

Molotov's Appointment Gives New Stage of Fierceness Inside Kremlin

Editor's note: Apparently conflicting Soviet policies in Hungary and Poland have coincided with increasing indications of indecision within the Kremlin itself. Now comes the appointment of old-stalwart Vyacheslav M. Molotov as minister of state control. Kenneth Brodway, former United Press manager in Moscow, analyzes the most recent development in the following dispatch.

The power struggle inside the Kremlin has reached a new stage of fierceness with the appointment of Vyacheslav M.

Molotov as minister of state control.

The move, coupled with Communist Party boss Nikita Khrushchev's growing belligerence and continuing pressure for freedom both inside Russia itself and in its satellite empire, shows a mounting Kremlin desperation.

The Poles have just won sweeping concessions in running their own internal affairs.

The Hungarians, bloody, hungry, ravaged by starvation and disease, remain unbowed.

Less visibly to the outside world, the Russian people are increasingly restless themselves and are expressing their discontent more and more openly.

Laying Down the Law

Just before the announcement of Molotov's new and powerful ministerial post, he was

reported laying down the law to all Soviet writers, painters, musicians, and other intellectuals.

Khrushchev sharply warned Russian university students that if they didn't immediately stop their public expressions of discontent and disapproval of the government they would be thrown out of school, and worse.

The Kremlin struggle is fundamentally over which of two policies shall prevail to stop the disaffection:

Grant the growing demands of Russia and satellite peoples, or crack down hard with new controls and punishments.

For the Kremlin, the one seems almost as bad as the other.

If concessions are made, as in internal controls of the Rus-

sians and to the Poles, more concessions will be demanded.

If crushing force is used, as against the Hungarians, the people become more embittered and stubborn.

The obvious answer, according to some leaders, is to go back to his techniques. The leader of this group is reported to be Molotov, and he seems to be winning the battle.

But not necessarily the war.

Because the counter-argument is that it was precisely Stalin's technique that created the hatreds, discontents, and disloyalties that are now rearing up and kicking the Kremlin in the teeth.

And this argument—supposedly the Khrushchev argument—is that the basic disease must be cured if the Soviet empire is

Villagers of Madecoro, in French Equatorial Africa's Territory of Chad, catch fish by driving them like big game. Men hold large nets while women upstream splash and beat the water with bell-shaped baskets to herd fish into the trap.

ever to have any lasting strength. The Molotov appointment could signal the forthcoming downfall of Khrushchev.

But it could as easily represent a squeeze-play, with Molotov himself being prepared as the Stalinist scapegoat.

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