

Truman's Allusion to Russian Dissension Causes Speculation

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President Truman's statement that there are certain leaders (unidentified) of the Russian government "who are exceedingly anxious to have an understanding with us" is giving rise to keen speculation.

Of course the term "government" covers a considerable field of activity. However, when the Soviet Government is mentioned one naturally thinks of the powerful Politburo which comprises the fourteen top Bolsheviks.

The Politburo is the core of the Communist dictatorship. Head man is Stalin—toughest and smartest of them all. So if there is a fundamental clash of viewpoints on a vital East-West policy in the Politburo, it might create an explosive situation. Maybe the division isn't in the Politburo, but let's see what it means if it is.

Stalin reached the top through ability and ruthlessness. He

tried and executed for sedition. Thus the Stalin regime was consolidated, and he evolved the policies which Moscow has been following.

The focal point always was world revolution for the spread of Communism. There had been a Trotsky over this. Trotsky wanted to go all out with the revolution forthwith, while the more practical Stalin maintained that industrial and military development of the Soviet Union must come first.

Of course Stalin won, and he proceeded with his several five-year plans which had achieved remarkable development by the time Hitler figured he was ready to beat the world. It was then that Stalin signed with the Nazi dictator the non-aggression pact which enabled the latter to launch his aggression.

Here it is essential to state that Stalin long had seen another world war coming. In recording this I am stating something which was known before the war by European observers, including your correspondent. What Stalin

feared, but hoped to escape, was an attack on Russia by Germany. Even before the war was concluded Stalin was driving crafty bargains with his allies. These deals were calculated to foster the spread of Communism when peace came. We see the results in the overrunning of Eastern Europe, in the disastrous division of Germany and in many other cases.

Politburo Hand-Picked
Thus was the Soviet foreign policy developed by Stalin. Meantime he built up around him the powerful group of men who support him in the Politburo. They are hand-picked, not only for their ability but for their loyalty to their chief.

In theory the aging Stalin has created a machine which will continue to function without hitch when he is forced to retire. However, that machine is constructed of men who are ambitious and who are ruthless.

If there already is a breach over policy among them, this might presage a battle royal for the dictatorship when Stalin passes out. That could be the torch which would start a con-

flagration in the Red empire. Well, that's the story. But don't forget that we started from the premises that it is all speculation. What isn't speculation is the way in which Soviet policy was developed.

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