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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

May 31, 1956

The Honorable Herbert Hoover, Jr. #
Acting Secretary of State
Washington, D. C.



Dear Herb:

The attached document entitled "Concerning the Cult of the Individual and Its Consequences," contains what we believe to be the major part of the speech attacking Stalinism, made by N.S. Khrushchev in secret session on 25 February 1956, at the XXth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

This document has been examined by a number of experts on Soviet Communism and checked as to factual accuracy in many ways. All the evidence we have been able to collect to date tends to confirm our belief that this is an authentic text of Khrushchev's speech as distributed for the confidential use and guidance of Communist Party leaders in one of the European Satellite countries.

It is likely that the original speech as delivered contained additional revelations that were omitted or altered in the version released for Satellite consumption.

The speech as here presented adds a great deal to our knowledge of the implications of the degradation of Stalin. It makes clear that the present Soviet leaders lived in mortal terror for their own lives in the last days of Stalin's rule.

Pending a decision as to what, if any, public use should be made of this document, it is requested that the fact that the document is in our possession should remain secret.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Allen W. Dulles
Director

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: APR 2007

Encl.

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