YUGOSLAVIA
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TITO SPEECH AT THE EIGHTH PARTY
CONGRESS IN BELGRADE

A strong anti-Chinese attitude, recognition of Nikita Khrushchev's achievements, the claim that relations between Communist Parties "still retain elements of the Stalinist era," and the insistence that all Communist Parties must be independent in their actions -- these are the four chief points in the first part of Tito's speech which dealt with the situation within the international Communist movement.

In the second part, Tito covered the internal situation in Yugoslavia with special emphasis on nationality problems and on "negative phenomena" among the country's youth.

Before 1,453 delegates, representing more than one million Yugoslav Party members, and about 30 foreign delegations, including a Soviet CP delegation headed by Presidium candidate Demichev, Marshal Tito opened the Eighth Congress of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia in Belgrade on 7 December 1964.

After the Presidium of the Congress had been elected and the foreign guests greeted, Tito took the rostrum to deliver a 20,000-word speech. He began by calling for the elimination of all negative phenomena in Yugoslavia "in a more courageous way" and added that the Eighth Party
Congress should contribute much to "clearing the road." He insisted that if the basic principles of the Yugoslav Party Program -- adopted at the Seventh Party Congress in April 1958 and termed "an out-and-out revisionist Program" by the Soviet and other Communist Parties -- were properly implemented, such negative phenomena would disappear. Tito admitted that "some views" expressed in the Party Program had become outdated and should be changed. However, he stressed that the Yugoslav Communists had never claimed that their Program "was faultless" and should be "an example for the others." This Program had been written solely for the Yugoslav Communists, Tito said.

After having stressed "internal successes" in Yugoslavia, which had greatly contributed to increasing respect for Yugoslavia throughout the world, Tito turned to the world situation. He claimed that it was much better today than in the past, but attacked "certain reactionary forces" in the world which still believed that colonialism was not dead. As positive aspects of the present-day situation Tito cited such things as the "evolutionary process in the West," the Moscow agreement on nuclear tests and the peaceful solution of the Cuban crisis. He called for the extension of the Moscow agreement, for the creation of an atom-free zone in Central Europe and for an end to the fighting in Vietnam and the Congo.

The longest section of the first part of his speech was devoted to the policy of the non-aligned countries. Tito praised and defended them, and insisted that the conferences of the non-aligned countries in Belgrade (1961) and Cairo (1964) were of historic importance. To be sure, Yugoslavia had not been able to help these countries, for she herself was an underdeveloped country, but had nevertheless been of great value for them as a partner. Today, he said, there were about 1,000 students from Asia, Africa and Latin America in Yugoslavia, half of them holding Yugoslav scholarships. About 800 Yugoslav experts were working in various Asian, African and Latin American countries, mostly in Africa. Thus far Yugoslavia had granted these countries about 360 million dollars in loans, at a 3 per cent interest rate over a 7 to 10 year period.

Situation Within Communist Movement

With the exception of China, Albania, North Vietnam and North Korea, Yugoslavia maintained good relations with all Communist countries, Tito said. Especially good relations
were maintained with the Soviet Union. These relations were based on the principle of equality and friendship.

Speaking of the situation within the "Socialist camp," Tito praised its "further democratization" and the "gradual liquidation of the dogmatic Stalinist chains." Many changes had taken place in the international workers' movement, Tito noted, and most members of this movement had thus "adopted new methods of struggle, abandoning those which were suited to the period of the Third International and the era of capitalist encirclement." He then continued:

By gradually freeing itself from non-democratic methods for achieving unity of action, the methods which were characteristic for the Stalin and Cominform years, the international workers' movement is to an even greater extent affirming the independence of action of the individual countries within it as a generally valid principle and as a precondition for every kind of unity and cooperation...

Chinese Failed to Impress Russians With Atomic Bomb

Tito repeated the old Yugoslav thesis that "it would be wrong to view the conflict which has developed within the international workers' movement solely as an internal problem of this movement." This conflict had not been the result only of a struggle between the Soviet Union and China" but above all of "different approaches to the solution of the even sharper contradictions which shake the world today and threaten to develop into a world conflict."

The new polarization within the international Communist movement had mainly been created not only by the differing views on war and peace, but also by the "differing views on the necessity for greater autonomy and independence of Communist and Socialist Parties, and by the attempts made to conserve the old formulas for unity and cooperation, handicapped by the ideas of hegemony and non-equality." For this reason, Tito believes that no compromise is possible between the two poles of the world Communist movement:
The confrontation of different views and policies within the international workers' movement, and the settling of accounts with the pseudo-revolutionary and sectarian views of the leadership of the Chinese CP lead one even more strongly to the conclusion that it is illusory to believe in the overcoming of the conflict by means of any compromise and by means of the artificial appeasement of opposite tendencies which are now in conflict.

