

'Purifying' Communist Party Called No. 1 Goal of Kremlin Now

Preparations for War in West Take Back Seat To Bloodless 'Purge' of Ranks, Informant Says

By PAUL GHALL, Times Foreign Correspondent
PARIS, Oct. 29.—The Kremlin bosses are currently far more concerned with "purifying" the Communists, within Russia as well as those outside it, of moral weakness than they are with preparations for war with the West.

This is the studied opinion of an intelligent and highly-placed Moscow observer who has been in Russia long enough to judge fairly and objectively.

According to this observer, the Soviet leaders again revere the ideological aims of the Lenin revolution and look upon the "spiritual" force of communism as by far the most important weapon of Soviet Russia today.

By Kremlin edict a purification campaign is now literally raging in foreign Communist parties and among Soviet officials stationed abroad. Party members are now being judged not only for fidelity to the Communist creed but even more for morals. Opportunists, drunkards, homosexuals and even women-chasers are being mercilessly expelled—even if long-time convinced Communists.

Diplomats Recalled
Soviet diplomats and officers who have shown the slightest appreciation for the capitalist amenities are being recalled from their posts. They are either given unimportant jobs at home or are told to retire.

There are no more executions or mass deportations to Siberia. Communists found to be less than 100 per cent "pure," however, are being entirely deprived of influence.

Stalin, like Hitler in the past, wishes to create a party as solid and pure as a diamond and composed exclusively of fanatics. In fact, the present Bolshevistic, puritanic wave, begun three months ago, can be compared to Hitler's 1934 "purge" when he liquidated Ernst Thälmann and his friends except that it is far more sincere.

Diplomatic circles here in Paris have been noting with interest that Soviet diplomats quit drinking at approximately the date the "purifying" started. They've all been saying since that they've given up liquor for health reasons.

Religious Fervor Gains
My informant also reports a nationwide increase of religious fervor among the Russian masses. Indulged by the authorities, people everywhere now crowd the churches.

The distinct predominance of the spiritual over the political in Moscow is a psychological factor which could have worldwide repercussions. It means the worldwide intensification of Communist propaganda by men highly attractive morally.

It means also—in terms of possible war—that the Soviets attach more importance to the communization of the world than they do to victory in battle.

Thus, my report from the behind-the-iron-curtain citadel is at once reassuring and aggravating for the western world. It indicates that, if the Kremlin leaders should come to believe that whatever the final results, the masses of the world would be communistic by the end of a war, they might be tempted to start one when feeling menaced even if the USSR were not completely prepared at the time.

Fear Rearmed Germany
The Russians do not want war, my informant states emphatically. However, if forced to it, in their present frame of mind they might be willing to sacrifice Russian imperialism in order to achieve world communization.

The Kremlin is not worried over the organization of Western Europe, which it feels is more spectacular than practical so far. It is, however, terrified of the rearmament of Germany by the United States.

Despite all this "spiritualism," Joseph Stalin is still enough of a Russian nationalist to fear like poison Western reinforcement of Russia's traditional enemy.

War if it does come again will be due to hasty rearmament of Germany unbacked by sufficient military preparation in Western Germany itself. That is the prophecy of my informant.

And it's a prophecy which reflects the conviction of the best-informed and best-advised circles of Western Europe today.

Plan Banquet Tonight
The True Vine Baptist Church will present the Three-E's Trio in vocal numbers at the 8 p. m. banquet tonight in the True Vine Church Home, 1944 Yandes St. The Rev. W. E. Stark is pastor and Randy Johnson, chairman of the program.

Show for Veterans
A show for veterans in Cold Spring Road Veterans Hospital auditorium will be held at 3 p. m. tomorrow, featuring Jimmy Spitalney and his cast, entertainers in Steve Brodey's Club 52 Revue, 1610 Lafayette Rd.

BIRDS KEEP COOL
Birds have an internal air-conditioning system to cool them from the body heat generated by muscular activity. Long tube-like membranous bags, extending from the lungs throughout the body, bring fresh cool air to replace the heated air.



DENIES LURE—Dimitri Karaghisov, former Bulgarian vice consul at Istanbul, Turkey, talks to reporters in Washington, denying that the State Department induced him to come to this country. He vanished mysteriously from his post last month because, "I had a feeling I was going to be recalled." He said he came to America to visit.

Rice Pays Part Of Taxes in China

Grain More Valued Than Paper Money

Times Foreign Service
NANKING, China, Oct. 29.—In a time of lopsided budgets and depreciating paper money the Chinese have one source of government income which would not be available to a western government in similar straits—the millions of bushels of rice collected annually as the land tax in kind.

Chinese and foreign financial experts do not believe grain from the tax can shore up the Central Government if its financial structure should collapse. They do think the tax rice would pay some armies and permit provincial governments to continue functioning.

The tax in kind is an old Chinese dynastic institution. It was revived by the Central Government in 1941 to insure it an income more useful than its own paper money.

Aim at 5 Million Tons

It corresponds roughly to the income tax in the United States in importance to the government and is now the single largest source of official income. Unlike the U. S. income tax it is collected only from farmers or landowners.

This fall and winter the tax collectors are supposed to gather in more than 5 million tons of rice in south and west China. They will also collect small quantities of wheat in the isolated areas north of the Yangtze River not held by the Chinese Communists.

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Bounce Radar Rays Off Moon

By Science Service
WASHINGTON, Oct. 29.—How radar rays were bounced off the moon is shown in a Signal Corps exhibit presented to the Smithsonian Institution here recently.

Visitors viewing the display can push a button and set in motion electronic reactions that simulate the actual moon contact, first made Jan. 10, 1946, at the Army Signal Corps laboratories in New Jersey. This demonstrated that radio waves can slip out through our "radio roof" and get back through the ionized layer high above the earth's surface.

Local Deanery Council To Meet Wednesday

The board of directors of the Indianapolis Deanery Council, National Council of Catholic Women, will meet Wednesday at 7:30 p. m. in the Catholic Community Center.

All parish and organizational presidents, delegates, deanery chairmen and archdiocesan chairmen who live in the city are asked to attend. Reports for the past three months will be read by parish chairmen.

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