

# High Ranking Russian Official Has Personality That Clicks

**United Press International**  
The world's foremost authority on Russian roulette is a 63-year-old Armenian named Anastas Ivanovich Mikoyan. For more than 30 years he has guessed correctly which chamber was loaded when Communist purge guns went off.

Mikoyan is now Russia's No. 2 man. He is the highest ranking Soviet official to come to the United States since World War II. And Washington's diplomatic and social set are in for something novel.

He has the kind of personality that clicks with Americans. His hook-nosed face is matched by a sharp sense of humor and a keen mind. West-

erners after meeting him frequently remark that if he had migrated to America he would probably be a millionaire businessman by now.

**Khrushchev's Collaborator**  
Mikoyan gives every appearance of now being Premier Nikita Khrushchev's closest collaborator. How he got that way is one of the success stories of modern day Russia. He is one of the old Bolsheviks. Most of the rest are dead or banished.

Mikoyan has survived through a variety of talents, the most important being his tremendous ability in running the economic side of the Soviet state. He negotiated the multi-billion lend-lease agreements with the United States

and Britain in wartime, then wrenched 30 billion dollars out of the East European satellites after the war to put Russia back on its feet.

But also figuring in his survival have been his engaging personality, his personal popularity with party members and the Soviet people and his great ability to know when to jump and where.

Although at Stalin's side for 24 years, Mikoyan was the first even before Khrushchev — to denounce the deceased dictator at the 20th Communist Party Congress in 1956. In the post-Stalin struggle, he by-passed Georgi Malenkov and Nikolai Bulganin and stuck with Khrushchev.

**Amusing, Alert Man**  
Mikoyan is an amusing, alert man. He seems always full of energy. He is known as a boy vivand and appreciates good wine. He is an agile dancer and adept at flattering the ladies. As an enlivener of diplomatic parties in Moscow, he is second only to Khrushchev.

Luck is one reason for Mikoyan's survival. Even he admits Stalin died in the nick of time for him.

"Stalin held us in his hand," he once said. "Only one escape was left to us — suicide. At the end of Stalin's life, I was about to be executed."

But it is his uncanny flair for trading and business that has taken him so high. At the age of 31 in 1926, he held the post of commissar of internal and external trade. Mikoyan had the job of feeding the vast country at the same time Stalin was exterminating the Kulaks and forcing peasants to make their farms collective.

**Made Previous Visit**  
Mikoyan visited the United States once before. That was in the depression year of 1936, but he found America stimulating and said he liked its initiative, inventiveness and ability to get together. He took back for production in Russia samples of ice cream, corn flakes and canned crab along with machinery to battle, preserve, can and pack food.

As Khrushchev's right hand man, Mikoyan now is in the midst of political as well as economic decisions. Western experts believe Mikoyan is responsible for the foreign policy of trying to win over neutrals through trade and aid.

Mikoyan has never tried to build his own political machine. Perhaps the main reason he is still around is that he apparently has no desire to be No. 1.



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## Is That So?

By OLGA BURNS

The sound and sight of a woodpecker on a frosty morning as he hammers on a tree trunk are unforgettable. How can he bear to hit it so hard?



In effect, his chisel-tipped bill is nothing other than an extension of his head. But that is only part of it. Probably fully as important is the remarkable structure of his hyoid or tongue-bone.

His tongue-bone — and we have one, also — is a Y-shaped thing, except that the arms of the Y curl around and over the back of the skull to the forehead, thus binding tongue, bill and head into a single unit.

**Hard-Pointed Tongue**  
The tongue, furthermore, is a hard-pointed, barbed, cylindrical instrument that is just as important to the owner in capturing food as the bill itself. When the bill breaks through the wood to where a grub is hiding, the woodpecker thrusts his tongue into the hole, hooks the grub — much as we do a fish — then hauls it out and swallows it.

Since a woodpecker often finds his grub on a tree trunk that is vertical, the problem of getting sufficient purchase for his hammer blows looks difficult. It seems as if he

does the job standing up, clinging desperately to the bark by his claws. The fact, is, however, that though he does use his claws, he is actually sitting down.

His tail is stiff, stubby and strong. Thus, by comfortably adjusting its edge in a crevice of the bark and clinging lightly with his four toes, he can hammer away to his heart's content.

**Locates by Hearing**  
He locates his prey often apparently by hearing. At any rate, I have watched a woodpecker stroll up a tree trunk, cocking his head as if listening until he finds the right place to drive a hole. And since examination of the hole sometimes indicates no other visual evidence of a grub, the probability is that the unfortunate creature made a sound audible to the bird.

But hunting is only one of the uses of his bill. He also employs it to chisel out a nest in a branch or tree trunk big enough to hold the female's clutch of as many as eight white eggs. Usually, there is no attempt to line the nest. Chips are considered quite satisfactory for baby woodpeckers to sit on.

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