
**ROMANIA AND THE MEDIATION OF THE AMERICAN-CHINESE
RAPPROCHEMENT. 1967-1971**

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Abstract: One of the most daring and surprising foreign policy demarches that Romania made in the '60s and early '70s, when the Western democracies, in particular the U.S., were talking about Romania's independence from Moscow, was to accept and assume the role of mediator in the restoration of relations between the People's Republic of China and the U.S. Actions taken by the Romanian top officials, Nicolae Ceaușescu, Ion Gheorghe Maurer, were numerous, vigorous and sincerely pursued the rapid resumption of Sino-American relations. President Nixon's request in August 1969 for Romania to take part in his so-termed triangular diplomacy flattered the Romanian leaders but also made them responsible for the way they would act. In this way, Romania was part of one of the most important events in the history of the Cold War, confirming that it had a special statute among the other socialist states in relations with the U.S.

Keywords: US-Romanian Relations; US-Chinese Relations; Nicolae Ceaușescu; Richard Nixon; Zhou Enlai; Cold War.

China was one of the most important foreign policy files of the Nixon Administration, such as it had been previously, during the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations, when little had been done to reach a satisfactory solution though. In the late '60s, the improvement of the Sino-American relations had become part of the strategy towards the Soviet Union in what was called the triangular diplomacy of Nixon and of his National Security Advisor, Henry Kissinger.

Romania's privileged relation with the People's Republic of China and her unconditional support to China during the Sino-Soviet ideological conflict which shattered and fractured the communist world to begin with the early '60s, as well as her stubborn refusal to condemn China at the meetings of the communist leaders made Romania a possible and viable mediator for Nixon's triangular diplomacy. Ceaușescu's success in conducting a policy independent from the Muscovite line as well as his support to China in her conflict with the Soviet Union were to Washington as many satisfactory signs that Romania could be entrusted with delivering messages to Beijing.

The first indication that Romania could mediate the relations between the U.S. and Communist China occurred in October 1965, when Maurer