

RUSSIA

Khrushchev's Old Friends Vote Him Out in Secret

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Khrushchev last month said the premier was almost obsessed with the Chinese challenge. It was his handling of Russian-Chinese relations that some non-Communist observers say swung the balance against him when the Communist leadership met Monday.

Hailed Space Feat

Khrushchev at the time was rejoicing at his vacation villa on the Black Sea over news that the Soviet Union had sent into orbit the first multi-passenger space ship.

"Good lads, I am very happy for you," he told the three cosmonauts. Then he turned the radiophone over to Anastas Mikoyan, Soviet President and a close confidant who had been his earliest supporter.

The premier had invited Gaston Palewski, French minister for nuclear and space research, for a talk and lunch on Tuesday. But the meeting was pushed up to 9:30 a.m. and then cut short.

Palewski recalled that Khrushchev talked about state affairs with the air of a man who was confident of running them for some time. He appeared in good health.

Khrushchev excused himself, saying he had to fly back to Moscow to greet the cosmonauts.

Palewski left and Khrushchev vanished, so far as the public was concerned.

He has not been mentioned since by press or radio except for the terse announcement that he had resigned.

Khrushchev arrived in Moscow early Tuesday afternoon. But, it was the landing of people like I. A. Benediktov, Soviet

ambassador in India, that caused concern.

Benediktov is a member of the central committee that makes decisions for the Soviet Communist Party. Most of the 170 members had been in Moscow secretly and had already begun meeting.

The nucleus of the committee, its presidium, met Tuesday night, with Khrushchev present. It reportedly voted to remove him from his most important job, first secretary of the committee.

That happened once before, in 1957. But Khrushchev struck back by calling together the full committee in which he had a majority of support. Under the chairmanship of Mikhail Suslov, a steely aide to Stalin, the committee then ousted Khrushchev's opponents, including former premiers G. M. Malenkov and V. M. Molotov.

It was different this time.

By Thursday the secret activity was beginning to become obvious.

Khrushchev did not attend a luncheon for visiting Osvaldo Dorticos Torrado, president of Cuba.

And Khrushchev's portrait was not put up for celebrations of the return of the cosmonauts, a return that kept getting delayed.

Suslov Is Prosecutor

The deck was loaded the other way, now and Suslov was the prosecutor.

The committee met with Khrushchev Wednesday at its big gray office building four blocks from the Kremlin, Suslov spoke.

He accused Khrushchev of a "cult of personality" and a lack of dignity for his job. The other charges outlined by Pravda also were aired, including one that blamed him for agricultural failures.

Still another charge was bungling Soviet relations with other Communist parties, costing Moscow influence and weakening the world Communist movement.

Khrushchev also had offended army leaders by cutting troops and depending upon rockets, and steelmen by turning to consumer goods.

When the central committee vote came, Khrushchev lost. The count has not yet become known but the result showed that Khrushchev had been outmaneuvered within the party machinery.

The man who apparently did it was Leonid Brezhnev.

Brezhnev Was Protege

He was a protege of Khrushchev's who had followed him up through the ranks after leaving his career as a metallurgist. In July, Khrushchev allowed him to become in effect second secretary of the party.

Brezhnev was to look after the party while Khrushchev was busy elsewhere or away on one of his numerous trips. The government was minded by Alexei Kosygin, a first deputy

Just whose idea it was to begin running the shop them-

selves without the boss remains unclear. A few observers pick Suslov. Most, however, agree on Brezhnev.

After the central committee vote, there remained the formality of dropping Khrushchev from the premier's job. That came Thursday. Mikoyan, the old friend, presided as the job was given to Kosygin.

There also was the formality of announcements. They said Khrushchev asked to be relieved of his posts because of "his advanced age and deteriorating health."

Shortly after midnight came the word that 227 million Russians had new men at the head of their government.

Wash. Evening Star Khrushchev Voted Out by Reds Secretly

Charged With Incompetence by Former Friends

By HENRY S. BRADSHAW
Associated Press Staff Writer

MOSCOW—The reverberations over Nikita Khrushchev's fall from power are spreading unpredictably and may not end for a long time.

The sudden removal of the ebullient 70-year-old premier

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who for a decade captured world headlines while changing the direction of communism in the Soviet Union, could drag others under too.

A picture emerged of Khrushchev's final days as Soviet leader before Leonid I. Brezhnev, 57, became Communist Party secretary and Alexei N. Kosygin, 60, premier. It bore out the belief that Khrushchev was forced from rule at a dramatic, secret meeting of the Soviet Communist leadership.

(W. Averell Harriman, former U.S. ambassador to Russia, and U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs, said last night that Khrushchev told him last year he would step down after his 70th birthday and even named his successors. Harriman said in a talk at Muncie, Ind., that the only surprise in Khrushchev's departure "is the manner in which it happened.")

Accused of Incompetence

Authoritative sources said the Communist Party central committee voted Khrushchev out of power and lodged charges of incompetence and nepotism against him. Ironically, Khrushchev became the target of a "cult of personality" attack—the very concept he used to discredit the reign of Stalin.

Pravda, organ of the Communist Party, shed light on the purge yesterday in a bitter denunciation of the ousted chief. Without naming him, it accused Khrushchev of "hare-brained scheming, immature conclusions and hasty decisions and actions divorced from reality, bragging and phrasemongering, commandism and unwillingness to take into account the achievements of science and practical experience."

Though, in effect, accusing Khrushchev of dictatorship, the newspaper said the policies of peaceful co-existence of the former ruler would be carried out. It also said Khrushchev's support for the new nations of Asia and Africa and his plans for a Communist summit showdown with Red China would be continued.

A foreigner who talked with
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