

F Post 9-13-71

Quiet Funeral Expected For Khrushchev

MOSCOW (AP) — Nikita Khrushchev, consigned to obscurity for the last seven years of his life, is expected to be buried Monday in a quiet, private funeral.

The former Kremlin chief and world-traveling apostle of Soviet communism died Saturday of a heart attack in a hospital for the Soviet elite. He was 77 years old.

His successors in the Kremlin, who conduct a staid and sober regime in contrast to Khrushchev's flamboyant and impulsive style, tried to ensure that the world would hear as little as possible of Khrushchev after he was forced from office in October 1964.

He was given a comfortable country home, a Moscow apartment which he rarely used, a car, and attendants with orders to keep him out of the limelight.

His name was taboo for the Soviet press and he was never invited to appear at national celebrations or festivities. From one day to the next he disappeared from public view and the Soviet Union went on with its Communist business as though Khrushchev had never headed the Communist party for a dozen years.

Even after death the rules against giving him special attention applied. Although his death was officially confirmed to Western correspondents, there was no public announcement in the following 24 hours

and newspapers carried no obituary or report of the death.

The Soviet press customarily delays death announcements for a day or two and made no exception in the case of Khrushchev. A newspaper spokesman announced Sunday

See FUNERAL, Page A-5

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FUNERAL

(Continued From Page A-1)

night that Pravda, organ of the Communist party, would publish an obituary of the former party leader Monday. It will appear on the front page within a headline or picture.

It will say, the spokesman reported: "The Central Committee of the Communist party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. report with sorrow that on Sept. 11, 1971, after a severe and long illness, the former first secretary of the Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers, personal pensioner, Nikita Sergeevich Khrushchev, died in his 78th year."

Informants close to the Khrushchev family confirmed Sunday that burial is expected to take place in Moscow's Novodevichy Cemetery Monday. The cemetery, adjoining an ancient monastery, is an honored burial ground in Moscow, second only to the Kremlin Wall.

The informants were unable to supply any details of the Khrushchev funeral plans, but it is expected to be private and low-keyed.

Khrushchev is the first former Soviet premier and Communist party chief to die since the death of Joseph Stalin in 1953. There is no precedent to establish his place of burial.

Stalin died at the peak of his power and was initially honored with a place in Lenin's mausoleum. Khrushchev's "de-Stalinization" campaign swept him from the mausoleum to an undorned grave at the Kremlin Wall. Last year his honor was raised by the erection of a bust above the grave, in keeping with those of other former Kremlin leaders beside him.

Perhaps the only precedent in this is that Khrushchev's burial place might not be his last one and that the man who led his country into the space age and energetically pursued the Communist ideal, according to his own lights, might some day be moved to the Kremlin Wall.

Khrushchev: Just Another 'Pensioner'

MOSCOW (AP) — "I'm a pensioner now. What can a pensioner do?"

This is how Nikita Sergeevich Khrushchev, who once held supreme power in the Soviet Union, described his seven years of life after being toppled from his posts of premier and Communist party chief.

Khrushchev made his remarks to two Western correspondents who were on hand for his last public appearance June 13, when he cast his vote at a Moscow polling place in national elections for Supreme Soviet (parliament) members.

Although Khrushchev had lived in obscurity since 1964, millions of Russians were still familiar with his rotund figure, bald head and warted nose.

"It's Nikita Sergeevich, it's Nikita Sergeevich," whispered a crowd of Russians gathered around the flag-bedecked polling place as a chauffeur-driven black Volga pulled up to the curb with Khrushchev and his wife, Nina Petrovna, inside.

Khrushchev, looking trim and fit despite a recurring heart ailment called "cardiac deficiency," emerged from the car and displayed a glimmer of the flamboyance that made his name a household word around the world. He doffed his straw hat to the crowd, waved, exchanged pleasantries and

See PENSIONER, Page A-5

PENSIONER

(Continued From Page A-1)

walked with Mrs. Khrushchev to the schoolhouse polling place.

Khrushchev was wearing two of the medals he earned at the height of his power: the gold star of Hero of the Soviet Union, hanging by a scarlet ribbon on his left breast, and the gold medallion of the Lenin Peace Prize on his right lapel.

The Russians cleared a path for the Khrushchevs to the door of Elementary School No. 29, where they dropped their ballots in a box placed in the school's recreation hall.

After about five minutes in the school, the Khrushchevs emerged and strolled back to their car, smiling and greeting well-wishers along the way.

They then got back into their car, waved goodbye and drove off.

The school at 12 Kropotkinskaya Street was the polling place for the Khrushchevs' neighborhood. They maintained an apartment in a well-kept gray stone building a five-minute walk away, near the Canadian Embassy. But they lived most of the time in a country cottage.

The neighborhood where they kept the apartment was called the Old Arbat and was the fashionable district of imperial officials and tsarist princes before the Bolsheviks seized power in 1917.

The area, with its quiet tree-lined streets, is now the home of Russians who have done well under communism. Bolshoi Ballet dancers, writers and retired officials have homes there.