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'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 GHALI, 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 capitalistic 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 Bolshevikistic, puritanic wave, begun three months ago, can be compared to Hitler's 1934 "purge" when he liquidated Ernst Roehm and his friends, except that it is 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 communism.

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 reinforcements of Russia's traditional enemy.

Wait if it does come again will be due to hasty rearmament of Germany, unbroken 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.

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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 Yandee St. The Rev. W. E. Stark is pastor and Randy Johnson, chairman of the program.

Show for Veterans

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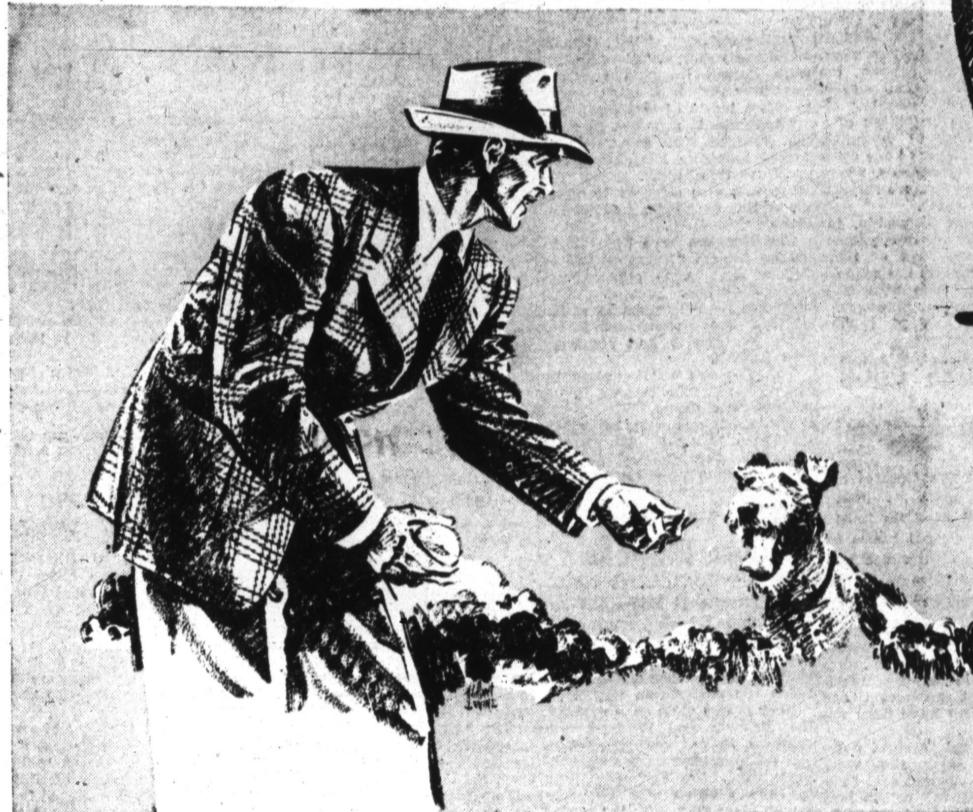
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