

NSC BRIEFING

25 March 1954

BACKGROUND BIOGRAPHIC DATA

L. M. KAGANOVICH

Position: Member of the Party Presidium.

First Deputy Minister of the Council
of Ministers.

Born in 1893, Kaganovich has been a member of the leading group since the middle 1920's. Once known as the "Iron Commissar", he is the only Jewish member of the ruling group. Described as a man of extraordinary intellectual and practical capacities and great energy Kaganovich is said to be one of the most able administrators in the Soviet hierarchy and is usually called upon to try to solve the most urgent Soviet industrial bottlenecks. At present known to be in charge of transport, he has in the past been minister of heavy, fuel, oil, and building materials industries.

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K. I. VOROSHILOV

Position: Member of the Party Presidium.
Chairman of the Presidium of the
Supreme Soviet.

Born in 1881 Voroshilov's career has been a mixture of political and military activities. From 1925 - 1939 he was People's Commissar for military and naval affairs, later for defense. A member of the Politburo since 1926, he was elected to the position as chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet after Stalin's death. He is considered to be of little military or political importance since the positions he now occupies are primarily honorary.

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B. P. BESHCHEV

Position: Minister of Railroads.

Beshchev has been associated with
railroad affairs at least since 1941.

Presumed to be protégé of Kaganovich.

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V, M, MOLOTOV

Position: Member Party Presidium;

First Deputy Chairman USSR Council
of Ministers and Minister of Foreign
Affairs.

Born in 1890, Molotov is one of the
few old Bolsheviks to remain in a trusted
position.

Molotov is not
considered to have built up any clique or
group of protégés within the party appa-
ratus. He is a foreign affairs techni-
cian of the highest order but his talents
do not extend to formulating basic de-
cisions. Lenin once characterized him
as "the best file clerk in Moscow."

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A. I. KIRICHENKO

Position: First Secretary Ukraine

Born in the Ukraine in 1908 Kirichenko made his career in the communist party apparatus in that area. He is believed to have been put on the powerful all-Union party presidium a couple of months ago. His work in the Ukraine brought him into close contact with N. S. Khrushchev, who was the party boss in the Ukraine from 1938 to 1949.

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F. E. DZERZHINSKY

1877 - 1926

One of the few outstanding leaders of the 1917 Bolshēvik revolution whose memory is still honored by the Soviet regime Dzerzhinsky was charged with the suppression of counter-revolutionary elements in the Ukraine during the Civil War. He is the only Soviet secret police chief who is believed to have died a natural death.

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M. V. FRUNZE

1885 - 1925

Having played a leading role in Soviet military operations during the Civil War, Frunze later became commander-in-chief of the Soviet army and navy. The Soviet Union's leading general staff school is named after him.

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Ya. M. SVERDLOV

1885 - 1919

Sverdlov was the nominal head of the young Soviet state and one of the best organizers among the early Bolsheviks. One of the Soviet Union's largest industrial cities bears his name.