

Two Views on CP Convention

The New York Times editors were pleased, Feb. 14, that a measure of independence from the Kremlin was shown by the Communist Party convention. They quoted the convention's declaration for the "right of friendly criticism of brother parties or the action of socialist governments" and accepted this as a shift toward independence — however "inadequate."

For a more "adequate" show of independence the Times editors recommend that the Communist Party renounce Marxism-Leninism. And although they have not said so explicitly as yet, they undoubtedly would also like the Communist Party to line up with U.S. imperialism's plans for world conquest.

Revolutionary socialists also welcomed a manifestation by the CP convention of independence from Kremlin dictation — but for just the opposite reason. A break with the politics of the Soviet bureaucracy will allow Communist militants to elaborate a genuine Marxist-Leninist program.

For the Kremlin's ideology, though called "Marxist-Leninist" doesn't bear the faintest resemblance to the liberating theories of Marx and Lenin. The policies of the Kremlin stem from the needs of a privileged bureaucracy to repress the working class at home. They consist in attempts to bargain with the imperialist powers for preservation of the status-quo throughout the world.

The capitalist class in the U. S. had no difficulty in collaborating with the Kremlin when Stalin was framing up and executing his revolutionary opponents in the Soviet Union. They did not demand that the American CP be independent of the Kremlin then. Nor did they make the demand during World War II, when at Stalin's orders the American CP became the noisiest jingoists in the labor movement.

In those days, propagandists for American imperialism even painted Stalin as a hero in the "war for democracy." The Kremlin's dictatorial practices became a target for condemnation only when American imperialism launched the cold war against the Soviet orbit.

Then the imperialist propagandists proceeded to lump together Stalinism and Marxism-Leninism in order to put the stigma of Stalin's crimes on genuine Marxists and Leninists. They hoped thereby, to discredit socialist opposition to Big Business' exploitative rule.

The discussion that is now developing in the ranks of the Communist Party will not, in the long run, give any pleasure to the N. Y. Times editors or other proponents of capitalism. As they break with Kremlin domination, militant workers and youth in the CP have already begun to distinguish between Stalinism and Leninism. When that process is completed the opposition to U. S. imperialism will be strengthened.