

SOME ROME REDS

CRITICIZE SOVIET

But Unity Is Sought by Most Communist Senators on New Anti-Stalin Line

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ROME, March 29—Devastating criticisms of the Soviet and Italian Communist parties' leadership were heard here yesterday at a meeting of Communist senators.

The most violent critic was Senator Umberto Terracini who twice had been disciplined by his party for having expressed opinions in contrast with official Communist policy. The position taken by Signor Terracini and a few other Communist senators and deputies makes it clear that the new Communist party line on some of Stalin's actions has fractured the Italian Communist party as far as the thinking of its top leaders is concerned.

It was doubtful, however, that the party was about to split. Signor Terracini pulled no punches in criticizing the Soviet Communist party but it was clear to most of those who heard him that he was not leading a revolt against the Kremlin. Most of his listeners thought he was making a modest bid for the leadership of the Italian Communist party.

The meeting began yesterday afternoon and lasted until late at night. The result was that what transpired was not learned until today. The meeting followed another conference last week in which the Communist senators meekly accepted the new party line.

Party Harmony Is Sought

At yesterday's meeting one or two senators were critical but it was plain that the majority sought to avoid creating difficulties for the Communist leadership.

Palmiro Togliatti, leader of the Italian Communist party, summoned Signor Terracini for an "explanation." What was said is not known, but Signor Terracini looked unrepentant when he left Signor Togliatti's office.

According to unverified reports, Signor Togliatti offered to make Signor Terracini one of the vice secretaries of the party if he would stop making trouble at a time when the party was particularly vulnerable. It was said that Signor Terracini had refused the offer.

Signor Togliatti, although he is a deputy, not a Senator, had been invited to attend the Senators' meeting, but stayed away. As in the previous meeting, he was represented by Senator Mauro Scoccimarro.

Signor Terracini said that if errors were committed by Stalin, the Communist party was equally responsible for them because it had allowed them. He cast doubt on the statements of the new Soviet leaders that everything was going to be different from now on by saying, "It is stated that things have changed, but the truth is that the only thing that has changed is the men in the Kremlin."

He Wonders What to Believe

The men who today are reviling Stalin were glorifying him yesterday, Signor Terracini said, adding that this makes many wonder whether there is anything in which they can believe.

"At a certain moment," Signor Terracini said, "Beria [executed former head of the Soviet secret police] was given the blame for everything that was wrong, and he was accused of all kinds of atrocities. Now these same atrocities are being attributed to Stalin. The result is that the truth of yesterday is not the truth of today. In this way many truths become doubtful and the responsibilities become collective."

Maurice Thorez, the French Communist leader, and his wife arrived in Rome from Florence tonight. The Thorez', who were traveling incognito, were expected to call on the principal Italian Communist leaders.