

TORIES SENT
THEM TO DIE

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(7696) 2½ ★

Daily Worker

COMMUNISTS KHRUSHCHOV REPORT

'Now-end death penalty'

The Political Committee of the British Communist Party said yesterday that in the absence of a denial or an official text, the U.S. version of the Khrushchov report on Stalin must be taken as more or less authentic.

British Communists protested to the Soviet Communist Party nearly three months ago at the failure to publish the report. The evil practices disclosed in the report violated Socialist conceptions of democracy, said the Political Committee statement.

The time had come for all countries to abolish the death penalty in time of peace. The revised edition of the Party's programme "The British Road to Socialism" would pay special attention to personal and civil liberty.

All the conditions were present for a great united working-class advance in Britain and throughout the world, said the statement, which is published in full below.

THE Political Committee of the Communist Party has had under consideration the unofficial published version of Comrade Khrushchov's Report to the Private Session of the 20th Congress of the C.P.S.U., together with the discussion in our Party.

At the private session of the 24th National Congress of our Party, on April 1, a resolution was passed, and conveyed to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, regretting that a public statement on this question had not been made by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, which could have enabled members of all Communist Parties and staunch friends of the Soviet Union to have understood fully the seriousness of the issues, and helped them to a better understanding of everything that is involved. Our Party has not received any official version of the report of Comrade Khrushchov.

The continued absence of an official report has led to the publication of unofficial versions through gradual leakages and by sources hostile to Socialism. This has made many Communists outside the Soviet Union dependent on such enemy sources for information on these vital matters, and thus added unnecessary difficulties to the estimation and discussion of the facts.

In the light of the unofficial text now published, which, in the absence of official denial may be regarded as more or less authentic, we reaffirm the general lines of the resolution of our executive committee of May 13.

All deeply shocked

We consider that the 20th Congress of the C.P.S.U. was correct in condemning the cult of the individual and in endorsing the return to Leninist principles of collective leadership and inner Party democracy.

We consider that the 20th Congress was correct in frankly exposing all the evils which followed from the departure from Leninist principles, in order to put an end to these evils.

All Communists, in common with all democratic and progressive people, are deeply shocked by the injustices and crimes which, during the period under review, violated the essential principles of Socialist democracy and legality and dishonoured the noble cause of Communism. We repeat that such evil practices are totally alien to Socialism and Communism.

At the same time, we recognise that these evils arose not as a necessary accompaniment of working-class rule and Soviet democracy, as the enemies of Socialism pretend, but as a result of the violation of Socialist principles and during a specific period of abnormal strain between 1934 and 1953. This was the period of the rise of fascism abroad, the preparation of war, the Second World War and the cold war.

The Soviet leaders have exposed the evils and abuses of this period in order to correct them and make a decisive turn to the fulfilment of the principles of Leninism, collective leadership, Socialist democracy and creative Marxist work in all the fields of science, literature and art.

Socialist superiority

We recognise that, in spite of the grave harm caused by these abuses, the Soviet people achieved very great and historic successes. In face of terrible difficulties they established Socialism, withstood and defeated the Nazi onslaught, and reconstructed their country after the unparalleled devastation of the war.

This achievement deserves the admiration of all and shows the superiority of the Socialist system over capitalism, and the creative possibilities it opens up for the people.

The 20th Congress of the C.P.S.U. itself recorded the historic fact that Socialism had now become a world system. It made major contributions to Marxist theory, and helped the working-class movement in all countries by its declarations on the possibility of preventing world war, the peaceful transition to Socialism, and the new opportunities for developing working-class unity.

The discussion arising from the 20th Congress and from the revelations regarding the 1934-1953 period of the Soviet Union is stimu-

lating fresh and fruitful thought and endeavour in every field of Communist work and practice.

It is clear that further review and discussion is needed of the questions opened up by the report to the private session of the 20th Congress of the C.P.S.U.

We agree with the observations of Comrade Togliatti and the French Communist Party that it will be necessary to make a profound Marxist analysis of the causes of the degeneration in the functioning of Soviet democracy and Party democracy; that it is not enough to attribute these developments solely to the character of one individual; and that a more adequate estimate of the role of Stalin, both in its positive and negative aspects, will be necessary.

End death penalty

It is clear that the steps taken for strengthening the operation of Socialist legality and safeguarding the rights of citizens will lead to further examination of all the problems of the functioning of Socialist democracy and legality.

Those responsible for past violations of Socialist democracy and crimes against the people are being punished, and this is just and necessary. At the same time it is understandable that concern has been expressed at the application of the death penalty in a recent trial in the Soviet Union.

We express the view that in the light of the present world situation and the strengthened position of the Socialist camp it should now be possible to bring about the abolition of the death penalty in peacetime in all countries, and we recognise that we have a special responsibility to work for the fulfilment of this aim in Britain and the Colonial countries under British rule.

Within our own Party we shall need to carry forward and encourage the widest and most thorough discussion, as already begun, of our political and organisational methods, the functioning of Party democracy and the tackling of the problems before us, our relations with other sections of the Labour movement and the aims of unity, as indicated in the executive committee resolution.

We shall also carry forward the work on a new edition of "The British Road to Socialism," in which, among the many questions which will come up for review, we shall need to expand that section which shows how the democratic liberties won by the people can be maintained and extended, and how Socialist legality will be guaranteed.

