

Soviet Union, Red China Approaching Showdown Stage Over Nikita Khrushchev's Policy

By PHIL NEWSOM
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As the Soviet Union and Red China have approached the showdown stage in their dispute over Nikita Khrushchev's policy of co-existence vs. the Chinese hard line, both have sent emissaries throughout the world, seeking support.

Khrushchev lost the support of Ho Chi Minh of North Viet Nam but won Outer Mongolia. Similarly, he won the support of Fidel Castro but lost the Communist party of Indonesia, largest outside the Communist bloc.

With less to begin with, Red China seems to have made the great gains.

Most of the Asian Communist parties have lined up on her side and a majority of Communist parties throughout the world at least have Chinese factions.

No Accident

So, it hardly could have been by accident that Khrushchev, when he decided to help East German strongman Walter Ulbricht observe his 70th birthday in East Berlin this week, also decided to invite along the leaders of Communist Poland, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia.

Perhaps significantly, Romanian President Gheorghe Gheorgiu-Dej did not answer the summons, limiting himself instead to a message of congratulations to Ulbricht.

For Khrushchev, when he relaxed the harsh dictates of Stalinism, not only incurred the enmity of the Red Chinese, he touched off an unexpected show of independence among the Soviet Union's East European satellites.

With the exception of Albania, all support his de-Stalinization program. But other differences present a picture which is far from the united front sought by Khrushchev.

Snubs Russia

Romania, showing an unexpected economic vitality and an unexpected independence, recently thumbed its nose at the Soviet leader by sending an ambassador to Albania and signing an economic agreement with Red China.

The Romanians also have published excerpts of a hard-line Chinese letter which the Soviets themselves refused to publish.

Romania, preferring to develop her own economy, has all but withdrawn from COMECON, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, which began as a Communist answer to the U.S. Marshall Plan for Europe.

Under COMECON, it was the Soviet plan to allot to each of the satellites production assignments which would be coordinated with the Communist economy as a whole. The Romanians sought to persuade the Romanians they should concentrate on oil and oil products and on food supplies.

Moved Toward Industrialization

But the Romanians, with products easily converted to hard cash on world markets, moved instead toward industrialization and worked out trade agreements around the world from India to Brazil.

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good relations between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, Romania was working with Marshal Tito's regime to expand facilities on the Danube.

Poland has been another that has quarrelled with COMECON plans and sought hard currency from the outside world instead.

Economic rivalries or differences have created ill-feelings between Czechoslovakia and most aid to under-developed nations.

of its Communist neighbors. All There must be times when

resent the heavy burdens placed Khrushchev thinks President

on them by Soviet programs of Kennedy's problems look easy.

Romania Is Odd Man Out At Summit Meets

LONDON (UPI) — Romania, odd man out at the weekend East Berlin Red summit meeting, left a haunting question mark over its solidarity with the Kremlin's front against Communist China.

Romania's strongman, party chief Gheorghe Gheorgiu-Dej, was a notable absentee at the Red rally at which Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev ostensibly sought and received firm backing from the other satellite leaders for his ideological and political showdown with the Peking regime in Moscow starting Friday.

He was the only satellite boss who stayed away from the summit. Nor did he send a personal ranking representative or commit himself publicly to any specific policy line.

The only public reaction was a telegram from Gheorgiu-Dej to East German party boss Walter Ulbricht, congratulating him on his 70th birthday, the professed reason for the East Berlin Communist get-together.

Picture Clouded

Differences between Romania and Russia and the rest of the European Red camp have clouded the relationship behind the Iron Curtain in recent months.

But in the light of Romania's demonstrative absence from the Red summit they appear to go deeper than has been realized so far outside the Iron Curtain.

Romania is experiencing an economic boom, unique among the satellites. Aware of its rich economic resources, since Russia stopped milking it dry, Romania has embarked on a policy of all-out industrial development.

The pursuit of this policy has brought Romania into conflict with its Communist allies who are enforcing a policy of economic coordination of planning within COMECON, the alignment of the Communist countries for closer economic cooperation.

Complying with this policy would mean curbing Romania's industrial push and dropping various ambitious plans for developing the country's own industries, in favor of "socialist specialization."

Romania has been paying lip service to this policy but has been dragging her feet in putting it into practice.

Others, like Poland, Czechoslovakia and East Germany — all industrialized — want other members to confine themselves to less ambitious tasks and leave them

LONG SHOT

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