

# U. S. REDS SUPPORT SOVIET ON STALIN

## The American Party Adheres Somewhat Later Than Others to the Moscow Line

The American Communist party, a bit grudgingly and somewhat later than its fellow parties, toed the Moscow line on post-Stalin policy yesterday.

It released the text of a resolution of its National Committee, approved July 19, giving support to the policy followed by the Soviet Communist party in the wake of the downgrading of Stalin.

However, the American party's resolution was several degrees cooler in its backing of the Moscow line than those adopted by other foreign parties. It was announced after most of the important European Communist parties had already made known their position.

The resolution of the United States party contained, moreover, a cautious restatement of two critical points that had previously been cited against Moscow, one touching on "bureaucratic distortions" and the other dealing with the Soviet attitude toward Yiddish cultural institutions.

The careful wording of the declaration was believed to reflect substantial differences of opinion in the leadership group.

Following disclosure last March of the denunciation of Stalin by Nikita S. Khrushchev, Soviet party secretary, the American party was the first among the foreign parties to ask what the Soviet leaders had been doing while Stalin had been committing his crimes.

The party organ, *The Daily Worker*, took a lead in demanding why Moscow had not explained the anti-Semitic aspects of Stalin's purges.

The newspaper gave prominence to the views of Palmiro Togliatti, Italian Communist leader, who suggested that the Stalinist abuses had arisen from defeats within the Soviet system and from "degeneration" of certain aspects of Soviet society.

The resolution announced yesterday seemed to be a compromise document that, while approving the Moscow position, reiterated previous criticisms and restated the "right and duty" of Communists of all countries to engage in "friendly criticism."

The American party called the Soviet's party Central Committee resolution of June 30 "a most valuable and important contribution" that would assist Marxist groups of all countries and contribute to their "international solidarity." In the resolution, the Soviet party had sought to reply to earlier criticism by foreign Communist parties.

The language employed by the resolution appeared to support other indications that the American Communist leadership was divided into a stand-pat faction, led by William Z. Foster, party chairman; a middle-of-the-road group headed by Eugene Dennis, party secretary, and a group substantially more critical of Moscow, headed by John Gates, editor of *The Daily Worker*.

Mr. Foster took notice of reports of such a split in a rejoinder published in *The Daily Worker* yesterday. He called the reports "misleading and incorrect" but devoted most of his comments to justify his own position with regard to the Stalin disclosures.