



**United States Department of State
and the Broadcasting Board of Governors
Office of Inspector General**

Inspection of Embassy Bucharest, Romania



Embassy Bucharest

Embassy Bucharest deals admirably with a vastly expanded bilateral relationship and has experienced a heavy flow of high-level American visitors. This activity arose largely because Romania is moving toward membership in the European Union and the United Nations Security Council and participates in peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

A new Ambassador has positively impressed Romanian elites and public opinion, and the Ambassador is rated highly by the embassy's American and Foreign Service national staff.

Office of Inspector General (OIG), however, suggested that the embassy revamp its meeting structure to provide some access for all elements of this varied mission and to create several new forums for thematic discussion among a restricted group of participants.

Construction of a new embassy compound is scheduled to start in FY 2009, to replace the mission's present eight cramped, outmoded facilities. The embassy and the Department of State are securing new temporary quarters for one facility. Generally, the inspection report tempered its positive findings with some concerns. For instance:

- The embassy is adequately managed but does not document procurement actions.
- The information management section provides excellent service, but some procedures should be implemented.
- The embassy information office in Cluj is engaged in a range of activities that promote U.S. interests in Romania's important region of Transylvania. However, the office is underutilized and does not receive effective supervision from Embassy Bucharest. (OIG recommended actions to broaden the scope of the office's activities and strengthen its relationship with the embassy.)

On a positive note, OIG found the consular section supplies competent and timely services, and its coordination with other embassy elements is excellent. A recently arrived consul general has significantly improved morale through dynamic meetings, transparent decision-making, and judicious mentoring.

OIG Report No. ISP-I-05-10A, Report of Inspection - Embassy Bucharest, Romania.

The fieldwork for this inspection was conducted in November 2004. This is an unclassified summary of a full inspection report, which receives limited official distribution.



Map of Romania

Bordering the western coast of the Black Sea between Bulgaria and Ukraine, Romania is the largest country in Southeastern Europe. The country's population of 22.4 million includes 25 national minorities. Since the fall of the Communist regime in 1989, Romania has pursued reforms based on European models and has made progress. Romania became a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in April 2004 and, together with Bulgaria, is on track to join the European Union in 2007. U.S.-Romanian relations are strong, and the bilateral political dialogue is robust.

Presently, preparations for possible European Union membership are under way and Romania is seeking a good working relationship with the United States, which has a cumulative investment of \$877 million in Romania. U.S. exports to Romania in 2003 grew by 48 percent to \$367 million, while imports from Romania to the United States stood at \$730 million. Embassy Bucharest has 117 American employees and 338 locally employed staff representing 12 government agencies.

Office of Inspector General

The Office of Inspector General's (OIG's) mission is to assess Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors operations and recommend ways to strengthen their integrity, effectiveness, and accountability.

OIG's Office of Inspections provides systematic and independent evaluations of the operations of the Department of State, its posts abroad, and related activities. Inspections cover policy implementation, resource management, and management controls. As part of the inspection, particular attention is given to consular, security, and information technology operations.

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