The next steps

The enemies of our Party hope that this discussion will weaken the Party and open the way for attempts to smuggle anti-Marxist, anti-Communist bourgeois conceptions into the Party, striking at the roots of Communist principles and organisation.

On the contrary, our Party members and organisations will know how to conduct the discussion so as to strengthen every aspect of our Party's work and activity.

The democracy of our Party is the widest democracy of any Party in Britain. The freedom of discussion and democratic functioning which is possible in our Party, and which the leaders of other parties fear to permit in theirs, is possible because of the essential unity of our Party's Marxist outlook and our determination to reach, in the light of Marxism, unity on the policy which is in the best interests of the British working class.

Let us never forget, throughout this discussion, that the cause of Communism, of national independence, freedom and peace, is advancing with giant strides throughout the world.

All the conditions are present here in Britain for a great advance of the Labour movement. Given the correct policy and leadership, the British people will defeat Toryism and move forward to Socialism.

It is the mission of our Communist Party to help achieve these aims, and it is in this spirit that, while discussing the urgent and important issues raised by the 20th Congress of the C.P.S.U., we work to develop the greatest united movement of the people for the policy put forward by our 24th National Congress.

Dulles gets more violent than ever

DESPITE appeals from the French and Indian Governments to him to end the cold war, Mr. Dulles, U.S. Secretary of State, is determined to continue it.

Speaking in San Francisco yesterday he ignored recent Soviet arms cuts, and alleged: "Soviet industries are working at top speed to develop more potent atomic and nuclear weapons."

"They work unceasingly to

increase the means for the delivery of new weapons by means of bombers, inter-continental rockets and submarines," said Mr. Dulles, just as though his own Government was not daily boasting of its own efforts in those directions.

Seldom has Mr. Dulles been more abusive, even in the worst period of the cold war. His own violence is perhaps an indication of the pressure on him to end the cold war.

In Moscow last weekend, Dr. Radhakrishnan, the Indian Vice-President, warned the Western Powers that if they did not recognise the changes in the Soviet Union and its peace proposals they might "be held responsible for continuing the cold-war arms race."

In Washington on Wednesday, M. Pineau, the French Foreign Minister, after talks with Mr. Dulles, appealed for the end of "systematic mistrust"

Wonder machines save a mother

A MOTHER of six children has been kept alive by machines for six weeks. A doctor attending her described it yesterday as "absolutely fabulous case."

The woman, a miner's wife, 49, from South Elmsall, near Leeds, is suffering from acute infective polyneuritis, a very rare disease. She was recovering in Leeds Infirmary, where she had been for 14 days when she was paralysed that doctors treating her could only tell whether she was conscious by using another machine.

Her doctor said today, "the disease does not usually strike as badly as this. But for the special machine she would have been dead six weeks ago." Today she is able to breathe again without the machine and to blink her eyelids.

Four different types of machine, artificial respiration were used, the first was British, and the other was Swedish.

Will to live

"Tubes were inserted into a woman's windpipe and then attached to a machine. This worked like a mechanical respirator," said a doctor. "Unlike an iron lung, the machines work by pushing air into patient's chest instead of the air being drawn in."

The degree of paralysis was greater than that in polio. For a time there was not even a flicker of muscle. It has been a great strain on both the medical and nursing staff.

"Up to three or four years of this type of case did not usually recover. Now, although we do not yet know the cause of the disease, we can treat those who catch it." The woman can now move her hands and legs and talk a little. Doctors and students who have helped study the case agree on one thing: that the miner's wife whom science has aided in her fight against death has "tremendous will-power to live."

Two more soldiers die in Cyprus

ANOTHER British soldier was shot dead in Cyprus yesterday and yet another died as a result of burns received in last Sunday's forest fire.

Nineteen were killed in the fire itself and others of the 16 seriously injured are still on the danger list.

The Serviceman shot yesterday fell into an ambush when driving a military vehicle in Larnaca. The car was immediately sealed off by troops and police who began a manhunt.

One of Nicosia's largest suburbs, Strovolos, was placed under a dawn curfew yesterday as a punishment for incidents.

R.A.F. Middle East Headquarters announced that its helicopter fleet in Cyprus was being reinforced. Helicopters are used in manhunt operations.

Tory says Russia leaps ahead

THE "remarkable growth of technical education in the Soviet Union" was referred to last night by Mr. J. C. George (Cons., Pollock). He was speaking in the Commons on the Government's technical education plans, and added: "Russia was the only country to make a bound forward."

Sir David Eccles, Education Minister, announced that eight technical colleges—with the possibility of two more—were to be designated colleges of advanced technology under the Government's £97 million five-year "blue print."

Mr. J. C. Jennings (Con, Buxton) claimed that the most important factor in ensuring full-time study would be the abolition of National Service.

But Mr. E. W. Short (Newcastle-on-Tyne C.) said that the biggest single factor in the country's ability was the eleven plus examination because of its "excellent criteria."

MPs TO MEET ON PAY RISE

Labour MPs will hold a special meeting on Wednesday to discuss action to get the Government to give them higher pay.

Mr. Hugh Gaitskell may submit the meeting that back-benchers support a Commons motion on the Government to raise the pay by £200 a year to £1,500.

TEST PHONES JAMMED

Lines for the Post Office telephone Test-score service jammed yesterday as callers waited for the 8811.

Many callers could get on the line but the engineers were unable to tell them the latest results. It was the first day of the service which provides recorded second summaries of the test.