

REDS' VIEWS HERE VARIED ON STALIN

State Communist Leader Talks to Group on Line Produced by Moscow

Soviet attacks on Stalin have produced three sharply different trends of opinion among American Communists and their sympathizers, the chairman of the New York State Communist party said last night.

George Blake Charney, the Communist leader, said one element, which he termed "considerable," wanted "to defend Stalin" against the Soviet attacks. A second group seeks the destruction "of what they call the Stalin myth," Mr. Charney said, and a third group wishes to take a "balanced view" recognizing Stalin's accomplishments but also taking account of his "weaknesses."

Stressing that he was speaking "tentatively," but after "discussions in the national and state leadership," Mr. Charney supported the "balanced view" of Stalin. He spoke at the Yugoslav Hall, 405 West Forty-first Street, before an audience of 500. He indicated the meeting was essentially one of Communist party "functionaries" or officials.

Evident Support

It was evident that Stalin had strong support in the audience. Mr. Charney got one of his few big rounds of applause when he declared: "There is no doubt great achievements will be associated with Stalin's name." In addition several of the questions raised during the brief question period seemed to indicate sympathy with Stalin, while one question pointedly asked where the present Soviet leaders were when Stalin was committing his alleged misdeeds as dictator of Russia.

"Why do they believe all that nonsense in the capitalist press against Stalin?" one young girl Communist was overheard asking her companion.

Mr. Charney confessed that the American Communist party had made "great mistakes" in the past and promised "the freest possible discussion" in all party groups to evaluate the new situation. He said that the first convention of the Communist party in this country is planned shortly to draw up a new party line in the light of the decisions Moscow took at last month's twentieth Soviet party congress.

Mr. Charney received greatest applause, in what was for the most part a not very enthusiastic or noisy meeting, when he promised that American Communists will not be expelled or otherwise punished in the future for insisting on expressing their own views.

'Isolation' Referred To

Mr. Charney followed closely the line laid down by Nikita S. Khrushchev and other Soviet leaders at last month's Moscow congress, and hailed the guidance given by the Soviet party congress for the formulation of the American Communist line.

Following the Moscow line, he made clear, the American Communists will emphasize "united front" tactics in the future and will seek to end what he admitted was their "isolation" from liberal and progressive groups in this country.

Mr. Charney, whose trial under the Smith Act is scheduled for April 9, hailed the Moscow congress for what he claimed was its justification of what he said is the American Communist position, that socialism can be brought to this country by peaceful means through elections.

Outside the hall, representatives of two Trotskyite factions, long opponents of Stalinism and Stalinist communism, handed out copies of Trotskyite newspapers to those entering the meeting. Some in the audience threw the papers away on entering the hall; others read the papers with seeming interest even while the meeting was on.