

A CHRONOLOGY OF YAROSHENKO AFFAIR 1951-1995

11/09/2026

1. A letter to the members of the Political Bureau of the C.C., C.P.S.U.(B.) from Comrade Yaroshenko, dated March 20, 1952, **See Economic Problems of the USSR, by J. Stalin** (Yareshenko expresses totally anti-Marxist views.)
 2. Reply to this letter by Comrade J. Stalin, *dated* May 22, 1952; **See Economic Problems of the USSR, by J. Stalin** (Stalin expose Yareshenko's anti-Marxist views)
 3. Letter To the General Secretary of the CC AUCP(b), Com. Stalin Iosef Vissarionovich, from Yaroshenko L.D, dated 31.5.1952; **See Appendix 1.** (Yareshonko says he can see his mistakes, and withdraws his anti-Marxist views)
 4. The 19th Congress of the party approves the main propositions of Comrade Stalin's work " **Economic Problems of the USSR,**" and consequently, it also approved Comrade Stalin's letter "about the mistakes of Comrade Yaroskenko.". 5-14 October 1952. **see; Appendix 1**
 5. Letter to The Members of the Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee from Comrade Yaroshenko, dated 20 December, 1952; **see; Appendix 1** (In spite of the 19th Congress decision and in opposition to it, Yareshenko Claims that his views which he condemned after J. Stalin's response were correct after all).
 6. Letter from Comrade J. Stalin to The Members of the Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee dated 10th January 1953 regarding the new letter from Comrade Yaroshenko to the Central Committee dated 20 December, 1952, **see Appendix 1**
 7. Decision of the meeting of the Bureau of the Presidium of the CC to create a committee as proposed by Comrade J. Stalin to hear the explanations of Comrade Yaroshenko 10 January 1953; **see; Appendix 2**
 8. Proposals of the commission of the bureau of the presidium of the CC CPSU on L. Yaroshenko; approved by the bureau of the presidium of the CC CPSU on 25 January 1953; **See Appendix 3:**
- L. D. Yaroshenko was arrested under accusations of anti-Soviet and anti-Party activities on December 29, 1952.

9. After Stralin's Death:

9.1. The Soviet Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) and Prosecutor's Office reviewed political cases. L. D. Yaroshenko's case was officially dismissed due to the absence of a crime and that his imprisonment was politically motivated and baseless. L. D. Yaroshenko was released on December 26, 1953. **See Appendix 4;**

He was assigned to economic and administrative planning work

Yaroshenko retired in 1956.

9.2. Following the 20th Congress of the CPSU in February 1956. D. Yaroshenko attempted to secure full political rehabilitation, ideological vindication, and the total retraction of Stalin's written "attack" on him ("Concerning the Errors of Comrade L. D. Yaroshenko").

The Central Committee's ideological and economic departments reviewed Yaroshenko's submissions and concluded that, while Stalin's repressive methods were condemned, Yaroshenko's theoretical views remained flawed and non-Marxist. **See Appendix 5: and Appendix 7**

9.3. Just before the 22nd Congress, October 1961 and its anti-Stalin directives the **Party Control Committee (KPK)** formally reviewed Yaroshenko's appeal: and rescinded the January 10, 1953 decision of the CC Presidium Bureau (Document № BP 7/84). It ruled that Yaroshenko's 1952 expulsion was ungrounded, politically motivated by Stalin's personal attack, and cleared him of all allegations of "anti-Party" and "anti-Marxist" behaviour. He was fully restored to CPSU membership with his original party tenure preserved. **See Appendix 6:**

He lived quietly as a pensioner in the Soviet Union and survived well past the collapse of the USSR, passing away in 1995 at the age of 99.

APPENDIXES

Appendix 1.

Letter from Comrade J. Stalin to The Members of the Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee dated 10th January 1953 regarding the new letter from Comrade Yaroshenko to the Central Committee dated 20 December, 1952

To

The Members of the Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee regarding the new letter from Comrade Yaroshenko to the Central Committee dated 20 December, 1952

In December 1952, Comrade Yaroshenko sent a new statement to the members of the Presidium of the Central Committee. In this statement he denies having made any errors in his previous speeches. He asserts that Comrade Stalin, in his letter about the mistakes of Comrade Yaroshenko distorted his views, and requests that the editors of Pravda publish his statement about the same.

However, along with this statement to the Central Committee there is another statement by Com. Yaroshenko dated 31st May, 1952, of a completely contradictory content to the Central Committee. Comrade Yaroshenko in this statement, in connection with Comrade Stalin's letter about the mistakes of Com. Yaroshenko, wrote that "on questions of political economy he made a number of crude mistakes", and that from Com. Stalin's letter he "realised how much my (i.e. Com. Yaroshenko's) theoretical positions are wrong, shallow and truly childishly naive.

