

December 19, 1989

**Romania: Hungarians Outraged, Soviets Quiet So
Far**

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Summary:

An analysis of the Hungarian National Assembly's condemnation of Romania's efforts to crush dissent. An analysis of the Hungarian National Assembly's condemnation of Romania's efforts to crush dissent.

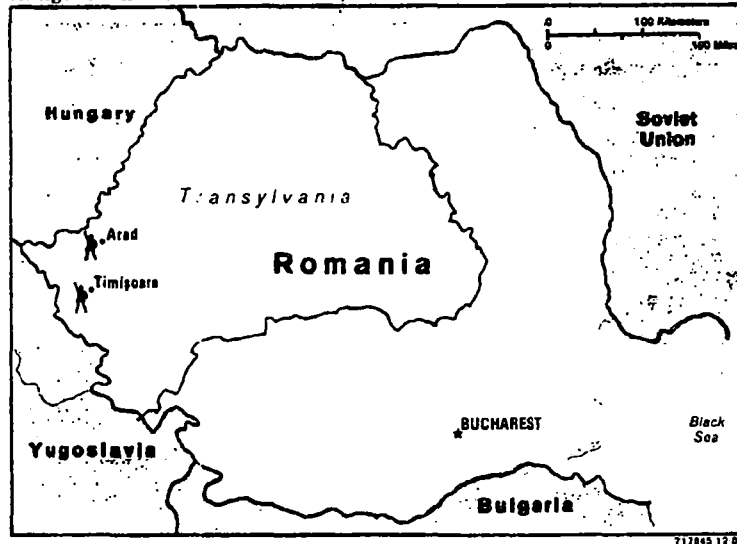
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~~Top Secret~~**Antigovernment Demonstrations, 16-17 December 1989****Hungarians Outraged, Soviets Quiet So Far**

The Hungarian National Assembly yesterday condemned Romania's persecution of Laszlo Tokes as a brutal violation of basic human rights and urged the Budapest government to take specific steps to defend Tokes and his congregation. The ruling Socialist Party has issued its own condemnation of Romania. About 50,000 participated in a demonstration in Budapest last night called by the Hungarian Democratic Forum to protest the Romanian actions.

Romania-bashing is a sure way to win votes in Hungary, and the increasing openness of Hungarian politics could encourage partisan competition in demanding sanctions against Romania. If demonstrators believe rumors of great bloodshed, Hungarian police may have difficulty protecting the Romanian Embassy from attacks.

Moscow has not commented officially on the Tokes affair, and press coverage of the riots has been light. Today's edition of *Izvestiya*, however, refers to Tokes as a human rights champion and notes that his house arrest has attracted international attention. Moscow is likely to condemn the violence, reiterate the need for reform, and offer at least private support for Hungary's efforts to raise the issue internationally.

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