

REPORT ON THEORY TO COMMUNIST PARTY PARLEY

The following are excerpts from the report to the Communist Party convention by the Resolutions Subcommittee on theory. The report was delivered by Max Weiss:

Our committee was called upon to debate one of the most decisive questions before the party. A motion was made in the committee to strike the word "interpret" from the Resolution and substitute for it a paragraph which would speak only of "creatively applying" the principles of Marxism-Leninism. This motion was defeated by a vote of 14-12.

The position of the majority of our committee which supported retaining the word "interpret" was substantially as follows:

Such an assertion is necessary as an explicit declaration of the independent and equal status of our party in relation to all other parties in the world Communist movement on matters of theory.

This has not always been the case. The past history of our relations with other Communist Parties has largely been one in which we tacitly assumed that the interpretation of the principles of Marxism-Leninism as made by the CPSU was ipso facto valid, and that all we had to do was to creatively apply their interpretation to our conditions.

But this past history, and the present situation, proves that conflicting interpretations of these Marxist-Leninist principles inevitably arise. There is, for example, the present controversy between the French and Italian parties over whether the slogan of the Italian CP for the reform of that country's social structure violates the principles of Marxism-Leninism. The French CP interprets the principles of Marxism-Leninism in such a manner that the Italian Communist position is a departure from these principles.

There are, for example, the different interpretations given to the Marxist teaching on the absolute and relative impoverishment of the masses. The French Communist Party, as expressed in a report of comrade Thorez, makes one interpretation. Others, however, like the Italian Party support a somewhat different interpretation of this principled question.

The message of greetings to this convention from the Central Committee of the French Communist Party, signed by comrade Duclos, is another instance in point. This letter makes it clear that the interpretation of the principles of Marxism-Leninism as made by the Central Committee of the CP of France is such that the main reso-

lution of our convention embodies departures from these principles. Our Party, and particularly this convention, is called upon to decide for itself whether it agrees with the interpretation of these principles is such that we consider our resolution as being consistent with them. Clearly, there are two different interpretations of what these principles are.

The majority of the committee was of the opinion that our Party must continue — while paying the closest attention to the valued opinions of other parties, especially the CPSU — to decide for itself the interpretation of Marxist Leninist principles.

Why did the majority of the Committee feel that we should not accept the proposal to substitute the formulation "creatively apply" for the word "interpret"? For this reason: the creative application of a principle depends on the prior act of interpretation of that principle. We cannot agree with any position which implies that some other party will interpret for us what the principles of Marxism-Leninism are while all that we are called upon to do is to apply as creatively as we can their interpretation.

Therefore, the motion to substitute the formulation "creatively apply" for "interpret" was rejected by the majority of our committee.

Now, many comrades agree fully with the necessity to declare clearly, unmistakably and publicly that it is our Party which must interpret these principles as best we can, that no other Party in the international Communist movement no matter in how great esteem we hold it, should be assumed to have any authoritarian, ex cathedra right to interpret these principles for us. However, these comrades have expressed fears that as originally formulated in the draft resolution, doubt might be cast on the objective character or the universality of the principles of Marxism-Leninism. Therefore, a reformulation was made of the sentence containing the word "interpret." It was broken into two sentences and an explicit formulation added to the beginning of the paragraph in order to remove any possible basis for inferring that there is any doubt in our minds about the universally or objective character of the principles of Marxism-Leninism.

Zhukov Back in Moscow from Asia

LONDON, Feb. 17.—Soviet Defense Marshal Georgi Zhukov returned to Moscow today from his trip to India and Burma, Moscow Radio reported.