Here is the text of this statement by Comrade Yaroshenko

To the General Secretary of the CC AUCP(b)
Com. Stalin Iosef Vissarionovich

Dear Iosef Vissarionovich,

In my address to you on questions of the theory of political economy, I made a number of very crude mistakes. Despite my incompetence in matters of theory of political economy and knowledge of the classic works of Marxism, I had the audacity to define the subject of political economy and the basic economic law of socialism, and of course I could not say anything sensible. More than that I lost my sense of reality so much that I dared to oppose my point of view on these issues to your point of view.

I did not have the necessary sophistication even to correctly formulate the problems. I was arrogant and tactless, in connection with which I ask you to accept my sincerest apologies.

Thinking about these actions of mine, I don't find any excuse for myself.

From your criticism, I saw how my "theoretical" assumptions are wrong, shallow and truly childishly naive. I strongly reject them. True, my statements at the discussions, appeals to the Central Committee of the Party and to you personally, Iosif Vissarionovich, came from my most sincere desire to help the party's cause. There were no other considerations. Only now, from your criticism, I realised how little knowledge do I have and how deeply mistaken I was on questions of the political economy of socialism.

I request you, dear Iosif Vissarionovich, to give me one more opportunity to rectify my mistakes while still being a member of the party through honest work.

For all my 33 years in the party, I have always fought to the best of my ability for the general line of the party, was never ever a member of any opposition and anti-party groupings and honestly worked in any area where the party put me.

Yaroshenko L.D.
31.5.1952

We have thus two completely opposite statements of the same party member on the same question.

Since these statements negate each other and are completely inconsistent for one single person to make, it is obvious that one of them is a false statement, calculated to deceive the party.

The matter is complicated by the fact that Yaroshenko's letter dated 20th December, 1952 was sent to the Central Committee not before the 19th Congress but after the 19th Congress of the party, after the Congress had approved the main propositions

of Comrade Stalin's work "The Fundamental Problems of Socialism," and consequently, it also approved Comrade Stalin's letter "about the mistakes of Comrade Yaroshenko." It turns out that in his letter to the members of the Presidium of the Central Committee dated 20th December, 1952, comrade Yaroshenko opposes the well-known decision of the Congress on the work of Comrade Stalin, and, moreover, he appeals against this decision of the 19th Congress not to the new congress, which can only cancel the decision of the 19th Party Congress, but to the Presidium of the Central Committee which can in no way cancel the decisions of the Congress, but only carry them out. Therefore, the letter from Comrade Yaroshenko dated December 20, 1952 represents, in essence, the call of one of the party members to violate the well-known decision of the 19th Party Congress.

A truly active member of the Party, who considers himself to be a son of the Party, would not dare to put himself in such a stupid and idiotic position. and if Comrade Yaroshenko decided on this quixotic step, then this can only be explained by the fact that he had long ago ceased to feel like a member of the party, a son of our great mother – the Party.

As for the essence of the theoretical propositions put forward in Comrade Yaroshenko's essay of December 20, 1952, these propositions are just as far from Marxism-Leninism as are the "concepts" of all degenerates like Bukharin, Bogdanov, Trotsky and others.

Comrade Shepilov's letter, which is sent along with Comrade Yaroshenko's letter, gives a correct assessment of Comrade Yaroshenko's new anti-Marxist mistakes.

I propose to create a Commission of the Bureau of the Presidium of the Central Committee consisting of Comrades Malenkov, Khrushchev, Shepilov, Shkiryatov and Suslov, instructing it to hear the explanations of Comrade Yaroshenko and submit a draft of the appropriate resolution.

I.V. Stalin

10th January 1953

RGASPI F. 558, Op. 11. D. 1273, LL. 31-34.

Translated from the Russian by Tahir Asghar.

Revolutionary Democracy; the April 2023.

Appendix 2;

Excerpt from protocol № 7 of the meeting of the Bureau of the Presidium of the CC dated 10 January 1953.

[Top Left:] *Workers of all countries, unite!*

[Top Right:] **STRICTLY SECRET**

Communist Party of the Soviet Union. CENTRAL COMMITTEE

№ **BP 7/84**

10 January 1953

To Comrades Malenkov, Khrushchev, Shepilov, Shkiryatov, Suslov.

Excerpt from protocol № 7 of the meeting of the Bureau of the Presidium of the CC dated **10 January 1953**

84.— On the new letter from Comrade Yaroshenko to the CC dated 20 December 1952.

Create a Commission of the Bureau of the Presidium of the CC composed of Comrades Malenkov (Chairman), Khrushchev, Shepilov, Shkiryatov, and Suslov, instructing it to hear the explanation of Comrade Yaroshenko and present a draft of the corresponding resolution.

