

RADIO FREE EUROPE *Research*

COMMUNIST AREA

● USSR: Party

14 October 1965

ANDROPOV'S NEW DEPUTY

The department of the Central Committee, C.P.S.U., which deals with relations with the "socialist" countries has recently been unusually busy. Headed by Yu. V. Andropov, a Secretary of the C.C., C.P.S.U., it is believed to be about to lose its First Deputy, L. N. Tolkunov, who is reported to be going to take over the chief editor's chair on Izvestia.¹

It is not yet known who the new First Deputy will be, but in the past two months mention of a new Deputy Head of the Department has been noticed several times in the columns of Pravda. He is Konstantin V. Rusakov, who took part in the negotiations with the Rumanian delegation led by Ceausescu during its visit to Moscow in September.²

He also attended the talks held with the East German delegation which rushed to Moscow to try to offset the impact of the team led by Carstens, from the West German Foreign Office.³ Most recently he has been reported as saying farewell at the Moscow Airport to Kadar and the Hungarian group which chose to visit Ulan-Bator in the early days of October.⁴

On none of these occasions has the title of Rusakov's department of the Central Committee been specified, and this reticence on Pravda's part is standard practice when it is

1) Reuter, 9 October 1965; Die Welt, 11 October 1965.

2) Pravda, 10 September 1965.

3) Pravda, 19 September 1965.

4) Pravda, 6 October 1965.

dealing with the affairs of Andropov's agency. But the fact that on each occasion Rusakov has been clearly identified as dealing with a different East European country suggests strongly that he may be being groomed to take over Tolkunov's job when the latter achieves his scheduled promotion to Izvestia.

However, whether Rusakov eventually moves up to First Deputy or not, his recent activity makes it worthwhile to record what little is known of his career so far. Prior to 1962 he had been the Soviet Minister of the Fishing Industry, but in February of that year he was made Ambassador to Mongolia. Rusakov only stayed in Ulan-Bator for about 18 months, being released from his post in November 1963.⁵ For the next two years little was heard of him, until he began to appear in Moscow in September 1965 in his new role as a Deputy Chief of Andropov's Department.

Rusakov's age is not known here, but it is interesting to recall that Andropov's own promotion to the Secretariat of the Central Committee came five years after his return from a tour of duty as Ambassador to Budapest, which ended in 1957.

Rusakov's career therefore seems to reflect something of the pattern of that of his superior and to fit him eminently for further promotion when and if Andropov, who is now only 51, eventually moves on to a more responsible position in the Presidium. Rusakov is evidently a man worth watching.

r.r.g.

5) Tass, 21 November 1963.