

**SPOTLIGHT ON ECONOMIC WOES****Quick Kremlin Shakeup Held Unlikely**

By EDMUND STEVENS

Special to The Star

MOSCOW — The current foreign rumors claiming strife inside the Kremlin have focused the spotlight on the economic problems that beset the Soviet Union.

Shifts in the Soviet pecking order are certain to occur in the future as they have in the past. But no serious change is likely until the 24th party congress, presumably scheduled for fall.

Public laundering would appear to be unthinkable on the eve of the April 22 Lenin centennial billed not only as a supreme tribute to the founder of the Soviet state but also as a vindication and affirmation of world Communist unity.

Meantime, the famous but unpublished Brezhnev letter of last December and attendant documents on economic problems are being widely discussed throughout the country.

**To Rescue 5-Year Plan**

It's almost as though the leadership had heeded the advice of outspoken scientists and intellectuals to encourage maximum airing of serious mistakes and shortcomings. Such a bold departure from established Soviet practice may well have roused objections in some quarters.

The over-all purpose is to rescue the current five-year plan, now in its concluding year, by shoring up discipline and cracking down on absenteeism and alcoholism, both of which are related and have reached gargantuan proportions.

The aim is also to cut the prodigal waste of raw materi-

als and finished products that results from a combination of carelessness and wholesale pilfering and to promote more efficient use of productive capacities with special emphasis of technological improvements.

**Cases Common Knowledge**

Though the actual texts of the Brezhnev letter have not been released, most of the details are common knowledge.

There was the case of the cranes ordered from East Germany for the Odessa waterfront that were mistakenly shipped to Vladivostok where they lay for more than a year before being rerouted to their proper destination.

There was the case of the natural gas from Tyumen in the Urals.

In 1965 plans were approved for the construction of a compressor station to assure the continued flow of gas to industrial centers in the Urals.

But construction has still not started, though the gas mains the compressor was supposed to feed have long since been in operation and will soon be useless due to the falling natural pressure.

When this happens the entire Ural's industrial heartland will be hit.

**Iron and Steel Problems**

The iron and steel industry has been in trouble for years and its attendant failure to meet delivery commitments has affected the whole of heavy industry.

A typical example was that of the vast Enakievo iron and steel complex where a new converter plant was pro-

grammed as a top priority.

Converter furnaces for the plant were ordered and received in crash time only to rust in the yard for the next 20 months.

The delay was due to miscalculations by the designers whose blueprints required extensive revision. Recurring mistakes of this type have cost the economy many millions of tons of pig iron and steel.

**Canadian Wheat Bought**

The agricultural situation is also the subject of lively debate. Prospects for the coming crops are somewhat better than in 1969, a near disaster year.

That was mainly due to destructive hurricanes in the north Caucasus breadbasket and to severe frosts that killed the grain crops in central Asia, where millions of cattle and sheep froze to death on the ranges.

To compensate for last year's rain deficit, the Soviets in December bought 3.43 million tons of Canadian wheat for close to \$250 million.

Most of this amount has already been delivered, including half a million tons to Cuba's Fidel Castro. Much of the remainder went to the Soviet Union's other clients and proteges, including President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt.

One serious consequence of last year's poor grain harvest is a shortage of seed grain. According to the ministry of agriculture, one quarter of the collective farms and state farms in the Soviet Union are short of seed.

And the quality of much of what is available is inferior.

Steps are now being taken to remedy the situation.

Kremlin concern with agriculture was voiced at an emergency conference called on March 4. The ministers of agriculture of all the union republics were summoned to Moscow where they met with party secretary Leonid Brezhnev.

Dimitry Polyansky, Politburo member and first deputy premier; Fyodor Kulakov, party Central Committee secretary, and a number of leading agricultural experts also attended the session.

A piquant gesture in the present agricultural effort is the decision to increase sowings of corn, former Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev's beloved crop which fell out of favor with his downfall. But the rehabilitation of corn does not necessarily involve its one-time patron.

**SUBVERSION IN MEXICO****Defector Assails Russia**

By JEREMIAH O'LEARY  
Latin America Writer of The Star

Soviet spies were deeply involved in stimulating the student disturbances which resulted in at least 100 deaths in Mexico City just before the 1968 Olympics there, a Russian defector is reported as saying.

Miss Raisa Yerofeyevna Kiselnikova, 32, the beautiful, blond defector, made known the Russian involvement in the clash between the leftist students and the Mexican army from her secret residence somewhere in Mexico, informed sources said.

Miss Kiselnikova, who was a secretary at the Russian Trade Mission, has been granted asylum and is now living a new life of freedom with a new identity.

She is reported to have said that she made the decision to renounce her Soviet citizenship partly because she feared reassignment and possible liquidation in her homeland and partly because she was hounded constantly by Oleg Nechiporenko, chief of the Soviet Embassy consulate section in Mexico City.

Nechiporenko, she was quoted as saying, was the official responsible for the conduct of all Soviet personnel stationed in Mexico.

**Superior Was Recalled**

She said that her immediate superior, Commercial Counselor Yuri Vanovsky, was hurriedly recalled to Moscow after her defection.

**RAISA YEROFEYEVNA KISELNIKOVA**

riedly recalled to Moscow after her defection.

This is the rest of her account, as relayed by the informed sources:

"My life is in danger," Miss Kiselnikova said. "I, of course, must fear being kidnaped back. But I have felt a greater freedom of spirit during these weeks than I have felt for many years."

She said life is impossible in the Soviet Union for all thinking persons, not just the well-known writers the Western world hears about. Without having been in Mexico for almost two years and seeing the freedom possible in an open society, she said she certainly would never have been able to make the drastic decision to defect.

"The people of the Soviet mission here (Mexico), my own people, constantly spied on me, doubted me and questioned me," Miss Kiselnikova said. "My telephone line, as with all the telephones in the Soviet Mission, was tapped and conversations were monitored. The odd thing is that it is the Soviets themselves who are watching each other and listening in on each other."

"There are here in Mexico other Russians like myself who are working sincerely for honest and honorable commercial and diplomatic relations. Unfortunately, we were a minority group whose honest aims were constantly subverted by more sinister designs of Soviet domination of this hemisphere.

The secretary was quoted as saying the consular section is staffed by four people who are engaged in issuing visas only two half-days a week. The rest of their time is devoted to spying.

**Spying Is Main Job**

"This is what I object to," she said. "If the USSR cannot influence by good example, by giving freedom to its people, by showing a decent way of life, by permitting open travel for foreigners in the USSR, why should it try to influence others to its cause by spying and buying clandestine support? I oppose it."

Miss Kiselnikova, who is single, said her parents are dead. She was born in Briansk in 1938 but her father, a chemical engineer, was eliminated by the Stalinist regime when she was four years old for making "one mistake."

She was raised by a family of German-speaking Ukrainian Jews. She belonged to Komsomol, the Soviet youth group, from the age of 14, but never became a Communist party member.

Her foreign assignments with the trade ministry were in East and West Germany before she was ordered to Mexico in June 1968. Since her defection, Mexican authorities made her available to Soviet officials once so she could state in person her request for asylum.

Then she began a new life in Mexico.