

# RADIO FREE EUROPE *Research*

## EAST EUROPE

CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
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### THE NEW CPCS PRESIDIUUM AND SECRETARIAT

One of the final acts of the 13th CPCS Congress, which ended in Prague June 4, the election of the new Party Presidium and Secretariat, has brought no spectacular changes. Of the 10 full members of the last Presidium, nine have been confirmed in their posts, and only one is new -- Oldrich Cernik, who replaces Zdenek Fierlinger. Thus, continuity of leadership, one of the main concerns of the old and new Party leader, Antonin Novotny, has been preserved in the fullest sense of the word.

Though no major reshuffle had been expected in the Presidium as a result of the Congress, there were some grounds to believe that, besides Fierlinger, Jaromir Dolansky would also be voted out of this body, for reasons of age if for nothing else. (Dolansky is 71, Fierlinger 75).

Contrary to expectations, based mostly on the outcome of the Slovak CP Congress held earlier (May 12 to 14), economic reforms and the tasks connected with them have apparently had little influence on the Presidium's composition. Above all, in contrast to Bratislava, there has been no influx of experts and managers into the Prague body. The election of Oldrich Cernik rather strengthens the position of elements which, by virtue of their support of the introduction of economic reforms, together with a simultaneous expansion of heavy industries, can already be classified as conservative. These elements have placed themselves in opposition to the more progressive reformers, centered on the Economic Institute of the Academy of Sciences, who hold that, in order to achieve a growth of national income and an improvement of the living standard, the expansion of the consumer goods industries is required.

#### The New Presidium

The new Presidium consists of the following full members:

Oldrich Cernik, born in 1923, Vice-Premier and chairman of the State Planning Commission.

Jaromir Dolansky, born in 1895. He has held high Party and administrative posts, including that of First Vice Premier, but was retired from active governmental service in 1963 and is

now chairman of the Party CC Commission for the Standard of Living. He is a rather capable economist, which may have been the reason for retaining him in the Presidium, of which he has been a member since 1946.

Alexander Dubcek, born in 1921, First Secretary of the Slovak CP; he has been in the Presidium since April 1963, when he replaced the Stalinist Karol BACILEK.

Jiri Hendrych, born in 1913; he is the Party ideologist and de facto second-in-command after Novotny. He has been a member of the Presidium since 1958.

Michal Chudik, born in 1914, chairman of the Slovak National Council; in the Presidium since March 1964, following the 1963 ouster of Stalinist Premier Viliam Siroky.

Drahomir Kolder, born in 1925, Central Committee secretary and Presidium member since 1962. He is also chairman of the Central Committee's Economic Commission.

Bohuslav Lastovicka, born in 1905, chairman of the National Assembly. As a former fighter in the International Brigades in the Spanish Civil War, he was politically persecuted during the period of the cult, but rehabilitated in the mid-fifties.

Jozef Lenart, born in 1923; Prime Minister since September 1963 (succeeding Viliam Siroky), he has been Presidium member since the Party Congress in December 1962.

Antonin Novotny, born in 1904; he has been a Presidium member since 1951, First Secretary since 1953, and President of the Republic since 1957.

Otakar Simunek, born in 1908, permanent representative of Czechoslovakia in Comecon, Vice Premier, and overall supervisor of planning; he has been a member of the Presidium since 1958.

Of the original Presidium elected in December 1962, Karol Bacilek and Viliam Siroky were expelled in 1963 for the part they had played in the Stalinist era.

The number of Presidium candidates has risen from the original three to five, as follows:

Antonin Kapek, born in 1922, general manager of the CKD Prague heavy engineering combine; Presidium candidate since 1962.

Miroslav Pastyrik, born in 1912; he is a new candidate. Originally a Party apparatchik, he was transferred to the trade unions in 1963 and became their chairman in April 1966, replacing Frantisek Zupka, who had been retired for reasons of age. Pastyrik has a distinct Stalinist past, and although he has shown some concern for workers' interests recently, he is not expected to

change the basic status of the trade unions.

Michal Sabolcik, born in 1924, the Slovak CP economic expert, has been a Presidium candidate since September 1963.