Tito showed understanding for China's internal troubles, especially in the economy, and he recognized China's right to a seat in the United Nations, but stressed that a distinction should be drawn between rights and "the great power aims and hegemonic methods of the Chinese leaders."

As far as Chinese aspirations within the world Communist movement are concerned, Tito claimed that the Chinese leaders would like to transfer "the center of the international workers' movement to Peking. Peking's presentation of the current conflict between China and the rest of the Communist world "as solely an ideological conflict" was designed only to camouflage the real Chinese aims. For even though the Chinese had continually insisted on the purity of Marxism and Leninism, they had not hesitated, "in the most non-dogmatic way," if their interests were served, to try to form a kind of "third force with certain capitalistic countries, to provoke frontier conflicts and to advance large-scale territorial claims." The Chinese leaders "have not denied the necessity for the existence of a leading country within the international workers' movement, but what they have denied is the ability of the Soviet Union to play such a role," he stated.

In Tito's opinion, the Chinese believed that the explosion of their atom bomb "would influence the Soviet government and Party to change completely their present foreign and internal policies and return to the policies of the Stalinist era." Tito then continued:

After their expectations were not fulfilled, the Chinese leaders intensified the attacks in their press even against the present leaders
of the Soviet CP and Government. True, these attacks have thus far been indirect, but it is still easy enough to see who is meant. The chief target of these attacks is still the former Secretary of the Soviet Central Committee and Premier, Comrade Khrushchev, Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev, whose resignation was accepted by the Presidium and the plenum of the Soviet Central Committee. In the Chinese periodical Red Flag the well-known anti-Khrushchev pamphlet was published. It is full of the most insulting terms, by means of which not only Khrushchev, who for more than ten years was the head of the Government and the Party in the Soviet Union is insulted, but also the whole Soviet CP and the whole Soviet people.

Khrushchev's Achievements Praised

Accepting the Soviets' official explanation about Khrushchev's ouster but not the Soviet line on the former leader, Tito had the following to say about Khrushchev:

Although in the past few years Comrade Khrushchev had certain failures and made certain mistakes, he played, while at the head of the Party and Government, a great role with respect to de-Stalinization and the free expression of the citizens; he is also to be given great credit for the preservation of peace in the world as well as for the containment of various imperialist actions, as for instance, in the period of the Suez crisis, in the crisis over Cuba, etc. On this occasion, I must emphasize that Khrushchev should be given great credit for the normalization and improvement of relations between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. Of course, in doing this he was not alone; there were also the Central Committee of the Soviet CP, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government. However, neither the Soviet leadership nor the Soviet people deny him credit in these problems.
In the concluding section of the first part of his speech, Tito dealt with the form of the relations among Communist countries and Parties. In his opinion "today real ideological ferment can be exploited by no one," because it has been "the result of great changes both in the world and within the international workers' movement." For this reason, "the more persistently one establishes and practically implements the antidogmatic platform in foreign policy and in the relations among socialist countries and Communist Parties -- in which there are still elements of the Stalinist era -- the sooner will the existing conflict be freed of the appearance of a mere conflict within the international workers' movement and of an isolated antagonism between China and the Soviet Union."

In Tito's opinion, "the existence of any center directing all the actions and the whole activity of the international workers' movement is harmful." The old ideas of Stalin and Mao concerning the leadership in the world revolutionary movement "have come into sharp conflict with the increased political and moral responsibility of each Party toward its own people." Tito continued:

For this reason the current demands for autonomy and independence of each country in its actions do not arise from discrimination to a specific way of thinking but, rather, indicate primarily the real present-day necessity for independent and responsible action in harmony with the conditions in each country. Internationalism is not contradicted by differences arising from specific internal conditions on the basis of which every Party should act. Internationalism does not begin where autonomy and independence end. A realistic approach, revolutionary unity and socialist solidarity must be based on a community of interests and views arising from full independence and responsibility of each individual Party...

Tito claimed that "total unity" within the international Communist movement has never existed. He advocated "discussion and even constructive polemics among individual Parties" and said that "differences in views will not inflict any harm on the international workers' movement."
In this connection, he stated that the League of Communists of Yugoslavia would "support every form of exchange of opinions and joint cooperation" based on the solidarity of all the forces genuinely fighting for peace, democracy and socialism. The Yugoslav Communists, Tito said, would attempt not to give the Chinese any reason for attacking Yugoslavia, but they would always be ready "to answer and discuss in a principled way with the Chinese leaders," avoiding insulting language.

