

**Commercial Press to the Contrary Notwithstanding**

# What's Really New in the News from Soviet CP Meet

By JOSEPH CLARK

THE FLAT claim that the Soviet Union leads the world in the peaceful application of atomic energy featured the second major report to the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin also made it clear that the peaceful industrial use of the awesome force of atomic fission will play a big part in building a Communist society.

"We Communists," Bulganin said, "must place the greatest discovery of the 20th Century—atomic energy—at the service of building communism."

Of interest was the appeal of a Soviet physicist to American scientists to cooperate with the Russians in harnessing the power of the H-bomb to peaceful purposes.

So far science has only been able to discover how atomic fission—as in the atomic bomb—can be used for peaceful purposes. It has not cracked what is admittedly a most difficult scientific problem—the use of atomic fusion—as in the Hydrogen bomb—for peaceful purposes.

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IGOR KURCHATOV, leading member of the Soviet Academy of Science said that American-Soviet cooperation in cracking the secret of harnessing H-power would be facilitated by a ban on all horror bombs.

Featured in the discussion by over 50 speakers on the report of party first secretary Nikita Khrushchev was emphasis on collective leadership. There was sharp criticism of earlier practice based on glorification of individual leaders.

First Deputy Premier Anastas Mikoyan also discussed mistaken notions about the allegedly invariable downward trend of production in capitalist countries. In this connection he criticized certain formulations of Stalin's "Economic Problems of Socialism in the USSR."

Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov strongly supported Khrushchev's appeal for American-Soviet friendship. Molotov also criticized certain aspects of the work of the foreign ministry which he heads. He referred to an under-estimation of the strength of the peace movement.

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SOVIET Defense Minister Georgi Zhukov pointed to the recent reduction of the Soviet armed forces by 640,000 men and the evacuation of the last Soviet military bases on foreign soil, in China and Finland. Zhukov called for international agreement to bring about drastic arms reduction. However, in view of the refusal of the Western powers, so far, to agree to disarmament, the Soviet Union, Zhukov said, has kept up with all modern military innovations. This

included, he said, the development of inter-continental rockets.

Mikoyan in his speech said: "The principle of collective leadership is elementary for the proletarian party, for the party of the Lenin type. However, one has to emphasize this old truth, because in the course of about 20 years we, in fact, had no collective leadership. The cult of personality, condemned by Marx and afterward by Lenin, flourished, and this, of course could not but exert an extremely negative influence on the situation within the party and on its work."

"And now, when in the course of the past three years the collective leadership of the Communist Party has been restored on the basis of Lenin's principles and Leninist unity, the entire fruitful influence of the Lenin methods of leadership can be felt."

Concerning economic developments in capitalist lands, Mikoyan said:

"In analyzing the state of economy in contemporary capitalism, it is doubtful whether Stalin's well known dictum in "Economic Problems of Socialism in the USSR" concerning the U. S. A., Britain and France, can help us or is correct."

"This dictum that after the world market split, the extent of production in these countries will shrink, does not explain the complexity and the contradictory nature of events in contemporary capitalism, or the fact of the growth of capitalist production in many countries since the war."

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MOLOTOV stressed the ability of the people to prevent war, declaring:

"Under present conditions, the cause of peace is defended not only by the peoples united under the banners of socialism. There are quite a number of other states, particularly among those which only yesterday were in full dependence on imperialism, or have just managed to take the road of independent national existence, now openly acting against aggressive plans."

"We are not infrequently still the prisoners of the habits and conventions formed in the past, before the Second World War, and which at present impede the launching of new, more active forms of struggle against war."

"We suffer not infrequently from lack of appreciation of the new

possibilities which have opened before us in the post-war period.

"This shortcoming was also apparent in the work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the Central Committee of our party pointed out some time ago."

"We must end this, we must put an end to the lack of appreciation of the great possibilities at our disposal in the cause of defending peace and the security of the peoples, provided by the creation and incessant growth of the forces of the world socialist camp, the unprecedented upsurge of the liberation struggle conducted by the colonial and dependent peoples, the militant labor movement in the capitalist countries and the international solidarity of the working class, the widespread movement of peace partisans and also other forms of mass struggle in defense of peace against war."

Molotov also stressed the importance of unity between Socialist and Communist parties in the struggle for peace.

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BULGANIN'S report, as Khrushchev's before him, underlined certain themes of this 20th Soviet Communist Party Congress. These were:

1. Peaceful coexistence of socialist and capitalist countries.
2. There is no fatal inevitability of war even though capitalism still exists in a great part of the world.
3. The possibility of the peaceful transition to socialism in various countries, including a parliamentary path to socialism.
4. A call for American-Soviet friendship, not just toleration and absence of armed conflict.
5. An enormous program for improving the well-being of the Soviet people. This includes the introduction of the seven-hour day starting next year.
6. A challenge to the United States to compete, not in an arms race, but to see which can raise the living standards of the people quicker and to higher levels.

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REPRESENTATIVES of foreign Communist parties—55 countries are attending through fraternal delegates—have stressed the variety of national characteristics in the advance of different people to socialism.

Khrushchev in his opening report distinguished differing paths

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# Soviet Congress

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already taken on the way to socialism—in China, in the European peoples democracies and in Yugoslavia. Concerning the latter, Khrushchev said:

"In the Federated Peoples Republic of Yugoslavia, where state power belongs to the working people, and society is founded on the public ownership of the means of production, specific concrete forms of economic management and organization of the state apparatus are arising in the process of socialist construction."