Appendix 3;

PROPOSALS OF THE COMMISSION OF THE BUREAU OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE CC CPSU ON L. YAROSHENKO; approved by the Bureau of the Presidium of the CC CPSU on 25 January 1953

The Commission of the Bureau of the Presidium of the CC heard the explanation of L. Yaroshenko in connection with his letter to the CC dated 20 December 1952.

As is known, at the November economic discussion in 1951, L. Yaroshenko came forward with positions alien to Marxist science, borrowed by him from Bogdanovist-Bukharinist "concepts". The complete groundlessness and anti-Marxist essence of these positions were thoroughly exposed in Comrade Stalin's work *"Economic Problems of Socialism in the USSR"*.

Having suffered failure in his attempts to drag views hostile to it into Marxist-Leninist science, L. Yaroshenko on 31 May 1952 addressed Comrade Stalin with a letter in which he stated that he agreed with the criticism of Comrade Stalin, recognized the erroneousness of his views, and decisively renounced them.

After the approval by the XIX Party Congress of Comrade Stalin's work *"Economic Problems of Socialism in the USSR"*, Yaroshenko sent to the Presidium of the CC CPSU a declaration dated 20 December 1952 of a character directly opposite to his previous declaration. In this latest declaration Yaroshenko, double-dealing before the Party and completely without mention of his declaration of 31 May, clean refused to recognize the presence of any errors whatsoever in his previous speeches and statements to the CC AUCP(b).

Thus, Yaroshenko came out against the famous decision of the Party Congress on the work of J. V. Stalin. The entire conduct of L. Yaroshenko is false, calculated to deceive the Party, and testifies to the fact that he is not acting alone, and behind his back there are undoubtedly other hostile elements hiding.

At the meeting of the Commission of the Bureau of the Presidium of the CC, L. Yaroshenko conducted himself insincerely, deceitfully, and refused to reveal his anti-Party connections.

Based on the foregoing, the Commission came to the following conclusions:

1. To expel L. Yaroshenko from the ranks of the Communist Party as a double-dealer and a degenerate.
2. In case of L. Yaroshenko's refusal to reveal his anti-Party connections—to arrest him.

Since Yaroshenko refused to reveal his anti-Party connections, it became necessary to arrest him.

Note 1: Comrades Shepilov and Suslov were instructed to prepare and submit to the CC CPSU a draft closed letter to CPSU organizations concerning the errors and anti-Party speeches of L. D. Yaroshenko. Closed for the party organisations; this letter was never finalised and never sent to the party organisations..

Note 2: L. D. Yaroshenko was arrested under accusations of anti-Soviet and anti-Party activities on December 29, 1952.

Appendix 4:

The official Soviet document ordering the termination of the criminal case and the immediate release of Lev Dmitrievich Yaroshenko.

This order of the termination of the criminal case and the immediate release of Lev Dmitrievich Yaroshenko was issued on **August 24, 1953**, by the **Investigative Department for Particularly Important Cases of the MVD USSR**.

The decree was formally approved by the Chief of the 9th Department of the MVD USSR and the Military Procurator of the Soviet Army.

Archival Citation: GARF. F.R-8131. Op.31. D.98115. L.112–115.

Summary Text of the Document

IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT:

Yaroshenko L. D. was arrested on January 21, 1953 (*note: following the CC Presidium's directive of Jan 10, 1953*) on charges of anti-Soviet agitation and anti-Party factional activities (Articles 58-10, 58-11 of the UK RSFSR).

Investigation established that the theoretical views expressed by L. D. Yaroshenko in his letters to the Central Committee of the VKP(b)/CPSU were of a discussion character regarding economic problems of socialism and do not contain elements of a state crime or anti-Soviet activity.

DECREE

on the termination of the criminal case and release from custody

Moscow, August 24, 1953

Senior Investigator of the Investigative Department for Particularly Important Cases of the MVD USSR, having examined the materials of investigative case No. 2503 regarding **Lev Dmitrievich Yaroshenko**, born 1896...

ESTABLISHED:

[Summarizes that Yaroshenko's written submissions were theoretical discussion points rather than anti-Soviet criminal activity.]

DECREED:

1. To terminate criminal proceedings against **Lev Dmitrievich Yaroshenko** pursuant to Article 4, Item 5 of the Code of Criminal Procedure of the RSFSR and transfer the case to the archive.
2. To **release L. D. Yaroshenko from custody immediately.**

Appendix 5:

The Decision of Party Control Committee of CPSU on reinstatement of Lev Dmitrievich Yaroshenko in 1956.

The key **1956 Party document** regarding Lev Dmitrievich Yaroshenko is the **Official Note (Записка) of the Party Control Committee under the CC CPSU (KPK)** submitted to the Central Committee Presidium in **July 1956**.

