

1957

News Background

C-37

RUSS - YUGOSLAV REACTION TO KHRUSHCHEV INTERVIEW

X / +10  
Munich, June 7 -- (STANKOVIC) -- Yugoslav press reaction to the KHRUSHCHEV interview recently shown to American television audiences is chiefly based on the TASS official version of the interview, omitting KHRUSHCHEV's statement that there were no antagonistic contradictions between the Soviet leaders and Soviet peoples.

On the other hand, however, Yugoslav Communists have been quick to stress those sections of the interview in which the Soviet CP Secretary General talked of the correctness of the thesis of various roads to socialism and commended the principle of co-existence.

Thus, for instance, "Borba" of June 5 carried a comment by J. ALMULI entitled "'We Must Co-Exist'" -- the words used by KHRUSHCHEV in his TV interview. ALMULI said that when talking of co-existence between East and West, KHRUSHCHEV had obviously "wanted to see it take a more active form". (KHRUSHCHEV did not use the word "active" at all, but it is well known that TITO propagates the principle of "active co-existence" which is alleged to be something different from "mere" co-existence.)

ALMULI also said that "a special place in KHRUSHCHEV's interview is occupied by his statements on the possibility and inevitability of various roads to socialism and on the relations between socialist authority and people. Discussing the example of China, KHRUSHCHEV stressed that he thought that it was quite normal and in accordance with Marxism-Leninism that the Chinese were implementing their own ideas in socialist construction..."

KHRUSHCHEV's statement that he was not afraid of the Communist regimes in Poland, Hungary, Rumania and East Germany collapsing if Soviet troops were withdrawn from these countries, ALMULI considers to be "of a great importance". He sees in KHRUSHCHEV's claim that the people in these East European countries would then defend the social system in their countries "even more" than they have done so in the presence of the Soviet troops further evidence that "the task of perfecting the new social system in socialist countries" has been given due attention. This task, in ALMULI's opinion, "also includes a correct solution to the question of mutual relations between socialist countries".

What ALMULI seems to be reflecting here is the Yugoslav belief that KHRUSHCHEV's optimism as regards the East European countries and their communist regimes could only be justified if these regimes were "perfected" i.e. freed from their Stalinist features.

End

1301