

# UNREST IS SHOWN BY ITALIAN REDS

## Stormy Meeting of Party's Directorate Likely Today -Over the Stalin Issue

By PAUL HOFMANN

Special to The New York Times.

ROME, June 19—Italian communism showed signs of deep unrest today on the eve of crucial party meetings. The downgrading of Stalin by Moscow and the reaction to it by Palmiro Togliatti, secretary general of the Italian Communist party, was the obvious cause.

The long smoldering conflict between the left-wing and right-wing of Italian communism and between them individually and the middle-of-the-roads was expected by many observers to come into the open shortly.

The directorate of the Communist party, a body of about twenty top leaders, is to convene tomorrow. It will prepare a meeting later this week of the party's 100-man Central Committee. The discussions will be held behind closed doors and they are expected to be stormy.

### The Official Topics

The official topics will be an analysis of the last months of the nation-wide administrative elections and the arrangements for the next Communist party congress in the Autumn. The congress, theoretically the supreme organ of the Italian Communist movement, has not been convened since 1951, when the present party leadership was chosen by a show of hands.

There was no doubt here tonight that the debate would center on how Signor Togliatti handled the exploding of the Stalin legend by the present Soviet leaders. The secretary general of the strongest Communist party in the West came out for greater autonomy for this party from Moscow in an interview published last Saturday. His statement praised Stalin for some of his achievement and at the same time upheld the charges made against Stalin in Nikita S. Khrushchev, Chief of the Soviet Communist party.

### Togliatti Fails to Convince

Developments in the last three days indicated that Signor Togliatti failed to convince or satisfy his rank-and-file. Pietro Nenni, leader of the left-wing Socialist party, wrote in his newspaper *Avanti* today that there were "divergencies between Communists and Communists." Signor Nenni has been a close and important ally of communism.

The first clash between opposing Communist currents was expected tomorrow. At least five influential members of the party Directorate were known to be extremely bitter that Signor Togliatti should have endorsed, if only with reservations, Mr. Khrushchev's indictment of Stalin.

### Cynicism Shown in France

Special to The New York Times.

PARIS, June 19—Suspicion and cynicism dominated the reaction today to the efforts by French Communist leaders to defend Stalin and criticize his successors.

Most of today's Paris press devoted lead editorials to analyses of the French Communists'

statement of yesterday, expressing dissatisfaction with Moscow's downgrading of Stalin.

Three hypotheses were advanced to explain the French Communist position, which parallels in many respects those of other Western Communist parties.

One, presented editorially by the afternoon newspaper *Le Monde*, was that the evidence must be accepted on its face value and that, whatever the reasons, "today the facts are there that prove that the grip of the Kremlin has been seriously loosened." The newspaper's authoritative political writer, Jacques Fauvet, added the opinion that the dispute over Stalin had shaken the party's intellectuals and party leaders but probably would fail to stir its mass support.

A second thesis, supported by the non-Communist leftist newspapers *Combat* and *Franc-Tireur*, held that the Communist leadership was responding to internal necessity in defending Stalin.

The conservative morning *Le Figaro* saw a calculated Moscow-inspired tactic in the nearly simultaneous and strikingly similar Italian and French Communist reactions to the campaign against Stalin. Both, it seemed to *Le Figaro*, had "with remarkable discipline obeyed a call to moderate indiscipline."

### Reds Here Ask Explanation

The *Daily Worker*, organ of the American Communist party, supports the demand of French and Italian Communist chiefs for "more fundamental and more logical explanations" of the crimes of the Stalin regime.

In an editorial prepared for publication today, *The Worker* said that it also had called upon "Communist leaders in Socialist countries to explain the real origins of injustices that arose and threatened the very existence of socialism there."

The *Worker* noted that there were differences of opinion among "some readers and prominent contributors" on this question.