

What's Behind the Tito Discussions?

TITO'S VISIT to the Soviet Union and the delegations visiting Yugoslavia from Bulgaria, Hungary and Communist parties of Western Europe, have indicated two things, even though little solid information has been released officially.

First, the Soviet leaders consider their relations with Yugoslavia from the viewpoint of partners-in-socialism. For example, Pravda and other Soviet newspapers gave considerable prominence to the affable and comradely relations between the Soviet and Yugoslav Communist leaders.

Second, there are continuing differences between the Yugoslav and Soviet Communists, as well as with Communists in the People's Democracies, particularly on theoretical questions. The talks that took place on the Adriatic and Black Seas are only part of a continuing discussion.

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LAST WEEK a Bulgarian delegation was in Belgrade and signed an agreement with the Yugoslavs on strengthening bonds of solidarity between both countries and especially between the Communists or Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. They provided for stepped-up exchanges of experiences and mutual study in the building of socialism.

However, the Yugoslav agency Yugopress said that this agreement was only part of a "long and gradual" process. It added:

"During that period various current questions of Yugoslav-Bulgarian relations and the character of social changes in both countries, as

well as their attitude toward the substance and forms of cooperation of Communist parties should be cleared up."

The Yugoslav Communists have continued to emphasize the need of independence and mutually critical relations among Communists of various countries. They have also stressed guarantees of individual rights as essential for building socialism. Relations with Socialists of other countries and labor unity can be strengthened, the Yugoslavs argued, if the socialist lands themselves continue to advance the de-

mocratization and liberalism that has been taking place, since the death of Stalin.

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POLAND HAS continued to be the most advanced in this process. Many visitors have expressed the view that Poland has outstripped Yugoslavia in this very process on which the Yugoslav Communists place so much stress.

During the Poznan trials the Polish courts showed their independence and the strictest adherence to the rule of law. Even more significant is the preparation

for the Polish national election in December. This will not be a one candidate per district election as has been the case in the past. There will be competing candidates and an extremely lively campaign. Meanwhile parliamentary changes in Poland have made the top legislative body a true law-making institution, where the clash of viewpoint is not only allowed but encouraged.

The prospective return of Wladyslaw Gomulka to a position of leadership in the Polish Communist Party is being discussed. (Continued on Page 13)

Breakthrough in Pittsburgh Case

The U. S. Supreme Court Wednesday ordered a retrial of five Pittsburgh Communist leaders who had been convicted under the Smith Act. The court upset the conviction of Steve Nelson, Irving Weissman, William Albertson, Benjamin Carreathers and James Dolson.

Government prosecutors had asked the Court to send the case back for a hearing on the tarnished record of Joseph Mazzel, stool-pigeon who had testified at the Pittsburgh trial. The defense urged that if the case were sent back it should be for a new trial.

On Monday the Court opened hearings on the appeal of 14 California Smith Act defendants seeking reversal of their conviction. Counsel for the defendants, including noted members of the California Bar Association, argued the

unconstitutionality of the Smith Act and also held that the defendants had been improperly convicted under the statutes of the Act.

Initial appeals on the first two "membership" convictions under the Smith Act—Claude Lightfoot of Chicago and Junius Scales of North Carolina — were to begin Wednesday.

In other developments, the court:

- Agreed to hear an appeal of the New Hampshire subversive control law, brought by economist Paul Sweezy who was cited for contempt under the law.

- Agreed to review the conviction and one-year contempt sentence given United Auto Workers organizer John Watkins for refusing to disclose names to the House Un-American Activities Committee.

- Agreed to hear the appeal of Ben Gold, former Fur Union leader who was given a three-year sentence under the Taft-Hartley law.

- Agreed to review the "harboring" conviction of three persons, Shirley Kaemen, Sam Coleman and Sid Stein who were convicted for alleged harboring of Smith Act refugee Robert Thompson.

- Refused to review the case of lawyer Maurice Braverman of Baltimore who was disbarred after being convicted under the Smith Act.

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nist Party was seen as a further step in this Polish process. Gomulka had been criticized as a "Titoite" and served several years in prison on trumped up charges. The Polish government and party have completely cleared him of any criminal charges and denounced his imprisonment as a miscarriage of justice. In contrast with Hungary, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia the Poles had not executed any of those framed on such charges.

A significant conclusion from all the discussion and debate going on in the socialist countries is that the stress on diverse paths to socialism and expression of varying viewpoints has not divided the socialist countries but brought them together even more closely. Now this close connection is based more on mutual trust and solidarity, other than on authority. —J.C.