

Miss Strong Talks on Khrushchev's Report.

By ELIZABETH LAWSON

THE CURRENT reappraisal of the Stalin era will be helpful in building the progressive movement the world over, and is a great step toward building socialism everywhere and advancing the cause of peace, declared Anna Louise Strong to a packed audience Tuesday night. The meeting was held under the auspices of the National Council of American - Soviet Friendship.

Miss Strong, who was herself a victim of Beria's political police, was expelled from the Soviet



ANNA LOUISE STRONG

Union in 1949 on framed charges of "espionage." After the execution of Beria and the death of Stalin, the charge against her was repudiated by the Soviet leadership and she was once more recognized as one of the foremost friends of the Soviet Union abroad.

Any security police that operates without law and without due process is a dangerous thing, Miss Strong said. Progressives justified it, but must be careful of ever justifying it again.

Long before the hour scheduled for the meeting, people were turned away from the doors of the Pythian because of the intense interest in the views of a woman who has to her credit innumerable books, pamphlets, and articles on the Soviet Union and on China.

"No final appraisal of the Stalin era can be made for years, perhaps for decades," the speaker stated. "The speech by Nikita Khrushchev, made at a secret session of the twentieth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, was released to the press, not by the CPSU, but by the U.S. State Department, which purloined it somewhere in Eastern Europe. It was admittedly only part of the full speech."

"IT BEARS every evidence of having originated with Khrushchev; it is so repetitious that it may well be only a first draft; it was not put forward as the final conclusion of the Soviet Party."

"Khrushchev warned that this speech must not be given to the press. However, the U.S. State Department hurried to print it for its own reasons. In this connection, we must realize the Secretary of State John Foster Dulles has been caught off balance by the Geneva conference, and the giant steps towards peace since then, and by the fact that no war is in the offing and that the Soviet bloc is moving from strength and holds the initiative."

A carefully reasoned estimate of the Stalin period, Miss Strong de-

clared, is contained in the statement of the Chinese Communist Party, which is a collective document. She reminded her audience of the contents of this document: that Stalin in his early years did great work in guiding the industrialization of the Soviet Union and in other fields, but that as time went on he became autocratic and dictatorial; that during his regime excesses occurred in the fight against his adversaries; that he failed to take precautions on the eve of war; that he made errors in guiding agriculture and in directing the Soviet Union's relations with other socialist states, especially Yugoslavia.

Whatever the U.S. government may say publicly, Miss Strong emphasized, it is deeply disturbed by the Soviet discussion because it is a guarantee of progress and a promise that, in all probability, wars can be permanently prevented.

"The discussion in the Soviet Union," said Miss Strong, "shows that the revolution is passing from a period of building socialism in one country into a period of socialist economy involving one-third of the world's people. We are in the midst of a great power shift such as occurs only once in several centuries. Involved is a shift of power from the imperialist nations to the formerly colonial peoples now becoming independent; from the capitalist economic system to the socialist; and from the centuries-long rule of the white race to the colored races, who are a majority in the world."

★
OF THE PROSPECTS for war or peace, Miss Strong said that the third of mankind living under socialism can make an alliance with another third which is neutral, and that this bloc, constituting two-thirds of the world's peoples, can contain the rest of the world and its drive towards war. This strategy requires fuller democracy in the socialist countries.

Two important ideological changes were emphasized at the recent Soviet Party Congress, Miss Strong stated. Whereas in the past it has been felt that capitalism inevitably produces wars, today the dominant feeling is that the socialist and neutral sectors of the world acting together may be able to prevent capitalism from making wars. Another important ideological change was that the transition from capitalism to socialism may be peaceful, and that the road to socialism will be different in different countries, with even purely parliamentary methods possible.

"The United States State Department is anxious to bury Soviet advances under the revelations about Stalin," Miss Strong declared. "Reaction wants us to forget the enormous developments in the Soviet union: the fact that the Soviet Union, beginning as a backward country, has become the second greatest industrial power in the world; that it was at Stalingrad that the hitherto unbeaten Nazi onslaught was broken. All these achievements were accompanied by excesses, even crimes, but the country nevertheless went forward. The worst of the excesses was the unlimited power of the police, which under Lenin had been used sparingly and was conceived of as temporary."

★
SPEAKING of her own case,

(Continued on Page 13)

Anna Louise Strong Meeting

(Continued from Page 4)

Miss Strong said she felt hers was a minor tragedy; that she "had it coming" to her because she saw others unjustly treated and made no fuss, and therefore felt unjustified in making a fuss over injustice committed against herself. Also, she believed that her personal tragedy occurred in the midst of something so vast that her own affairs were relatively unimportant. She quoted a friend who had been sent to Siberian exile as saying: "When a train starts going places, flies may be brushed from the wheels."

In answers to questions from the audience, Miss Strong discussed anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union and the crushing of Jewish culture. She reminded her hearers that during Soviet retreats in the Second World War, Jews were given preference when there was insufficient transport to evacuate everyone, and that this itself increased latent anti-Semitism. After 1937, she said, some anti-Semitism was to be observed in job placement and admissions to universities.

★

ASKED what assurance there is that the new regime in the Soviet Union is immune to the same pitfalls as beset the Stalin era, Miss Strong replied that there is no assurance; she pointed out, however,

that Stalin took leadership when the Soviet Union was a backward peasant country, whereas now the population consists mainly of industrial workers with a high degree of political awareness.

Michigan

(Continued from Page 2)

schools, hospitals, and roads.

Gov. Williams told delegates they can't be satisfied to solve only the problems of the workers, but must solve those of the farmer and small business man, too.

He told the convention that of 220,000 unemployed in the state, 25,000 have exhausted their unemployment compensation.

He said the unemployment compensation law is riddled with deficiencies, which he attributed to General Motors' influence in writing the 1948 law.

He declared the law must be extended for the length of time a worker is unemployed and until he gets a job. He said the average idle workers get no more a year than 13½ weeks of benefits. Governor Williams wants to raise that to 39 weeks, at two-thirds of the average weekly wage, plus \$5 for each dependent. He told a cheering convention that the Detroit City Council had passed a resolution favoring raising compensation.