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KHRUSHCHEV OF THE UKRAINE (III)

Semichastny as Second Secretary

Within a space of 18 months Vladimir Ye. Semichastny<sup>1</sup> has been promoted from the post of secretary of the Komsomol to first secretary (April 1958), transferred to head the Central Committee Department of Party Organs for the Union Republics (Tass, 25 March 1959) as successor to his predecessor in the Komsomol secretariat, A.N. Shelepin, and assigned to the Caucasus as second secretary of the Azerbaijani Central Committee (Pravda, 13 August 1959).<sup>2</sup> Thus, after less than half a year as cadre chief for the non-Russian republics, this former member of the Khrushchev apparat in the Ukraine has moved from a key position in Moscow to a "backward" region on the periphery, repeating at a lower level the action of N.I. Belyaev who, at the end of 1957, left the Secretariat of the Central Committee in order to direct Party and State activities in the key industrial and agricultural area in Central Asia - Kazakhstan. As an emissary from Moscow, Semichastny introduces a new element in the established pattern: instead of a Russian, the trouble shooting and control function in the oil rich and cotton producing republic is an Ukrainian. To the predominantly Moslem cadres, this deviation from the norm will scarcely represent a meaningful change; from the perspective of Khrushchev's cadre policy, however, it demonstrates the First secretary's - and perhaps Kirichenko's - continued reliance on the tested followers from the Ukraine. Like the famous textile worker, Valentina Gaganova, who has gained fame and a Lenin award<sup>3</sup> for volunteering to change from a leading to a backward brigade in a factory, Semichastny may make his mark by providing an example for other "leading" functionaries to move to the provinces.

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<sup>1</sup>See Names in the News (VIII) - Accent on Youth, Background Information, 27 March 1959; Khrushchev of the Ukraine (II) - Semichastny and the Union Republic Cadres, Background Information, 28 May 1959.

<sup>2</sup>Replaces D.N. Yakovlev, since 1956 2nd secretary who is allegedly ill; he spent last year at the Party school in Moscow.

<sup>3</sup>Radio Moscow, 31 July 1959.