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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

• ROUTINE

Intelligence Information Cable

COUNTRY USSR

TDCS -314/04596-64

DATE OF INFO. AS NOTED BELOW

DISTR. 28 OCTOBER 1964

SUBJECT

COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS OF A RECENT VISITOR TO USSR
ON KHRUSHCHEV REMOVAL

PLACE &
DATE ACQ.

REF IN

SOURCE AND APPRAISAL: FIELD REPORT NO.

WESTERN TRAVELER WHO WAS IN THE USSR DURING THE FIRST THREE WEEKS OF OCTOBER 1964. APPRAISAL: IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHAT SOURCE'S ACCESS, IF ANY, TO A RESTRICTED PARTY LETTER MIGHT HAVE BEEN, NOR IS IT CLEAR WHETHER THE EVENTS DESCRIBED WERE DISCUSSED IN THE PARTY LETTER.

1. SOMETIME PRIOR TO THE LAST WEEK OF OCTOBER 1964 A RESTRICTED PARTY LETTER WAS ISSUED. **CONCERNING THE KHRUSHCHEV REMOVAL.**
2. IN EARLY OCTOBER 1964 AN ACTION WAS STARTED TO REMOVE NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV. THE FIRST SECRETARY HAD LEFT MOSCOW TO VACATION ON THE BLACK SEA WHERE MIKOYAN WAS ALSO VACATIONING. ON 12 OCTOBER A MEETING AND A PLENUM OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE WERE CALLED SIMULTANEOUSLY AND THE LEADERS BEGAN THE ATTACK AGAINST KHRUSHCHEV AND HIS POLICIES.
3. THE FIRST ONE TO SPEAK AGAINST KHRUSHCHEV AT THE MEETING WAS SUSLOV WHO WAS FOLLOWED BY SHELEST. THEN KHRUSHCHEV WAS TELEPHONED TO COME TO MOSCOW ON THE GROUNDS THAT THERE WERE IMPORTANT MATTERS TO DISCUSS. KHRUSHCHEV WAS UNAWARE THAT ANYTHING WAS AMISS AND HAD TO BE CALLED THREE

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TIMES BEFORE HE AGREED TO COME. MIKOYAN HAD RETURNED TO MOSCOW ONE DAY EARLIER.

4. WHEN KHRUSHCHEV ARRIVED IN MOSCOW HE WAS TOLD ABOUT THE DECISIONS WHICH THE MEETING HAD MADE. KHRUSHCHEV, BEING UNAWARE THAT THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM HAD ALREADY CONVENED, RETORTED THAT HE WANTED THE PLENUM TO MEET. HE WAS TOLD THAT THE PLENUM WAS ALREADY CONVENED; HE THEN ADDRESSED THE PLENUM "AND WAS STILL PRESIDING OVER IT".

5. THE FIRST MEMBER AT THE PLENUM TO SPEAK AGAINST KHRUSHCHEV WAS SHELEST. KHRUSHCHEV TRIED TO REJECT THE CONDEMNATION BY JOKING BUT WAS EVENTUALLY COMPELLED TO SIGN HIS RESIGNATION. THE ONLY MEMBER WHO DEFENDED KHRUSHCHEV DURING THE WHOLE CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS WAS PODGORNYY. THE PLENUM ALSO REMOVED IMMEDIATELY ADZHUBEY AND THE EDITOR OF PRAVDA.

6. THERE WERE THREE CHARGES AGAINST KHRUSHCHEV. THE FIRST CHARGE WAS THAT HE HAD RUINED AGRICULTURE IN THE PAST SIX YEARS. DISPLEASURE WAS VOICED OVER KHRUSHCHEV'S DESIRE TO SEPARATE THE PARTY FROM THE MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND TO INSTALL SPECIALISTS INSTEAD. HE WAS ALSO CRITICIZED FOR HAVING URGED THE RUMANIANS TO CULTIVATE MAIZE AND PEAS.

7. FOR THE SECOND COUNT KHRUSHCHEV WAS ACCUSED OF HAVING MADE A "MINISTER" OUT OF ADZHUBEY AND SENDING HIM EVERYWHERE. HE WAS ALSO ACCUSED OF GIVING THE ORDER OF LENIN TO NASSER AND BEN BELLA WHO PERSECUTED COMMUNISTS.

8. KHRUSHCHEV WAS ALSO ACCUSED OF TRAVELING ABROAD AND HAVING THUS SPENT LARGE SUMS OF MONEY. HE WAS CRITICIZED FOR MAKING STATEMENTS ABROAD

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WHICH THE CPSU COULD NOT AFTERWARDS READILY EXPLAIN SUCH AS HIS STATEMENT ON THE FRONTIER OF EAST GERMANY.

9. HEADQUARTERS COMMENT: THE FOREGOING REPORT CONTAINS AMBIGUITIES AND WHAT APPEAR TO BE ERRORS ON THE PART OF THE SOURCE IN LIGHT OF OTHER INFORMATION. TO COMMENT ON THE MOST OBVIOUS OF THESE, IT IS BELIEVED THAT "MEETING" USED IN THIS CONTEXT PROBABLY MEANS THE PRESIDUM MEETING WHICH PRECEDED THE CC PLENUM. INsofar AS SHELEST'S ADDRESS TO THE PLENUM IS CONCERNED, OTHER INFORMATION HAS INDICATED THAT HE WAS NOT IN MOSCOW DURING THE TIME COVERED HERE. OTHER EVIDENCE HAS INDICATED THAT PRAVDA EDITOR SATYUKOV HAS NOT BEEN RELEASED FROM HIS POSITION.

10. FIELD DISTRIBUTION: NONE

END OF MESSAGE

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