

COMMUNISTS ASK 'HANDS OFF CUBA'

U. S. Party Convention Also Assails Rockefeller and Nixon on 'Cold War'

The Communist party of the United States called on this country yesterday to keep "hands off Cuba" and grant independence to Puerto Rico.

The party's action was in a resolution approved at its seventeenth national convention,

now in session at the Theresa Hotel, Seventh Avenue and 125th Street. Reporters are barred from the sessions, but are briefed by party spokesmen at press conferences.

The resolution was introduced by Benjamin J. Davis, chairman of the Communist party of New York State and a former City Councilman. He was one of eleven top Communist leaders convicted in 1949 of conspiring to advocate the violent overthrow of the Government.

The resolution also attacked Governor Rockefeller as "the high-octane cold warrior of the Republicans, representing gigantic combinations of oil and fi-

nance that aim to abort the developing peace movement." And Vice President Richard M. Nixon was assailed for being "anti-labor" and speaking of "peaceful coexistence in Moscow and 'cold war' at home."

Arnold Johnson, the party's national legislative director, said that the Communists had made "some inroads" among Puerto Ricans and Cubans in the United States. But he added that these were "not world shaking." He also said that 222 delegates from forty states were attending the convention.

Included in the program that the convention approved for party support were the following: Guaranteeing peace by out-

lawing nuclear war; defending the Constitution and "restoring the Bill of Rights"; abolishing "Jim Crow legislation," and aiding small business by tax relief and easy credit.

Another resolution approved by the convention dealt with "trade union problems." It attacked as "slanders [that] must be tirelessly exposed" the charge that Communists are "foreign agents." It declared that "the fact that Communists have no interests apart from those of the entire working class must be brought home to the American workers again and again."

In answer to questions, a spokesman said that the Communist party of the United

States now had about 10,000 members out of a total world membership of 30,000,000. He said that the high point of party membership in this country was reached in the late Nineteen Thirties with a total of 75,000 members.

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