Nationality Problem Creating Difficulties

Following a thirty-minute pause, Tito continued his speech before the Eighth Party Congress with a discussion of the internal situation in Yugoslavia. The workers' self-management system and the difficulties in developing it were mentioned at the outset of this part of Tito's report. He said that the self-management system still encountered many difficulties mainly because of the "forcing of investments by political authorities." He claimed that various communes in Yugoslavia had ignored the organs of the workers' self-management, while many Communists "resist decisions already taken."

But it was the nationality problem in Yugoslavia that was given the chief attention in this part of Tito's speech. He mentioned that top people in the Party's Central Committee after World War I had fought over the nationality problem. Eventually, "the Marxist-Leninist views" had gained the upper hand. Here Tito was obviously thinking of his own assumption of power in the Yugoslav CP in 1937. Although he claimed that "the nationality problem was solved in the most democratic way" before and during the last war, he nevertheless admitted that this problem still caused much trouble:

There are people, even Communists, who are fed up with this powerful slogan /of Brotherhood and Unity/ of our liberation struggle; these people believe that in our socialist development, nationalities have already become outdated and should wither away. They confuse the unity of the people with the liquidation of nations and the creation of something new, artificial, namely a unified Yugoslav nation. This smacks of assimilation and bureaucracy, centralism, unitarianism, etc...
Tito sees most of the troubles in the fact that
Yugoslavia is an underdeveloped country. When, in such
a country, administrative-bureaucratic tendencies become
predominant, the "chauvinistic elements we inherited
from the old pre-war Yugoslavia flare up in individual
cases." These people "have amply exploited such weaknesses,
and sometimes individual Communists are fooled by their
tricks." Tito claimed that chauvinistic phenomena can be
found everywhere: in culture, economy, sciences and
"especially in historiography." However, he asserted,
if economic problems are solved properly, many other
problems will also be solved. He called on the Yugoslav
Communists to "persist in their internationalism...within
their own country." For "internationalism in one's own
country does not mean unitarianism, does not mean the
denial of nationalities and ethnic groups." If the Commu-
nists want to solve these problems, they themselves must be
united. On the other hand, the workers' self-management
system represents "the greatest obstacle to nationalism
and hegemony."

Turning to the particularly numerous chauvinistic
phenomena in current Yugoslav Communist historiography,
Tito said:

Very often we come across non-Marxist,
non-critical and non-scientific appraisals
of past events and personalities of our
national history. In some cases there has
been a direct adoption of certain bourgeois
nationalistic appraisals. For instance,
only positive aspects of certain events are
stressed. Their negative aspects are gener-
ally not discussed, or discussion of them is
conducted in general terms and timid fashion.
Furthermore, there have been, although not
too often, instances of extolling in a
special way the superior importance of the
history and culture of one nation compared
with the history and culture of another.

Tito added that "scientific disputes" sometimes assume
the form of political disputes, and then their solution is
sought along the line of political compromises." Tito
demanded the liquidation "of any shadow of national dis-
crimination" and above all full rights for the "various
ethnic groups" in Yugoslavia, i.e. for national minorities.
He suggested the introduction of good relations with all neighboring countries, sons and daughters of which live today in Yugoslavia as Yugoslav citizens. They should become a bridge of friendship and agreement between Yugoslavia and these countries, rather than a bone of contention, as was the case in the past.

In the concluding section of his speech, Tito dealt with the problem of youth. He admitted that "the work of the League of Communists among the youth was very weak." Young persons are more inclined than old ones to be intolerant and dissatisfied, because they tend much more easily to dramatize things. Though there have been cases of hooliganism, Yugoslav youth is in general "socialist youth," Tito claimed.

There is a factor which creates special trouble in Yugoslavia: the separation between intellectual and working youth. "A section of youth would like to become 'gospodin' (in the sense of identifying themselves with some kind of upper-class group). The general esteem in which education is held contributes greatly to this separation, because a young man who has completed any type of education has a better chance of becoming a white-collar worker, and thus earning more than a worker in a factory.

Conclusion:

Tito's speech at the Eighth Congress in Belgrade has not revealed anything unusual. The problems he dealt with were those he had been expected to discuss. For the most part, all the topics he touched upon will be discussed later by the various Congress Commissions, the most interesting of which will be the one slated to discuss the nationality problem. Tito's attacks on the Chinese had also been expected, as was even his attempt to accept the official Moscow explanation of Khrushchev's dismissal, without accepting the Kremlin's official line on Khrushchev's alleged sins.

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