

Romania defies Soviet policy

"We are an independent Romania and we will always remain an independent Romania." With these words, Nicolae Ceausescu, chairman of the Communist Party of Romania, boldly declared his country's refusal to agree to an increase in Warsaw Pact military expenditures proposed by the Soviet Union at a recent pact meeting. He made the statement at a Party Central Committee meeting Nov. 22.

Ceausescu's decision to oppose the increase angered the Soviet leaders to such a degree that they had the ambassadors of six Warsaw Pact nations as well as their own ambassador leave Romania in what was considered an extremely rare move.

But Ceausescu stood firm in his open defiance of Soviet military dictates. He went on to confirm at the Central Committee meeting, "I signed no piece of paper committing Romania or its armed forces to any course of action that is not approved by the nation as a whole." He also said that he had no intention of bending to outside pressure "no matter how intense it might become."

In another statement to his military leaders, Ceausescu gave further explanation for his actions, revealing that at the



CHAIRMAN HUA KUO-FENG of China (left) shakes hands with Romanian president Nicolae Ceausescu during recent visit to Romania. (Hsinhua photo)

Moscow summit he had resisted a series of measures that would have diminished the country's sovereignty. The Romanian news agency, Agerpress, quoted him as telling the Romanian military leaders

that the basic aim of the Romanian army was "to defend our independence and revolutionary gains."

Romania also succeeded in forcing Moscow to omit criticisms of China and a

declaration of support for Vietnam from the Warsaw Pact meeting's communique.

Ceausescu's actions showed that Romania is not about to cater to all of the Soviet Union's whims and wishes or have its army used in the U.S.-USSR arms race. The social-imperialists tried to justify the Warsaw Pact expenditures increase, saying that they are aimed at offsetting planned NATO increases of 3% a year.

As the two imperialist superpowers, the U.S. and Soviet Union, step up their contention for world domination, Europe has become increasingly important as the strategic focus of their war drive. For the Soviet Union, in order to penetrate West Europe, it must firm up its bases in Eastern Europe.

In Romania, the struggle to oppose Soviet hegemonism is not new. When in 1968 the social-imperialists tried to muster the Warsaw Pact nations' troops to invade Czechoslovakia, Romania refused to comply.

More recently, the official state visit of Chinese Premier Hua Kuo-feng to Romania in August was another indication of the country's independent stance. Hua's visit and the strengthening of relations between China and Romania that it served, brought sharp Soviet condemnations.

Marxist-Leninists issue warning