

Time Is Becoming Enemy of Ten of World's Great Statesmen

(Editor's note: Ten of the world's great powers and their 1½ billion people now are led by aging statesmen, all over the retirement age of 65 and old enough to be President Kennedy's father. What of their future and who will take their places? United Press International reporters on two continents have sought the answers. Their findings are presented in the following dispatch written by UPI's foreign editor.)

By JOE W. MORGAN
United Press International
From Konrad Adenauer at 86 to Nikita Khrushchev at 68, time is the enemy of them all.

Their average age is 72 and each in the group of 10 top senior statesmen must measure his deeds and hopes against the calendar. Not one has shown the slightest willingness to surrender to the years, but several have hinted at a negotiated truce.

Spain's Francisco Franco, who is 69, has named his successor, Britain's Harold Macmillan, 68, has appointed a deputy, France's Charles de Gaulle, 71, is reported seeking a vice president to be his eventual replacement.

Others impatiently shrug off questions about the line of succession. In this group is the oldest of them all, Chancellor Adenauer, whose health is excellent.

Some see no need to slow down, but a few are making concessions to the years. India's Jawaharlal Nehru, 72, has a medical checkup every night. He suffered from kidney trouble last April. Nationalist China's Chiang Kai-shek, 74, is recuperating from a prostate operation but has gone back to work on a limited schedule.

As much as they may wish to avoid them, each of the 10 elder statesmen at one time or another must face these questions:

How long can he continue in office?
Who will succeed him?
Answers to the questions, posed by UPI reporters in world capitals, provide the following summary:

Konrad Adenauer

Dr. Konrad Adenauer, Chancellor of West Germany: Age 86; health - excellent. Possible successors - Vice Chancellor Ludwig Erhard, 65, and Foreign Minister Gerhard Schröder, 51. Erhard is expected to be the immediate choice, as interim chancellor, but Schröder is considered likeliest to be the long-run successor, having moved ahead of 46-year-old Defense Minister Franz Josef Strauss, according to Wellington Long, UPI's chief correspondent for Germany.

Adenauer still refuses to step down, and when asked recently how many possible successors he saw, he snapped: "You should rephrase the question. It should be how many men do I see who think they are possible successors."

Chiang Kai-shek

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, President of the Republic of (Nationalist) China: Age 74; Health - recuperating from a prostate operation last May and working on limited schedule; the operation was the first medical treatment he is known to have received in years. Possible successors - Chiang's choice is the vice president and premier, Chen Cheng, 64. Chen long has been a Chiang lieutenant who is noted for his integrity.

Possible complication - Chen is said to be in delicate health and has talked of retiring. If he quits Chiang's son, Chiang Ching-kuo, might become his father's successor.

Antonio Salazar

Dr. Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, Premier of Portugal: Age 73; Health - generally good although during the past winter he was reported to have had pneumonia. Possible successors - Salazar stubbornly has refused to name one. The most likely candidates are: Field Marshal Francisco Higue Craveiro Lopes, 68, former president of Portugal (1951-58) who has large army support; former Vice Premier Marcello Gaetano, 55, who has great support among younger persons; Dr. Adriano Jose Alves Moreira, 39, ambitious, energetic minister of overseas territories.

Charles de Gaulle

Gen. Charles de Gaulle, President of France: Age 71; Health - very good; he continues active. Possible successors - no outstanding candidates. Few believe Premier Georges Pompidou, former Premier Michel Debre, or a minister such as Algerian Affairs Minister Louis Joxe would be strong enough to follow De Gaulle.

In event of his death his place would be taken temporarily by Senate President Gaston De Monerville, but it is unlikely he would hold office for long. De Gaulle is reported ready to press for changing his office into something like the U.S. presidency and create the post of vice president for his eventual successor.

Jawaharlal Nehru

Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India: Age 72; Health - Nehru is beginning to show his age. He has slowed down since his attack of kidney trouble last spring.

Possible successors - Nehru seems determined not to name one, but these are the most likely candidates: Finance Minister Morarji Desai, 66, who has a reputation for being pro-western; Defense Minister V. K. Krishna Menon, 65, whose stature was enhanced by an overwhelming victory in last February's elections but whose health is uncertain and who would have trouble bringing together all the factions of his party; Home Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, 58, a follower of Gandhi and a middle-of-the-roader who might be a compromise choice; Mrs. Indira Gandhi, 44, Nehru's daughter and former president of the Congress party.

Francisco Franco

Generalissimo Francisco Franco, Chief of State and Premier of Spain: Age 69; Health - perfect, according to his doctor, Vicente Gil. Last December he suffered a serious injury to his left hand when a gun exploded, but the injury seems to have healed.

Possible successor - Franco has named Capt. Gen. Agustin Munoz Grandes as Deputy Premier in a decree. Munoz Grandes, however, will replace Franco only as chief of the government and not as head of state. Informal Spanish political sources said they did not believe the appointment would have any effect on whether Franco decided eventually to restore the Spanish monarchy.

Harold Macmillan

Harold Macmillan, Prime Minister of Great Britain: Age 68; Health - exceptionally good. Possible successor - in the shake up of his cabinet Macmillan appointed as his principal deputy R. A. Butler, 59, who is first secretary of state. The current criticism of Macmillan has not been because of his age but rather has been directed at

Marshall Tito

Marshal (Josip Broz) Tito, President of Yugoslavia: Age 70; Health - very good. Possible successor - he never speaks of one.

Nikita Khrushchev

Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: Age 68; Health - shows amazing vitality and great recuperative powers. Has been troubled during the winter by influenza and has been spending more time on vacation on the Black Sea.

Mao Tse-tung

Mao Tse-tung, chairman of the Chinese Communist party: Age 68; Health - reported to be going strong despite his

presidium and given a minor post in the hinterlands. Nobody knows why.

Alexei Kirichenko

Alexei Kirichenko, who was pegged as a possible Khrushchev successor as late as 1960, was later demoted from his post on the party's

Possible successor - Central Committee Secretary Frol Kozlov

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