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COMMUNIST AREA

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THE AGRARIAN SECRETARY

The election of Fedor D. Kulakov as a secretary of the Central Committee, CPSU, brings a career agricultural expert-apparatchik to the nerve center of power, the secretariat of the party's Central Committee. Along with his colleagues, Shelepin and Demichev, Kulakov is 47 years old. The three men are the youngest members of the ten man body.

Kulakov spent his entire non-military career up to 1964 in the RSFSR and seems not to have been identified with any schism within the party. He is a Great Russian, however, and his election now brings the representation of that ethnic group among the secretaries to eight, with only two being non-Great Russian members -- both Ukrainians (Podgorny and Brezhnev).

Kulakov has been in charge of the agricultural section of the party's Central Committee since Polyakov, a Khrushchev appointee, was released in December 1964. From 1955 to 1960, the Penza-born secretary has been the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of the RSFSR and later Minister of Grain Products for this largest of Soviet republics. Why he was moved from the RSFSR post to that of First Secretary of Stavropol territory in the north Caucasus is not clear. Some western observers claim he was a victim of one of Khrushchev's periodic house-cleanings. Nonetheless, the Stavropol post is one of the Party's leading agricultural assignments in the Soviet Union. It is an enormous territory stretching from the Caucasian ranges to the lower Volga. It is primarily a region of grain-farming and livestock ranges.

As the man charged with implementing and coordinating the March Plenum's decision on the ambitious 71 billion ruble investment program in agriculture for the next five years, it is in order to appraise Kulakov's posture on agrarian policy.

During his four and a half year service as First Secretary of the wholly agricultural Stavropol territory, Kulakov was quite successful. He was favored by several good harvests, he also published a number of articles on agricultural problems and appeared as a spokesman at the March 1962 farm plenum.

Kulakov's forte is agricultural organization. He believes in doing things on a grand scale. Stavropol had its agriculture concentrated in 125 state and 141 collective farms, with an average size of 29,000 hectares. He favored the organization of large service fleets of centrally operated motor vehicles to truck products from farm to market.

In the organization of agricultural labor he favored the brigade system. He proposed that the brigadiers' position and authority be raised commensurate with their crucial role as organizers of production. Like most of his party colleagues in the provinces, he dutifully accepted Khrushchev's orders on splitting the republic and regional party organizations into two production sectors -- the industrial and the agricultural, spoke in favor of the absurd anti-grasslands program, and supported the infiltration of party organizers into the agricultural production administrations. In this last issue he sided with the Great Russians against the Ukrainians.

In the professional field, Kulakov has had considerable experience in irrigation technology and sugar beet production which require expertise in fertilizers, insecticides, and integrated mechanization. This should stand him in good stead in coordinating the new farm program.

Ideologically, he spoke freely of the need to democratize inter-raion management of collective farms.

Kulakov made his career in party agricultural work under Stalin, Khrushchev, and the new Soviet leadership. Such talent for functional survival and sustained advancement is a measure of the stature of the former peasant boy from Penza.

KULAKOV, FEDOR DAVYDOVICH

born 1918, member CP since 1940, graduate of an agricultural institute as agronomist;

1938-1941 served as agronomist and section chief at a sugar beet plant;

from 1942-1954 served in various party and state posts;

1954 chairman of regional executive committee, Penza oblast;

1955-1960 Deputy Minister of Agriculture, RSFSR, later Minister of Grain Products, RSFSR;

1960-64 First Secretary of the Stavropol territory;

1964, December, transferred to secretariat of CC, CPSU;

Identified Chief of agricultural buro, CC, CPSU (Pravda, 27 August 1965);

Deputy of Supreme Soviet USSR 1950 to 1954, 1962-

Member of CC, CPSU, since 1961.
