"The Romanian Communist Party stayed away from the common front of the fraternal parties..." – CC of the CPSU on Romania's Foreign Policy (July 1967)

(Abstract)

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Starting with April 1964, when the Central Committee of the Romanian Workers Party published a Statement that stressed the equality of all communist parties and criticised the conflict within the international communist movement, the Romanian foreign policy became the number one issue in the Romanian-Soviet relations. The freedom portrayed by Romanian leadership by taking a stand in foreign policy events in the international arena disturbed Moscow because the Soviets saw it as a danger to the monolithic unity of the Warsaw Pact.

In this article, we publish a document in the original language (Russian) and a Romanian translation highlighting the main features of the Romanian foreign policy. We discovered this document in the Russian State Archive of Contemporary History (RGANI) in the Mikhail A. Suslov Collection. Written in July 1967, it originally aimed to help the members of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) understand why Romania chose to move away from the agreed line of the Warsaw Pact.

The necessity to inform the party members about Romania's foreign policy had increased in July 1967. Why? Because, in the early summer of 1967, when the six-day war broke out, Romania refused to accept the stance of other socialist member states of the Warsaw Pact Organization and Yugoslavia, which harshly condemned Israel for the resurgence of hostilities in the Middle East. In addition to this problem, the document analysed other aspects of Romania's foreign policy. They included the establishment of diplomatic relations between Romania and West Germany in January 1967; the lack of Romanians at the Karlovy Vary Conference in April 1967; Romania's effort to submit amendments meant

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to improve the provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; the refusal to condemn Mao Zedong's domestic and foreign policy.

Regarding the bilateral relations between Romania and the USSR, also analysed by the document, the Soviets underlined the efforts made by the Moscow side to overcome the challenges caused by Romanian attempts to promote a national foreign policy. In conclusion, the Soviets considered it premature to give an exhaustive assessment of Romania's foreign policy actions, but the manifesting trends noticed had to be considered, should one have to repress them.