

Dennis Reprint Stirs Washington, Press

Widespread debate and considerable astonishment marks reactions in Washington and by the press to the reprinting by Pravda, Soviet Communist Party newspaper, of an article by Eugene Dennis on the special report of Nikita Khrushchev to the 20th Congress of the Soviet C. P.

Newspapers here pointed out that through this means the Soviet leaders informed the Soviet people that Khrushchev's report had been published abroad and that Communists abroad were asking pointed questions about what the present Soviet leaders had done under the Stalin regime.

The N. Y. World-Telegram in an editorial yesterday afternoon was embarrassed by Dulles' statement that Communists are reacting independently. It argued: "Until we are convincingly shown different, we think it's safer to assume the whole thing is a put-up job."

But yesterday's Mirror (Hearst) said editorially this was only a possibility, and it agreed with Dulles, adding that "the spectacle of American, Italian, French and English Reds putting Khrushchev



DENNIS

on the quiz spot, is the best entertainment of the day."

A dispatch to the N. Y. Herald-Tribune from Washington yesterday was headlined: "Washington Jolted by Pravda Reprint." The story said: "American diplomats reacted with astonishment to the (Continued on Page 7)

Your Questions Answered OR Your Answers Questioned

By ALAN MAX

Washington and the press are in an uproar.

How explain Togliatti? How explain Eugene Dennis? How explain Khrushchev?

It seems to be Secretary Dulles against his assistants, editorial writer against editorial writer, columnist against columnist, political party against political party.

Here are some of the questions that are creating sleepless nights in the capital:

Are the Communist movements getting weaker by the day—or stronger by the week?

Has the Kremlin relaxed controls—or is it just relaxed?

Is this a crisis in Moscow planning—or did Moscow plan the crisis?

Is it good news for John Foster Dulles—or for William Z. Foster?

Is it a case, as the papers said last week, of:

"MOSCOW JOLTED BY STATE DEPT REPRINT"—or as the New York Herald Tribune said Wednesday:

"WASHINGTON JOLTED BY 'PRAVDA' REPRINT."

Have the Communist parties disagreed on agreeing—or have they agreed on disagreeing?

Is it a case of un-coordinated coordination—or of coordinated un-coordination?

For years Washington has been demanding evidence of Communist independence. Now that the evidence is unmistakable, Washington is demanding a bottle of aspirin.

Dennis

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news from Moscow that 'pravda' had reprinted an article from the New York 'Daily Worker' demanding an explanation of what Russia's present leaders may have done to curb Stalin's terror."

The varied reactions by Communists all over the world made it difficult for the Tribune to maintain its original interpretation that "Khrushchev planned it so."

In a cable from Moscow by its correspondent Jack Raymond, the N. Y. Times yesterday implied that Pravda had deleted a section of Dennis' article which referred to "snuffing out the lives of more than a score of Jewish cultural figures."

An Associated Press dispatch from Moscow carried in the N. Y. Daily News and in hundreds of papers throughout the country said the publication of the Dennis article "caused a sensation" there. The AP article continued: "It was the first time the current leadership has been publicly criticized in Russia, even by implication."

There was widespread speculation in newspapers that this move by Pravda foreshadowed further explanation by Soviet leaders of what had happened under Stalin.

The general impact of the reaction was to underline how greatly the independence of judgment and action by Communists had been stimulated by the re-evaluation of the Stalin era.

The N. Y. Times dispatch from Moscow noted that Pravda had not yet published the recent Togliatti interview on the same subject, or other critical statements by various Communist Parties. Then it added:

"But the Dennis article raised profound questions similar to those raised by the others.

"Did the present Soviet leaders try to change anything? Was all that happened inevitable? Was it inherent in the ruling political philosophy? How great and serious are the changes now taking place?"

The Times story said "questions of this nature regarding the top leaders are unprecedented in the Soviet journalism of today." It suggested this may foreshadow the publication of the Khrushchev text in Soviet newspapers.