

New Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin Regarded as Expert in Economics

10-16-64
WPS

MOSCOW, Oct. 15 (AP) Alexei Nikolaevich Kosygin, the new Soviet Premier, is an economic expert who rose to a first deputy premiership of the Soviet Union four years ago. He is 60.

A tall, fair-complexioned Russian, he always has looked more Western than most of his Soviet Communist Party colleagues.

Kosygin was Stalin's last addition to the Politburo before the dictator died. At the outset of the post-Stalin era he found himself snubbed for a while by the inner circle.

Now-retired Premier Khrushchev recognized his special abilities last year when he created a Supreme National Council to run the Soviet economy.

Kosygin was named to serve on the Council with Anastas I. Mikoyan, then a first deputy premier, and Dimitry Ustinov, 55, a deputy premier formerly in charge of defense industries.

Regarded as Comer

And Kosygin's name was among those mentioned as a possible successor to the premiership in April 1963 when Khrushchev commented that age was creeping up on him and he couldn't hold the Soviet helm forever.

Kosygin startled Westerners at the 1939 Communist Party



ALEXEI KOSYGIN
... new Premier

Congress by delivering a speech laying down a program for standardization of the textile industry and reorganization of it along American lines. His speech was full of implied criticisms of other and more powerful ministers who far outranked him.

Before that, few had heard of Kosygin, inside or outside Russia. Born Feb. 20, 1904, he was only a boy at the time of the 1917 revolution. His schooling was in Soviet state insti-

tutions. He became a Communist Party member as a youth. In 1938 he was appointed commissioner of textiles.

Rises in Party

His career was guided from on high after that. The 1939 speech was a sure sign of approval from the Kremlin. Kosygin became a member of the Communist Party Central Committee, and in 1940 a vice premier in the Council of Ministers.

In 1941 Kosygin was made Premier of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic, the great land mass which is the largest of the 16 Soviet republics.

Seven years later he became Minister of Finance of the Soviet Union, and was admitted to Stalin's Politburo, its youngest member.

Kosygin became a specialist in light industry and vigorously worked at expanding and building factories for consumer goods under the Georgi Malenkov premiership. He was raised to the rank of the Deputy premier in December, 1953. The Order of Lenin was bestowed on him on his 50th birthday.

Kosygin once was considered a protege of V. M. Molotov, who was shorn of his job as Foreign Minister in 1956 in the wake of a confession that he had erred on a point of Communist doctrine.