

## **December 20, 1989**

### **Romania: Unrest Spreading**□□□

#### **Citation:**

"Romania: Unrest Spreading", December 20, 1989, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Approved for Release by the Central Intelligence Agency, October 29, 2019.  
<https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/209514>

#### **Summary:**

An analysis of escalating demonstrations in Romania and their threat to Ceausescu's rule.

#### **Original Language:**

English

#### **Contents:**

Original Scan

1274

~~Top Secret~~

[Redacted]

6.2(d)

**ROMANIA: Unrest Spreading**

*Street battles in Timisoara and reported unrest in other towns pose the most serious threat yet to Ceausescu's rule.* [Redacted]

6.2(d)

[Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

[Redacted] Estimates of casualties range from one to 2,000, most of them ranging between 250 and 400. [Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)  
6.2(d)

[Redacted]

Unconfirmed reports of minor outbreaks in other cities, including Arad, Oradea, Sibiu, Brasov, and Curtici. [Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

[Redacted] students in Bucharest have declared solidarity with the protesters, and police guards have been posted at the university. [Redacted] armed troops and militia were patrolling the streets in Bucharest yesterday and guarding government buildings and factories and that most Romanians were confined to their workplaces during the day. [Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

6.2(d)

Large parts of the country are apparently under virtual martial law, and security continues to be tightened nationwide. The [Redacted] borders are closed to most visitors. [Redacted]

3.3(b)(1)

[Redacted]

Meanwhile, President Ceausescu is due back from a state visit to Iran today or tomorrow. [Redacted]

6.2(d)

**Comment:** If the violence persists or spreads to other cities, key elements of the security forces and the military will be increasingly likely to forge an alliance with disgruntled Communist party officials to move against Ceausescu and his family. Even if the regime contains and suppresses the unrest, the apparent casualties will further isolate and constrain it. [Redacted]

6.2(d)

[Redacted]

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