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News Background

CURT- KHRUSHCHEV SCOLDS CHINESE "DOGMATISTS" USING TITOIST
ARGUMENTS

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F 150 Munich, June 25 (Stankovic) — Even though the official Yugoslav spokesman, Drago Kunc, yesterday and "Politika" (June 25) voiced their discontent with Khrushchev's anti-Yugoslav remarks in Bucharest on June 21, the Yugoslav leaders are obviously happy that the Soviet leader was compelled to fight Chinese "dogmatists" and "sectarians" by using strictly Titoist "revisionist" arguments.

It is a fact that what Nikita Khrushchev said in Bucharest on June 21 in connection with some "outdated" Leninist theoretical concepts is in accordance with the Yugoslav line taken openly in January 1957.

On the 33rd anniversary of Lenin's death, Punisa Perovic, a member of the Yugoslav Central Committee, published in "Borba" of 21 January 1957 an article questioning for the first time Moscow's so-called application of Leninism to modern society. Perovic admitted that the slogan "back to Leninism" had "quite a definite progressive meaning" but, on the other hand, "here lurks the danger of a new dogmatization of Lenin" which, in Perovic's opinion, was confirmed by the events in Hungary and Poland in 1956.

Perovic said (in 1957) that "more than 30 years had passed since Lenin died, and more than 60 since he formulated certain tasks of the proletariat of his country or tasks of the workers' movement in general. During this time many changes of epoch-making importance have occurred in the world..."

"Not To Grasp at Lenin's Every Phrase..."

More than three years before Khrushchev made his speech in Bucharest, Perovic said in "Borba" article of 21 January 1957, that "in his practical policy Lenin did not reckon with changes to occur within 30 years, but with changes to occur within three years or less.

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150 In Marxism-Leninism there is something which is eternal, that constitutes the spirit and sense of the work, and there is something that is momentary, fleeting, something that coincides with the requirements of immediate practical work. Consequently we would be extremely naive if we were to grasp at Lenin's every phrase... This is what is being done often today..."

What did Nikita Khrushchev say in this connection in his Bucharest speech. Dealing with the problem of imperialism, Khrushchev said that "some of Lenin's theses on imperialism refer to a period when there was neither the Soviet Union nor other socialist states." In this connection Khrushchev added that "one cannot mechanically repeat now what Vladimir Iljych said many decades ago on imperialism.. One cannot ignore the specific situation, the changes in the corrti of forces in the world and repeat what the great Lenin said in quite different historical conditions. If Lenin could rise from his grave he would take such people, as one says, to task and would teach them how one must understand the essence of the matter..."

The Titoists have believed all along that "if Lenin could rise from his grave" he would certainly approve the Yugoslav road to socialism. But Khrushchev does not agree and attacks the Yugoslavs for revisionism.

In the aforementioned January 1957 article Perovic also dealt with the problem of appraising contemporary imperialism, as did Khrushchev in Bucharest. Here is what Perovic said:

"If anyone wants to explain the state of affairs and relationships in present-day capitalism, he does not go further than the analyses and conclusions of Lenin in his well-known work, 'Imperialism as The Final Stage of Capitalism', although he wrote this work 40 years ago! This does not mean that Lenin's discoveries are incorrect, but the one may ask whether they are sufficient today and whether further research and new discoveries should not be made..."

Khrushchev Almost Repeats Perovic's Words

In Bucharest Khrushchev said about the same problem: "We live at a time when we have no Marx, or Engels, or Lenin with us. If we act like children who, studying the alphabet, compile words from letters, we shall not go very far. Marx, Engels, Lenin created their immortal works which will not fade away in centuries. They point out to mankind the road to Communism. And we confidently follow this road. On the basis of the teaching of Marxism-Leninism we must think

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150 ourselves, profoundly study life, analyze the present situation and draw the conclusions which benefit the common cause of Communism. One must not be able to read but also correctly understand what one has read and apply it in the specific conditions of the time in which we live, taking into consideration the obtaining situation, and the real balance of forces..."

From the very beginning of their "separate road to socialism" the Yugoslav leaders have claimed they were "correctly applying" Marxism-Leninism to contemporary conditions. This is also seen from Perovic's article which did not say it openly but indirectly alleged that Titoism is this "new discovery" made in Marxism-Leninism, a "discovery" which was being suppressed by the followers of Stalin whose "relations to Leninism," Perovic said, "are a separate chapter in the history of distortion and dogmatization of Lenin's work, and thus of Marxism-Leninism as a whole..."

All this is seen by the Yugoslavs as another proof that their way has been correct and that all the Soviet bloc leaders, including Khrushchev, must -- sooner or later -- take it as the only correct way.

End

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