

Beria's Case Shows Power Rise on Part of Soviet Army

(Editor's note—William L. Ryan, AP foreign news analyst, is back in the United States after a three-month tour of duty as an AP correspondent in the Soviet Union. He talked with some of the men who are influential in Russia—and he talked also with scores of everyday Russians in eight of the republics of the U.S.S.R. This is his appraisal of the current setup in the post-Stalin government, and of some of the aspects of the Beria case spotlighted by last Wednesday's announcement that Beria had confessed and been committed to trial.)

By WILLIAM L. RYAN
AP Foreign News Analyst

Moscow's handling of the Beria case demonstrates clearly the swift diminishing of secret police power in the Soviet Union and at the same time a rise in power and influence of the Soviet army.

Suddenly and surprisingly, the case against former police boss Lavrenty Pavlovich Beria has been dragged from its obscurity and has become the subject for intensive propaganda.

This treatment reinforces the impression that the remaining six rulers of the Communist party empire have been forced together into an uneasy collective leadership which might better be called collective despotism.

The impression was unanimous up to a few days ago among foreign observers in Moscow that the party wanted the Beria case to be forgotten—that some day the party would simply announce Beria had been convicted and executed.

But somebody obviously opposed the idea. The evidence points to the army. Recently at one of the state affairs which call for innumerable toasts, I heard Marshal Georgi Zhukov express himself in a way which seemed to suggest resentment with the party and impatience to have a final chapter written in the career of Beria.

Zhukov, popular military hero of World War II, had been asked to contribute to the toasts. Looking glum and solemn—and obviously disapproving the carryings on of the Communist party big shots present—Zhukov recalled that "justice" had been the subject of one of the toasts. He announced he wanted only to support the toast to justice.

Sharp-faced Anastas I. Mikoyan, once mentor of Beria in the Communist party, snapped: "What's the matter, Zhukov? Can't you think up your own toast?"

"Support Justice"

Stolidly Zhukov intoned: "I wish to support the toast of justice."

The removal of Beria apparently went against the wishes of at least some of the present six members of the ruling Communist party hierarchy. Mikoyan, for example, is the man who started Beria on his Communist party career. It was Mikoyan who selected him for special work with the Bolsheviks in the day when they were fighting the strong anti-Bolsheviks in Baku, Azerbaijan capital which now is the Soviet Union's oil center.

There are indications that rivalry still exists among the top members of the Communist hierarchy, and the impression one takes out of Moscow is that the collective leadership holds together only because it must in the face of a definite threat.

Threat From Army

The threat seems to come from the army. And, in Beria, the army now is getting rid of a man it actually considered its enemy. He was the head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, and with his own past private police army, intruded upon the authority and dignity of the regular armed forces.

The destruction of Beria and his most trusted aides reduces the

power of the MVD, and the lessening of MVD power means a weakening of the Communist party's police arm.

Now there appears to be a standoff between the Communist party and the army, a sort of uneasy truce with each watching the other carefully.

Collective Leadership

Thus, the collective leadership being talked about by the Communist party since the death of Stalin is real in this respect: It is a collective of six individuals who rule the party and government together because this is no time for any one of them to attempt to emerge as the dictatorial boss.

These six are Premier Malenkov, party leader, S. Khrushchev, Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov, Defense Minister Nicolai Bulganin, Vice Premier Lazar Kaganovich and Trade Minister Mikoyan.

There are three others on the presidium but they do not figure as rulers. These are Marshal Klementi Y. Voroshilov, a figurehead who was a comrade-in-arms of Stalin and now occupies the wholly honorary position of president; Mikhail Saburov and M. G. Pervukhin, who are industrial experts dragged into top spots by the force of events.

There is no single boss, apparently because none wants to occupy that uncomfortable position at this juncture.

Avoided Publicity

It seemed logical up to a short time ago to suppose that these rulers, having shelved and incarcerated Beria, would have preferred to let the whole thing pass gradually into oblivion without raking up the whole story again through a publicized (though not public) trial.

Somebody wanted the humiliation of Beria and the MVD to be finalized, to be brought home dramatically to the Soviet people. That could only have been the army.

Beria Given Praise

For the party, the Beria case is awkward. Beria, according to the Soviet encyclopedia published in 1950 and still embarrassingly present in current sets in the U.S.S.R., "carried out great work in destroying the Menshevik, Dashnak and Mussavist parties" after the revolution. But last Wednesday they accused him of having been an agent of those groups. The encyclopedia says he defeated "the Trotskyist and other anti-party groups which had gone into the anti-Soviet underground and joined with the remnants of anti-Soviet parties and intelligence services of the capitalist countries." Last Wednesday Beria was accused of having served the Trotskyists and the capitalist countries.

Held Rank of Marshal

The Soviet encyclopedia also notes that Beria held the rank of Marshal of the Soviet Union, five orders of Lenin, the Order of Suvorov, two orders of the Red Banner and seven medals. Yet all the time he was a traitor in the party's midst.

Just before I left Moscow Tuesday I heard from a competent source that Beria had been moved out of Lubianka prison, that ordinary looking building on Dzerzhinsky Square which once, ironically, held the Russian Life Insurance Co. The removal could mean only one thing: Beria's doom was finally sealed. He may well be dead already.

Bays Promoted to Grade of Major

Promotion of Thomas P. Bays, 1635 Madison St., to the grade of major in the United States Army Reserve was announced here by Maj. Russell Haynes, commander of the 929th Field Artillery Battalion.

Bays, a veteran of World War II service in the Pacific, is plans and training officer for the Salem battalion, a part of the 104th (Timberwolf) Infantry Division.

