

RESOLUTION OF THE CC CPI ON 'THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE PERSONALITY CULT IN THE CPSU'

(Adopted at a meeting July 1-12, 1956)

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of India discussed the situation created in the wake of the publication by the Department of State of the United States of America purportedly of the report which was read by com. Khrushchev at the special meeting at the XXth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. The Central Committee also examined the resolution approved by the Central Committee of the CPSU on 30, June. The facts mentioned in the report came as a big shock for the communists and millions of progressive people in the world. They show that along with extraordinary successes in the construction of socialism in the USSR, during the last period in the life of Com. J.V. Stalin there have been cases of distortion of Soviet democracy, violation of socialist legality as a result of excesses and despotism, and even of norms of internal party life.

The Central Committee of the Communists Party of India considers that, taking note of the gravity of the mistakes and accounting for the scale of the damage, it became necessary to take strong measures for the correcting of and compensating for the damage inflicted. It was necessary to conduct a resolute struggle against the personality cult that is alien to the spirit of Marxism-Leninism, and the intensification of which played an important role in creating the conditions in which these mistakes were committed. The personality cult weakened the role of the masses and the party and obstructed them from taking initiative. Having defined for itself the aim of achieving these tasks the CC CPSU has made a big contribution to the mission of socialism.

The resolution of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union also examines the historical and the social conditions that facilitated the furtherance of Stalin's cult. The historical conditions – the hostile capitalist encirclement, fascism's growth and the threat of invasion of the Soviet Union demanded cast-iron discipline, centralisation of the leadership and a degree of limiting of democracy – can be justified. In presence of these conditions some negative features in the personality of Com. Stalin begin to develop and gradually lead to the emergence of the personality cult and suspension of collective leadership that brought in its wake negative consequences. Evidently, Com. Stalin bears the main responsibility for the distortion of Soviet democracy and the violation of intra party norms. It is indisputable too, that in the later period of his life the personality cult assumed colossal proportions. Fully recognising the negative dimensions and serious shortcomings that developed in the Stalinist methods of administration, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India considers that the one-sided assessment of his role for the last 20 years of his life – years of great achievements in the USSR and the international communist movement evokes doubts in the minds of the masses and can be used by the enemies of communism to frighten them.

Therefore, the Central Committee thinks that an unbiased assessment of the life and work of Comrade Stalin, of the great achievements of Comrade Stalin and his serious shortcomings, is needed to successfully combat against the personality cult and to effectively overcome the ensuing confusion.

The Central Committee thinks that the excessive praising of the personality and the role of Comrade Stalin, which became a usual practice during his life, also needs to be explained. It is also necessary to give a more elaborate analysis of the reasons giving rise to despotism and excesses and only then will it be possible to form an objective assessment of the personality cult. To attribute all the shortcomings and wilful actions to one person is not in accordance with the Marxist-Leninist norms of historical objectiveness.

Disclosures included in the report of Comrade Khrushchev have been used by the imperialists and other enemies of the working people to condemn the Soviet Union and destroy the trust of the people in the socialist system. The resolution of the Central Committee of the CPSU of 30th June correctly elucidates the machination of these enemies and emphasises the need to be true to the ideology of Marxism-Leninism and to proletarian internationalism. The enemies of the working class are trying by all means to persuade the people that the violations of Soviet democracy and excesses are inherent in the socialist system. There is a grave danger that this propaganda may influence many honest and progressive people and the Communist Party of India thinks it is necessary to expose and fight these machinations.

Hardly 40 years have passed since the victory of the proletarian revolution in Russia. In this period the Soviet Union has been transformed from a backward country into one of the most developed countries, from the Tsarist Empire to a country of victorious socialism.

During this period one third of humanity has been liberated from the oppression of capitalism and socialism has grown into a world system. While the capitalist world is in the throes of a deepening crisis consigning hundreds of millions of people to poverty, unemployment and cultural backwardness, the socialist world has witnessed gigantic successes in all the spheres. The example of the socialist world and its positive actions have made a deep impact on the whole course of human history. If now we have the possibility of avoiding war, peaceful transition to socialism of a number of states, if for the countries of the former colonial world new possibilities of independent economic development have opened up then the crucial factor in all of this has been the growing economic, political and moral stature of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries as well as policies that they have pursued. It will not be an exaggeration to assert that never in the history of the world has so much been achieved over so vast a territory in so short a time.

It is clear that any system for which such violations and distortions were inescapable could have sparked the creative energy of hundreds of millions on a scale not witnessed before and bring about such unprecedented social transformation.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of India is convinced that the opponents of socialism and those who want to malign the Soviet Union, though, may temporarily sow confusion, cannot subvert the growing popularity of the idea of socialism in our country and cannot weaken the ties of Indo-Soviet friendship.

The XXth Congress of the CPSU standing on the great achievements of the past and guided by the all victorious ideas of Marxism-Leninism has charted out the course of further development. The decisions of the Congress and the actions following from them have made a great impact on the whole world and have considerably strengthened the movement for peace, democracy and socialism. The mistakes and the excesses made in the USSR are not the consequences of the principles of Marxism-Leninism or the Soviet system, but of turning away from them in different aspects. This happened in the background of great victories of socialist reconstruction carried out in times of extraordinary difficulties. There can be no doubts that thanks to such actions that are carried out to combat and exclude the shortcomings that cropped up during this period, and thanks to further efforts based on a rigorous analysis of past events, the Soviet society will move ahead in all the spheres and bring about sustained growth of socialist democracy. The enemies of socialism asserted that socialism is based on restriction of thought and represents negation of the free spirit which is the source of individual initiative. The socialist society is capable of guaranteeing complete freedom of conscience and freedom of the individual because it removes exploitation of man by man and creates conditions in which the freedom of the individual can exist unceasingly. The successes of the socialist transformation in the economic life make possible to a greater extent the broadening of the sphere of individual freedom and creation of effective guarantees against violations of this freedom.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of India feels the need to underline that for the success of socialism it is necessary to adhere to the principles of socialist democracy and to unceasingly strengthen it.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of India attaches great importance to maintaining and strengthening of individual freedom and freedom in general under socialism.

The Central Committee is convinced that the international communist movement will make use of the experience of the Soviet Union and will take effective measures to defend and strengthen democracy in all the spheres. Though socialism has become the common goal of all progressive humanity in our times, each country will take towards achieving this goal its own course.

Strictly adhering to the principles of Marxism-Leninism, the Communist Party of India strives to achieve this goal – socialism, by basing itself on the national traditions and the specific features of our country. Adherence to the principles of Marxism-Leninism, the Communist Party of India wants achieve this goal – socialism, on the basis of national traditions and the specific features of our country. Commitment to the principles of Marxism-Leninism, the main aim – socialism and struggle for peace, democracy and defence of national independence

form the basis of proletarian internationalism and of fraternal cooperation among the communist and workers' parties. This cooperation which is based on sharing of experience, freedom to criticism and self-criticism and independence of national parties is necessary for the socialist movement. The Communist Party of India will do everything in order to help the strengthening of the ties of proletarian internationalism.

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Doklad N.S. *Khrushcheva o kul'te lichnosti Stalina na XX S"ezde KPSS, Dokymenty*, red. K. Ayemermakher, Rosspen, Moskva, 2002, pp. 768-773.

Translated from the Russian by Tahir Asghar.