

1961

X CURT(R) - GHEORGHIU-DEJ SPEAKS ON EVE OF RUMANIAN LIBERATION ANNIVERSARY F-135

23 August 1961 (Research and Evaluation Note). On August 22, 1961, Rumania's Party chief, Gheorghiu-Dej, stepped to the rostrum of Bucharest's Republic Hall to deliver a speech in honor of Rumania's 17th anniversary of liberation from Nazi occupation. While it was expected that Dej might avail himself of this opportunity to make certain revelations, particularly as far as Rumania's economic plan for 1962 is concerned, his speech appeared to be in essence a mere recapitulation of well known phrases both as far as Rumania's domestic and foreign policies are concerned.

After paying the usual tribute to the accomplishments of the Rumanian people since their "liberation" in 1944, Dej turned to a review of the economic progress achieved during the first 18 months of the current six-year plan (1960 - 1965). He omitted any mention of the prospects for 1962. One reason for this deletion may be that Rumanian economic development probably loomed large in the Soviet-Rumanian discussions during Dej's recent visit to the Soviet Union. It may also be speculated that it was agreed on that occasion to effect certain re-adjustments in Rumania's economic plan - such as an increased shift to heavy industry - as a result of present developments on the international scene. At any rate, it appears now that a full preview of the plan for 1962 will probably not be forthcoming until the Party plenum at the end of this year.

Concerning Rumania's agriculture, Dej once again reaffirmed his reputation of being a statistical juggler. He said that "concerning the socialist construction in the countryside, cooperativization has in the main been completed. The collective farms became dominant in the cooperative sector, embracing over 68 per cent of the arable area of this sector on August 1, 1961 as against only 50 per cent on July 1, 1960..." While Dej had announced this increase in the cooperativization on the occasion of the Party plenum, June 30 - July 1, 1961 already, he referred at that time to agricultural land which encompasses 10-15 per cent more of the total area than arable land does. Dej is silent as far as the agriculture's total socialist sector is concerned. The reason for this is that the increase in that sector from January - June 1961 has been practically negligible, amounting to a mere 1.5 per cent of agricultural land, all of which was taken from the agriculture's private sector. This may reflect increasing resistance to socialization on part of the private farmers, particularly since in the past higher percentage increases in the socialist sector have been registered.

About half of Dej's speech is devoted to international affairs with the Berlin issue given particular prominence. However, his remarks concerning Berlin appeared somewhat less militant than those heard from some of the other satellites, such as Czechoslovakia for example. For example, Dej refers to the GDR as the "first worker-peasant state in the history of Germany" and not, as did the Czechoslovak regime in its August 21 declaration advocating a German peace treaty, as the "first truly democratic state in Germany's history." (cf. evaluation note, August 22, 1961). Furthermore, Dej's references to a German peace treaty are more nebulous and lack the impact and initiative taken by the Czechoslovaks. All he concedes is that "the only realistic solution for removing the war danger in Europe... is the one proposed by the Soviet Union, by the countries of the socialist camp: the liquidation of the remnants of the second world war, the conclusion of a peace treaty with the two German states..."

Dej continues by scoring the U.S., Dean Rusk in particular for creating a disarmament agency while at the same time increasing the U.S. defense budget. Furthermore he accuses Greece and Turkey of blocking the creation of an atom-free zone in the Balkans and the Adriatic area and concludes his speech with the by now well-known and well-worn phrases concerning the liquidation of colonialism in all its forms. -LEN 1853