

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Khrushchev in Feb. 1956 And in January, 1957

Editor, Daily Worker:

On January 17, 1957, Nikita Khrushchev described the late Joseph Stalin as a model Communist. Said Khrushchev (as quoted in a London Daily Worker dispatch from Moscow):

"I do not separate Stalinism and Stalin from Communism. But I consider that as a Communist, as a fighter for the class interests of the working class, Stalin was an example to every Communist." He added: "God grant that every Communist should be able to fight like Stalin.

"We have criticized Stalin and we still criticize him. If necessary we will do it again. But we do not criticize him because we consider him a bad Communist insofar as the defense of the working class are concerned, but because he had certain defects."

On Feb. 25, 1956, Nikita Khrushchev declared, in his secret report to the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party:

"Thus, Stalin had sanctioned in the name of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Party (Bolsheviks) the most brutal violation of socialist legality, torture and oppression, which led, as we have seen, to the slandering and self-accusation of innocent people."

In the same report, Khrushchev described "the abuse of power by Stalin, who began to use mass terror against the Party cadre."

In the same report, Khrushchev, describing the "baseless and false mass repressions in 1937-1938," and attributing them to the immediate responsibility of Soviet police chief Yezhov, declared: "It is clear that these matters were decided by Stalin, and that without his orders and his sanction Yezhov could not have done this."

In the same report, discussing the wartime liquidation of one autonomous republic of a Soviet national minority and the mass deportation of the peoples of others, Khrushchev, citing the Soviet Union's role as "a model of a multi-national state" declared:

"All the more monstrous are the acts whose initiator was Stalin and which are rude violations of the basic Leninist principles of the nationality policy of the Soviet state. We refer to the mass deportations from their native places of whole nations, together with all Communists and Komsomols without an exception; this deportation action was not dictated by any military considerations."

In the same report Khrushchev declared that "Stalin never traveled anywhere, did not meet city and Kolkhoz workers; he did not know the actual situation in

the provinces.

"He knew the country and agriculture only from films..."

If the Khrushchev of February, 1956 was speaking the truth, then the Khrushchev of January, 1957, was guilty of a mockery in resurrecting Stalin as an ideal, an idol, a model and an example for Communists. For, despite all his attainments his unquestioned contributions to his nation and the cause of socialism, these have been so stained by the catalogue of horrors attributed to him by Khrushchev that no sane man could wish future leaders of socialism to rise in Stalin's image.

If the Khrushchev of January, 1957 speaks the truth, and Stalin was the model for Communists in "fighting for the interests of the working-class," then the Khrushchev report of 1956 stands as the most outrageous slander ever levelled against a fallen leader.

For it must certainly be clear that only the most tortured rationale can find truth in both descriptions of Joseph Stalin.

Nobody doubts that Stalin was opposed to imperialism. But the nub of the matter is that Khrushchev's own report of last February shattered the belief that Stalin's way was the best way, the right way to fight for the interests of the working-class.

The obvious explanation is that Khrushchev is trying to carry water on both shoulders. He cannot surely expect to expunge from the minds of men the crimes he catalogued last year. Apparently he evokes the name of Stalin in an attempt to contain the explosive self-examination and changes within Marxist parties set off by his February report.

It seems to me that this is a childish and self-defeating procedure. Stalin is dead, and history will judge him fully. But it is not Stalin's ghost, whether as devil or angel, which is going to help anybody.

The Khrushchev remarks confirm for me the belief, maintained throughout the present discussion on the future of American socialism and American attitudes to the Soviet Union, that sympathy for the Soviet Union must exclude a sheeplike agreement with every Soviet action and with each Soviet syllable.

—ROBERT FRIEDMAN

Virginia CP on Negro Question

Editor Daily Worker:

The following resolution was adopted by the Communist Party of Virginia:

We believe the Negro question to be of decisive importance to the future democratic progress of our nation. It intimately affects all phases of our national

life. We support the overall estimate of the Draft Resolution and the Ben Davis report.

We categorically reject any suggestions that the Party should lessen its struggles on this question — the situation demands new initiative and imagination in carrying the struggle to higher levels.

We cannot break our isolation from the masses by retreating from our militant struggle on the Negro question. We must bring our full program honestly to the white masses who are making important forward progress in their understanding and are showing increasing willingness to reject the ideology of white supremacy. To weaken our struggle on this question would be theoretically and practically wrong as well as dangerous. It would be treason to the struggles of the Negro people and to the basic interests of the white masses.

While endorsing the overall estimate of the Draft Resolution, we feel that it gives inadequate attention to the struggles in the South and especially to the im-

portant question of school integration. We feel the Daily and the Worker is only now beginning to take steps to bring this question forward as vital for the Party and all its readers.

