

# Canada Party Calls Khrushchev Statement Inadequate

Following is a statement adopted by the National Committee of the Canadian Labor-Progressive Party (Tim Buck, chairman):

The National Executive Committee of the Labor-Progressive Party, recognizing the corrective measures which are under way, nevertheless does not consider adequate the explanations for the violations of Soviet democracy from 1934 to 1953 as given by Nikita Khrushchev to the closed session of the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

In the spirit of the new times, which calls for frank and critical re-evaluation and examination of political ideas and experiences, the Labor-Progressive Party welcomes the courageous actions of the Central Committee of the C.P.S.U. in placing before the delegates at their 20th Congress the facts concerning the errors, excesses and crimes that were committed during the latter half of the leadership of Joseph Stalin.

While appreciating the forthright statement of facts, the

LPP, however, must emphasize that the leaders of the C.P.S.U. owe to the world labor and socialist movement thorough-going explanations as to how and why, during the period when socialism was actually being built, there could have arisen what is described now as one-man rule by Stalin, in clear violation of the socialist democratic principles of a working class government.

**SUCH VIOLATIONS** are not inherent in a socialist society. To assure that they will not recur in the Soviet Union and to reinforce this conviction among socialist-minded people, the reasons why they arose in the first place and were cultivated over so many years should be made clear.

We have no reason to question the accusations against Joseph Stalin and we welcome the restoration of democratic practices. We realize that the immediate need was to restore socialist law and democracy as the 20th Congress emphasized, but

corrective action by the CPSU must of necessity go even further than that. It must explain what incorrect theories and concepts, or failures on the part of other members of the Central Committee, led to Stalin's arrogation of such extraordinary powers and to the establishment of a cult.

It is not a Marxist explanation to say that Stalin's personal weaknesses and shortcomings alone were responsible, as is suggested by Khrushchev's speech, for that explains Joseph Stalin by Joseph Stalin.

We cannot accept as satisfactory the present explanations of the failures to stop the crimes against the people of the Soviet Union long before the death of Stalin. In effect, it is said that these were imposed upon the people by the security forces under Beria and his immediate predecessors during the cult of Stalin, and that they had such ramifications that they became a law unto themselves and op-

position to lawlessness led to death or imprisonment.

**THE COMMUNIST PARTY** is the guardian of the rights of the working people. How did it happen that this guardianship failed to be exercised and the crimes stopped long before the death of Stalin? Clearly, responsibility for this failure falls on the shoulders of the leadership of the CPSU as a whole. They endorsed Stalin's wrong theory that the class struggle must be intensified after socialism was built.

We believe that definite historical conditions and political errors lay at the root of this situation. These include the isolation of the Soviet Union in an hostile capitalist encirclement from 1917, the civil war and imperialist intervention, the growing danger of fascist attack in the 1930's and 1940's, the ordeal of the Second World War, and the cold war with its accompaniment of systematic, highly organized sabotage, political murder and attempts to

organize armed revolt by the outrageous Operation X of the U.S. State Department.

All this external hostility was added to the internal difficulties which the Soviet people heroically struggled against and are overcoming to build their new life of peace and plenty.

It is the responsibility of the leaders of the CPSU to give explanations as to how, in this situation, the cult of Stalin arose.

The invasion of the rights of nations and nationalities in defiance of the socialist national policy of the equality of nations, great and small, cannot be laid solely at the door of Stalin's suspicions. This is not the Marxist method of analysis. In this connection we cannot help deploring the absence of any mention—in the text of Khrushchev's speech so far available—of the suppression of Jewish culture in the Soviet Union, and up to now there have been no official or press reports from the Soviet Union dealing with this.

The rights of the Jewish people  
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ple, especially since the war against Hitler fascism, are a matter of worldwide concern. We feel that the CPSU should make the facts known and give explanations for what occurred, and say what is now being done to restore full rights of cultural expression to the Jewish people of the USSR.

WE FEEL that a serious error was made by the Central Committee of the CPSU in assuming that such an account of Stalin's crimes as was given by Khrushchev would or could for long have remained a private matter of the CPSU. The effect was to enable the capitalist press and government agencies to be the first to report the speech in an effort to confuse and mislead public opinion, and to distract attention from the achievements recorded at the 20th Congress, and the Sixth Five Year Plan.

If the speech was intended to be public then the fraternal guests of the Communist Parties and all press representatives in Moscow should have been present or given a text.

It was considered to be a private matter for the CPSU then the fact that the capitalist press and the U.S. State Department published it, in our opinion shows that a major blunder was committed.

All progressive people admire the achievements of the Soviet people in building socialism, their contributions to the defeat of the fascist axis, and in their

consistent fight for peaceful co-existence. The USSR is the world's first socialist state, the first country in the world to abolish the exploitation of man by man, the country which has shown the limitless capacities for social progress once the rule of capitalist monopoly is broken.

WE ARE MAKING these comments on the speech of Nikita Khrushchev because it would be of the greatest assistance to socialist-minded people everywhere if deeper and more satisfactory scientific Marxist explanations for the events since 1934 were to be given by the leaders of the CPSU.

The National Executive Committee, as well as our party members, have been going through an arduous process of grasping the implications and lessons of the disclosures made at the 20th Congress.

In this process, the N.E.C. has displayed hesitation and lack of boldness in elaborating and coming to grips with the new problems involved in the subjecting to fraternal, critical and independent examination the actions of the CPSU, and has not followed this through with sufficient energy.

This statement is a step in overcoming that weakness. The N.E.C. expresses the hope that the statement will assist the present discussions and enable our party and all socialist-minded Canadians to think out for themselves the problems arising from the advance of socialism beyond

the borders of the Soviet Union, to embrace, as it now does, one-third of humanity.

**FRATERNAL RELATIONS**  
of a new sort are developing between the socialist and labor movements of the world as the people of different countries chart their own national paths to socialism. In the new era dawning, when war is not inevitable and the prospects are brighter for the healing of the divisions in the labor movement and for peaceful advance to socialism, these relations will be of increasing assistance to the working people of all countries.

The Labor-Progressive Party's program of 1954 described our views on Canada's path to socialism. This program is a contribution to the debate that is going on about Canada's future.

The Labor-Progressive Party's will join in this national debate with all socialist-minded Canadians in a free and friendly exchange of views on all problems. We are confident that out of it there will come a more unified labor movement.

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