

Deputy Defence Ministers Missing From Moscow Scene

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Marshals Georgi K. Zhukov and Alexander M. Vastlevsky, Soviet war heroes who became deputy defence ministers after Stalin's death, have been strangely missing for the last month from important Moscow gatherings.

Their absence may have much to do with the power struggle in the Kremlin, and possibly even with preparations for a trial of former interior minister Lavrenty P. Beria, the secret police boss who was purged in July.

In the hectic days of the Beria surge, there was much speculation in the West about the future of Zhukov. He looked then like a rising power whose popularity and plitening prestige might boost him to a military dictatorship in the Soviet Union.

Army In Background

But now there seems to be a suggestion between the lines in the Soviet press that the Communist party—always suspicious of the army—has been able to move Zhukov and other strictly military men into the background, at least for the present, and to keep its possibly restless officers in check through domination by the Communist party generals and political administration.

Many generals and admirals were present at various parties given in Moscow in honor of the visiting East German Communist government delegation, Soviet newspapers disclose.

But Gen. Vasily Chukov, the most recent Soviet military administration chief in East Germany, was not there.

There is reason to believe that Zhukov, Vastlevsky, Gen. Sergei Shtemenko who was in Germany with Zhukov last February and Zhukov were among the generals who were dissatisfied with the way things were going in East Germany, and had pointed out that it was the army which had to save the situation when the civilian Communist party administrators let the East Germans get out of hand.

Top General

The eclipse of Zhukov—who has been in eclipse before because of his popularity—seems to have left Marshal Vasily D. Sokolovsky the outstanding Soviet general at the present time. His record in Germany was distinguished—unlike Zhukov's—by his unquestioned obedience at all times to the directions of the ruling Communist party.

Zhukov and Vastlevsky were nowhere in evidence at the recent

Soviet celebrations in honor of the air force. They were not mentioned during the three days of sessions of the Supreme Soviet recently.

The generals who now appear in public with high government figures are strong Communist party officers, including Col. Gen. A. Z. Zheltov, chief of the political administration of the defence ministry, and his right hand man, Col. Gen. P. F. Kuznetsov.

These have made clear publicly their devotion to the Communist Party central committee.

Among The Farmers

Continued from page 3

—Heard talks by L. A. Wheeler, IPAP commodity officer, on U. S. trade policies in which he urged greater measure of co-operation among nations, in the agricultural field; commodity agreements as best means of reconciling various national price support programs with international trade and expanded production; and the formation of a North American committee of IPAP.

—Decided to endeavor to arrange conference with the four U. S. farm organizations on trade matters, but to include Mexican farm organization, thus providing base for establishment of permanent IPAP, North American committee.

—Held important discussions on grading systems for agricultural products, with S. C. Barry, assistant director of Federal Marketing services.

—Endorsed a committee to draft a national agricultural policy for the CFA and discussed points to be included in such a policy.

—Endorsed an Ontario resolution to ask leaders of four major political parties to state their respective agricultural policies.

—Re-affirmed CFA policy re price supports, and asked Federal government to consider setting up support programs for livestock and livestock products, including poultry, where programs are not already in effect.

—Adopted recommendations for improvement in policy of federal government in providing protection for level crossings in Canada, to be presented to the Board of Transport Commissioners at special hearings.

—Agreed to name a committee for further study of problem of carrying grade standards through to consumer.

LONDON, (CP)—British Railways have announced that trains with special "nursery coaches" for mothers travelling with young children are "not practicable at present." The suggestion had come from a woman's organization.

Table Top

by Eden Phillipps

CHAPTER VI

Continued

"After all, the Garcias only paid for the boat and dredging net, and I don't blame Benny in the least for looking after his own end. But evidently he knew the fat was in the fire when a Garcia saw Julia Pardo wearing the huge topaz. So he vanished off the map while the going was good, and of course, he took his hoard with him. Nobody ever knew where he went to, but presently he came back, declared his innocence, and expressed a amazement that anybody should doubt it.

"But we now know that on his return he must have been at great pains to teach my parrot the secret. Why he did — and chose English to do it in — I don't suppose anybody will ever know, but the fact remains. When we fled from his home he went, sooner or later, to the Galapagos, and from there presently sailed due west along the equator to Tabletop — an island he must have known about in his seafaring days. And that's where he hid his treasures — in some weird place called 'Maneater Gorge,' beside a hot spring. How he got there, what he sailed in, or the reasons he gave for going, we do not know, but you may be sure the people on the ship didn't hear anything about his real purpose. Is that clear so far?"