We feel that the Party must pay greater attention to the Negro vote movement and the battle for Negro representation to local, state, and national government bodies (appointive as legislative), particularly in the Southern cities and counties.

While it is true that in the past there have been errors made in the struggle against white chauvinism, we must guarantee that this struggle is continued and carried within the Party and especially in the mass movement.

Va. C.P. State Committee.

Replies to Virginia Gardner

Editor, Daily Worker:

Virginia Gardner has always shown brilliance and insight as a reporter, but I must challenge the letter she wrote to the DW.

Although the situation might have "smelled bad" in Hungary, the facts remain that the revolt

was primarily a workers' revolt.

Even if one were not to grow uneasy at the accounts of suppression as reported in the N. Y. Times (which "smelled right" during the Spanish Civil War) and the other elements of the more liberal press, there are such simple facts as the fact that hardly any Fascists were caught except for Dudlas, and he had been arrested by the Nagy government.

Then there is the question of the friends of the Soviet Union, who apparently now "smell bad" also, such as the author of a new book titled "Hungarian Tragedy." He is Peter Fryer, 20 years London Daily Worker columnist, now expelled for revealing the truth. And Simone De Beauvoir, Dean of Centerbury, I. F. Stone and Nation Magazine, Hugh Gaitskill, and Jean-Paul Sartre.

I urge Miss Gardner to re-examine the simple truth: not only did the Hearst press say it, but so has every segment of liberal and progressive opinion, except a very few who are contenting themselves with name-calling. — A Devoted Reader.

Mantle

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record. Then, too, I began to think about winning the triple crown, and Al Kaline and Ted Williams were right behind me.

"At the start of the season I was taking a nice easy cut and not worrying about anything," he added. "Then, when I started to take that full swing, I started to strike out more often. I think if I play it right I should be able to hit for a higher average."

Mantle disclosed that, having refused one Yankee salary offer for 1957, he had met with general manager George Weiss in Chicago but still had not arrived at an agreement.

The Oklahoma kid is believed to have earned \$32,500 last season and reportedly is demanding \$75,000 with the idea of accepting \$60,000—to make him the highest paid player on the club at \$2,000 more than catcher Yogi Berra.

Meanwhile, he doesn't doubt that the Yankees will shoot down the rest of the American League again this season.

"The Yanks will probably win," he said matter of factly. "Among those who could finish second I'd have to list Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago and Boston."

"What are they doing", you ask?

Why they are conditioning themselves for those hot Cuban and Puerto Rican numbers that "Los Tropicales" will play on Saturday eve, Feb. 9th at Chateau Gardens at the DAILY WORKER BALL.

HIROSHIMA VICTIM DIES

HIROSHIMA, Japan, Jan. 22. —Newspapers today reported the death of Hiroshima's "first atom bomb victim of 1957."

Kamekichi Kaneko, 68, died at the Red Cross hospital Monday of a blood ailment caused by a lack of white corpuscles.

Newspapers said Kaneko was two miles from the center of the atom-bomb blast on Aug. 6, 1945. He showed no ill-effects until last October, it was said.

Soviets Find New Antarctic Mineral

LONDON, Jan. 22. — The Soviet Antarctic expedition has collected enough data for the first geological map of the Soviet exploration site in eastern Antarctica and will leave for home shortly, Radio Moscow said today.

The Broadcast said the Soviet

UN TO HEAR THREE EX-LEADERS OF HUNGARY

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Jan. 22 — A United Nations investigating committee agreed "in principle" today to take evidence concerning the Hungarian revolt from three persons opposing the Kadar regime.

The Committee considered requests from Mrs. Anna Kethly, pre-revolution Hungarian minister of state; Maj.-Gen. Bela Kiraly, a military leader in the revolt, and Josef Kovago, former mayor of Budapest, to be heard.

The committee, comprises representatives of Denmark, Australia, Ceylon, Tunisia and Uruguay.

expedition discovered quantities of ferruginous quartzite, hitherto unknown in that section.

'The Pitch'—Negro Stars

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on. They are good copy (Thanks for em').

My California critic was irked by me, in the Daily, and Lester, in the weekend, writing "so much" about Jackie Robinson retiring. Well, he may be out on the Coast and I don't know what the papers did out there—but, the same day my column on Jackie appeared, the New York Post, a metropolitan afternoon daily, ran articles by FOUR COLUMNISTS IN THE SAME ISSUE, WRITING ON THE ROBINSON SUBJECT!

If anything, we didn't give enough treatment to Mr. Robinson.