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Romanian spy calls Russian ties strong

By Bill Gertz
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A former top-level Romanian intelligence officer believes covert ties between Romanian and Soviet intelligence services remain strong despite appearances that the Eastern European nation has maintained an "independent" foreign policy from Moscow.

Former Romanian Deputy Chief of Foreign Intelligence Ion M. Pacepa in written testimony released last week by the Senate investigations subcommittee said the Romanian spy service, known by its acronym CIE, supplies its "intelligence product" to Moscow on a regular basis.

"Even in cases where the Romanian government has given the West its solemn guarantees that information provided to it would be kept secret and that sensitive equipment sold to it would not be released to any third party, it has not kept its word," Mr. Pacepa states.

Secretary of State George Shultz is expected to travel to Romania Dec. 15 for talks with Romanian leaders.

A State Department spokesman said the discussions will include human rights and religious issues and an explanation of congressional attitudes toward Romania's Most Favored Nation trading status with the United States. Romania's trade status links favorable tariff rates to free emigration policies.

Last week spokesman Bernard Kalb said the State Department opposes recent proposals in Congress to deny Romania favorable trading status since MFN "is important in encouraging Romania's relative foreign policy independence."

But Mr. Pacepa, in his testimony, urged canceling Romania's MFN status unless the government there agrees to renounce espionage against the United States. He said the Warsaw Pact foreign intelligence services operating against the United States are "the largest and best organized."

Mr. Pacepa, a former adviser to Romanian strongman Nicolae Ceausescu, said that before defecting in 1978 he was the official responsible for getting Western governments to sell technology and military equipment to Romania to promote its independence from Moscow.

Mr. Pacepa said as Mr. Ceausescu's personal emissary he was instructed to "use my imagination in supplying the highest guarantees of secrecy."

Mr. Pacepa provided an example of how Romania exploited its psuedo-independence in 1977-78. He said Mr. Ceausescu wrote to then-West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt providing "solemn guarantees" that a proposed transfer of German airplane and tank technology would not be passed on to other countries.

But after West Germany signed an agreement with Romania, "Ceausescu secretly informed Libya's strongman, Col. Muammar Qaddaffi, that Romania would produce bombers and airplanes for parachute jumping patterned after West German Fokker models, and tanks patterned after NATO's Leopard II," Mr. Pacepa said.

"[Mr. Ceausescu] asked Qaddaffi to finance these projects with the understanding that he would be able to buy as much of the production as he wanted at preferential prices," Mr. Pacepa said.

After Soviet troops left Romania in the early 1960s, "subordination to Moscow was changed," Mr. Pacepa said. From that period on, Moscow has not received "specific data" on Romanian intelligence sources and operations. "But it has received the significant intelligence product." During trips to Moscow, Mr. Pacepa found "information in the KGB computer system that Romania had sent only to Budapest or Sofia and not to Moscow."

On the issue of Romanian emigration, Mr. Pacepa said Mr. Ceausescu in 1972 decreed that "no Romanian citizen . . . should receive an emigration visa unless he is a security agent and has a previous written secret agreement to cooperate with a security unit."

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