

Hungary invite for Romanian dissident

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Susan Viets in Budapest

THE former Hungarian Foreign Minister, Mr Janos Peter, yesterday invited a Romanian dissident, Mr Corneliu Manescu, to Hungary for medical treatment. Mr Manescu, a former Hungarian Foreign Minister, was one of the six signatories of last month's letter criticising President Ceausescu.

Mr Manescu and his colleagues objected to harsh economic measures introduced to help Romania pay off its foreign debt. They demanded an end to Romania's widely criticised village demolition scheme as well as constitutional guarantees for civil rights. They also demanded that Romania stop its food export policy which was "endangering the nation biologically".

President Ceausescu was criticised for "discrediting socialism" and "moving the country away from Europe".

The fate of the signatories is unclear but sources in Romania say Mr Manescu, who suffers from an ulcer, is now under house arrest. His health is said to be deteriorating. Mr Peter has gone as far as to say "His life is in danger".

● Hungary will broadcast more of a television interview with the former Czechoslovak reformist leader, Mr Alexander Dubcek, despite objections by Prague.

After part of the interview dealing with the 1968 Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia was shown on Monday, Prague expressed surprise and said that it hoped it would not happen again.

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