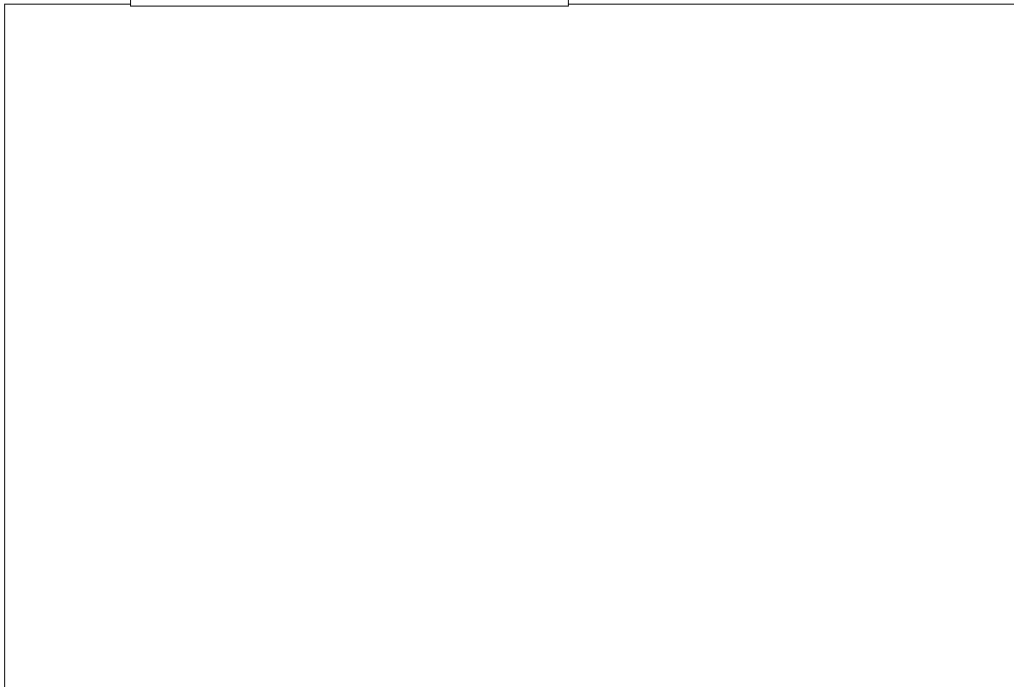


USSR: [redacted]



**USSR: New Leader of Uzbek Republic**

Inamzhon Usmankhodzhaev was appointed party leader of the Uzbek Republic yesterday, succeeding Sharaf Rashidov, who died earlier this week. Usmankhodzhaev, 53, is a native Uzbek construction specialist who rose rapidly through party ranks, served a four-year tour in the personnel department of the Central Committee in Moscow, and has been chairman of the Presidium of the Uzbek Supreme Soviet since 1978. [redacted]

**Comment:** Usmankhodzhaev, who is not known to have any direct ties with General Secretary Andropov, may eventually be given a seat on the Politburo as a candidate member like his predecessor. He seems suited to provide the type of vigorous party leadership—including the purging of corrupt officials—displayed in recent years in the neighboring Republics of Azerbaydzhani and Georgia. [redacted]

[redacted]



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