

The 20th Party Congress

By JAMES S. ALLEN

MARXISTS abroad are supposed to be embarrassed by the Party Congress just concluded in Moscow, according to what I read in the newspapers. I must confess that I have no sense of embarrassment. Aside from the important new things said on some vital questions, I am struck at once by the dynamic, bold, open-minded approach to all problems, old and new. Only a diehard cartel politico like Dulles can claim that the Congress revealed the weakness of the Socialist world and the strength of what he chooses to call the "free world." That shall go down as the most obtuse of many Dullesisms, ranking with Marie Antoinette's "Let them eat cake!" Even an amateur diplomat in some third department of some third-ranking power should sense in the Congress the great confidence, the élan, the inner strength, the new advance and upsurge of socialist society and the broad perspectives opened for a durable peace.

While Dulles and his ilk stubbornly refuse to recognize the new realities of world politics, and remain set in their encrusted ways, the Soviet Communists, sweeping aside what is outmoded in their thinking and practices, boldly seize hold of the great problems of social advance and peace. They give their answers without resorting to platitudes, frankly discuss their strength, including the most sensitive questions of inner Party democracy and Soviet democracy. They begin a basic reappraisal of their own history,

in the light of the new requirements of the transition to Communism in the Soviet Union and the problems of assuring world peace. By the reassertion of collective leadership in the Party hand in hand with inner party democracy and the freedom of criticism, they have opened the door to the flowering of Soviet democracy, to the broader and more energetic participation of the people in the affairs of state and society.

We are witnessing a new Soviet renaissance, for which the ground has been prepared since the end of the war by the great advance of socialist construction, and also by the impulses and influences of the other countries which have taken the road to socialism.

★

FURTHER clarification of many questions must wait until the full reports and debates of the Congress become available here. But it is already possible to see the essential aspects of the perspective now opened. The Congress placed great emphasis upon speeding up economic development in the Soviet Union, reasserting the main task of overtaking the leading capitalist countries in per capita, thus providing the goods necessary for Communism, when each shall receive according to his needs. Much of the principal report and the discussion was devoted to the many internal problems of growth. Everything that was said was directed toward removing barriers in the way of the full creative participation of the people in the im-

(Continued on Page 13)

At Home and Abroad

(Continued from Page 4)

mense tasks before them.

This perspective for the fullest unfolding of socialist progress within the country was fused with a high regard for the accomplishments of the New China and the People's Democracies, of their contributions to world socialism, in practice and in theory and policy. On the basis of the experience of these countries, and the strength of the Socialist world, some far-reaching conclusions were drawn with respect to the great variety of historical development along the road to socialism, underlined by the growing rapprochement with Yugoslavia and the type of relations established with India and other non-Socialist countries of Asia, which resulted in the recent broadening of the "zone of peace."

★

THE DISCUSSION of the new possibilities for a peaceful, a parliamentary or constitutional transition to socialism, while having world-wide implications, bears most directly upon France and Italy at the present time, where the situation is maturing for such development, along the lines of Popular Front government. In the Congress this possibility was closely linked with the policy of peaceful co-existence, with the lessening of world tensions, with the renew-

ed offers for treaties of friendship with the United States and the other big powers, as well as with many smaller nations on the borders of the Socialist world. Thus, the perspective is opened for both social progress and peace, for peaceful transition to socialism hand in hand with coexistence in peace.

The strength of the Socialist world, together with the broadening circle of influence in the fight for peace and social progress, give this perspective a solid and dynamic base. One can be sure that the full weight of the Soviet Union will be brought to bear to realize these perspectives, for they are in accordance with the internal development needs of socialist society and with the peaceful aspirations of people the world over.

Can "Antoinette" Dulles recognize these realities, and accommodate himself to historical necessity? If he, or whoever takes his place, fails to do so, the bankruptcy of our foreign policy will lead to greater and greater isolation, to more "defeats" on top of the old ones. What has happened at the 20th Congress is a challenge to the American people—a challenge to set aside stultifying reactionary influences, set out boldly along the path of democratic revival and upsurge, and strive for a national policy of democracy and peace.