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MOSCOW MAY DAY

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1. May Day events in Moscow completely reflected the current Soviet "policy of peace", with a new low both in the display of military hardware and in the belligerency of the main speech, delivered by Defense Minister Zhukov. Displays for the parade further emphasized the Kremlin's new campaign to deflate the Stalin myth.

2. As with his mild speech last year, when Zhukov balanced "the imperialist policy of threats and...provocations" against the "mighty Armed Forces of the Soviet Union...able to rout any grouping of enemies", his reference this May Day to the dangers arising from the "enemies of peace" was again cast in defensive ^{AND EVEN MILDER} terms, stating that the "Soviet people take the necessary measures for further reinforcing the defensive might of the socialist state" and that the "Soviet armed forces, with their first class military equipment, are a reliable guard and sure guarantee of the security of the state".

3. The bulk of Zhukov's brief speech emphasized two themes. First was the drive on the part of the "great community of the countries of socialism" for realization of the "Leninist principal of peaceful coexistence between states irrespective of their social systems". Peace and friendship between nations and the "struggle for peace, against the threat of a new war" received 8 separate references. The second theme was the primacy and the "collective wisdom" of the Communist Party, with particular emphasis on the "historic decisions" of the 20th Party Congress. There were 7 separate references to the Party and the Congress and the closing line of Zhukov's speech cried: "Glory to the Communist Party, the inspirer and organizer of all our victories!"

4. The down-grading of Stalin was underscored both in static displays and in procession placards. In the entire city of Moscow, only a single Stalin portrait was set up for May Day. Among the thousands of placards carried by the civilian paraders, Stalin's face appeared only a few times. As in the last two years, the placement of portraits of present Party leaders followed no fixed order of precedence: Embassy Moscow reports that Bulganin and Khrushchev consistently occupied the two top honor positions, with one or the other in the number one spot in different displays.

5. One press report states that the loudspeakers in Central Moscow ushered in the day's festivities with the US song "There Is A Tavern In The Town", a melody reportedly last heard in Moscow in 1945.

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