

**SECRET**

20 September 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: SR/RR

SUBJECT : Comments About Soviet Hierarchy

1. The following comments, while not very revealing, might be of some interest since they were made by a Soviet who is considered a member of the ruling intelligentsia in the Ukrainian SSR.

2. The source spoke of P. Yu. SHELEST as one who holds a lot of power and an important role in the Soviet Communist Party. The source said SHELEST played a major role in the removal of Khrushchev. The latter pressured SHELEST excessively on deliveries of wheat from the Ukraine. Since Khrushchev's demands for wheat were beyond the means of the UKSSR, SHELEST went to Moscow where he conferred with BREZHNEV and KOSYGIN. A Central Committee meeting was called to discuss the problem and the result was that Khrushchev was removed from his position. The source said KOSYGIN is the stronger personality in the present government. He has a good knowledge of economics and agriculture. In the source's opinion, SHELEST is strongest of all, in every respect, and he said he would not at all be surprized if SHELEST replaced BREZHNEV in the future.

3. The source can be described as a Soviet Ukrainian citizen, a member of the ruling intelligentsia in the UKSSR with many friends in influential positions in the Soviet Government.

4. Please address any inquiries concerning this memorandum to [ ] on extension 7162, in room 5B29.

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