

# THE KHRUSHCHEV SPEECH

## An Editorial

THE SHATTERING REVELATIONS made by Khrushchev show what a gigantic transformation is taking place in the Soviet Union. The report is part of an effort—not at all completed—to correct what was a monstrous perversion of socialist principles under Stalin's brutal rule.

The State Department would have us believe there is no change taking place in the Soviet Union. They timed the release of Khrushchev's report, however, with Tito's visit to the USSR. Apparently Washington thought this was a bold propaganda counter-stroke. Unwittingly thereby, they refuted their claim that nothing is changing in the Soviet Union.

As Walter Lippmann put it yesterday in the Herald Tribune:

"Tito's visit to Moscow does not fit very well into the standardized assumption that nothing really changes in the Soviet Union, and that the passing of Stalin has made no difference. If that assumption were true, we should have to read the reconciliation which is now being celebrated in Moscow as meaning that Tito is returning his country to its former position of a satellite. This is just what is not happening."

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THE STATE DEPARTMENT is dead wrong when it suggests that the evils of the Stalin era are inherent in socialism. The fact is that the development of those evils created a peril for socialism. The repression, the injustice, the franchise, the torture are a gross perversion of socialist principles. Khrushchev noted this in his report. Socialism requires government of the people, by the people and for the people, in economic as well as in political life. It therefore flourishes in freedom and is endangered by repression and injustice. This is indicated by the overhauling of the Soviet legal system and the correction that has been taking place there for over three years since the death of Stalin.

The exposure of Stalin's misrule, of his crimes against socialism and humanity is a measure of how much this was a departure from socialist ideas, and from what Lenin taught.

The timing of the State Department's release of the Khrushchev report helps explain why they published it. Even by their own admission they had the documents for some time.

They released it now because they're worried that  
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the cold war is dying an ignominious death. There's a crisis of foreign policy because of the State Department's sorry efforts to maintain the cold war. With the Gallup Poll showing a majority of Americans favoring an invitation to Bulganin and Khrushchev to visit our country, the State Department wants to keep down mutual exchange to an absolute minimum.

The State Department is so concerned about the Soviet Union's reduction of its armed forces that they hoped to divert attention from the whole issue of disarmament.

**WE DO NOT HESITATE** to state that we don't like the way Khrushchev's speech was made public. The leaders of the Soviet Union probably had their reasons for letting the contents come out piece-meal and in round-about way. In our opinion they made a mistake and should have published the speech immediately and made it available throughout the world.

We also express our concern that in the long list of crimes mentioned in the speech, there was silence on those committed against Jewish culture and Jewish cultural leaders. To date, this series of outrages has not been publicized in the socialist countries except in the columns of a Jewish-language paper in Warsaw.

We do not consider the speech to be the last word on just how Stalin's terror control came into existence and maintained itself for 20 years and of the role of the other Communist leaders.

One of the conclusions this paper began to draw when the 20th Congress was still in progress back in March was that the revaluation and correction of the Stalin regime represented a long overdue turning point not only for the Soviet Union and for other countries of socialism but likewise for Communist movements everywhere.

The blind and uncritical attitude of the Daily Worker in past years to the repressions in the Soviet Union, only did grave damage to our goal of promoting a socialist movement in this country. It created obstacles to what we consider was a notable contribution over the years in defending the genuine socialist achievements in the USSR and its policy for peace.

**THIS PAPER** has attempted to express the need for an effective Marxist movement in this country to base itself on the conditions found in America, on the traditions of the American workingclass and of the people as a whole. Its decisions and policies must be independent ones and must arise from the needs of the American working people. At the same time, the struggle for socialism in America can be effective only if it is carried on in the spirit of international workingclass solidarity—genuine internationalism, based on equality, fervent support of the socialist achievements of other people coupled with fraternal, open and frank criticism wherever it may be due.

**WE DEDICATE** ourselves to unrelenting struggle against the monopolists in our country who build up their fantastic profits out of the sweat of the American workers, out of a run-away armaments and H-bomb race, out of exploitation, discrimination and injustice.

We dedicate ourselves to building a people's coalition against the policies of these monopolists and to help bringing about a new political alignment to the end that peace and democracy and civil rights should prevail and that the forces of atomic energy and automation may become boons to our people instead of threats.

We dedicate ourselves to helping the American working people find the American road to a complete re-organization of our society.

This will be a society of democratic socialism in which the civil and political rights of the individual and of groups will be guaranteed under the Constitution. It will be a society in which the American people will own the resources and giant factories which they have built with their own hands and will at last, in friendship with the peoples of the whole world, determine their own destiny in their own way.

The present situation, in our opinion, underlines the urgency of the outlook put forward by Eugene Dennis at the National Committee meeting of the Communist Party of a new "mass party of socialism in our country" and of the need to "create the conditions for such a necessary and historic development." We believe that the situation calls for an all-out effort and cooperation of all socialist-minded forces, in order to bring about such a new party without unnecessary delay, and as quickly as circumstances will permit.