POWER CHANGED hands in the Soviet Union in 1964, with two men replacing Nikita Khrushchev (right), Khrushchev, overthrown in late October, was replaced as Communist party first secretary by Leonid Brezhnev (centre) and as premier by Alexei Kosygin. The men who so abruptly banished Khruschev assured the world that it would follow Khruschev's line of peaceful coexistence. (CP Photo)

Complex Problems Face New Kremlin Leadership

By JOHN BEST

MOSCOW (CP)—Problems of great magnitude and complexity confront the new Kremlin leadership as the Soviet Union enters 1965.

The men who banished Nikita Khrushchev so abruptly and so ignominously in the third week of October, 1964, are going to find that the problems which dogged him will not be solved simply through a change at the top.

They involve both domestic affairs and foreign relations, including perhaps the most pressing problem of all: how to restore, simultaneously, Communist unity and Soviet leadership within the Communist world.

As in 1964, the hinge of the question will be China.

It used to be fashionable to refer to the Soviet-Chinese dispute as an ideological grangle revolving around rarefied questions about the correct interpretation of Marxism-Leninism, particularly as related to Russia's policy of peaceful coexistence with the West.

Developments in 1964 demonstrated that it had become far more than that.

BORDER IN DISPUTE

When China's Mao Tse-tung, in a talk to a group of Japanese socialists July 10, laid claim to more than 500,000 square miles of Soviet territory he took the lid off a territorial issue that apparently had been simmering for years.

After Khrushchev's overthrow and his replacement as Communist party first secretary by Leonid Brezhnev, the Moscow-Peking argument quietened down.

Chinese Premier Chou En-Lai journeyed to Moscow in November for celebrations marking the 47th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution — and of course to test the political climate.

Many qualified observers were convinced that Russia and China were bound eventually to get back on a collision course—driven there by geography, history and conflicting political interests — and that any rapprochement could only be temporary.

A-BOMB IMPRESSES

On the very day Khrushchev's downfall was announced, China exploded its first atomic bomb. Though it was probably a coincidence, nothing could be better calculated to impress the new Soviet leadership with the rising power of Russia's populous neighbor.

Russia's relations with the West continued on their coexistence course in 1964, uninterrupted by the October political upheaval. The new leadership of Brezhnev and Premier Alexei Kosygin assured the world that it would follow Khrushchev's line of peaceful coexistence.

Soviet willingness to match words with deeds remains to be tested. For the time being, the Russians may be content simply to accept the status quo with the West while devoting full attention to the urgent problem of reasserting Soviet authority within the Communist empire.

That authority has been badly shaken by the impact of the Soviet-Chinese squabble, which encouraged latent centrifugal tendencies among East European countries.

Russia may never be able to tie the pieces together in just the same neat way as before. For the erstwhile satellites having tasted independence, are not likely to accept a return to subjugation without a struggle.

FARM PROBLEMS

Internally, the new administration is beset by economic problems, principally in the agricultural sector. Though the wheat crop in 1964 was vastly improved, making it unnecessary for Russia to buy huge quantities of grain from Canada and other countries as it had to last year, the farm sector is still an extremely weak link.

One of the new regime's first moves was to remove "unwarranted restrictions" on private plots of land available to collective farm workers. Private plots, accounting in recent years for only about three per cent of total area sown, produce a disproportionately high percentage of total farm output.

Most observers expect Brezhnev and Kosygin—technocrats and engineers by profession—to try to bring about a more business-like approach to Russia's manifold economic ills.

To them, Khrushchev was a "hare-brained schemer." They talk of bringing more individual initiative into play, of cutting out red tape, applying the lessons of science to Russia's economic problems.

Khrushchev also talked about these things. But talking couldn't make things move; by itself it would not likely yield many dividends for the new Kremlin masters either.

Other domestic policies which the new leadership vowed to continue include the improvement of living standards, with special emphasis on improving the quality of consumer goods.

MAY BE MYSTERY MAN

The end-of-year political situation contains a big imponderable —whether there is a king-maker lurking in the background calling the tune for Brezhnev and Kosygin and possibly prepared to take over from them after the dust has settled.

Many experts believe Brezhnev, for one, is too powerful in his own right to play Naguib to somebody else's Nasser. However, the possibility remains that the real power is still waiting in the shadows.

The party's central committee is reported to have decreed that never again will the posts of party first secretary and premier be vested in one man, as they were in Khrushchev.

Such strongman rule, however, may be endemic in the Soviet system. Collective leadership will last, many experts believe, precisely until one man is strong enough again to gather all the power into his own hands.

INTERRUPTION NOTICE

There will be an interruption of electric power on our western transmission system on Sunday, December 13, weather permitting, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

This interruption is necessary to enable us to replace damaged poles and commission new switchgear in our Sherbrooke Substation.

The area affected will be from St. Eleanors west to Tignish and all adjacent areas.

