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VIII/7156 e503
2300RUMANIACOMMUNICATIONS
Highways
Police controlHitch-Hiking Forbidden In RumaniaSOURCE SALZBURG: Confidential source who left Rumania in February 1953.DATE OF OBSERVATION: until 8 February 1953

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Neither private or state vehicles are allowed to pick up hitch-hikers or extra passengers. Late last fall, subsource was out in the country (having gone there by bus), and asked a friend he met there to take him back to the city. The friend apologized, saying he was not allowed to take extra passengers. Cars are controlled, he explained, and he would have to be able to prove that the extra passengers were relatives.

Subsource believes that the reason for this regulation is the regime's desire to get every possible bani from the people, i.e. make them ride the nationalized modes of transport. Subsource could not say what sort of punishment a car owner might receive should he pick up an extra passenger.

EVAL. COMMENT: Interesting account of new measures enforced by the Rumanian Communist police upon road traffic. According to the Correspondent, this information came out in the course of the interview in the following manner: The son of our source told the Correspondent that he and his family were soon going to another place in the West to see friends, but they were concerned about the railway fare. He was asked why they did not simply go out on the autobahn and hitch-hike. He was amazed. "Is that allowed here? It is strictly forbidden in Rumania."

End.