

spoke out "for the withdrawal of foreign troops." To top it off, Ceausescu appeared one day later at the Plenum of the Central Committee to note that "the unity of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, of Palestinian organizations, with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat at their head, is more necessary than ever." Thus Ceausescu moved to support Arafat, whom he had received in Bucharest some weeks earlier, while Andropov and Aliyev were fully mobilized to bring the PLO leader down.

Looking to America for trade and technology

by Konstantin George

Romania desires as a national policy priority a vast expansion in trade licensing and technical cooperation with the United States. This desire, was conveyed repeatedly to *EIR* correspondents by government officials, throughout our stay in Bucharest.

A senior trade ministry official told *EIR*, regarding U.S.-Romanian trade: "We wish to create vast cooperation in many, many fields . . . our economies allow for a large increase in cooperation. What we've done so far is only marginal. Our goal is to reach the \$3 billion level in two-way trade by 1985." The same official continued in a summary review of the trade pattern till now; "Till 1981 trade grew steadily, then, starting in 1981 it began to decrease [reflecting the credit embargo and Volcker's usurious interest rates]. We wish to correct this and return to normal, steady growth."

As one official told *EIR*: "We pay special attention to our relations with the U.S." Romania's desire to expand trade and remove the obstacles impeding this expansion formed the center of discussions in Washington in May between the Romanian foreign ministry delegation, led by Foreign Minister Stefan Andre, at the State Department. During that time, parallel talks were held in Washington at the Department of Commerce with officials of the Romanian trade ministry. The delegation also held talks in New York, including one meeting with 90 people from the business community.

Removing the impediments

The May talks in Washington led to ensuring that Romania's Most Favored Nation (MFN) status in trade relations with the United States would continue, though MFN was not granted on a permanent status, as requested by Romania. Other serious obstacles to expanding U.S.-Romania trade and ties remain, both as a legacy of the policies practiced by Reagan's predecessor, Jimmy Carter, or as a testimony to plain ignorance and stupidity in some U.S. government cir-

cles, which stereotype Romania on account of its Warsaw Pact membership, and, ignoring even the most basic reality principle, make policy blunders of the most incredible magnitude.

Two critical U.S. governmental bottlenecks to expanded trade are the United States's refusal to grant Export-Import Bank credits to Romania, and the stoppage of low-interest Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) loans to Romania for necessary feed grain and other commodity imports—a vindictive measure enacted by Carter in 1980, for no valid reason.

Romania agriculture

To understand the depth of pro-American sentiment in the country, we can refer here to talks with senior officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, who listed existing protocols and agreements with U.S. firms and institutions in the farming domain. These include two joint projects with Cyrus Eaton World Trade Corporation, one involving 25,000 hectares in the Danube Delta devoted to fattening pigs, cattle, and lamb, with all meat products destined for export. The second project is in the Oltenia region, where an integrated poultry complex will be built, plus modern slaughterhouses for poultry and cattle. Alongside this will be a specialized seed farm, for corn, soybeans, and clover. Other projects under discussion with Cyrus Eaton include a rabbit farm and a geese farm, with products destined for export. On July 15, Cyrus Eaton specialists arrive in Bucharest for talks.

Other agreements with the United States include protocols with the University of Nebraska for research in improving pig rearing; with the University of Iowa on corn growing with the U.S. Grain Association, the U.S. Soybean Association and with the U.S. Feed Grain Council; with the U.S. Department of Agriculture on agronomy and study of results from methods applied to U.S. farming. For example, on July 2 a Romanian team left for the United States to study U.S. sunflower production and yields.

Romania is following U.S. methods to boost livestock and poultry production. On pig farms, the Romanians are establishing giant units, such as the functioning 1 million head pig complex in the Timisoara region in South West Romania. More such pig complexes are planned. Giant integrated poultry units of a similar size have also been established.

The officials we met think and act "American." "We use the American experience as a model: large, mechanized farms; planting the best quality hybrid seed . . . and have a low percentage of the population on the farms, earning a high income," they told us.

They would like much more from the United States. Romania is eager to start buying, once credit is available, U.S. pesticides, soybeans for their ambitious livestock programs, more hybrid seed, and other products. As the officials summed it up: "We're not at the level of California, but we'll be closing more and more the gap between Romanian farmers and American farmers."