MARITIME ELECTRIC Company Limited

Quebec Bankruptcies Probe May Spread Farther Afield

MONTREAL (CP) — Quebec's current inquiry into alleged fraudulent bankruptcies could spread to cities of Europe and South America and involve international smuggling of gold, jewels and many other kinds of merchandise, it was learned Thursday.

Inquiry hearings are closed to the public, but an informed source said investigations have uncovered—among other things —an emerald smuggling operation from Bogota, Colombia, through Montreal to Paris and other European cities.

The source said it is definitely possible that investigators will be sent to foreign countries to gather evidence. "In general, you can say we will go to any expense to get to the bottom of it."

The disclosure came shortly after two Toronto businessmen were arraigned on charges of conspiracy to defraud creditors through a Montreal bankruptcy and were released on bail to await preliminary hearing Dec. 17.

ARRESTED IN TORONTO

Bail was set at $2,000 for Miklos Koves, 40, a partner in a Toronto import firm, and at $3,000 for Sandor Katz, 43.

Escorted to Montreal Wednesday night by detectives following their arrest in Toronto, they were charged in connection with the bankruptcy of Montreal Wholesale Distributors, which authorities said resulted in losses to creditors of $30,000.

Both are to be called later as Crown witnesses at the preliminary hearing of Andre (Andros) Galambos, 28, who is alleged to have operated the business.

Galambos is charged with defrauding his creditors of $30,000 between March 1 and June 5 of this year. His hearing was postponed last month to allow an interrogatory commission to go to New York City and question a fourth suspect in the case.

The fourth suspected is alleged to have come to Montreal from France last February and to have joined the Montreal firm as a commission salesman.

Britain's first chair-lift for skiers was built in Scotland on the slopes of 3,500-foot Meall a'Bhuiridh above Glencoe.

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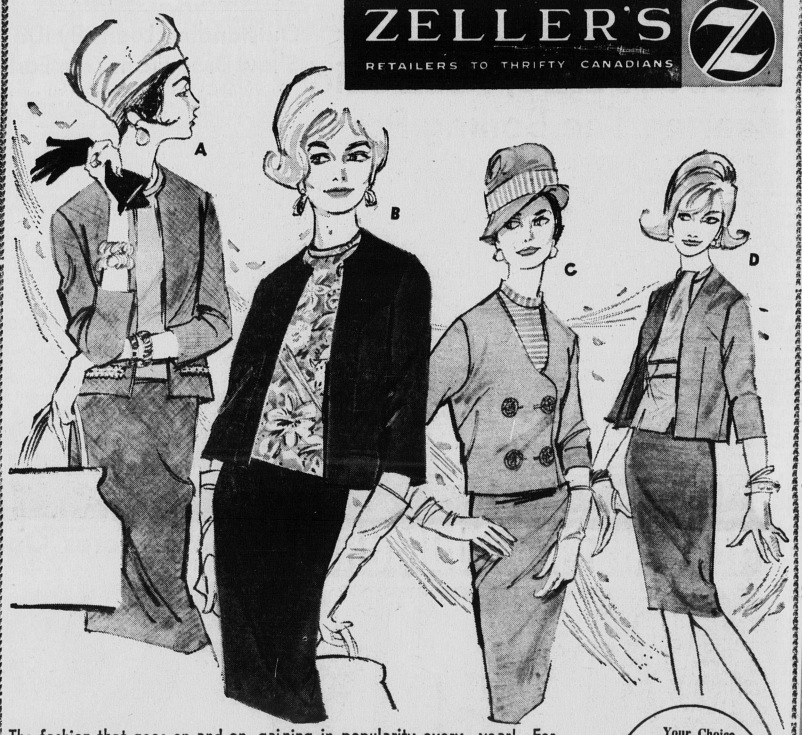

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B—For the mature figure, wonderful ensemble in worsted wool double knit, complemented by surrah print pop-over blouse. Important Chanel-type jacket; slim skirt. Black, brown, teal; sizes 16½ to 22½.

C—Sleeveless horizontal-striped pop-over blouse peaks out from under the jacket of this imported worsted wool double knit suit. V-necked jacket is double-breasted. Black, royal, cherry, green; sizes 10 to 16.

D—Another 3-piecer in worsted wool double knit. Contrast-colour pop-over blouse ties softly at the neck; Chanel-type jacket and straight skirt complete ensemble. Charcoal, teal/light grey; taupe/beige. Sizes 10 to 20.

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Christmas Suit Successes

E—Textured wool "poodle" suit, the darling of Fall fashions! The jacket, fully lined, with Mandarin neckline, dolman sleeves; seat-lined sheath skirt. Teal, red, black, royal; sizes 8 to 16. **17.99**

F—Another version of the 3-piece worsted wool double knit suit. Sleeveless jacket with braid trim slips over horizontal-stripe shirt; straight skirt. Black, kelly, royal; sizes 10 to 16. **24.99**

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