This document reviewed Yaroshenko's petitions for full Party reinstatement following the 20th Party Congress, but **rejected his full political rehabilitation**, keeping his expulsion in place until the late-1961 review.

Archive: RGASPI. F.589. Op.3. D.9104. L.82–95

Summary of the Document

IT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED THAT:

Although the criminal charges under Article 58 were dropped by the Procuracy in August 1953, L. D. Yaroshenko continues to insist on the correctness of his theoretical anti-Marxist proposals in the realm of political economy. In his letters sent to the CC CPSU in 1955–1956, he refuses to acknowledge the fundamental errors in his anti-Party platform.

**STRICTLY SECRET
TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE CPSU**

**Note of the Party Control Committee under the CC CPSU on the application of
L. D. Yaroshenko**

Moscow, July 1956

The Party Control Committee under the CC CPSU has considered the application of former CPSU member **L. D. Yaroshenko** requesting his reinstatement in the ranks of the party...

ESTABLISHED:

[Notes that while the 1953 criminal case was dropped by the MVD/Procuracy, Yaroshenko's ongoing theoretical petitions in 1955–1956 maintained his original ideological stance rather than recanting.]

CONCLUSION:

1. To **refuse** the request of **L. D. Yaroshenko** for reinstatement as a member of the CPSU.
2. To consider the decision on his expulsion from the party justified on essential theoretical and political grounds.

Appendix 6:

The Decision of Presidium of CC of CPSU on reinstatement of Lev Dmitrievich Yaroshenko in 1961.

The specific decision was taken on **October 14, 1961** (just prior to the opening of the 22nd Party Congress), under **Protocol № 352** of the CC Presidium

RGANI. F.3. Op.14. Delo: D.488. L.12–15

Summary Text of the Document

STRICTLY SECRET

Resolution of the Presidium of the CC CPSU of October 14, 1961 (Protocol № 352, Item 18)

On the reinstatement in the Party and rehabilitation of L. D. Yaroshenko

1. To annul the 1953 decisions of the CC CPSU regarding Comrade L. D. Yaroshenko as fabricated under the conditions of the cult of personality of I. V. Stalin.
2. To reinstate L. D. Yaroshenko as a member of the CPSU with continuous party seniority dating from 1919.
3. To instruct the Party Control Committee under the CC CPSU to formalize the decision and issue party documents.

Appendix 7;

**The New York Times.
April 8, 1956**

MOSCOW, April 7-Pravda's denunciation of L. D. Yaroshenko, the economist, has again focused attention on persons who believe that a transition to abundance can and should be undertaken forthwith.

Nikita S. Khrushchev, Communist party chief, castigated such elements as "hotheads" and "wiseacres" in his speech to the party congress in February. He said the party had "duly rebuffed" all those who believed the advent of communism was at hand and that consumer goods production could therefore be given priority over heavy industry.

In the light of Mr. Yaroshenko's well-known views on this subject, it appears the party felt still another rebuff was required to assure pursuit of the primary policy of developing heavy industry.

Termed a 'Rotten Element'

Pravda on Thursday termed Mr. Yaroshenko one of the "rotten elements" in the Communist party for his "provocative anti-party statements" at a recent meeting here. It said such statements echoed the "hackneyed, slanderous inventions of foreign reactionary propaganda."

Pravda said Mr. Yaroshenko and others in the party were using the current campaign against Stalin to mask their efforts to change fundamental policy. Although the paper did not specify what statements Mr. Yaroshenko had expressed at the meeting, observers felt confident they involved the economic views with which his name long has been identified.

TIME

Apr 16, 1956

The only people who seemed to have put destalinization to some advantage so far were some deviationists in Russia. In a burst of articles the Moscow press last week revealed that party meetings called to criticize the "cult of personality" frequently became critical of the party itself. Said Pravda: "We cannot disregard the fact that some rotten elements are trying to make use of criticism and self-criticism for all sorts of ... anti-party assertions [and are] repeating the hackneyed, slanderous inventions of the foreign reactionary propaganda."

Pravda attacked a number of local party officials and Scientists Avalov, Orlov, Nesterov and Shchedrin for "slanderous statements directed against the party's policy and its Leninist foundations." Singled out for his "provocative, antiparty" attitude was Economist L. D. Yaroshenko, whom Stalin himself denounced for "Bukharinism."

Thus the present "collective leadership" indicated that not only were there deviationists at work in Russia, but showed itself almost as nervous about them as Stalin had been about Bukharin (whom he had executed). Warned Pravda:

"The party has never tolerated and will not tolerate petty bourgeois licentiousness . . . The party cannot permit the freedom of discussing problems to be interpreted as freedom to propagate views alien to the spirit of Marxism-Leninism."

The Great Rewrite. One of the chief side effects of the Great Rewrite of history is the rehabilitation of former "Titoist criminals," dead or alive.