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KHRUSHCHEV AND THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (XI)

At the conclusion of the brief, but highly publicized Warsaw Pact meeting (4 February 1960) there was a conspicuous omission among the Soviet diplomatic representatives who attended the signing of the final communique: the Soviet ambassador to Czechoslovakia was the only emissary to a pact member country not listed as being present.<sup>1</sup>

This deepened the mystery surrounding the delayed appointment of a Soviet emissary to Prague to replace I.T. Grishin, ambassador from December 1955 until October 29th, 1959, when he was first listed as a "deputy Minister, USSR".<sup>2</sup> Previously, on 21st January, Pravda made one of its rare slips by labeling K.A. Aleksandrov as "USSR ambassador to Czechoslovakia" although both Rude Pravo (20 January) and Radio Moscow (21st January) correctly referred to this career diplomat as "chargé d'affaires" in reporting his transmission of the Supreme Soviet decree on the reduction of the Soviet armed forces to Minister of Foreign Affairs V. David. With the announcement of the transfer of Grishin "to other work" and the appointment of M.V. Zimyanin as his successor,<sup>3</sup> one half of the personnel puzzle has now been solved without giving any indication of the reasons for the 3 month postponement of an apparently routine shift of two apparatchiki-ambassadors. In the person of Zimyanin, a former 2nd Secretary of the Belorussian Central Committee, Czechoslovakia has been assigned a Party functionary as top Soviet diplomatic representative for the third time since 1954.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Pravda, 5 February 1960.

<sup>2</sup>Izvestia, 29th October 1959; in the group of deputy ministers who met A.I. Mikoyan and USSR Minister of Foreign Trade N. Patolichev on their return from Finland were the following: S.A. Borisov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, G.M. Pushkin, Deputy Minister Foreign Affairs, I.T. Grishin, M.R. Kuzmin, Deputy Minister Foreign Trade, I.F. Semichastnov, Deputy Minister Foreign Trade.

<sup>3</sup>Pravda, 20 February 1960; see below for biography of Zimyanin, one of the first of the former Party apparatchiki to be transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the post Stalin period. (See Background Information, "Khrushchev and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs II", 30 November 1956).

<sup>4</sup>N.P. Firiyubin, presently a Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, served in Prague from January 1954 until the appointment of Grishin, formerly 1st Secretary, Stalingrad obkom, in December 1955.

The transfer of Zimyanin from the Collegium of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to a post in one of the bloc countries thus maintains the now firmly established principle of entrusting wholly the implementation of Soviet foreign policy within the "socialist camp" to experienced Party workers. The promotion of Grishin to the top administrative level of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - if confirmed - would, however, mark another advance in the penetration of this former preserve of the professional diplomats who rose to prominence under V.M. Molotov, the most famous of the "appartchik-ambassadors" now exiled to Ulan Bator. Thus, the deputies serving under Andrei Gromyko now fall into two evenly divided groups:<sup>5</sup>

Professional

G.M. Pushkin  
V.S. Semyenov  
V.N. Zorin  
Ya.A. Malik  
(25 January 1960)

Party

V.V. Kuznetsov (1st Dep)  
N.P. Firyubin  
A.L. Orlov  
I.T. Grishin

Unfortunately almost nothing is known about the allocation of geographic areas and administrative responsibilities to the deputies. It seems unlikely, however, that the 3 or 4 former party apparatchiki at this level deal only with their "comrades" in the 11 capitals of the "socialist commonwealth", while an equal number of professionals are responsible for the supervision of Soviet career diplomats in more than three times as many non-Communist countries. This may, on the other hand, be a measure of how much more than normal diplomats these apparatchiki in Moscow and in the bloc have to do in carrying out their dual functions as top representatives of the Party and State.

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ZIMYANIN, Michail Vasilevich - Diplomat and Party functionary; (1949)-52 third secretary of the CC of the Communist Party Byelorussia, 1950 Deputy of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, 1950 Deputy Chairman of the Council of Nationalities of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, 1952-53 second secretary of the CC of the CP Byelorussia, 1952 member of the Central Committee of the CPSU, 1953-1956, head of the 4th European Division (Czechoslovakia and Poland) of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1956-57 Ambassador to Vietnam, 1956 member of the Central Revision Committee of the CPSU, 1958 head of the Far Eastern Division of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1958 member of the Collegium of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs; 1948 Order of Lenin.

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<sup>5</sup> See Background Information, "Khrushchev and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (IX); Apparatchiki among the Deputies, 27 July 1959.