

Nixon, Rumania Ready to Do Business

By Drew Pearson
and Jack Anderson

One team of columnists has reported that the real reason for President Nixon's trip to Rumania was to persuade that government to release Jews for migration to Israel. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Jews began migrating out of Rumania as early as during the war under a special arrangement worked out by Archbishop Angelo Guisepppe Ronconalli, later Pope Pius. Since then relations between Israel and Rumania have been very cordial, and Rumania frequently votes with Israel in the United Nations.

There is complete freedom of religious worship in Rumania today. And the former Rumanian ambassador to Washington, Silviu Brucan, is Jewish.

The chief reasons for Nixon's surprise move in stopping off in Rumania are:

1. Nixon had a very profitable two-hour talk with President Ceausescu of Rumania in 1967. The two men liked each other and concluded that the United States and Rumania could do business together. "Nixon is a practical man," Ceausescu later told us. "He wants peace and so do we."

Accordingly, one month after Nixon was inaugurated he received a formal invitation to visit Rumania.

2. He wants to thank the Rumanians for pressuring the North Vietnamese government

toward peace. Rumania has been more vigorous in this respect than any other communist country.

3. He wants to ask the Rumanians to convey a message to the Chinese that the United States has no intention of encroaching on Chinese territory once there is peace in Southeast Asia—despite the statements by Chiang Kai-shek that he intended to invade the Chinese mainland.

4. Nixon wants to counter his vote as a member of Congress against the Truman policy of sending surplus wheat to the smaller European communist nations. Truman was called pro-communist for this policy, and Nixon was one who joined in the criticism. The policy, however, has worked.

Malaxa Was Nixon Client

Nixon knows Rumanians to some extent, thanks to his relations with Nicolae Malaxa, a onetime fascist and partner of Albert Goering, brother of Field Marshal Hermann Goering. Malaxa later came to the United States under the auspices of the Communist government and hired the Nixon law firm in Whittier, Calif.

The move had all the earmarks of a contrivance to get the influence of an important Senator, in order to keep Malaxa in the United States. Malaxa made a big show of promising to build a steel tube plant in Whittier. Nixon's close pal, Rep. Pat Hillings of Los Angeles, who re-

placed Nixon in Congress, introduced a bill to prevent Malaxa from being deported, while Nixon's old friend, Sen. Pat McCarran of Nevada, did the same thing in the Senate.

In the end, Malaxa did not build a steel tube plant in Whittier, but thanks to Nixon's influence he is still in the United States.

The most important question regarding the President's stop in Bucharest is whether it will offend Russia, inasmuch as Rumania is the most independent of all the communist countries with the exception of Yugoslavia.

The general consensus among diplomats is that it will not. It probably will antagonize some of the diehards in the Kremlin, but the average Russian leader cannot object to the United States' promoting friendship with a member of the communist bloc. Had Nixon been interfering with the Russian army in Czechoslovakia, it would have been different. But he and Johnson have both kept hands strictly off Czechoslovakia.

Rumania Is Prosperous

President Nixon will find Rumania to be one of the most prosperous countries in Europe, for a time rated as high as Switzerland and Japan in its gross national product. Rumania has made tremendous strides in housing, and if the President drives outside Bucharest, in the suburbs he will see row upon row of huge apartment houses re-

cently built around parks and lakes.

He will also see women doing manual work. This is no unusual in the communist countries, and in Rumania those who are on relief are required to work. Young girls who come in from the countryside to get jobs in Bucharest and who may be temporarily unemployed get welfare jobs pouring concrete or laying sod.

Around the streets of Bucharest after midnight you scarcely see a policeman, but you do see unaccompanied women. The crime rate in Rumania is extremely low. Since Nixon campaigned on a policy of "cleaning up crime in the streets" and is sending a message to Congress on welfare next week, these are matters which he might want to check into.

There is only one thing Rumania really wants from the United States—namely, more trade, particularly most-favored-nation treatment. Yugoslavia now enjoys this type of trade. Rumania feels that it should be treated equally.

So far Rumania has had only unfortunate experiences with the United States regarding trade. When the Firestone Rubber Company signed a contract to set up a petrochemical plant near Ploesti, the Young Americans for Freedom, cooperating with Firestone's competitor, Goodyear, started a boycott. Firestone yielded to pressure, and reneged on its contract.

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