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18 January 1967

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Manescu to Visit Belgium

Belgian Foreign Minister Pierre Harmel announced to the Belgian Senate in the course of a foreign policy speech on January 17 that Foreign Minister Cornel Manescu will pay an official visit to Belgium from February 6 to 10, according to RFE Special/Ramsay of January 17. This will be in addition to a visit to the Netherlands by Manescu, the report said.

Rumanian-Dutch Communique

Dutch Foreign Minister Joseph Luns who arrived on an official visit in Bucharest on January 11 (SR of that date), left for home on January 16. During his stay in Rumania, Luns had talks with his Rumanian counterpart Cornel Manescu and with Deputy Premier Gheorghe Radulescu. On January 13 he was received in Predeal by Secretary General Nicolae Ceausescu and, separately, by Premier Ion Gheorghe Maurer on the same day. A Rumanian-Dutch cultural agreement was also signed on January 13. Luns told journalists at a press conference two days later, which was briefly reported by Agerpres, about the need for increasing contacts between Socialist and Western countries.

The communique, issued at the end of the visit stressed the favorable development of relations between the two countries, expressed by the recent elevation of diplomatic representation to the embassy level, the settlement in principle of old Dutch financial claims in connection with the nationalization of Dutch property in Rumania after World War II (according to RFE Special/Ramsay of January 15, the Bucharest correspondent of the Telegraaf reported that these claims amounted to 1.5 million dollars), and the signing of the cultural agreement. Both partners reaffirmed the importance of the United Nations and expressed their conviction that the two countries could actively contribute to the solution of international questions. The communique did not, however mention any specific

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international issues. An invitation to visit Holland was extended to Premier Ion Gheorghe Maurer and Foreign Minister Cornel Manescu, the date of which was to be established later (see first item above).

Radio Bucharest of January 16 reported that goods exchanges between the two countries in 1966 were 50 per cent higher than in 1965 (in 1965 trade amounted to 16.15 million dollars), and that representatives of Dutch firms were expected to come to Rumania soon.

In connection with trade, it should be noted that the three Benelux countries act as a single unit in their trade with East European countries. The last trade agreement with Rumania, covering the 1960-1961 period, was signed in September 1960. Radio Bucharest of January 10 reported the establishment of a Dutch section within the Rumanian Chamber of Commerce.

Ministerial Changes

By Decree No. 1031 of 23 December 1966, Matei Ghigiu, former Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Committee, was appointed head of the newly established Ministry of Construction of Chemical Plants and Refineries (SR of January 11). According to an Agerpres item of January 13, the Ministry had become necessary because of the great volume (65 per cent more than last year) of building-assembly work for the chemical industry and crude oil processing. The Ministry will set up new units for surveying, research and design work for industrial production and will cooperate with the State Building, Architecture and Town Planning Committee in arranging experimental building sites and using new construction materials, prefabs and advanced construction methods.

Ghigiu will be assisted by Deputy Ministers Ion Tudose (former Deputy Minister of the Oil Industry), Raducanu Cioroiu (former Deputy Minister of the Chemical Industry) and Mircea Georgescu. Secretary General in the Ministry will be Ion Comino.

According to a cabinet decision published in the Official Bulletin of 21 December 1966, the Ministry of the Chemical Industry, which will continue to be headed by Constantin Scarlat, will have as First Vice Minister, Ion Velea and as Vice-Ministers: Ion Deleanu, Atanase Diaconescu, Aurel Groapa, Gheorghe Caranfil and Stefan Kiss. Secretary General will be Nicolae Vulcan. Only Kiss is a newcomer.

The Official Bulletin of December 19 announced that Traian Pop has been appointed Deputy Minister of Education, and according to the same publication of 30 December, Nicolae Armencoiu has been named Secretary General of the Ministry of Electrical Energy. Finally, according to the Official Bulletin of January 3, Horatiu Atanasiu, former Deputy Chairman of the State Planning Committee, has been appointed Counsellor (Consilier Referent) with the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers.

Miscellaneous

Rumanian-Yugoslav Economic Cooperation. Agerpres of January 13 reported that the third session of the joint Rumanian-Yugoslav Commission for Economic Cooperation took place in Bucharest on January 12 and 13. The report of the joint commission for the construction of the Iron Gates hydropower and navigation project, new possibilities for expanding bilateral economic cooperation were examined, and a program of measures for the development of industrial cooperation between the two countries was established.

Radulescu to Visit Iran. Radio Bucharest of January 17 reported that Deputy Premier Gheorghe Radulescu will visit Iran between January 21 and 28 at the invitation of Iranian Premier Amir Aban Hoveida. It will be recalled that the Iranian Premier visited Rumania in November 1966.

Roman Moldovan to USSR. A delegation of the National Council for Scientific Research, headed by its chairman, Deputy Premier Roman Moldovan, left for the USSR on January 14 at the invitation of the Soviet State Committee for Science and Technology. Members of the delegation are Horia Hulubei and Nicolae Sarbu (Vice-Chairmen of the council) and Traian Dudas (secretary general). The Rumanian guests will visit scientific research institutes of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

Contract with Italian Firm. According to RFE Special/Wilson of January 5, an agreement has been signed with the Italian firm Moneta for the supply of machinery for the manufacture in Rumania of kitchen equipment. The value of the deal is two million dollars.

Lufthansa Service to Bucharest. GND/Kypena/Im of January 11 reported that negotiations are in progress with the West German airline Lufthansa for the establishment this year of a service to link Frankfurt, Munich, Zagreb and Bucharest.