VISION OF ADVENTURE

"I feel perfectly certain he did," she answered. "It was the inevitable starting place if he meant to follow the equator till he reached his island. You can see that on the map. To find an uncharted island in the heart of the Pacific would have been like looking for a needle in a haystack; but his seaman's knowledge embraced the fact that it lay on the equator, so he had only to go ahead due west till he picked it up. Well, he did pick it up, went ashore with his treasure, hid it, came back to the ship, and probably said that the island was no use, or something like that. Then he came home again.

"He lies low for a bit, lives an innocent life, and waits for the clouds to blow away. They blow away. One Garcia brother dies, and the other sells his fruit farm, leaves Peru, and goes to Cuba. Benny Boss now feels that the coast is clear, so off he goes again to Tabletop to get his hoard, and no doubt turn it into money. But this time he doesn't come back. He vanishes, and we can only assume that something happened to pre-

vent him from coming back. His wife never heard any more news of him, and his end is unknown. Probably it wasn't peaceful, being the sort of man he was. He may have liked Tabletop so much that he decided to stop there. There may have been cannibals on Tabletop who liked him so much they felt they couldn't part from him. They may have eaten him, or they may have made him their king and thought the world of him. Or he may just have died a natural death before he got back to his treasure, and been buried at sea. In that case no doubt the cache is still intact."

"He would hardly have chosen a gambal island," said Tom. "He wouldn't have liked the idea of a lot of poking, prying cannibals watching him bury his treasure. I'll bet it was an uninhabited island, Jane."

"Against that, however, you must set the fact that a district of Tabletop is called Maneater Gorge," Tom said Gregory Barbour. "To me that has a distinctly anthropophagous connotation."

"Where do you find these beautiful words, Greg?" sighed Jane. "But I believe Tom's right."

"It can't be uninhabited, my dear child, if there are man-eaters in it," argued Gregory. "The place does not get its sinister name for nothing, and many other creatures are quite ready — nay, even willing — to eat men beside his fellow men."

"It doesn't matter," declared Jane. "It's a detail. Benny found the island in the first place and called it 'Tabletop.' My feminine intuition is dead certain there is a Tabletop, and priceless Inca treasure lying snugly concealed upon it."

Nicholas Bradshaw made a suggestion.

"You ought to charter a low, raking, hang-dog schooner with a grim captain and a cut-throat crew," he said. "That's the way to tackle Pacific islands. Then, when you've lifted the booty and set sail for home, the men mutiny and do you all in, and you are never heard of again. Probably that's what happened to Benny Boss."

"Coward!" answered Jane. "You can stop at home now, Nick and look after the birds."

"I haven't the slightest intention of coming," he said. "Will you come, Greg?" she asked. "We don't want a crowd, of course. This is a matter of business, not a picnic. But if you like to share in the expenses —"

"Maneater Gorge," answered Mr. Barbour. "No, Jane."

"Well," she said. "That leaves us three, Tom and Angus and I."

"You don't waste much time, do you?" asked the Scot.

"If it's going to be our honeymoon trip, Jane, we shan't want to bother Angus to come, shall we?" asked Aylmer.

"It isn't," she answered. "My idea is a treasure recovery company on a purely financial basis. It's a gamble, of course. We've got to weigh the possible against the probable."

To be continued

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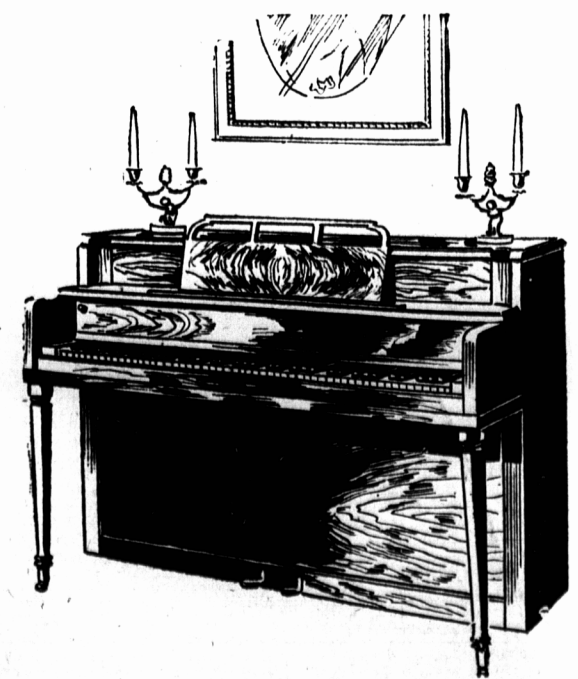
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