

'WE'RE STALINISTS,' KHRUSHCHEV SAYS

All Reds Are, While Fighting 'Imperialists,' He Declares —Policy Shift Expected

By WILLIAM J. JORDEN

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MOSCOW, Jan. 1—Nikita S. Khrushchev, head of the Soviet Communist party, appeared today to have sharply reversed the program of downgrading Stalin. It was Mr. Khrushchev who established the policy less than a year ago.

Some Communist diplomats who attended the Kremlin's New Year's Eve party reported that Mr. Khrushchev had warmly praised Stalin as "a great fighter against imperialism" and "a great Marxist."

Apparently alluding to himself and his colleagues in the Kremlin, Mr. Khrushchev said, "We are all Stalinists" when it comes to fighting imperialism.

The new line that now appeared to be emerging in regard to the late Soviet dictator is that he was a great man despite some serious mistakes.

Blame Is Now Shared

During most of the last year the official attitude has been that Stalin's errors far outweighed his contributions to the Communist cause. According to Mr. Khrushchev now, Stalin was not solely to blame for the mistakes.

"I grew up under Stalin," the Communist chieftain was reported to have said at the Kremlin party. "Stalin made mistakes but we should share responsibility for those mistakes because we were associated with him."

"The imperialists call us Stalinists," he added. "Well, when it comes to fighting imperialism, we are all Stalinists."

Mr. Khrushchev's words were quoted by a number of foreign diplomats who had attended the party. If the reports are accurate, the remarks would seem to indicate that in the present situation within the Communist world, Soviet leaders have decided that a "hard line" was the only realistic policy.

Example of Hungary Cited

Undoubtedly the example of Hungary had much to do with such a shift. The Soviet Union decided it had to use force to put down the rebellion in Hungary rather than permit communism to be toppled in a key area of Eastern Europe.

It seemed clear that in any similar case in the future forceful measures would be taken, as they certainly would have been under Stalin.

It appeared to observers that was what Mr. Khrushchev meant by Stalinism in the face of imperialism.

The official party view is that subversion by "imperialists" created the danger in Hungary and menaced the whole Communist system evolved since World War II.

Other indications of a firmer Kremlin attitude toward unrest

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and controversy within the Communist sphere were not hard to find in Moscow in recent days.

It was indicated, for example, that tolerance of Yugoslav President Tito's moderate course was nearing an end. *Kommunist*, the monthly official journal of the Communist Party Central Committee, which appeared today, sharply attacked the Yugoslav position. The publication expressed doubts that Yugoslavia could even consider herself a Socialist state so long as she was heavily dependent on economic assistance from the United States.

Belgrade Regime Scored

Another journal, *New Times*, contained sharp criticism of Yugoslavia today. It said the Belgrade regime had become a symbol of "national communism" and of independence from Moscow.

"Can anyone seriously plan the construction of a Socialist state on the basis of free help from American and other monopolies?" it asked.

Mr. Khrushchev joined the assault on Yugoslavia's position in an interview with Czechoslovak correspondents that was printed in the Prague newspaper *Rude Pravo* on Monday. He was reported to have said that a Communist state that insisted on following its own path without reference to others would "bring harm to the community of Socialist states."

The first perfectly clear sign that the Communist world was about to take a new slant in its attitude toward Stalin came with publication in the *Peiping People's Daily* of a major policy statement by Communist China a few days ago.

That article, reprinted in full by the Communist party newspaper here, said the Soviet Union had made "colossal progress" under Stalin and that his mistakes were "secondary" to his achievements.

Chinese Pointed the Way

The Chinese Communists attacked discussion of "Stalinism" as a false issue. They said that if that term had any meaning it was primarily "communism." Peiping maintained that to talk of "Stalinists" and "anti-Stalinists," as Tito had done, was a disservice to the cause of communism and tended to split the ranks.

The Chinese statement, aimed at Poland, Hungary and Yugoslavia, pointed to a new attitude toward the late Soviet dictator. Mr. Khrushchev's remarks indicated Moscow's approval.

There were some competent observers here who saw in this development confirmation of beliefs that there has been far



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LAUDS STALIN: Nikita S. Khrushchev, Soviet Communist party chief. He said Stalin was "great Marxist."

more speculation than the facts justified concerning a split between "Stalinists" and "anti-Stalinists."

As Mr. Khrushchev said, he and other Kremlin leaders had developed under Stalin. That kind of training during many years could hardly be expected to disappear overnight.