

The Daily Worker on Zhukov

Evidence continues to mount that the leadership of the American Communist Party is choking off free discussion within the party and abandoning any pretense of theoretical independence from the Kremlin. Its masquerade was required because of the revolt against thought control in the party following the revelations about Stalin. But the CP leaders never liked it and now that they have the party back in control they are forcing it back into the pre-20th Congress mold.

The abject acceptance and hosannah-shouting in praise of the Kremlin's actions were illustrated in the Daily Worker editorial hailing the purge of Marshal Zhukov. This, cry the editors, was an "action for peace." It is to be noted that in its first news article (Oct. 28) on the Zhukov affair, the DW inclined to the belief that he was going to be moved up in the Kremlin hierarchy, possibly to the premiership, rather than down. The headline then was "Zhukov Shift Seen Part of Soviet Peace Aim."

Thus by the DW's "interpretation" either Zhukov's promotion or demotion

was an "act for peace." Behind this lies the basic rule that whatever the Kremlin does is automatically right and must be sold to the American workers. Had Zhukov triumphed in the power fight and purged Khrushchev, the DW would, of course, have faithfully hailed the outcome and explained it editorially as an "action for peace." In the interests of economy the DW might do well to save the lead of its editorial against the chance that Zhukov subsequently makes a come-back. Then it could be run again simply transposing the names so that Zhukov appears where Khrushchev is, and vice versa.

Like the American CP leaders, Togliatti was at first unsure whether Zhukov was going up or down. This caused the Italian CP the same embarrassment as the DW. One Italian newspaper commented: "Togliatti unlike Tito doesn't have lumbago. He is going to Moscow. All Kremlin bosses are OK with him: Stalin, Malenkov, Khrushchev, and Zhukov, all as long as they are in power." By some coincidence this would seem to apply to the American CP leaders.