

*Djoko Tripkovic*

*The 20<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union  
and the Yugoslav-Soviet Relations*

*Summary*

At the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (KPSS) in February 1956, a new and significantly more liberal course was launched by the Soviet leadership headed by Nikita Khrushchev. Among the other proclamations, there were those respecting the principles of equality between the communist states and non-interference in the interior affairs of other parties. This instigated Tito and his associates to accept the offer of the CPSU (KPSS) in May 1955, to establish ties and relations between the Yugoslav and the Soviet Communist Parties. To that end, especially stimulating were Khrushchev's confidential report in which the personality cult and methods of rule of Josef Stalin were condemned, and the decision on disbanding of the Cominform in April 1956.

Official relations between the two parties were renewed during Tito's visit to the Soviet Union in June 1956, when Moscow Declaration was signed, which based these relations on the principles of equality, non-interference and the right of every party to venture along its own path to the construction of the socialist society. It seemed that the Soviet leadership was standing firmly on the grounds taken at the 20<sup>th</sup> Congress. Under the pressure of dogmatic forces in the country, however, and the turbulent events in Poland, and especially in Hungary, where the Soviet troops stifled the people's revolution, leadership in Kremlin decided to put a stop to the process of de-Stalinization, so that its achievements remained completely limited, and far from those expected by the population of the countries of Eastern Europe. These developments will bring about, in the period which was to follow, the stop and then the deterioration of the Yugoslav-Soviet party relations.