

# Pollitt Writes on Stalin

Harry Pollitt, general secretary of the British Communist Party writes on "The Role of Stalin" in the London Daily Worker of last Saturday.

Noting that the background of the self criticism by the Soviet Communists included the great achievements reported at the 20th congress, Pollitt wrote:

"The criticism and public exposure of Stalin's mistakes have caused deep concern not only to the Soviet people but also to members of the working class and Communist movement all over the world.

"This is bound to be the case because of what Stalin has stood for in the past in the minds of all associated with the international Socialist movement.

"In the critical days after Lenin's death and when the Soviet Union was isolated in a capitalist world, Stalin as a Marxist thinker made a contribution to the Communist leadership of the Soviet Union which will stand in history."

Pollitt described Stalin's part in industrializing the USSR, collectivizing agriculture and combatting the Trozkyites and Bucharinists.

"Without these successes," Pollitt continued, "there would be no Soviet Union today. But they would have been achieved more quickly and at less cost but for certain defects and abuses associated with Stalin's personal leadership in the last 20 years."

In the difficult years of the rise of fascism and war, Pollitt wrote, "Stalin established, bit by bit, methods of personal leadership,

and did not make provision, as Lenin always did (and especially at times of crisis), for proper functioning, consultation and collective leadership within the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

"More and more," Pollitt stressed, "Stalin based himself on the theory of the intensification of the class struggle within the Socialist State, even after the complete victory over the capitalists and landlords had been established.

"To accept this theory as a guide was bound to lead to an atmosphere of distrust and suspicion, and an exaggerated role being assigned to the security services which placed them above the Soviet Government and above the Party.

"The result was that the security organizations were enabled to make false charges against comrades and violate the Soviet constitution and Soviet laws."

Enemies of the working class, such as Beria, were able to take advantage of the post they occupied in such a situation, Pollitt wrote, adding:

"On the basis of his violation of the principle of collective leadership, Stalin also made serious mistakes in connection with agricultural policy, ignored warnings against Hitler's invasion plans, and later adopted wrong policies in relation to Yugoslavia."

Finally, Pollitt points out: "The real test of self-criticism is whether it leads to the putting right of past errors. It is precisely this that the leaders and members of the C.P.S.U. are doing today."