

SITUATION REPORT

ROMANIA

July 10, 1959

The Reuters agency in Paris carried an interview with Deputy Premier Alexandru Barladeanu, who is planning on visiting Britain next week in order to investigate the possibilities of buying complete, modern factories and equipment for Romania's Six Year Plan (cf. yesterday's Situation Report). Barladeanu is quoted as saying "we feel there are good prospects of boosting trade. Britain is capable of supplying us with industrial equipment and buying a wide range of Romanian products." The delegation arrives in Britain on July 14 or 15 and plans to stay for ten days. According to the Deputy Premier, a commercial agreement would not exclude separate negotiations on Romania's pre-war debts and compensation for British concerns nationalized by Romania. These are points of issue between the two countries. When questioned as to the type of material the Romanian delegation planned to buy in Great Britain, Gaston Maris, one of the regime's chief planners, said that they are interested in factories for producing equipment for chemical, oil, machine tool and electronic industries. The regime also wants rolling and paper mills and railway material, especially electric locomotives.

A group of "over 1,000" university students, pedagogues, party members, etc. met and once again heartily approved the decision to merge Cluj University. This report was carried by Scinteia of July 4, although the date of the decision taken by the Central Committee and the government to merge the university is not yet known.