

Paris Hears of Fall Of Khrushchev at Red Embassy Party

PARIS, Oct. 15—The first hard news Paris received of what looks to observers here like Premier Khrushchev's disgrace was delivered against the incongruous background of a Soviet Embassy cocktail party in honor of visiting Presidium members invited to this country by French parliamentarians.

News is reaching here piece meal, and all official comment is being refused until more complete information is available. But two main reactions are observable.

The first is that Khrushchev's now official disappearance from Soviet leadership smacks less of a voluntary resignation for reasons of health than of a forced retirement. One theory here is that the health motive is genuine, but that Khrushchev refused advice to withdraw on his own initiative and therefore had to be persuaded.

Pictures Disappear

That his departure, however, effected, is of the nature of a disgrace is argued from a number of details. One is the removal of his pictures from public places, another is the omission of his name from various official listings lately; a third is the immediate removal of Khrushchev's son-in-law, Alexei Adzubei, from the editorship of Pravda; a fourth is the wording—in French translation, but Moscow's official translation—of the announcement that Khrushchev had been "liberated" from his functions.

"There's something sinister about the word 'libere,'" a French journalist remarked tonight.

If Khrushchev did leave by his own decision, the French point out, he must have made up his mind very quickly. Last Monday, French Minister for Scientific Research Gaston Palewski called on him at his Black Sea vacation resort, and

had his visit cut short because, Khrushchev explained, he had to hurry back to Moscow and arrange the reception for the three Soviet astronauts. Not only did he fail to appear for this event but he did not even send messages of congratulations to them, as had been his invariable custom. This started rumors here that he was in bad health.

New Team May Go Soon

The first reaction concerning the effect Khrushchev's disappearance may have on Franco-Soviet relations is that it will not make much difference—on present indications. This is based on the theory that his two successors, Leonid Brezhnev and Alexis Kosygin, are identified with the same policies as Khrushchev.

However, there are rumors here that other important departures and shifts in the Soviet hierarchy may follow, and this might put an entirely different face on the situation. It is suggested that the Brezhnev-Kosygin team may prove to be as transitory as was Malenkov.

One theory is that they may quickly give place to Mikhail Suslov, who is believed to have presided over today's Presidium meeting which apparently decided—or accepted—the "resignation" of Khrushchev.

It is considered only an outside possibility that Khrushchev was sacrificed to save international Communist unity by mollifying the Chinese, who have been consistently attacking Khrushchev personally. It also does not seem likely that the strong anti-Chinese stand taken last weekend by the French Communist Party against the Chinese interpretation of communism had any relation to the Khrushchev downfall. Nobody seemed more stunned at the news tonight than the few Communist deputies encountered in the corridors of the National Assembly.