

Canada L P P Paper Comments on Soviet C P Statement

The following editorial on the Soviet C.P. resolution appeared in the Canadian Tribune paper of the Labor Progressive Party :

CPSU RESOLUTION: A DECLARATION THAT WILL HELP CLEAR THE AIR

THE June 30 resolution of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party is to be welcomed as a further explanation of how socialist democracy could have been so grievously violated during the later years of Stalin's life in the U.S.S.R.

It explains in detail the peculiar historical conditions, external and internal, in which the cult of Stalin emerged and the crimes that followed took place.

It categorically rejects any suggestion that anti-democratic acts of the kind perpetrated under Stalin's leadership are inherent in a socialist society.

It reveals that a struggle against Stalin's action and policies was in fact going on during his lifetime by a "Leninist core" of the Central Committee and that during the war years Stalin's powers were considerably curtailed. At the same time it points out the difficulties of bringing about an open split: "Any action against him in those conditions would not have been understood by the people, and this does not

mean there was any lack of personal courage involved."

It includes a note of self-criticism when it points to "certain serious mistakes in the leadership of various branches of the party and Soviet state, both in the internal life of the Soviet country and in its foreign policy."

The explanation, the resolution declares, "explains, but in no way justifies, the Stalin cult and its consequences, which have been so sharply and justly condemned by our party."

THE CPSU resolution maintains that recent statements issued by brother parties in other parts of the world have not always been correct. It disagrees for example, with a question raised by Italian Communist leader Togliatti who had asked whether Soviet society had not reached "certain forms of degeneration." Such a question has no foundation, said the Soviet resolution. It found the question "incomprehensible."

Noting the world-wide discussion of the circumstances of the Stalin cult, the CPSU makes an appeal for the "ideological unanimity and brotherly solidarity" of Marxist parties. This is especially necessary, it declares, in the light of continuing assaults on the workers in the socialist lands, in other

peace-loving nations and on national liberation movements, largely inspired by the United States. The provocation in Poznan, Poland, was a grim reminder of how these cold war forces were still operating.

THE RESOLUTION also answers those who are asking for "guarantee" that departures from democracy will never again take place in the Soviet Union. Indeed, it points out that despite the violations under Stalin, Soviet democracy has been "incalculably expanding and is continuing to do so." Its definition of socialist democracy under capitalism will undoubtedly inspire all socialist-minded Canadians:

"Unlike any kind of bourgeois democracies, Soviet democracy not only proclaims the right of all members of Soviet society, without exception, to work, education and leisure, participation in state affairs, freedom of speech and of the press, freedom of conscience and also a real possibility for the free development of personal abilities and other democratic rights and freedoms, but also insures them materially.

"The essence of democracy lies not in formal indications but in whether the political authority

services and reflects in action the will and basic interests of the majority of the people and workers. The entire internal and foreign policy of the Soviet state proclaims the fact that our regime is a truly democratic popular regime.

"The highest aim of the Soviet state is to raise the population's living standards in every respect and secure a peaceful existence for its people."

THE TRIBUNE greets this resolution. It adds greatly to understanding. It puts the whole terrible "Stalin affair" in better perspective.

As the resolution says, speaking of the heroic struggles of the Soviet peoples to establish the world's first socialist state, "the worst is over." From here on one may expect literally breath-taking advances in the U.S.S.R. as the creative initiative of the people is unfettered, as living standards rise and democracy, of necessity curtailed by popular agreement during the difficult years (which Stalin and Beria took advantage of) is ever more extended.

We believe however, that there remain some still unanswered questions: such as the demand for more light on the excesses against certain nationalities or against Jewish cultural life and the Jewish writers.

These are not mentioned. All that is said is that Stalin was "guilty of many lawless deeds."

Nor does it answer the criticism of the way in which the Khrushchev report on Stalin was handled. The Tribune has declared it should have been made available to the press as soon as it was delivered and not allowed to "leak" out through the U. S. State Department.

While it offers further clarification, it does not acknowledge that the present leaders of the Central Committee of the CPSU accepted the erroneous theory originated by Stalin, from which so many crimes ensued, that the class struggle must be intensified following the victory of socialism. The "theory" is attributed solely to Stalin and not the Central Committee or the party Congress that also accepted it.

ON balance, however, we find it a forthright declaration which we believe will do much to clear the air, help to end confusion restore confidence and bring about the ideological unity of Marxist parties everywhere so necessary for the advance of the peoples to peace, to national liberation, and each in their own way to socialism.