

# 3 Top Stalin Aides Jockey for Position As Dictator's 'Heir'

Editor's Note: The question frequently comes up: Who will succeed Stalin? The latest information of the possibilities is weighed here by William L. Ryan of The Associated Press foreign staff. The story is based on Ryan's close scrutiny of Russian affairs over several years, and on talks with diplomats in a position to know and balance the information that seeps from Soviet Russia. No clear-cut answers can be given, but this at least is an intriguing assay of developments likely to bear on the Kremlin enigma.

By William L. Ryan  
Associated Press Foreign Staff

Western officials are closely examining wisps of evidence to support a growing hunch that the three top men of the Politburo have been sharpening their contest for Joseph Stalin's mantle as they eye his faltering health.

A number of developments are being looked upon as signs and portents of things to come—and some observers lean heavily to the belief that in the contest, First Deputy Prime Minister V. M. Molotov will come out on the short end.

## Which One to Replace Stalin?



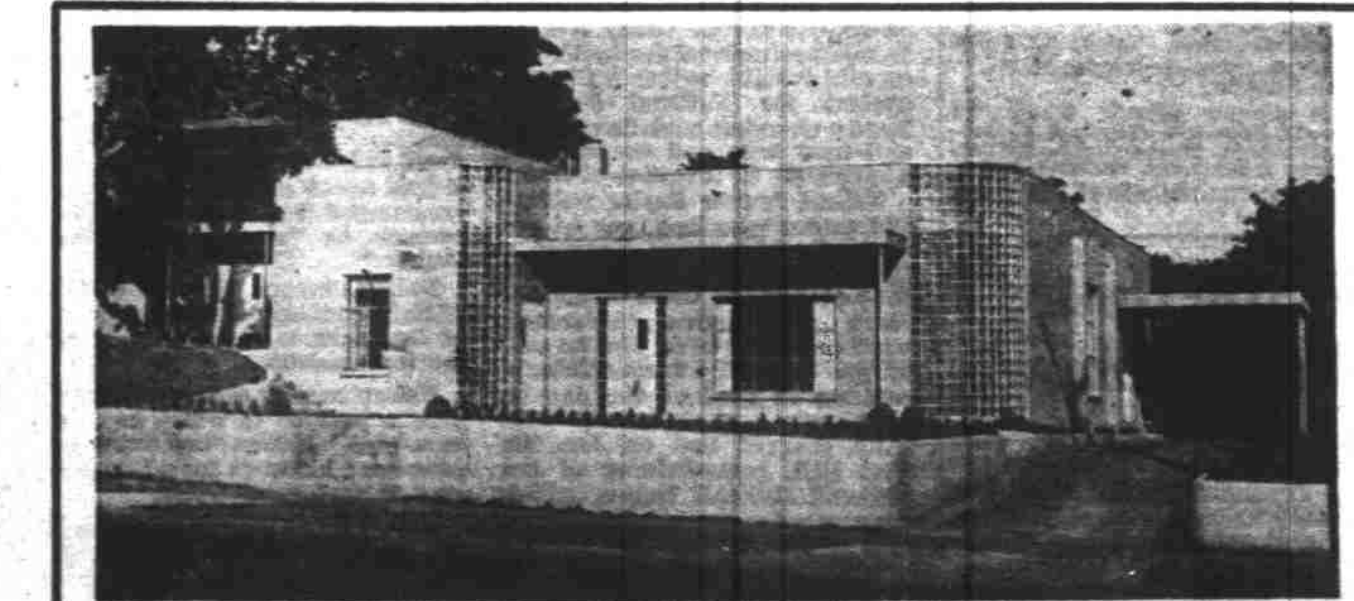
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armies from Manchuria, other competent observers reject this, holding that the Soviet part in that operation is in the hands of Marshal Rodin Malinovsky.

2. Beria's police and security system has been tightened up. Col. Gen. Lev Z. Mekhlis, one of the few Jews to reach high position in the U.S.S.R., was removed last October as head of the MCK. This is the ministry of state control. It reports to Beria. This agency presides over the whole apparatus of Soviet government. It was placed in charge of Gen. V. N. Merkulov, a former head of the MGB, the ministry of state security.

Later there came evidence that all the police forces of the internal affairs department had been brought under the supervision of the MGB, including the secret police, the militia, the transport police and the border police. The MVD—Ministry of interior affairs—a name dreaded even in the highest places, apparently was concerned chiefly with the vast slave labor program, and with generalized supervision of internal order.

