

# Wreaths and Tears for Khrushchev

9-14-71

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Washington Post Foreign Service

MOSCOW, Sept. 13—Nikita S. Khrushchev was buried here today in a coffin bedecked in red and black, under a grey and drizzly autumn sky. His funeral was small and private.

Perhaps 150 Russians joined foreign newsmen and dozens of police in the Novodyevichy cemetery to pay final respects to the former leader of the Soviet Union, who lay in an open coffin covered with flowers during the brief ceremony.

No member of the current Soviet leadership attended either the funeral or an earlier lying-in-state. But the Central committee of the Communist Party and the Soviet cabinet jointly sent one large wreath, and Anastas I. Mikoyan, former president, sent another.

These two wreaths and the familiar faces of Khrushchev's family were the only indication that this was the funeral of the forceful and unpredictable man who dominated the Soviet Union and often the entire world for more than a decade. The men who deposed Khrushchev in 1964 obviously decided that he should pass finally from the scene as undramatically as possible.

See FUNERAL, A16, Col. 1



Associated Press

Mrs. Khrushchev bids her husband final farewell.



United Press International

A modest marble stone marks the grave of former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev. The stone gives his name, and the date of his birth and death.



# Family Buries Khrushchev Near Moscow

FUNERAL, From A1

Nevertheless, Khrushchev's 36-year-old son Sergei managed to inject some drama into today's ceremonies. Shortly after the open coffin was placed on a table beside the grave, Sergei stepped up on the pile of freshly-dug earth beside the empty hole and addressed the crowd, many of them squeezed into the narrow pathways between other graves.

"We simply want to say a few words about the man whom we are burying now, and for whom we are crying with us too," he to gain composure as his lips quivered. "The sky is crying with us too," he added, as rain fell lightly.

#### A Real Man

"I won't talk about the great statesman," Sergie continued. "In recent days the newspapers of the whole world, with rare exceptions, and all radio stations have talked about this. I will not evaluate the contributions which Nikita Sergeyevich, my father, made. I don't have the right to do that. History will do that . . ."

"The only thing I can say is that he left no one indifferent. There are people who love him, and people who hate him, but no one can pass him by without turning to look . . . a man has gone from us who had the right to be called a man. Unfortunately, there are very few such real people . . ."

Sergei's reference to "the newspapers of the whole world, with few exceptions,"

was an oblique commentary on the official Soviet reaction to Khrushchev's death. There have been no obituaries published here, no commentary on Khrushchev's role in Soviet and world history.

Today's editions of Pravda and Izvestia carried only tiny six line announcements of the death of "pensioner" Khrushchev. The same announcement was broadcast here today. Khrushchev died Saturday after a heart attack at the age of 77. His funeral was not publicly announced.

When he finished his brief remarks today, Sergei Khrushchev — a taller and thinner version of his father, with more hair — introduced two other speakers.

The first was a woman whose name Sergei had to read from a piece of paper — Nadezhda Dimanshtein. She was introduced as an old colleague of Khrushchev's from the Ukraine. She too stepped up on the pile of dirt, her plain tan shoes sinking slightly into the soft earth, and gave what seemed to be a rehearsed speech.

Khrushchev, she said, was "an outstanding proletarian who showed us, younger people, an example of fortitude and heroism, an example of unbending will and unbending passion in defending the party line . . ."

Finally a young man named Vladimir Vasilyev stood on the pile of dirt: "It is very difficult for me to talk," he said, "but somewhere lost in the forests of

the Taiga (in Siberia) is the grave of my father, executed in the tragic year of 1937 (presumably by Stalin). It was Nikita Sergeyevich who reestablished the honor and dignity of our fallen parents . . ."

With that reference to Khrushchev's role as the great de-Stalinizer — perhaps his greatest contribution to the history of this country — this improvised funeral service was over.

Guests were given the opportunity to walk past the coffin as a small band played Beethoven's funeral march, a traditional part of Russian funerals. Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev lay on red silk in a white shirt, black tie and suit. His lips were pursed in an unnatural position and the face was waxen, but the famous profile was unmistakable.

The line of mourners who squeezed through the crowd of reporters and plainclothes policemen was quite long, and Nina Petrovna, Khrushchev's wife of 48 years, looked across the coffin into the faces of every one of them.

#### Wife, Sad Dignified

She wore a simple dark-grey coat and a black shawl over her head and though she dabbed her eyes occasionally, she generally maintained an air of sad dignity. The intermittent rain did not visibly affect her, though it did persuade one man in the party to hold an umbrella over the head of the corpse.

Khrushchev's three daughters,

Yulia, Gelena and Rada, were all at the funeral, as was his son-in-law, the former editor of Izvestia, Alexei Adzhubei, and son Sergei, an automation engineer. The daughters had more trouble than Nina Petrovna holding back tears.

After all who wanted to had walked past, Mrs. Khrushchev tearfully put her hand on the forehead of her dead husband. Others in her family then did the same. Workmen then put the top of the coffin, covered in red and black material, in place, and nailed it down.

The coffin was carried a few feet to the grave, and two ropes were strung under it. The band played

the Soviet national anthem, and a man stood at the head of the grave holding a red pillow on which all Khrushchev's 27 medals were pinned. Cemetery workers lowered the coffin into the grave, and onlookers toosed handcuffs of dirt into it.

#### A Single Rose

Five workers in blue smocks filled the grave and made a neat mound on top of it in seven hectic minutes. Nina Petrovna laid a single rose on this new mound, and the cemetery workers then propped four big wreaths around it (two from family and "comrades"), and set up a marble slab, about twenty inches by thirty, engraved simply in gold:

Then Sergei Khrushchev propped an old framed photograph of his father on a wreath above this marker, and the guests who had brought hundreds of flowers began to lay them around the grave.

Nina Petrovna and the rest of the family walked back through the cemetery, past the often-gaudy graves of other prominent officials and citizens buried in Novodievichy. It is a place reserved for important but by no means the most important people. Khrushchev's immediate neighbors in a remote and unkempt corner of the cemetery include a bass singer from the Bolshoi Opera, and a former member of the Soviet Supreme Court.

More famous Russians—Gogol, Chekhov, Prokofief, Stalin's wife Nadezda—are also buried in Novodievichy, but in another, more at-

tractive area behind its own wall.

#### Public Barred

Mrs. Khrushchev left the cemetery in a black Volga sedan. About 100 onlookers on the street outside saw her leave. Police admitted only invited guests and newsmen into the cemetery. The area around the cemetery was screened off for several blocks, and the cemetery remained closed all day though the funeral was over by 1 p.m.

The day's ceremonies began at 10:30 in the "Hall of Farewells" at the Kremlin hospital in Kuntsevo, an outlying section of western Moscow. With the coffin open, Khrushchev lay in state while mourners crowded silently around him. Beethoven's funeral march was played here on a recording. The hall, a room of about 25 feet square, rather like a chapel, was jammed with mourners and reporters. The only people in attendance recognized by the newsmen were Yevgeny Yevtushenko, the poet, and Sergo A. Mikoyan, one of Anistas Mikoyan's sons. Both also attended the funeral.

After an hour's lying in state, the coffin was put into a bus and carried downtown to the Novodievichy cemetery adjoining an ancient monastery—one of Moscow's handsomest pieces of old church architecture—near the Moscow River.

A caravan of cars followed the bus.