Message from the USSR People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs, V.M. Molotov, to British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, dated 10 May 1944

Personal and Top Secret.

I have received your message of the 2nd May on the Romanian question and have informed the Government about it. In spite off all ingenuity, the message is unconvincing since it contains no explanations concerning the question.

You stated that the British Ambassador would give us detailed explanations. But, at his interview with me on the 5th May. he did not give any explanations concerning the question of the Chastellain Mission in Romania[[1]](#footnote-1). On that occasion Sir A. Clark Kerr said that the fact that the Germans allowed the Romanians to keep captured British officers who were using a wireless transmitting set and ciphers for communication with the outside world seemed strange to him himself and that the relations between Marshal Antonescu[[2]](#footnote-2) and Maniu[[3]](#footnote-3) were a mystery to him[[4]](#footnote-4).

[CHAR 20/164/74]

Keywords: Intern-allied relations, Romania

1. 57 Informing Churchill of the discovery of British parachutists, Molotov wrote that "among those British subjects there is the former director of the Romanian oil company ‘Unirea’, British officer de Chastellain...” (From Molotov to Prime Minister, 29.4.44 // CHAR 20/164/12-13). The officer in question was Captain Gardyne de Chastellain, who served in the Special Operations Executive (SOE) during World War II. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Antonescu, Ion Victor (1882 – 1946) – Romanian statesman and Marshal, Prime-Minister and Conducător (“Leader”) of Romania (1940 – 1944). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Maniu, Iuliu (1873 - 1953) - Romanian statesman, Prime Minister (1930, 1932-1933), chairman of the National Peasants' Party, one of the leading opposition figures during the Antonescu regime. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. In the papers of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, Maniu was seen as an opposition leader against Antonescu, and someone the British were willing to bet on. "In the past, Maniu did not show sympathy for the Soviet Union, but did not act openly against the Soviet Union. By all accounts, Maniu has been associated with England and the United States. Numerous supporters of Maniu among Romanian emigres are also seemingly making this association come into fruition... ", as stated in the biographical reference of the IV Division of the European Department, dated 18 October 1943 (АVP RF. F. 0511. Op. 1. P. 1. D. 1. L. 39ob). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)