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COMMUNIST AREA

USSR: Party
30 August 1966

NEW DUTIES FOR ANDROPOV?

At least until April 1966, Yu.V. Andropov was the Secretary of the C.C., CPSU, responsible for the section of the C.C. which deals with liaison with the ruling parties of the various "socialist" blocs or camps (perhaps the more military term is really the better now that they spend so much of their time demonstrating and protesting against one another). He last appeared in that capacity on 13th April when he took part in a meeting in Moscow between Brezhnev and a delegation from the Cuban C.P.

He then disappeared from the scene for four months, during which time he seemed to be ill. He was clearly not out of political favor, because in June he was elected to the Supreme Soviet¹ and in July he co-signed the official obituary in Pravda on the death of Rudakov, who had been Secretary in charge of heavy industry.

Now Andropov is reported to have put in his first personal appearance since April, when on 27th August he accompanied Max Reimann, the first secretary of the W. German C.P., to the airport on the latter's return to E. Germany.²

This may perhaps mean that Andropov is now no longer in charge of relations with the ruling parties, because the W. German Party is never likely to be placed in that polycentric category, and is normally handled by the International Section of the C.C. The latter deals with non-ruling parties, and on 27th August Andropov was accompanied by Ye.I. Kuskov, who is a deputy chief of the International Section.

1) Pravda, 14 June 1966.

2) Pravda, 28 August 1966, page 2.

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If it is true that Andropov was seriously ill during the four months in which he made no personal appearances, it seems reasonable to assume that he has now been assigned to less onerous duties than those connected with the affairs of the "socialist" camps. It will be instructive to see whether he flies to Minsk to meet Ulbricht's delegation which is in Byelorussia at present. Ulbricht arrived on 27th August, and was greeted by a purely Byelorussian group of officials on the same day as Andropov was bidding farewell to Max Reimann in Moscow, so that the combination of events seems to point to a change in Andropov's functions from liaison with the "ruling parties" to liaison with those out of power.

At least until April 1966, Ye.V. Andropov was the Secretary of the C.C., responsible for the section of the C.C. which dealt with liaison with the ruling parties of the various "socialist" blocs or camps (perhaps the more military term is really the better here that they spend so much of their time denouncing and protesting against one another). He last appeared in that capacity on 13th April when he took part in a meeting in Moscow between Brezhnev and a delegation from the Cuban P.R.

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