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Mrs. Roosevelt's Second Thoughts on CPA Discussion

By ADAM LAPIN

It is rather unusual for a person of Mrs. Roosevelt's prominence to admit of inaccuracy in writing about the Communist movement; most of the time anything goes in newspaper articles and speeches on this subject.

Mrs Roosevelt has, however, found it necessary to clarify her position on the discussion of policy now going on in the Communist Political Association.

In a column on June 9, Mrs. Roosevelt said that the "French Communist leader and the American Communists who encourage a policy of world revolution have done the peace of peace of the world harm." Apparently her information was based on the distorted stories in the New York World-Telegram in which her column is printed And it seems she was not too happy about the praise her column received from Westbrook Pegbalters.

READS RESOLUTION

Mrs Roosevelt revised this judgement in a subsequent column which appeared June 22. Now she said that she had read the draft resolution of the CPA and found that "as a document, it is excellent."

But she insisted that it is impossible to trust the Communists, that she herself had experienced their "deception." She said that for years Communists "taught the philosophy of the lie."

It is a fact of some importance that Mrs. Roosevelt thinks the CPA resolution is "excellent." Here certainly is evidence, despite newspaper stories to the contrary, that the Communists are not repudiating united action with all those who want to work for lasting peace and full employment. Here is an indication that cooperation between the Communists and other groups is possible—because there are common immediate objectives.

But the difficulty raised by Mrs. Roosevelt cannot be glossed over because it is based on misinformation and prejudice which is so widespread. It is hard to say just what Mrs. Roosevelt has in mind when she discusses "deception." Presumably she means that some Communists do not disclose their identity or even deny they are Communists.

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Now the Communists are, of course, not a secret or a conspiratorial group. But it is true that some Communists, who would like nothing better than to carry on activity publicly and openly, do find it necessary to keep their affiliation to themselves.

They find it necessary because of

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74 JUL 7 1945 305