

MUN 80

9 APRIL 1963

TO KAUFMANN INFO WALTER
FM COLLINS INFO SMITH, BURKS

09/1523.

RE YOUR NYC-63 OF 8 APRIL. WE TEND TO DISCOUNT RETURN OF AMBASSADOR BEING FURTHER INDICATION OF SOVIET-ROMANIAN TENSION. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT, AS SOVIET CONCESSION TO CHINESE, SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES WILL RESTORE FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH TIRANA. BUT NOTE THAT BULGARIA AND ROMANIA NEVER ANNOUNCED A DOWNGRADING OF THEIR DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN ALBANIA TO CHARGE D'AFFAIRES LEVEL. THIS WAS DONE BY CSR, GDR, POLAND AND HUNGARY WHILE SOVIET UNION BROKE OFF RELATIONS COMPLETELY. HOWEVER, IN AN INTERVIEW GIVEN TO "LE MONDE" ON 21 DECEMBER 1962, THE THEN ROMANIAN MINISTER TO PARIS, CONSTANTIN NICUTA, SAID THAT BECAUSE ALBANIAN DIPLOMATS IN ROMANIA HAD BEEN DISTRIBUTING LITERATURE HOSTILE TO THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT, THE ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR HAS BEEN RECALLED. IT IS NOT KNOWN JUST WHEN THIS RECALL TOOK PLACE BUT IT WAS PRESUMABLY SOMETIME DURING 1962. NOR IS IT KNOWN WHETHER ALBANIA AT ANY TIME ACTUALLY RECALLED HER AMBASSADOR FROM BUCHAREST. ON 20 DECEMBER 1961 HE HAD BEEN SUMMONED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY IN BUCHAREST AND TOLD TO STOP ALL ACTIVITY CONTRARY TO DIPLOMATIC USAGE. BUT HE WAS REPORTED AS BEING IN BUCHAREST ON 29 DECEMBER 1962, I.E., ONLY EIGHT DAYS AFTER NICUTA GAVE HIS INTERVIEW TO "LE MONDE" TELLING THAT THE ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN RECALLED. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THE RETURN OF ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR TO TIRANA CAME SHORTLY AFTER SIGNING OF TRADE AGREEMENT BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. THIS INVOLVES CONSIDERABLE INCREASE IN TRADE AND MAY HAVE BEEN FACTOR IN AMBASSADOR'S RETURN.

END MSG