



Nikita S. Khrushchev speaking to a survivor of the battle of Stalingrad after the city's liberation in 1943. Life article describes part of his role during World War II. Sovfoto

Excerpts Depict West's Wartime Aid

Following are excerpts from reminiscences attributed by Life magazine to Nikita S. Khrushchev concerning the Western allies' contribution in World War II.

We must still give credit to the allies for their contribution to the common cause. In order to avoid excessive haughtiness, the people and the party of the Soviet Union must be properly informed.

Unfortunately our historical works about World War II have perpetrated an illusion. They have been written out of a false sense of pride and out of a fear to tell the truth about our allies' contribution—all because Stalin himself held an incorrect unrealistic position. He knew the truth, but he admitted it only to himself in the toilet.

Telling the truth needn't have been a humiliation. Recognizing the merits of our partners in the war need not have diminished our own merits. On the contrary, an objective statement would have raised us still higher in the eyes of all people, and it would not in the least have diminished our dignity.

But in this case truthfulness was unthinkable for Stalin. He tried to cover up our weaknesses. This was stupid. The enemy can always see for himself and analyze on his own. It's also possible that Stalin feared openness about the history of the war might have backfired on him personally. That's a different matter.

I don't think it's ever too late for a new generation, which will soon replace the current leadership of our country, to cast objective light on the beginning of the war. We must study the past in order not to permit in our own time those mistakes which were permitted earlier.

To acknowledge the ma-

terial aid we received in the past from our adversaries of the present doesn't have any bearing on the situation of today. We shouldn't boast that we vanquished the Germans all by ourselves and that the allies moved in only for the kill. The English helped us tenaciously and at great peril to themselves. They shipped cargo to Murmansk and suffered huge losses. German submarines lurked all along the way.

As Mikoyan confirmed to me after the war, we received military equipment, ships and many supplies from the Americans. After Stalin's death, it seemed all our artillery [still] was mounted on American equipment. I remember proposing, "Let's turn all the automotive equipment we're producing over to the military because all the tractor mounts in our parade are American-made." Almost all the artillery in the G.D.R. [East Germany] was mounted on American Studebakers.

I wanted only to stress how many cars and trucks we received from the Ameri-

cans. Just imagine how we would have advanced from Stalingrad to Berlin without them!

In addition we received steel, aluminum and food products in great quantities. I can't give you the figures because they're all locked away in Mikoyan's memory. There were many jokes in the army, some of them off-color, about American Spam. It tasted good nonetheless.

I repeat, the allies gave us this help neither out of compassion for our people, nor out of respect for our political system, nor out of hope for the victory of socialism. They were facing a matter of their own life or death. They helped us so that our Soviet Army would not fail and so that, supplied with modern weapons, we would pulverize the enemy and weaken ourselves at the same time.