Sad News From Panmunjom



TOKYO—Kyoko Araki, Japanese bride of American PFC Claude J. Batchelor, 22, of Kermit, Texas, sadly reads a letter in Tokyo from her husband, one of the 22 Americans who have elected thus far to remain with the Communists, in which he tells her it is impossible for him to return to her. The letter was in reply to one from her in which she asked him to come back to Japan. (AP Wirephoto via radio from Tokyo to The Statesman.)

Japanese Bride of Yank PW Begs Mate to Leave Reds

By JOHN RANDOLPH

TOKYO (AP)—Rassi, the dog, is dead. Tama, the cat, is an old grandmother. Younger sister To-shiko has grown up. She is a pretty, young lady now.

Three Christmases have come and gone since boyish Cpl. Claude Batchelor, 22, of Kermit, Tex., taught his little Japanese war bride to sing "The Tennessee Waltz" and went off to war in Korea.

In five days, the fourth Christmas will be here.

"Impossible to Return"

"Circumstances make it impossible for me to return to Tokyo now," read a typewritten letter received Saturday by the bride, Kyoko Araki.

It was signed by Batchelor, one of 22 American service men held in a Panmunjom, Korea, compound after refusing to quit Communism.

"We know what we are doing now is right and a step toward a better future for mankind as a whole," the letter said, "especially for the working peoples who now have to undergo continual suffering."

'Changed Immensely'

"I have changed immensely since I last saw you. You would not believe I was the same man. I have learned that happiness does not come with money as I used to believe but that it comes from struggle born of the fight for the emancipation of mankind from the shackles of war and capitalist exploitation."

The letter advised her to go to the Japanese Communist Party for help and guidance.

Phrase by phrase, an interpreter turned the words into swift, staccato Japanese. With each sentence, the little figure on the office sofa seemed to crumble anew.

Begs Return

Kyoko received the letter in The Associated Press office. Associated Press correspondents had carried to Panmunjom her letter begging Batchelor to return, then brought back the reply.

"I don't understand," she kept saying.

"He may be a Communist now. He's been in prison camp so long but if he came back here he'd forget it soon, very soon."

Then she smiled quickly, said she wouldn't think of contacting the Japanese Communist Party because of her hatred for Communism.

'Write Him Again'

"I write him (again)," she said. "I will do anything to get him back. I'll go to the neutral zone to see him. But I won't go to Communist China."

His letter had hinted of plans for reunion soon in a Communist country.

Kyoko borrowed a fountain pen and paper, went over to a steel desk and started writing.

"I feel the happiness of us two is being taken away for good," she wrote "My Darling Claude."

'Used to Sing'

"You used to sing for me Tennessee Waltz," she recalled.

"I can now sing it well. Our cat, Tama, is now an old grandmother. The dog, Rassi, is dead."

"Please, my darling, come back to me. I want to hear you again chuckle softly with your lips slightly bent. . . ."

"You mentioned 'circumstances' that do not allow you to reunite with me right now. What are these circumstances? . . . Why don't you come back right now and explain to us from your mouth your ideas? You can go for your own ideas living with me. . . . I know that you can come home simply by talking to an India guard and telling him so. . . ."

'Mother Sobs'

"My mother sobs whenever she speaks about you. I try to calm her down, telling 'He'll be back before Christmas.' But while trying to do so, I sob too. Let's reunite as soon as possible. I cannot continue this letter for tears now gush in my eyes."

The imprint of her lips was on the envelope when she handed it to a newsman for relay to Panmunjom.

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Minneapolis Truck Strike Stalls Papers

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Minneapolis residents queued up by the thousands to buy the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune Sunday as a truckers' strike left this city of more than half a million without any regularly-delivered Sunday newspaper.

About 100 truck drivers, members of an AFL teamsters' local, struck the newspaper early Saturday evening in a wage dispute.

With a Sunday circulation of more than 620,000 undeliverable, the Tribune ran off about 75,000 copies for "over the counter" sales.

The papers—limited to five per customer—were sold out by 2:20 p.m. The company said Monday morning's issue of the Tribune was scheduled to go to press as usual, but with no delivery.

A line of buyers, two and three deep, at times extended a full city block outside the Tribune's main entrance. Minor traffic jams clogged nearby streets.

The teamsters established a picket line only at the Tribune's loading docks. Members of other unions reported for work as usual via other entrances.

The union seeks weekly pay increases of \$4.56 for day work and \$6.46 for night work, plus other fringe benefits. The Minneapolis Star and Tribune Company has offered \$3.04 and \$4.18 respectively.

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Hit-Run Car Leaves Boy Critically Hurt

KLAMATH FALLS (AP)—Norman Miller, 13, was found Saturday night lying on the highway which runs through Bly, 64 miles east of here, after the sound of screeching brakes had prompted people to look out from their houses.

No car was in sight. The boy, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Miller, was brought to Klamath Valley Hospital here in critical condition with a leg fracture, internal injuries and head injuries.

East Oregon Wreck Fatal To Woman

BURNS, Ore. (AP)—A former Minnesota woman was killed and her husband injured Saturday night in a two-car collision 30 miles east of here.

Mrs. Elmer N. Anderson, formerly of Austin, Minn., and more recently from Eugene, was killed outright. Anderson, ex-chief engineer for the Hormel Packing Co. in Austin, was hospitalized here with severe scalp cuts and a broken left leg.

State police said the other motorist, Lee Baldwin Jr., Burns, swerved his car to avoid hitting a boulder in the road and skidded into the path of the Anderson vehicle.

The Andersons were driving east to Austin on business. He recently spent nine months in Turkey as an advisor on meat packing problems. The couple had lived in Eugene for several years after leaving Minnesota.

A son, James Anderson, Eugene, and a daughter, Mrs. R. W. Ralston, Portland, came here Sunday.

Students believe that the making of glass is at least 5,000 years old.

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