

Bulganin Becomes Soviet Premier

Malenkov Confesses Self Failure In Agriculture, Government Affairs

Stalin's Heirs Hold Struggle

By RICHARD KASISCHKE
Of the Associated Press
MOSCOW (AP)—Defense Minister Nicolai Bulganin, an army marshal, replaced Georgi M. Malenkov as premier of the Soviet Union Tuesday.

The change was coupled with a statement of foreign policy criticizing the United States as an aggressor, upholding Communist China's claims to Formosa and presenting a picture of possible hydrogen bomb warfare which Communism alone would survive.

Spotlight: Khrushchev

While Bulganin became premier, the drama that unfolded before the Supreme Soviet turned the spotlight on Nikita S. Khrushchev, head of the Soviet Communist Party. It strongly underscored Soviet concentration on heavy industry arms, production for which Khrushchev has been the chief advocate.

Malenkov resigned at a morning session of the parliament, confessing himself a failure in the field of agriculture and an inexperienced hand in the affairs of government.

Standing Ovation

Bulganin was nominated for the premiership at the afternoon session by Khrushchev, who received a significant standing ovation. Shortly thereafter Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov went to the rostrum in the great Kremlin palace, and while diplomats listened in the packed and tense galleries, grimly outlined the Soviet idea of what would come from a hydrogen-bomb war.

Molotov declared the Soviet Union has developed hydrogen bombs with "such success that the United States could appear backward."

"Russia Not Weak"

He said a comparison of the true strength of the United States and the Soviet Union would show that Russia is not the weaker party. He declared the Soviet Union wants to compete with the United States in atomic matters only "in using atomic energy for peaceful aims."

He warned:

"In case of eventual war, civilization will not perish but what will be destroyed is the rotten social system with its blood-saturated imperialism which is being rejected by oppressed peoples."

Military Power

In view of the tenor of Molotov's remarks—obviously to be taken as a major statement of foreign policy—Western diplomats noted with particular interest that a man associated with the military had become the new premier.

There was some speculation here that it meant a stronger role for the armed forces in Soviet internal and external affairs, even though Bulganin is not a career military man but an old Communist administrator.

Military Spending Up

This current session of the Supreme Soviet approved a new 1955 budget which increased Soviet military spending by 12 per cent over last year and laid the heaviest of stress on heavy industry production.

Malenkov's confession of failure was read for him by Alexander Volkov, chairman of the Council of the Union, upper house of the Soviet. The resignation was adopted by a show of hands.

Malenkov confessed "guilt" for the failure of agricultural policy when he was in charge of it—before the death of Joseph Stalin in March, 1953.

"Lack of Experience"

He also said his "lack of experience has had a negative influence on work in the economic

Phonetics Assist In Russian Names

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

How to pronounce the names of the three top Russians in Tuesday's news:

Nicolai Bulganin — Nee-kol-eye' Bool-gah'-neen.

Georgi Malenkov — Hard "G's" and accent on the second syllable Gee-yor'-gee Mal-yen-koff. The accent in the last name can also be on the first syllable.

Nikita Khrushchev—Ni-kee'-ta Hroosh-cheoff.'

sphere." Volkov said Malenkov would take on other duties—unspecified—and had promised to "carry them out faithfully."

After Volkov read Malenkov's statement, the session adjourned until afternoon. This time Malenkov led the parade to the stage and was greeted with applause. But when Khrushchev arose to make the speech nominating Bulganin for the premiership, he received a standing ovation—the biggest applause of the day.

Bulganin Is 59

The white-bearded, handsome Bulganin at 59 is six years older than Malenkov. During World War II he was the Communist official directly in charge of the armed services, immediately beneath Stalin.

Khrushchev said Bulganin was the unanimous choice of the Communist Party Central Committee and the Council of Ministers for the premiership. The Central Committee met Jan. 25.

It was not clear whether Bulganin retains the Defense Ministry.

Dark Horse

Diplomatic quarters regarded Bulganin as rather a dark horse in the race for the premiership.

Most speculation had centered around 60-year-old Khrushchev or Molotov, 65, as Malenkov's successor. Some speculated that Bulganin would be a sort of chairman of the board—a coordinator—and not a strong personal leader.

There was little question about the influential role of Khrushchev, personally identified with all the most important events in Soviet life in the past year. He had charge of the new agricultural program with its stress on mechanization and the exploitation of virgin lands of Siberia and Central Asia. He sparked the drive for concentration on heavy industry.

Production Switch

Malenkov had been associated since August, 1953, with a drive to increase light industry production for consumer goods—a program which Khrushchev personally discredited before last month's Central Committee meeting.

Khrushchev Influential

Khrushchev's role in foreign affairs, through the emphasis on heavy industry, was detected by observers here in the budget statement of Finance Minister Arseny Zverev before parliament. Zverev said emphasis on money for armament was necessary because there had been no lessening of internal tensions.

Malenkov's resignation climaxed months of speculation concerning his role in the party and government leadership. Some Western diplomats say in it the end of the "collective leadership" or committee rule which took over after Stalin's death.

Strong Ministers

Malenkov's statement said he saw the necessity of "strengthening the leadership of the Council of Ministers and the need to have at the post of the chairman of the Council of Ministers another comrade with greater experience in state work."

"I see particularly clearly my guilt and responsibility for the unsatisfactory state of affairs which has arisen in agriculture, because for several years past I have been entrusted with the duty of controlling and guiding the work of the central agricultural organization.

By Tom Whitney
Associated Press Staff Writer

The struggle among Stalin's heirs for Stalin's power has entered its critical and perhaps its final stage.

Just a little bit more and Nikita Khrushchev—boss of the Soviet Community Party—will be the new Stalin. But a miss is as good as a mile as two previous contenders, Lavrenty Beria and ex-Premier Georgi Malenkov, have found out.

Nevertheless, in the wake of the news from Moscow of Premier Georgi Malenkov's self-implicating "resignation," Khrushchev seems far out in front in the

Kremlin sweepstakes. It looks as if he had been able to throw out of office his main rival, whom most Westerners had regarded as No. 1 man in the U.S.S.R. ever since Stalin's death.

Khrushchev must be regarded as the leading candidate for the position of "leader and teacher" of the U.S.S.R.

But it would be a mistake to assume that all the returns are in, that everything from now on is cut and dried.

The coming weeks likely will bring a number of developments in the U.S.S.R., including important appointments and resignations in Soviet government posts.

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