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MOLOTOV APPOINTMENT TO PARTY POST

- I. The appointment of V. M. Molotov as co-ordinator of Soviet cultural activities clearly marks a resurgence of the "Old Bolshevik", who publicly ate crow as recently as 1955 for "misinterpreting" Marxist-Leninist theory and who "resigned" as Foreign Minister this June.
- II. The assignment of Molotov to a post from which he presumably would supervise the activities of the Central Committee's powerful Agitation and Propaganda Department (AGITPROP") suggests that a crack-down may be in store for recently "liberalized" Soviet literature, arts, social sciences, and humanities.

A Molotov is known for his "hard" doctrinaire approach. His new position indicates that the Soviet regime may be contemplating establishment of well-defined limits for "the thaw" in Soviet literature and the arts which has been developing since the death of Stalin.

11. Molotov was censured by the party central committee in July 1955 for opposing the policy of re-establishing relations with Tito. At that time he appeared to have lost most of his influence in the top leadership because of his inflexibility, and his failure to adapt himself to the new policies of the post-Stalin regime.

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- A. Recent Soviet troubles with the Satellites, as well as the content of the Khrushchev-Tito talks at Brioni indicate an apparent vindication of Molotov's 1955 position, and may mark an upsurge in his influence within the top Soviet leadership.
 - B. The anti-Stalin campaign within the Soviet Union has also led to more freedom of expression, particularly among the Soviet intelligentsia.
 - C. The combination of Satellite unrest and increased discussion within the USSR may have led the leadership to commission Molotov to put the brakes on the anti-Stalin campaign.
- IV. Molotov's appointment is a strong indication of a resurgence of "Stalinist" influence within the top leadership of the USSR.

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- A. While there is little evidence of current dissension among Soviet leaders over internal policies, the naming of this hard-bitten old cohort of Stalin's suggests that he and others, such as Kaganovich and Voroshilov, may have regained some of the influence they appeared to have lost during the past two years.
- B. There is no evidence at present, however, on which to predict a major overturn among such top leaders as Khrushchev, Bulganin and Mikoyan.

ISC BRIEFING

12 October 1956

MOLOTOV APPOINTMENT TO GOVERNMENT POST

The appointment of former Soviet Foreign Minister Molotov to a post in the Council of Ministers (government), where he will "coordinate cultural trends", suggests that he is being relegated to the periphery of Soviet state affairs.

I. Government responsibility for cultural matters is extremely limited, when compared with the powers exercised by the Communist Party in this field.

A. The Council of Ministers has some authority over motion pictures, art, radio broadcasting, and book publishing.

B. However, it does not control the nation's leading newspapers (Pravda, Izvestia, etc.), or the all-important propaganda and agitation network of the Party.

C. These key responsibilities are guarded closely by the Party's Central Committee and administered through its Department of Propaganda and Agitation ("AGITPROP").

III. Thus, it appears that Molotov's new job is similar to the restricted posts given to Malenkov (power stations) and Kagenovich (construction materials)--assignments which correspond to their diminished stature in the hierarchy.

A. Malenkov was given the Ministry of Electric Power Stations after he was deposed as Premier in February 1955.

B. Kagenovich became Minister of the Construction Materials Industry on 3 September 1956, after he relinquished the key post of Chairman of the State Committee on Labor and Wages.

IV. Apparently Molotov retains his position as a member of the party presidium. As such, he will continue to be a member of the highest party body--although his new post would suggest that his influence in the day-to-day direction of affairs is now at a new all-time low.