

ITALY'S REDS SEEK A MIDDLE COURSE

Party Indicates It Will Avoid Extremes in Conflicts of World Communism

By PAUL HOFMANN

Special to The New York Times.

ROME, Nov. 25—The Italian Communist party proclaimed today that the downgrading of Stalin was a one-way road on which there was no turning back.

It expressed confidence that Nikita S. Khrushchev, Soviet Communist party chief, would be victorious in what it said was a struggle for power in Moscow.

The strongest Communist party in the West also indicated that it intended to steer a middle course between the conflicting tendencies in world communism. The "Italian way" of communism was reasserted in the face of criticisms from French Communist leaders who are "Stalinist." and the latest

pronouncements by Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia.

All this was either expressly stated in or could be easily deduced from two authoritative articles in today's L'Unita, the official Communist party newspaper. One was an editorial by the editor in chief of the paper's Milan edition, Davide Lajolo. The other was a long dispatch from L'Unita's correspondent in Moscow, Giuseppe Roffa.

Moscow Changes Are Denied

It was understood that Palmiro Togliatti, party leader, had commissioned Signor Lajolo to write today's editorial and that, similarly, Signor Roffa's dispatch from Moscow had been fashioned to meet the specifications of Communist headquarters here.

Both articles declared in almost identical words that there was "no way back" from the Twentieth Congress of the Soviet Communist party in Moscow last February, during which Mr. Khrushchev indicted Stalin's "crimes."

L'Unita's Moscow correspondent referred to rumors that "important changes" were about to take place in the top echelon of Soviet leaders. "For the time being there is nothing in Mos-

cow to support" such reports, the correspondent wrote.

He conceded that ever since the Twentieth Congress a vast "debate" had been under way in the Soviet Communist party and throughout the Soviet Union. This controversy had become "accentuated" lately according to the Unita correspondent.

Clash of Ideas Noted

The correspondent described the current conflict in the Soviet Union as follows: "There are some who are rather impatient and would like to speed up the process begun at the Twentieth Congress. There are, on the other hand, militants educated under the old military or conformist methods, who have not yet adjusted their work to the new atmosphere and exigencies." This clash had "repercussions also at the summit," the correspondent added.

Observers here felt this picture confirmed that the "Stalinist" old guard represented by Vyacheslav M. Molotov and his fellow "conformists" had banded together with the Soviet Army marshals, the "militarists," in their opposition to Mr. Khrushchev.

The debunking of the Stalin cult resulted in a "fight" in the Soviet Union, the Unita corre-

spondent said. The Russians have not witnessed "for many years, not even last spring, so much discussion as in these autumn months," he added.

Red Writer Accuses Tito

As a "personal opinion," the Unita correspondent offered the suggestion that Marshal Tito's recent speech at Pula, Yugoslavia, in which he criticized the "Stalinists" in Moscow had missed its mark.

"If Comrade Tito wanted to push forward that effort of critical elaboration that was essentially developed at the Twentieth Congress, the tone he used, and certain judgments and attacks, appear to have brought about exactly the opposite result," the correspondent wrote. "The first reaction of many militants here was one of stiffening."

Relations between the Soviet Union and other Communist parties, and between the latter, was the theme of L'Unita's editorial. Marshal Tito was warned: "Whoever criticizes must be prepared to accept advice and criticism with regard to himself or else he falls victim to error and to the myth of his own infallibility."

This observation was interpreted here as evidence that the Italian Communists were dis-

turbed by renewed tension between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union and would like to mediate.

As for the line of Italian communism, L'Unita said: "The postulates of the Twentieth Congress cannot be reversed. The Soviet Union remains for us the first state that has built socialism. But we are conscious that this cannot prevent us from using different methods."

One of the postulates of last February's Moscow Congress, according to L'Unita, was that there was more than one "road toward socialism."