

## **December 20, 1989**

### **Letter from Shevardnadze to Gorbachev**

#### **Citation:**

"Letter from Shevardnadze to Gorbachev", December 20, 1989, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Diplomaticeskii vestnik, no. 21/22, November 1994, pp. 74-79. Translated by Vladislav Zubok. <https://wilson-center.drivingcreative.com/document/113267>

#### **Summary:**

Letter from Shevardnadze to Gorbachev discussing the events in Romania and the limitation to news sources, primarily from the West, of information regarding these events

#### **Original Language:**

Russian

#### **Contents:**

Translation - English

To Comrade GORBACHEV M.S.

Mikhail Sergeevich:

On the events in Romania in the last few days we can still only judge on the basis of information that comes from news agencies, primarily Western ones. This information is often contradictory and does not allow one to construct a true picture.

Our attempts to obtain the official version via Bucharest produced no results. Today, 20 December the Romanian ambassador will be invited to the MFA USSR [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics] in order to obtain from him information on this issue.

Until we have complete and objective information, we should not, in our opinion, be in haste to make a statement of the USSR Congress of People's Deputies, at best we could go not further than instructing the Commission on Foreign Affairs [of the Congress' Supreme Soviet] to prepare a draft proposal on our possible reaction with all circumstances in mind.

E. SHEVARDNADZE

20 December 1989