

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 2, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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THE WHITE HOUSE

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

In accordance with section 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, I transmit herewith my recommendation that the authority to waive subsections (a) and (b) of section 402 be extended for a period of 12 months.

This recommendation sets forth the reasons for extending waiver authority, and for my determination relating to continuation of the waiver applicable to the Socialist Republic of Romania, as called for by subsections (d) (1) (B) and (d) (1) (C) of section 402 of the Trade Act. I include, as part of this recommendation, my determination that extension of the waiver authority, and continuation of the waiver applicable to the Socialist Republic of Romania, will substantially promote the objectives of section 402.

GERALD R. FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
June 2, 1976

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RECOMMENDATION FOR EXTENSION  
OF WAIVER AUTHORITY

Pursuant to section 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, I have today determined that extension of the waiver authority granted by section 402(c)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, and continuation of the waiver extended by Executive Order 11854 of April 24, 1975 currently applicable to the Socialist Republic of Romania pursuant to section 402(c)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974, will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Trade Act of 1974.

Extension of the waiver authority conferred by section 402(c)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 is desirable because it would permit the continuation in effect of the US-Romanian Trade Agreement, which I believe to be in the national interest.

I am convinced that the continuation of the US-Romanian Trade Agreement will serve to promote mutually beneficial growth in two-way trade between the United States and Romania. This agreement has marked a major step forward in our economic relations with Romania. It places our bilateral trade on a basis beneficial to economic growth in both countries. Further, it brings our commercial relations into accord with our very satisfactory political ties.

Continued good US-Romanian relations, both political and commercial, serve the foreign policy interests of both countries. The dominant theme of Romania's foreign policy is the desire to maintain a high degree of independence. More than any other Warsaw Pact country, Romania has pursued friendly relations with countries of differing political and economic systems -- with the United States, the People's Republic of China, the developing world, and with Israel as well as Arab countries. Romania participates actively in a number of international organizations. It is the only COMECON country which is a member of the IMF and the World Bank. Romania has acceded to the GATT. It leads the COMECON countries in the proportion of its trade with the West.

We desire to encourage Romania's independent policy orientation through the expansion and improvement of bilateral relations. I am convinced that continuation of the Trade Agreement with Romania is essential to this end.

I believe that continuation of the waiver applicable to the Socialist Republic of Romania will substantially promote the objectives of section 402 of the Trade Act of 1974. Since the implementation of the Trade Agreement with Romania the flow of emigration from that country to the United States and Israel has increased markedly. Nearly twice as many persons left Romania with Romanian approval for the United States in the ten-month period between July 1, 1975 and April 30, 1976 than left in any preceding twelve-month period in the past two decades.

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Emigration from Romania to Israel also increased following the implementation of the Trade Agreement with Romania. While emigration figures to the United States and Israel are subject to fluctuation on a monthly basis, I am confident that the generally positive and encouraging overall trend in emigration from Romania will continue.

I therefore recommend to the Congress pursuant to subsection 402(d)(1) of the Trade Act of 1974 that the waiver authority granted by subsection (c)(1) of section 402 of the Trade Act of 1974 be extended for a period of twelve months.

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