

6 July 1963

UKRAINIAN RESHUFFLE

The elevation of N.V. Podgorny, the former 1st Secretary of the Ukrainian CP, who is also a full member of the Presidium of the CC, CPSU, to the rank of Secretary of the CC, CPSU has resulted in an extensive reshuffle of the top Ukrainian Party and Government posts. The changes involved have some surprising features and are therefore worth recording. Moreover, since the Ukraine has much the same population as W. Germany, France or Great Britain, the composition of its leadership is a matter of constant attention in the Kremlin.

To judge by the way in which Kremlinologists in the West discussed the prospects of Kozlov before his recent illness or now theorize about Brezhnev since his promotion to the Secretariat, an outsider might be forgiven for thinking that the man who occupies the post of 2nd Secretary de facto (the title does not exist in the CC, CPSU) is also the man who will succeed Khrushchev when the latter retires. But what has just happened in the case of the Ukrainian CP provides an additional reason, above and beyond the memories of what happened after Stalin's death, for extra caution in accepting this particular non sequitur.

The 2nd Secretary of the Ukrainian CP was I.P. Kazanets, who had held the post since February 1960.<sup>1</sup> In theory, therefore, he should have had the best chance of promotion to Podgorny's former job as 1st Secretary. But in fact he has been made Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukraine, replacing V.V. Shcherbitsky, who "has been transferred to other work" (Kiev Radio, 29 June 1963). Shcherbitsky, in addition to being Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Ukraine since February 1961 was also a Candidate member of the Presidium of the CC, CPSU. It is not yet certain that he has lost the latter post as a result of his replacement by Kazanets as head of the Ukrainian Government, but it seems at least probable.

Kazanets, who is a metallurgist by training, is only 45 (Tass 29 June 1963) and it is therefore possible that he was thought too young to take over the 1st Secretary's duties. But while Petr Yefimovich Shelest, the new 1st Secretary<sup>2</sup>, is ten years older than Kazanets, the significant

<sup>1</sup>Pravda Ukrainy, 20th February 1960.

<sup>2</sup>Tass, 2 July 1963.

fact about him is that he was one of the junior Ukrainian Secretaries in terms of Secretariat experience.

The dates of publication of promotion to the Secretariat are as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Source</u>
1. P. Kazanets (2nd Sec.)	20 Feb. 1960	<u>Pravda Ukrainy</u>
2. A. D. Skaba (Sec.)	25 Oct. 1959	<u>Pravda</u>
3. O. I. Ivashchenko (Sec.)	25 May 1954	<u>Pravda Ukrainy</u>
4. P. Ye. Shelest (Sec.)	12 Aug. 1962	<u>Tass</u>
5. V. G. Komyakhov (Sec.)	8 Aug. 1962	<u>Moscow Radio</u>

It is understandable that Ivashchenko should have been passed over since she is perhaps handicapped by her sex, but that Shelest should have been promoted over the heads of Kazanets and Skaba, who have been in the Secretariat two or three years longer, is probably a sign of considerable dissatisfaction with the present state of the Ukrainian CP in cadre work and ideological matters. Skaba has been the Secretary responsible for ideological work, and in this capacity he lectured the recent Ukrainian CC Plenum along the lines of Ilyichev's report to the CC, CPSU. Kazanets, as the 2nd Secretary, has concentrated mainly on personnel and cadre work, whereas Shelest has for the past year been Chairman of the Bureau for Industry and Construction of the Ukrainian CC.

Shelest joined the CP in 1928, and became a Secretary of the Kiev City Committee of the CP in 1954. In 1955 he was promoted to 2nd Secretary of Kiev Oblast and in 1956 he was elected a member of the CC of the CP of the Ukraine. In 1958 he was made 1st Secretary of Kiev Oblast, and moved up to candidate membership of the Presidium of the Ukrainian CP in the same year. In October 1961 he was made a full member of the Ukrainian Presidium, and in August 1962 came his promotion to the Secretariat. After the November Plenum of the CPSU in 1962 he was made Chairman of the Bureau for Industry and Construction of the Ukrainian CC. Thus he is a Party apparatchik by training, the whole of whose career has been contemporaneous with the Khrushchev era. Moreover he has had some experience of handling industrial and economic problems on the Republican scale during the past seven months.

In view of Khrushchev's present emphasis on the priority of economics over politics, which was a conspicuous feature of his speeches in the GDR as well as being a major plank in his domestic platform to which Peking objects so vociferously, it will be important to note whether this process of promoting a Secretary with industrial experience over the heads of his ideological and cadre colleagues is soon to be repeated elsewhere.

r.r.g.