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AWARDS IN AGRICULTURE

Although the final results in agricultural output for 1959 were well below the record year of 1958, there has been no dearth of rewards for both leaders and rank and file for their achievements in a season of drought. In addition to the hundreds of wholly unknown kolkhozniki and sovkhos workers, lower level Party and state functionaries, and scientists and technicians previously selected for inclusion on this annual honor roll, the following group of top level Party/state apparatchiki were added to the list (for labor valor) of medal winners on the final day of 1959:¹

- N. S. Khrushchev - member of Presidium CC, CPSU
First secretary, CC, CPSU
Chairman Council of Min., USSR
Chairman, CC Buro for the RSFSR
- N. G. Ignatov - - member of the Presidium, CC, CPSU
secretary, CC, CPSU
- A. B. Aristov - - member of the Presidium, CC, CPSU
secretary, CC, CPSU
Dep. Chairman, CC Buro for the RSFSR
- D. S. Polyansky - Candidate member Presidium, CP, CPSU
Chairman, Council of Ministers, RSFSR

The acquisition of another medal by Khrushchev, as the acknowledged architect of current Soviet agricultural policies, no longer merits any particular comment. More interesting is the full catalog of his Party/state offices, including the infrequent reference to his position as Chairman of the CC Buro for the RSFSR, and the routine designation as "member" of the CC Presidium. A complete surprise, however, is the violation of the customary alphabetical order by listing N. G. Ignatov immediately after Khrushchev among the recipients, i.e. before A. B. Aristov who, besides serving as Khrushchev's Deputy on the CC Buro for the RSFSR, is, like Ignatov, also a full member of the Presidium and a secretary of the Central Committee. Although Aristov's responsibility for cadre work in the RSFSR provides a reasonable explanation for his award, there had been no recent documentation to connect N. G. Ignatov with agriculture² since his surprise election to the post of Chairman of the

¹ Pravda, 1 January 1960.

² For previous speculation on N. G. Ignatov's possible responsibility for agriculture, see "Party and State (IX)", Background Information, 16 April 1959; also "Names in the News (VI)", Background Information, 9 March 1959.

Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR in April 1959. His recent relinquishing of this assignment "to work at his main job in the Central Committee,"³ suggests very strongly that the former Chekist-Party apparatchik whom Khrushchev sent to Leningrad in his first traceable move against the Malenkov machine in April 1953⁴ has been entrusted with one of the most difficult tasks of his career -- day to day responsibility for agricultural policies directly under Khrushchev himself.

The preponderance of representatives of the RSFSR in this select listing becomes even more striking when the names of the other Party functionaries who received medals are recorded:

- G. A. Denisov⁵ - Chief, CC Dept. for Agriculture for the Union Republics
- G. I. Vorobyev⁵ - Chief, CC Dept. for Agriculture for RSFSR
- M. T. Yefremov⁶ - Chief, CC Dept. for Party Organs for the RSFSR
- P. N. Demichev⁷ - first secretary, Moscow Obkom
- V. I. Konotop⁷ - Chairman, Executive Committee, Moscow Oblast Soviet

Since all of these second level apparatchiki were transferred to their present posts at various times during the past year, as early as March and April and as late as October, it is difficult to determine the exact share of credit due to their personal efforts this year, although both Denisov (Saratov) and Yefremov (Kuibyshev) headed Party organizations in areas which came through with outstanding harvests this year. The same cannot be said for P. Demichev and V. Konotop, the two newcomers in Moscow Oblast whose

3 Tass, 26 November 1959; see "Party and State (XIV)", Background Information, 27 November 1959.

4 See "Khrushchev, Ignatov and the Zhdanovites," Background Information, 10 Nov. 1955 and "Khrushchev and Company" Background Information, 31 May 1958.

5 For biographies, see "Khrushchev of the Ukraine (V) - Overhauling the Machine," Background Information, 22 Sept. 1959.

6 From 1953 until September 1959 (Pravda, 6 Sept. 1959) 1st secretary, Kuibyshev Obkom; it is uncertain when he replaced V. I. Churayev, who was first listed as Chief, CC Department of Party Organs for Union Republics in Pravda, 22 October 1959.

7 "Names in the News (V) - Changes in the Moscow Machine," Background Information, 4 March 1959.

accomplishments remain as much of a mystery as the shortcomings of their predecessors, I. Kapitonov and N. F. Ignatov.

Completing the list of those honored with Khrushchev are: the USSR Minister of Agriculture, V. M. Matskevich, despite the criticism to which he was subjected by the First secretary at the December plenum; A. S. Shevchenko, "assistant to the secretary of the CC;"⁸ and the agricultural specialist who was given the Order of Lenin in January 1957 for his work in connection with the virgin lands; T. S. Lysenko, who has turned Khrushchev's 1954 criticism into a profuse flow of praise during the past 3 years; and V. I. Edelstein, whose fawning flattery of the First secretary at the December plenum provided a most abject example of a scientist demeaning himself in the light of the new personality cult.

After the record harvests of 1956 and 1958 the two apparatchiki who had been entrusted with the top agricultural assignments in Khrushchev's accelerated campaign to transform the Soviet countryside were not, as might have been expected, rewarded with promotions; P. A. Doroshenko, Chief of the CC Department of Agriculture for the Union Republics, was transferred to the post of 1st secretary of Chernigov Oblast in the Ukraine,⁹ and V. P. Mylarshchikov, Chief of the CC Department of Agriculture for the RSFSR, was reassigned to the position of director of the State Farm Trust in Moscow Oblast.¹⁰ While Khrushchev is clearly making every effort to prove that his criticism, as in the case of Belyaev and Matskevich, is constructive, the "demotions" of Mylarshchikov and Doroshenko, members of the Moscow/Ukrainian machine of the master, are proof that rewards for past performance are not permanent criteria for future assignments.

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⁸ See "Khrushchev of the Ukraine (IV)", Background Information, 2 Sept. 1959.

⁹ Pravda, 11 Sept. 1959; see "Khrushchev of the Ukraine (V) - Overhauling the Machine", Background Information, 22 Sept. 1959.

¹⁰ Radio Moscow, 25 December 1959.