Stefan Sadovsky, born in 1924, is a newcomer. He is a Party apparatchik who was transferred to administration only very recently, as chairman of the West Slovak (Bratislava) Regional National Committee.

Martin Vaculik, born in 1922, since April of this year the leading secretary of the Prague Municipal Party Committee (the most influential Party post on the regional level); has been a Presidium candidate since September 1963.

#### The New Secretariat

All five secretaries of the Central Committee have been re-elected. They are:

Antonin Novotny, First Secretary;

Jiri Hendrych, Drahomir Kolder, Vladimir Koucky and Lubomir Strougal, secretaries.

Vladimir Koucky, born 1920, has held this post since 1958 and is responsible for international Party affairs.

Lubomir Strougal, a lawyer by original occupation, held ministerial posts in agriculture and the interior until April 1965, when he was elected CC secretary responsible for agriculture.

Jiri Hendrych remains the chief Party ideologist, while Drahomir Kolder keeps his responsibility for economic affairs.

The three remaining members of the Secretariat, Antonin Krcek, Mrs. Ladislava Klenhova-Besserova and Frantisek Zupka, have been replaced by Miroslav Pastyrik, Frantisek Pecha and Martin Vaculik, respectively.

Frantisek Pecha is the leading secretary of the East Bohemian (Hradec Kralove) Regional Party Committee. Antonin Krcek has evidently been voted out of the Secretariat in connection with his transfer, in April of this year, from the office of the leading secretary of the Prague Municipal Party Committee to secretaryship in the trade unions. He has now been replaced in both functions by Martin Vaculik. Frantisek Zupka, who resigned his post as trade union chairman in November 1965, has now had to yield in the Secretariat to the new TU chief, Pastyrik.

The position of Klenhova-Besserova in the secretariat was apparently taken by the new member Martin Vaculik. Klenhova-Besserova is a National Front secretary and has been in the secretariat for only a year. From Vaculik's recent speeches it seems very probable that he is now to represent the National Front in the secretariat.



The reason for the reluctance to effect any major personnel reshuffle in the two top Party executive bodies probably lies in the economic sphere. Evidently, Party leader Novotny has thought it better to embark on the full-scale implementation of economic reforms with a familiar and trusted staff. He may confidently expect that, irrespective of the changes involved, his top officials will do their best to see to it that the position of the "leading force" in the country -- the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia -- is not jeopardized.

Martin Vachek, born in 1922, since April of this year the leading secretary of the Prague Municipal Party Committee (the most important Party post on the regional level) has been a President since September 1963.

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All the secretaries of the Central Committee have been re-elected. They are:

Antonin Novotny, First Secretary;

Vladimir Kocny, Second Secretary, and  
Vladimir Kocny, Third Secretary.

Vladimir Kocny, born 1920, has held this post since 1958 and is responsible for international Party affairs.

Vladimir Kocny, a lawyer by original occupation, held ministerial posts in agriculture and the interior until April 1962, when he was elected CC secretary responsible for agriculture.

Vladimir Kocny remains the chief Party ideologist, while Drachov Kolder keeps his responsibility for economic affairs.

The three remaining members of the Secretariat, Antonin Kocny, Mrs. Ladislava Kienova-Beserova and Frantisek Zupka, have been replaced by Miroslav Bastyrik, Frantisek Pech and Martin Vachek, respectively.

Frantisek Pech is the leading secretary of the last Bohemian (Krajsky) Regional Party Committee. Antonin Kocny has evidently been voted out of the Secretariat in connection with his transfer, in April of this year, from the office of the leading secretary of the Prague Municipal Party Committee to secretary in the trade unions. He has now been replaced in both functions by Martin Vachek. Frantisek Zupka, who resigned his post as trade union chairman in November 1962, has now had to yield in the Secretariat to the new TU chief, Bastyrik.

The position of Kienova-Beserova in the Secretariat was apparently taken by the new member Martin Vachek. Kienova-Beserova is a National Front secretary and has been in the Secretariat for only a year. From Vachek's recent speeches it seems very probable that he is now to represent the National Front in the Secretariat.