3. Beria also has been tightening his grip on the interior ministries of the satellite European states. He controls these through his agents. He has shaken up a number of them.

4. There have been evidences leaking through the iron curtain and hinted at in the Soviet press of trouble inside the U.S.S.R., particularly in the Ukraine. Such restiveness might be one of a number of factors contributing to a cautious policy in the west.

5. There have been a number of shakeups in various departments of the Soviet government, notably in the construction and supply fields, and there is constant harping on the inadequacy of consumer goods. In one shake-up, B. A. Dvinsky was fired from his job of minister of procurements, which has to do with agricultural supplies. The job was given to P. K. Ponomarenko, a rising party functionary from White Russia. In recent months, Mikhail Suslov has slipped into the job of editor of Pravda, and his fortunes also apparently have been rising. Apparently both these men owe their rise to Molotov's blessing.

Both Ponomarenko and Suslov once were considered part of the clique represented by Andrei Zhdanov, who died several years ago. Zhdanov himself once appeared to Stalin's chair. After Zhdanov's death, Malenkov's star rose swiftly. He is credited with purging systematically many of Zhdanov's followers. Zhdanov was an architect of the cominform. His philosophy was similar to Molotov's. He believed in constant pressure.

Molotov at one time seemed in partial eclipse. He surged to the forefront of world developments last October, with Stalin away from Moscow, and Malenkov probably with him. It was then that Molotov began applying new pressure against the west, typified by the Prague declaration demanding unification of Germany on communist terms. It was also in this period that a parade of western European communist leaders trekked to Moscow—some ostensibly because they were sick and needed treatment.

Molotov might have good reason to consider himself abused. Although he persistently is ranked formally next to Stalin, it is reported that Stalin treats him like a not-too-intelligent clerk. Winston Churchill, among others, has reported that Stalin enjoyed needing his aide. Molotov's wife, who once held high positions in the direction of the fish and perfume industries, lost the jobs, apparently at Malenkov's insistence, and Molotov is said not to have taken kindly to this.

If Stalin has decided to designate his heir, the guessing is that a younger man than Molotov would be selected. Molotov was 60 last March. Malenkov is 49 and pure Stalinist. He now holds the position—ruler of the whole communist party apparatus—that Stalin held at the time of Lenin's death.

**Malenkov Cautious**

Bejewelled, scowling Malenkov often has talked tough, but he is believed nevertheless to be the man who successfully urged the ending of the Berlin blockade when that venture brought too close the danger of a shooting war in Europe. Last March Malenkov, in his last speech to be published, apparently was returning to such cautious ways. His pre-election address for the Supreme Soviet found him dealing with Stalin's theme of the co-existence of the two systems. Beria made a similar speech.

### New York Stock Quotations

NEW YORK, Jan. 20—(AP)—Today's closing quotations:

Ad Corp.	28 1/2	Gen Foods	47 1/2	Repub Stl	44 1/2
Al Chem	60 1/2	Gen Motors	49 1/2	Rey Metals	40 1/2
Al Chalmers	45	Goodyear Tire	72	Richfield	38
Am Airlines	14 1/2	Homestake	41 1/2	Safeway	36 1/2
Am Pow & Lt	20 1/2	Int Harvester	94 1/2	Sears Roebuck	32 1/2
Am Tel & Tel	154 1/2	Int Paper	94 1/2	Soc Vac	27 1/2
Am Tobacco	66 1/2	John Man	48 1/2	South Pac	69 1/2
Anacosta	41 1/2	Kennecott	77 1/2	Std Oil Cal	95 1/2
Atchison	158	Libby McN & L	9 1/2	Std Oil NJ	97 1/2
Beth Steel	55 1/2	Lock Air	38 1/2	Studebaker	31 1/2
Boe Airplane	42 1/2	Loew's Inc	17 1/2	Sunsh Mn	14 1/2
Borg Warner	65 1/2	Long Bell	29 1/2	Swift and Co	38 1/2
Bur Add M	15 1/2	Montg Ward	68 1/2	Transamerica	16 1/2
Calif Packing	58	Nash Kely	19 1/2	Twent C Fox	22 1/2
Can Pacific	23 1/2	NY Central	24 1/2	U Pac	107 1/2
Caterpillar	45 1/2	North Pac	33 1/2	Un Oil Cal	35 1/2
Celanese	43 1/2	Pac Am Fish	17 1/2	Un Airlines	26 1/2
Chrysler	75 1/2	Pac Gas & Elec	33 1/2	Un Aircraft	35 1/2
Con Edison	30 1/2	Pac Tel & Tel	104 1/2	Un Corp	4 1/2
Cons Vultee	18 1/2	Packard	4 1/2	US Plywood	—
Crown Zellerbach	50 1/2	Penney	70 1/2	US Steel	45 1/2
Curt Wright	11 1/2	Penn RR	25 1/2	Warn Bros	12 1/2
Doug Aircraft	109	Pepsi Cola	12 1/2	West Un Tel	41 1/2
Dupont	85 1/2	Philo	23 1/2	West Elec	36 1/2
Eastman Kodak	46 1/2	Rac Corp	18 1/2	Woolworth	44 1/2
Emer Radio	14 1/2	Rayonier	—		
Gen Electric	52 1/2	Ray Pfd	—		

