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THE recent controversy in the Soviet Union over the linguistic teachings of N. Ya. Marr has been watched not only by philologists but also by students of Russia throughout the world. Like the Lysenko controversy in the field of genetics, the linguistic debate was finally "settled" by official pronouncement, and was followed by far-reaching and thorough application of the "new line," and swift official action against the proponents of Marrism.

Stalin, himself, entered the field of philology and it was his article in the July 4, 1950 issue of *Pravda* which closed the debate. In so doing, Stalin uttered certain instructive pronouncements on Marxism that shed light on present attitudes in the Kremlin.

Soviet Linguistic Controversy

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