

BRITISH REDS FALL IN LINE ON STALIN

Party Retracts Its Criticism of Khrushchev's Address Downgrading Dictator

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Special to The New York Times.

LONDON, July 15—The Executive Committee of the British Communist party came into line with Moscow tonight on the interpretation of anti-Stalinism.

Like their comrades in Italy and France, the British Reds have had to eat the fine, fiery words they uttered last month in criticizing the speech of Nikita S. Khrushchev to the Soviet party congress last February. In the speech Mr. Khrushchev set forth the new Communist party line downgrading Stalin.

On June 21 the British Reds were demanding "a profound Marxist analysis of the causes of degeneration in the functioning of Soviet democracy and party democracy." They also stated that Stalin alone could not be blamed for all the evils of the régime he headed.

In a resolution the Executive Committee adopted yesterday and is releasing for publication tomorrow, it said:

"We warmly welcome the resolution of June 30 of the Central Committee of the Communist party of the Soviet Union on 'Overcoming the Cult of the Individual and Its Consequences.'"

The resolution defended the present Soviet leadership's failure to act against Stalin.

"The enemies of socialism have attempted to concentrate world attention on only one aspect of

the twentieth congress—the re-assessment of the role of Stalin," the British committee continued. "We believe that the resolution of the Communist party of the Soviet Union is absolutely correct to emphasize these questions as the background against which the negative features that had developed in the 1934-1953 period must be assessed.

"The injustices and crimes of that period caused great harm to the cause socialism and to the interests of the Soviet people, but it is not true, as the enemies of communism allege, that they arose from the nature of the Soviet social system or that they fundamentally changed its character.

"Political power and the means of production were firmly in the

hands of the working people. Socialism was established in the Soviet Union and proved itself superior to capitalism in peace and war."

Three leading British Communists have just come back from Moscow, where they apparently were told what was what. The party statement said that on July 10 Harry Pollitt, John Gollan and Bert Ramelson met Mr. Khrushchev, Peter N. Pospelov and B. N. Ponomarev, representing the Soviet party's Central Committee.