

Radio Free Europe/Munich
Evaluation and Analysis Department
Background Information USSR

June 28, 1960

CAUCASIAN POWER PASTORAL

With the dismissal of N. I. Belyaev, late member of the Presidium of the Central Committee CPSU, after a five-month's tenure from his post as First secretary of the Stavropol territorial Party Committee,¹ the replacement of all first Party secretaries in a strategic geographic region of the USSR has gone full circle.

The forced "changing of the guard" in the North Caucasus was accomplished in little over a fortnight. Not since the purges of the late 'thirties has the sacking of Party chiefs been as complete, as summarily abrupt, as the "chistka" in the three principal North Caucasus administrative provinces, which comprise 90 percent of the land area and 85 percent of the population of the area. The relatively minor autonomous republics are excluded.²

For the North Caucasus is possibly the richest agricultural area in the USSR, where a combination of fertile soil and optimum weather conditions have historically produced a wide variety of crops in relative abundance. Much of the pioneering in Soviet agricultural policies in recent years was carried out on the Caucasian steppes. The oil and gas resources, the growth of manufacturing, and the warm-water seaports have considerably raised the area's industrial potential. The three provinces -- Krasnodar, Stavropol, and Rostov -- are so large and vital economically that each has its own Economic Council. The area has also been a training ground for membership to the highest position of the Party hierarchy: the Presidium.

The dynamics of power shifts within the Party leadership in the North Caucasus during June 1960 can now be documented:

¹ Pravda, 26 June 1960.

² Dagestan ASSR
Kabardino-Balkar ASSR
North Osetin ASSR
Checheno-Ingush ASSR

<u>Area</u>	<u>Dismissed 1st Secret'y</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>New 1st Sect'y and Previous Status</u>
Stavropol	N.I. Belyaev	25 June	F.D. Kulakov (Min. of grain Products for RSFS)
Rostov	A.I. Kirichenko	15 June	A.V. Basov (Chairman Rostov oblispolkom)
Krasnodar Territory	D.M. Matyushkin	9 June	G.I. Vorobyev (Chairman CC CPSU Agri. Section for RSFSR)

It will be seen that two of the replacements came from within the upper apparatus of the RSFSR, and represent rather young apparatchiki who were brought up in the reorganization at Khrushchev's behest following the December plenum. Their tour of duty in the Moscow apparatus was relatively short, and their assignments to the new provincial posts cannot be construed as demotions; rather, the selection of Moscow functionaries is indicative of the strategic role each of the areas represent in the nation's economy. The rising Vorobyev could well follow the step of his predecessors, Ignatov and Polyan-sky, into the Presidium. Only in the Rostov case was a local functionary selected, A. V. Basov.

While the dismissals of former Presidium members, Belyaev and Kirichenko, may be partially based on political considerations, a striking sequence of agricultural difficulties has been the common lot of the three deposed officials. Although Kirichenko and Belyaev could not be blamed for the poor harvests of last year, dust storms, seeding losses, and delays in field operations, which occurred in their areas this spring, could have been the coup de grace to their phase-out.

As an aside to the status of A. B. Aristov, who was transferred from the Secretariat of the CC to Khrushchev's deputy on the equally powerful Buro of the CC for the RSFSR (4 May 1960), it is reported he officiated at two of the dismissals. M. T. Yefremov, formerly 1st secretary of Kuibyshev oblast, and now head of the CC department for Party organs for the RSFSR (obviously Aristov's deputy) presided over the ceremonies of Belyaev's passing. From all this it is apparent the Russian federation of republics' party apparatus has come out on top. And the RSFSR Buro of the CC is exclusively the creation of N. S. Khrushchev.

BIOGRAPHIES

VOROBYEV, Georgi Ivanovich. Party functionary; 1953 2nd Secretary of Leningrad Oblast; 1954 Deputy to Supreme Soviet, 1956 Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Leningrad Oblast Soviet, 1956 (XX Congress) member of the Central Revision Committee, 1958 1st Secretary of the Udmurt Oblast Committee; 1958 Order of Lenin, January 1960 Chairman, Agrl section of the CC CPSU for RSFSR.

BASOV, Alexander Vasilevich. Administrative functionary; Since 1956 Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Rostov oblast Soviet.
1958 Deputy in the Supreme Soviet of the USSR
1957 Lenin order.

Sources for above two biographies 5000 Sowjetköpfe, Deutsche Industries Verlags Gmb.H., Köln, 1959)

KULAKOV, F. D. Chairman, Penza oblispolkom 1956;
Minister of Grain Products for RSFSR.