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● WORLD NEWS

New Purge in Russia?

Russia seemed on the verge of new political purges because of: 1) graft, 2) failure of the recently completed five-year plan, 3) growing dissatisfaction in the satellites, 4) food shortages in the Red orbit.

Premier Stalin's Kremlin leaders blamed second-string bureaucrats, began investigating government-plant operations. Plant managers were accused of embezzlement, and of failure to get the production of arms and civilian goods to acceptable levels.

Behind the accusations lay a stark fact: Today half-hunger prevails in Russia and every satellite. The Kremlin blames this for sharp declines in Com-

munist prestige from Poland to Albania. In an effort to soothe workers, food prices in Russia were ordered cut 10% to 20%. In work-pay equivalents, this still left milk at \$1.35 a quart, butter \$17 a pound, pork \$13.60, soup meat \$8.

To save the Kremlin's face, underlings' heads were to roll.

Hungary Taxes 4-Fs

Hungary's Red satellite rulers levied a \$50-a-year tax on men found unfit for the army. They must pay until they're 36.



Brandel

Premier Stalin

Reds Lose Strength in Western Europe

The U. S. State Dept. said Russia was losing its fifth column in Western Europe, pointed to these declines in Communist party membership since 1946: Luxembourg 84%; Belgium and Norway 65%; Denmark 63%; Sweden 45%; Austria, Britain and Holland 34%; West Germany 33%; Italy 31%; France 30%.

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