

(a) Indications that changes now announced may have been planned in advance :-

- (1) Brezhnev's relinquishment of functions of Head of State to concentrate on work in Party Secretariat (this may of course have been forced on Khrushchev, but if so, his critics were taking a big risk leaving Khrushchev free to fight back for so long)
- (2) Mikoyan's appointment to be Head of State, an appointment which left the way clear for Kosygin to become Prime Minister and ensured that Mikoyan, who has been close to Khrushchev, held key position in Praesidium of Supreme Soviet at time of transfer of power. These indications throw no light on timing of present announcement.

(b) Indications that Khrushchev may have resigned voluntarily:-

None except the Tass statement, and his admission in his speech to the Youth Forum on September 21 that if he did not regard himself as old, he was getting on.

(c) Indications that he was unlikely to resign voluntarily except on medical advice :-

- (1) His statement to Governor Harriman that he would not resign so long as he was healthy in body and mind.
- (2) His fight for power in the crisis of 1957.

(d) Indications of a sudden deterioration in his health:-

None so far as we know.

(e) Indications of a possible coup against him :-

- (1) The suddenness of the move.
- (2) The fact that he has been deprived of all his functions, including membership of the Praesidium, and that his portrait has now been removed (contrast Koslov)
- (3) The fact that he has been out of Moscow, just as he was out of Moscow when the 1957 coup was planned.
- (4) The fact that he has spent so little time away from Moscow since his return from Scandinavia, as if fearing a move against him.

(f) Indications that the new rulers expected no trouble from him:-

- (1) Few visible security precautions in Moscow (just a few police motor cycle patrols in town and on way to Sheremet-yevo airport)
- (2) Complete calm in Moscow. / (g)