

THE WORLD DISCUSSION ON BASIC POLICY QUESTIONS

I have already indicated the significance of the discussion on basic policy questions which is now going on. Before we dig deeper into the discussion, let us clear up some related issues.

We Will Discuss Basic Issues

Speaking at the Sixth Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of the German Democratic Republic, Comrade N. S. Khrushchev, after emphasizing that "solid unity of the world Communist movement is the most important condition for our success in the struggle for peace and socialism throughout the world," also stated that the Central Committee of the "Communist Party of the Soviet Union would consider it useful now to call a halt to polemics between Communist Parties, to stop criticizing other parties inside one's Party and allow some time for the passions to subside." He discussed and elaborated on this proposal.

We welcome these proposals. We would also be happy if the present level of the discussion were limited to the basic questions free of subjective and slanderous name-calling, such as the utterly irresponsible charge of "Munich" made against the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

While we welcome every effort "to halt the polemics" and to cut down the debate, we find we cannot and should not cut down on the discussion of issues and policies in our country. When the editorial, "Differences Between Comrade Togliatti and Us," was published in the *Washington Post* and became a point of discussion by anti-Communist columnists throughout the country we could not remain silent. This was all the more true because the editorial assailed the policies of our Party. We cannot allow anybody to present a caricature of our Party policy to the American people. In our country there are small but irresponsible sects and groups who have gone all-out in their attempt to use this world discussion as a lever in their struggle against the Communist Party and its policies. They have set themselves up as the distributing agencies for all divisive material. They distort the discussion and use it in a

completely irresponsible manner. These sects are anti-Communist and are not interested in supporting the Marxists of China, Albania or any other country; they are not interested in bringing about a new unity in the world Marxist movement. They are only interested in using the discussion for their own disruptive and anti-Communist purposes. We cannot permit the slanders of these groups to go unanswered.

Part of the Background

The differences are not only of recent origin. At all times, there was a serious effort to resolve the differences. This was the basis for the *Declaration of the 12 Parties* adopted at the Moscow conference in 1957 and the *81-Party Statement* adopted in 1960.

From 1956 to the present date, the Albanians have used every possible occasion to provoke public discussion. This pattern includes their behavior at, and immediately after, the 81-Party Conference. At one of their receptions here, the Albanians converted an informal exchange of greetings with some of our comrades into a two-hour denunciation of the Soviet Union, during which the Albanians became so slanderous and abusive that our comrades had to walk out on them. This took place a few months after publication of the *81-Party Statement*.

The dogmatists in the world debate have used their publications in many languages and every other means of correspondence, including interviews with respected writers on numerous radio programs, to aggravate those differences.

Anna Louise Strong has written a series of letters and articles directed at us in the United States as part of this campaign. Her latest letter makes the vicious charge that "the two K's" are plotting against Cuba. Her letters are another device for violating the norms of "inner family" discussion.

Bring an End to Slander

The October crisis in the Caribbean brought the slanderous charges to a new stage. The dogmatists distorted the events and charged the Soviet Union with a "Munich"—"the sacrifice of another country's sovereignty as a means of reaching a compromise with