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WPS

Brezhnev Party Stepup Expected

MOSCOW, Oct. 15 (AP) — The new Soviet Communist Party chief, Leonid Ilyich Brezhnev, a Party member for 33 of his 57 years, has been heir-apparent to just-resigned Soviet Party leader, Nikita S. Khrushchev, for at least the last three years.

The stocky Ukrainian made his last previous step forward July 15, when he relinquished his figurehead rôle as President of the Soviet Union to concentrate on work in the Communist Party, the real source of power in Moscow.

Khrushchev said then that Brezhnev was needed for full-time work as a secretary of

the Communist Party's Central Committee.

With black, piercing eyes and a square jaw, Brezhnev is known to Western diplomats as a man with a sharp mind and a friendly but reserved manner.

A steelworker as a youth, he later became a metallurgist. He has the tough look of a Western steel engineer turned corporation manager.

Brezhnev has been associated with Khrushchev's career since 1938 in the Soviet Union's Ukrainian region. He was born in December, 1906, in Kamenskoye, now Dneprodzerzhinsk. He and Khrushchev came up in the Ukraine as faithful Party workers.

In 1927, Brezhnev graduated from an agricultural institute in Kursk, and in 1931 he was admitted to membership in the Communist Party. He is one of the post-Bolshevik, postrevolution Communists among whom technological knowledge was more important than revolutionary fervor.

Brezhnev was posted to the Urals area as a specialist in land use, and there rose to the head of the oblast (area) land department. He left the Urals to study metallurgy in his home town, graduating from the metallurgical institute there in 1935. He became a Party functionary in the Ukraine and then an armed forces political commissar, serving as with the 18th Army in World War II.

By 1943, he had risen to the rank of major general and still was engaged in directing the work of political commissars whose job was to check up on the regular army officers.

When the war ended,

Brezhnev was sent back to the Ukraine, where he continued his move upward in the Party. At the 19th Soviet Party Congress in Moscow in 1952, he became an alternate member of the enlarged Politburo, thenceforth known as the Presidium. It was the power center of the whole Soviet structure.

When Stalin died in 1953, Brezhnev was fired from his job as first Communist Party secretary of the Moldavian Republic, acquired from Rumania during the war. But by the time other Soviet leaders arranged the arrest and extinction of Lavrenty Beria, Stalin's secret police chief, Brezhnev had bounced back. He turned up in the rôle of

first deputy chief of the main political board in the Ministry of Defense—political commissar of the armed forces.

As Khrushchev rose to power, the new leader seemed to lean heavily on Brezhnev. The Ukrainian was sent to Kazakhstan, head of Khrushchev's "virgin lands" agricultural experiments, as secretary of the Communist Party.

In 1956, at the time of the 20th Party Congress, Brezhnev returned to the ruling Party presidium as a candidate member. He also was placed on the powerful secretariat of the Central Committee. He became a full member of the Party Presidium and when Khrushchev later ousted Klementi Voroshilov, Brezhnev took over as President, two years later surrendering his Central Committee job.



LEONID BREZHNEV
... heads Party



ALEXEI T. ADZHUBEI
... reportedly ousted

Brezhnev is married and has a teen-age daughter, Galina.