

BRITISH REDS VEIL DEBATE ON STALIN

Party Congress Will Discuss the Controversial Question Secretly Tomorrow

By **THOMAS P. RONAN**

Special to The New York Times.

LONDON, March 30—Delegates to the British Communist party's National Congress avoided at their opening session today the controversy within their ranks over the downgrading of Stalin.

The party has decreed that the issue will be discussed at a secret session Sunday afternoon and evening. Such a session on a political issue is an extremely unusual step and is a measure of the confusion caused within the party by the attacks on Stalin by Soviet Communist leaders.

This confusion has been reflected in the letter columns of *The Daily Worker* in which party members have attacked Harry Pollitt, the General Secretary, and other leaders of the British party for condoning Stalin's evil excesses.

Despite the twists and turns of the Soviet Communist leaders, delegates to the party's twenty-fourth National Congress gave their warmest applause to an assurance by Mr. Pollitt that British Communists retained a faith in the Russians and their country that was "unshakable, unbreakable and indestructible."

"Our cause is unconquerable," Mr. Pollitt said. "Thanks above all to the peoples of the Soviet Union and their Communist party, we can point with increasing pride to the new life that communism offers to all working people."

'New Perspectives'

He declared that "the amazing new perspectives" now opening up for the Russian people as a result of the recent Twentieth Congress of the Soviet Communist party would have "a tremendous effect throughout the whole world, especially on the working people in the capitalist countries."

It was at the Twentieth Congress that Stalin was attacked as a ruthless dictator and the doctrine was enunciated that there was more than one road to communism.

On the second point, Mr. Pollitt noted that the British Communists had adopted in 1952 a program that included the statement that Britain would reach socialism by her own road. This program said that Britain could "transform capitalist democracy into a real people's democracy" and Parliament into "the democratic instrument of the will of the vast majority of her people."

The closest anyone came to mentioning the explosion of the Stalin legend was a remark by William Gallacher, the party chairman, that the delegates would hear and discuss grievous errors.

Mr. Pollitt described the visit of Communist party chief Nikita S. Khrushchev and Premier Nikolai A. Bulganin to Britain next month as a great opportunity to reach an agreement that could be a significant contribution to the lessening of world tension and the preservation of peace.

He devoted most of his "political report" to a discussion of methods whereby the Communists could form a united front with the Labor party to defeat the Conservatives and form a new government.

The Labor party does not permit Communists to hold office in any of its units and it forbids these to take joint action with the Communists. The removal of these bans would go a long way "to the great objective of the working class—one united working-class party in Britain based on the principles of Marxism," Mr. Pollitt said.

He told the delegates that a campaign for new party members had raised the total from 32,681 in March, 1955, to 33,959 at present, and that the immediate goal was 50,000. The party does not have any members in Parliament but it exercises influence, greater than its numbers would seem to warrant, in some trade unions.

Italian Red Recants in Rome

Special to The New York Times.

ROME, March 30—The directorate of the Italian Communist party, after an emergency meeting last night, received a recantation from recalcitrant Senator Umberto Terracini.

In a meeting of his party's Senators on the previous day he had strongly criticized the Soviet Communist party for its repudiation of Stalin. What is more, he had attacked Palmiro Togliatti, head of the Italian Communist party.

Signor Terracini, in a statement that appeared today in the Communist newspaper *L'Unita*, accused the "bourgeois" press of listening at the keyhole.

Some newspapers in Rome recalled that as late as yesterday afternoon Signor Terracini was shown press accounts of the diatribe against the new Communist line he had uttered at the meeting of Communist Senators. He read it carefully, the papers said, and had no fault to find with it.

The party leadership here was obliged to acknowledge that the deflation of the Stalin legend was not sitting very well with the rank and file of the Italian Communist party. The poor showing made by the Communists in a shop steward election at the Fiat automobile plant in Turin yesterday, where they got little more than 30 per cent of the total vote, was attributed by *L'Unita* to the suddenness of the attacks on Stalin.

Maurice Thorez, the French Communist leader who is visiting in Rome, lunched today with several top Italian Communist leaders.

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