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RUSSIAN CONGRESS CRITICISES STALIN.

Gathering in the Kremlin, the 20th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party springs a surprise on the world. Josef Stalin, the man who ruled Russia for a quarter of a century, is publicly criticised for the first time. The critics include Premier Bulganin, his predecessor Malenkov and Party Secretary Khrushchev.

Khrushchev and his colleagues tell the delegates that for 20 years the Party has suffered in all its work from one-man rule. Now, they announce, collective leadership has been restored, and wider Party democracy is promised.

The official History of the Party - largely written by Stalin, is judged "unsatisfactory" and is to be rewritten. Other Stalin writings, until now above reproach, Khrushchev and his colleagues describe as "scarcely helpful". Most startling of all, many old Bolsheviks are said to have been wrongly condemned as enemies of the people. The world waits to see what these strange developments will mean.