent online outlet which sometimes posts sensationalist news, without any source. Unknown ownership.

Gandul –online news and feature portal owned by Mediafax Group (controlled by Adrian Sarbu).

Hotnews – independent online news publication supportive of rule of law institutions, small and medium entrepreneurs.

In Linie Dreapta – anti-communist, conservative news and analyses platform.

In Politics – news, analyses platform close to the PNL. Editor-in-Chief Bogdan Tiberiu Iacob.

Jurnalul National – national daily owned by mogul Dan Voiculescu's Intact Media. Often critical of rule of law, the U.S. and EU. Voiculescu is in prison for corruption and Intact Media has been charged with blackmailing cable provider RCS&RDS.

Kamikaze – independent investigative and satirical weekly

La Punkt - Independent platform of analyses and commentaries

Libertatea – Tabloid, owned by Swiss trust Ringier. Pro-PSD stances.

Mediafax – nationwide wire service part of Mediafax Group (controlled by Adrian Sarbu).

National – tabloid controlled by controversial businessman Iliuta Naghi. Changing political agenda.

News.Ro – Independent, private online news agency.

Politic Scan - A portal of political analyses, news and interviews, connected with sociologist Sebastian Lazaroiu.

Press One – independent online media outlet, owned by American businessman and philanthropist Don Lothrop

Pro TV – ratings-leading general television owned by Media Pro (owned by Central Media Enterprises. Time Warner has 39.10% of CME).

PS News – online news site operated by supporters of mogul Dan Voiculescu (PC party, PSD) and Sebastian Ghita

Profit.ro - Independent, private, online business website.

Puterea – according to media reports, the owners are unknown Russian investors, represented by Romanian businessman Adrian Thies. Controlled by Georgian Puiu. Changing political agenda.

Radio Romania – Romanian public radio service with several channels. Includes **Rador**, wire service offering radio and TV transcripts.

Realitatea TV – all-news channel owned by political consultant and businessman Cozmin Gusa, supportive of PNL.

Republica – online independent outlet controlled by three reporters. Focused on features, interviews, young entrepreneurs.

Revista 22 – academic, intellectual, independent magazine

Ring – free newspaper distributed in Bucharest subway. It is the property of the PSD mayor of sector 3 Robert Negoita.

Romania Libera – independent national broadsheet daily owned by controversial businessman Dan Adamescu, often critical of PSD and outspoken in favor of rule of law institutions.

Romania Mare – extremist weekly founded by communist writers Corneliu Vadim Tudor and Eugen Barbu. Unknown ownership.

Romania TV (RTV) – all-news television owned by mogul and PSD deputy Sebastian Ghita, supportive of PSD.

Reporter Virtual – independent online platform for news and analyses

Stiri pe Surse – online news platform close to Dan Voiculescu and PNL. It features the controversial commentator Sorin Rosca Stanescu.

TVR – Romanian public national television network with several channels.

Voice of Russia (VOR), Russia Today, Sputnik.md –online websites in Romanian language; owned by the Government of Russia (virulently anti-West).

Wall-Street.ro - Independent, private, online business website.

Ziare.com – independent online news and editorial platform owned by U.S. investment fund Broadhurst, often serving as an aggregator.

Ziarul Financiar – private business daily published by Mediafax Group.

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