New Nationalism Sweeps Romania, Giant Industrialization Is Seen

A new nationalism is sweeping Romania, now in the throes of a giant industrialization program. It has meant an easing of ties with the Soviet Union and a slight turn to the West. Richard O'Regan, Associated Press chief of bureau in West Germany, tells what it means to the people of Romania in the following second of four articles on the situation in East Europe.

By RICHARD O'REGAN

BUCHAREST (AP) — When Communist Romania says no to the Soviet Union, it does not mean she is saying yes to the West.

Romania has gone farther in recent months in standing up to Russia than any country in East Europe. She has turned thumbs down on Soviet Premier Khrushchev's economic plans for East Europe. She has been kicking out Soviet cultural influences. But Romania remains as staunchly Communist as ever.

The Romanians have made a trade pact with the United States. They have cautiously let in many Western ideas, many technicians and much Western literature, music and theatre. But Communist party control here is tighter than in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland. There's absolutely nothing to indicate Romania is moving closer to Western political ideas.

Communist Chief Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej is drumming up national sympathies and the idea of "Romania for the Romanians"—a far cry from Communist internationalism. But every step that Gheorghiu-Dej takes is clearly designed to win popular support for the Communist party.

In fact, Western diplomats here believe that Gheorghiu-Dej's entire policy of defying the Russians and appealing to nationalism has met with large-scale enthusiasm among Romania's 18,000,000 people. The Communist party, they believe, has become stronger than ever.

ANGERED AT RUSSIA

Romanians, a volatile Latin nation, are angered at Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia and the "sea of Slavs" that surround their country. They believe the Slavs are trying to keep them a nation of peasants, just at a time when they are beginning to make industrial progress.

You can see the contrasts of an agricultural society moving into the industrial age as you walk through the narrow streets of the old quarter of Bucharest.

Black - moustached peasants in white tunics and fur hats peer curiously into show windows offering portable tape recorders and plastic swim rafts.

Peasant women with baskets full of country produce gaze bewildered at young girls in slacks unloading trucks full of pink, plastic gasoline cans.

In the countryside shepherds, in long sheepskin cloaks and pointed black felt hats, tend their flocks under the pylons of Romania's extensive rural electrification program.

WANDER OVER BRIDGE

Gypsies in broken-down covered carts wander over modern highway bridges built to carry Western tourists to the Black Sea coast and hard currency to the state bank for use in Romania's growing trade deals with the West.

The Romanians have worked hard in recent years to achieve this progress.

Nowhere in East Europe are so many factories going up, so many apartment houses finished, painted brightly with gardens well kept.

Ploesti, the great Romanian oil centre 45 per cent destroyed by American, British and German air raids in 1944, now is completely rebuilt. On its outskirts, there are 4,000 new apartments and 2,000 new small houses.

For each of the last four years, Romania's industry has grown by 15 per cent—a record unequalled in the Communist bloc.

COULD BE POWERFUL

If this keeps up, some economic experts predict Romania could possibly become the most powerful industrial nation of East Europe within a few years, outstripping Czechoslovakia, Poland and East Germany.

It is possibly this that made Russia last year suggest Romania limit its industrial development and concentrate on raising food for the East Bloc.

"We saw no reason why we should revert once again to an agricultural nation," a Romanian official explained, "so we are going our own way."

Gheorghiu-Dej is going ahead selling a good deal of Romania's vast supplies of oil, bauxite and agricultural products in the West. He is buying complete industrial plants and Western know-how in exchange.

As a result, Soviet influences are on their way out and Western influences are coming in.

RUSSIAN CUT OUT

Russian has been cut out as a compulsory language in Romanian schools. Names of towns and places bearing Soviet titles have been changed. Soviet literary and cultural institutes have been closed or their activities reduced.

Bucharest is crowded with Western businessmen and their cars are mobbed in the old palace square by Romanians crawling under them and testing their springs.

The Voice of America and other Western broadcasts are no longer jammed and people crowd the movie houses to see recent French, Italian, British and American films.

But, despite this, no country in Eastern Europe is so completely subjected to a daily stream of Communist propaganda and agitation as is Romania.

None of the agitators are suggesting that the West has a better system than communism. But they are pointing to the fact that since Romania chose to go its own way, there are more consumer goods in the stores and there is more food available.

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TAKES OVER SITE

MONTREAL (CP)—The Telephone Association of Canada, made up of the country's major telephone systems, Monday became the first industry to take possession of its site for the 1967 Montreal world's fair. The association plans to set up a pavilion and present an exhibit on the 15,000-square-foot lot.

DEALER FINED

PEMBROKE, Ont. (CP)—An automobile dealer who set up business in a residential area in this Ottawa Valley town was fined a total of $691 Tuesday. Michael Giroux was fined $5 and $4 costs for each of 69 charges involving contravention of a zoning bylaw and ordered to close the business.

FALSE TEETH That Loosen Need Not Embarrass

Many wearers of false teeth have suffered real embarrassment because their plate dropped, slipped or wobbled at just the wrong time. Do not live in fear of this happening to you. Just sprinkle a little FASTEETH, the alkaline (non-acid) powder, on your plates. Hold false teeth more firmly, so they feel more comfortable. Does not sour. Checks "plate odor breath". Get FASTEETH at drug counters everywhere.