

SOVIET ANNIVERSARY

HUNDREDS of millions of people throughout the world will be celebrating today the 39th anniversary of the founding of the first socialist land, the USSR.

They will be celebrating the fact that on Nov. 7 a new era in human society was inaugurated, one that will eventually eliminate all exploitation, war, oppression, that will one day lift the human spirit beyond the limits imposed upon it up to now by dog-eat-dog societies.

In spite of its initial backwardness and its isolation in a hostile world dominated by a few powerful imperialist nations, the Soviet Union rapidly developed its economic and political strength. Its very existence made possible the great revolutionary movements which liberated a billion people from imperialist bondage in the last decade.

Its existence permitted the great Chinese people, once considered the symbol of poverty and oppression, to destroy feudalism, toss out the imperialists and their stooges, and unify their nation and set about industrializing and socializing it.

Today, socialism has come to stay, and we have no doubt that eventually the peoples of all lands, including our own, will replace their outworn capitalist systems with it. This will be done, as the great founder of the Soviet Union, V. I. Lenin, emphasized, in conformity with the experience and will of the people of each nation.

This is the first Soviet anniversary since the Soviet Communist Party's 20th Congress and the Khrushchev revelations regarding the years of Stalin misrule. These revealed that in the course of building socialism there had been terrible distortions both of the democratic process within the USSR and of the relations between the USSR and other Communist movements, including those in Eastern Europe which had state power.

The Soviet Union has set about correcting many of these distortions. We believe, however, that it would be naive not to recognize that the patterns of Stalin misrule were made possible by profound historic conditions arising out of the original backwardness of Russia under the czars, the immense pressures of a hostile world upon the young socialist country, etc. If this be true, then the process of correction is of necessity a long and painful one.

We believe the USSR has made immense progress under socialism. We believe it has made and will continue to make great contributions to the freedom, peace and progress of human society. We believe it has proved the validity of scientific socialism as developed by Marx, Engels, Lenin.

But we believe, too, that such attitudes of uncritical idolatry which we formerly embraced toward the USSR were a violation of the spirit of scientific socialism.

And we believe that while we American Marxists must view world socialist developments with profound sympathy in a fraternal spirit, our primary concern is with the experience, development and aspirations of the American workingclass and the American path to socialism.

Our concern, at the same time, with the security and peace of our country is the source of our consistent fight over the years for proper American-Soviet relations. The country with which we were allied in the great war against Hitlerism is the country with which we must develop peaceful coexistence. When this paper fights the Soviet-baiters and Cold Warriors, it is to insure the peaceful coexistence upon which the very existence of mankind rests.