### Portland Produce

PORTLAND, Jan. 20—(AP)—Butterfat tentative, subject to immediate change: Premium quality, maximum to 25 to 1 per cent acidity delivered in Portland, 78-81c lb; first quality, 76-77c; second quality, 74-75c.

Butter—Wholesale f.o.b. bulk cubes to wholesalers: Grade AA, 83 score, 70c lb; A, 82 score, 71c; B, 80 score, 70c; C, 80 score, 68c. Above prices strictly Molotov remained truculent as ever.

In jockeying for the Kremlin power, Malenkov is fortunate in an ally like Beria, who apparently has no similar aspiration. There was, at one time, doubt whether the two were allies rather than rivals, but both were proteges of Stalin himself. If they fell apart, it could spell disaster for the Soviet Union so mutually dependent is the great power they hold. Beria, a Georgian like Stalin, apparently would be satisfied to have Malenkov in the top spot.

## Grains Show Strength on Board of Trade

CHICAGO, Jan. 20—(AP)—Grains showed strength on the board of trade today despite a good deal of talk by the local experts that the price trend should be down, not up.

In early dealings the upward

## Stocks and Bonds

STOCK AVERAGES

	Jan 20	Jan 19	Jan 18	Jan 17	Jan 16
Net change	122.8	67.2	67.4	62.9	62.9
Prev day	123.4	66.9	67.5	62.8	62.8
Week ago	121.8	65.8	67.2	61.6	61.6
Month ago	116.0	61.5	65.3	66.9	66.9
Year ago	102.0	42.0	44.1	73.2	73.2

BOND AVERAGES

	20	19	18	17	16
Net change	—	—	—	—	—
Sat	99.4	101.7	103.4	72.1	72.1
Prev day	99.4	101.7	103.4	72.1	72.1
Week ago	99.1	101.8	103.3	71.7	71.7
Month ago	98.8	101.7	103.4	70.4	70.4
Year ago	95.9	102.8	105.2	72.2	72.2
1950-51 high	99.4	102.8	105.4	73.4	73.4
1950-51 low	92.5	101.3	103.1	69.9	69.9
1949 high	94.3	102.9	105.3	70.7	70.7
1949 low	88.4	101.4	103.8	62.9	62.9

### Salem Market Quotations

(As of late yesterday)

BUTTERFAT (Valley Packing Co. quotations)

Premium No. 1	25.00 to 25.00
No. 2	24.00 to 24.00
Wholesale Retail	23.00 to 23.00

LIVESTOCK (Valley Packing Co. quotations)

Feeder lambs	25.00 to 25.00
Fat lambs	26.00 to 26.00
Ewes	1.00 to 1.00
Fat dairy cows	20.00 to 22.00
Cutter cows	19.00 to 21.00
Dairy heifers	22.00 to 25.00
Good veal	20.00 to 22.00
Bulls	24.00 to 26.00

EGGS (Buying) (Wholesale prices range from 8 to 7 cents over buying price)

Large AA	24.00
Large A	23.00
Medium AA	22.00
Medium A	21.00
Small	20.00

POULTRY (Wholesale prices range from 8 to 7 cents over buying price)

Leghorn hens	24.00
Colored hens	23.00
Colored fryers	22.00
Old roosters	18.00
Roasters	20.00

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