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**Soviet Announces
Khrushchev Death
In Cool Language**

By **BERNARD GWERTZMAN**

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Monday, Sept. 13

—Soviet authorities this morning broke their silence and announced "with sorrow" the death on Saturday of former Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev, who will be buried later today without full state honors.

A brief obituary in Pravda, the Communist party paper, avoided any praise of the man who had dominated Soviet political life for 11 years before he was ousted by the current Kremlin leaders seven years ago and was relegated to obscurity in his own country.

The announcement, made public by Tass, the Soviet press agency, a few hours before Pravda was to be distributed, said:

"The Central Committee of

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the Soviet Communist party and the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. announce 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, special pensioner Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchev, died in his 78th year."

It was signed by the Central Committee of the party and the Council of Ministers, and not by any of his former Kremlin colleagues, such as Leonid I. Brezhnev, Aleksei N. Kosygin, or Nikolai V. Podgorny, personally, as official obituaries usually are listed.

Nor was the time of his funeral or any information about it provided to the Soviet people, as are funerals accorded high leaders who are given full state honors. Mr. Khrushchev will be buried in the Novodevichye Monastery Cemetery in Moscow, a burial place for many Russian notables, but a notch below the Kremlin wall where all other top party leaders have been interred.

Moreover, reflecting the re-

fusal of the Kremlin leaders to end Mr. Khrushchev's political disgrace, there will be no public funeral ceremonies. His family has told Western correspondents that farewell remarks will be made at the Kremlin Hospital in the Kuntsevo section of Moscow, where he died of a heart attack around noon on Saturday.

The Pravda announcement which will probably be read over the radio this morning, was the first official word to the Soviet people about the death of the colorful Mr. Khrushchev, who achieved significant popularity for his anti-Stalin campaign and his promises of peace and prosperity, but who was scorned by many in his last years as leader for inefficient economic policies and crude public behavior.

Western newsmen had learned of his death soon, and foreign radio stations have broadcast the news to the Soviet without let-up for the past two days. But this did not push the authorities into making an early announcement.

Wording Was Sensitive

Western diplomats believed that the exact wording of the obituary was such a sensitive task that it probably required Politburo approval. And since the top leaders were scattered in different country and city houses over the weekend, it probably took time to get a consensus on how to treat the news.

Although many Russians are known to listen to foreign broadcasts, interviews on the Moscow streets yesterday produced virtually no one who knew of Mr. Khrushchev's death. And when informed about it, people from all walks of life and all age groups, seemed to share a mutual indifference.

"He was an old man," one art student said. "He did some good things. But he made many mistakes."

"I am not interested in poli-

tics. What can I say?" a long-haired youth said.

"Some people will say that he was stupid," a woman ice-cream vendor said. "Some will say he was a good man. But he was retired so what does it matter."

Yesterday was a lazy Indian summer Sunday, one of the last before the wintry winds move into the capital, and thousands of Muscovites were in parks and at their country cottages for a last bit of warmth. One of the favorite places was the Novodevichye Cemetery, where Mr. Khrushchev is scheduled to be buried.

But there, as in other parts of town, no one was talking about Mr. Khrushchev. At the far end of the new section of the cemetery, a young workman was digging a grave next to those of people unknown abroad.

He was asked if the grave was for Mr. Khrushchev. He exclaimed, "How should I know. I dig 30 graves a day. No one tells me who they are for."

In Novodevichye are the graves of such famous Russian writers as Vladimir Mayakovsky, Aleksei Tolstoy, Nikolai Ostrovsky, and of public figures as former Foreign Minister Maxim Litvinov, and physicist Igor Tamm.

The families of Kremlin leaders are also here—Nadezhda Alliluyeva, wife of Stalin, as well as the wife of Premier Kosygin.

Tradition Is Broken

But the refusal of authorities to allow Mr. Khrushchev to have a Red Square funeral ceremony with burial in the Kremlin wall breaks with a time-honored tradition. Just last December, Nikolai M. Shvernik, who was a much less important figure than Mr. Khrushchev, received full hon-

ors and his ashes were placed in the Kremlin wall. Many military men, some of whose abilities were questionable, have also been honored in the Kremlin wall.

It is assumed in diplomatic circles here that Mr. Brezhnev, the party General Secretary, who replaced Mr. Khrushchev as the country's top figure, decided that it would be politically embarrassing for the Kremlin to honor a man who is now described in Soviet reference works as a man given to "hare-brained schemes," and who acted in a "subjective" manner, whose plans for reorganization of the party were poorly designed, and who failed to consult with the other members of the top leadership.

Ironically, the man whom Mr. Khrushchev sought to discredit — Stalin — is buried next to the Kremlin wall, and only last year a bust was installed in his honor. Stalin died in 1953 while in office, and his death was a time of national grief for the majority of Russians who did not know or refused to believe that he was responsible for the mass arrests and backward state of the Soviet economy.

The Pravda obituary differed from the usual effusive eulogies that are printed in honor of leading Soviet figures. The reference to "special pensioner" meant that upon his forced retirement he was awarded a private pension and did not have to receive only the social security benefit awarded on the basis of salary and seniority.

The cool tone of the notice was sure to be interpreted by both party propagandists and by ordinary Russians as a signal that even in his death there would be no change in the official evaluation of Mr. Khrushchev, which, since his ouster has been quite negative.



Associated Press

PARISIANS HEAR OF KHRUSHCHEV'S DEATH: Frenchmen, taking part in a festival sponsored by a Communist newspaper, listening to radio in front of the Soviet booth.

Moscow Is Cool on Khrushchev Death

Red Countries Play Down the Death

By MARTIN GANSBERG

Communist countries appeared yesterday to be slowly informing their people of the death on Saturday of Nikita S. Khrushchev, with short notices in newspapers and brief reports on television and radio.

Typical of the reaction of these countries was that of Poland, where the newspapers carried articles no longer than a single paragraph on their front pages. There was no comment from the Government, and television reports used no film of the former Soviet Premier.

In Cuba, a radio station that broadcasts news continuously made no announcement of the death of Mr. Khrushchev in its Saturday reports. The Cuban Communist newspaper, Granma, does not publish over the weekend.

Rumanians Quiet

Sunday newspapers in Rumania did not carry word of the death and radio and television stations also ignored the news. An official at Agerpress, the state-run news agency, said there would be no comment until today.

Spokesmen for the Communist party in the United States declined to comment on Mr. Khrushchev's death, although one man said that he thought there would be an official statement in *The Daily World*, the party's newspaper, this week. Editors of the newspaper could not be reached by telephone yesterday.

What reaction there was seemed to be limited in some cases to personal messages to Mr. Khrushchev's widow, Nina,

Leaders of parties in several countries sent messages of condolence and mild tribute.

In Yugoslavia, for example, Marshal Tito sent a telegram of sympathy to Mrs. Khrushchev, but the text was not made public. And in Rome, Luigi Longo, secretary general of the Italian Communist party, said in a message to Mrs. Khrushchev that her husband was "a sincere friend of our people and a passionate worker for peace and socialism."

L'Unità, the Italian Communist party newspaper, ran a headline yesterday over five of its eight columns on Page 1 that read: "Khrushchev Is Dead—A Protagonist of a Decade of Soviet and International Life Passed Away in Moscow."

The newspaper also published a report from its Moscow bureau noting that the Soviet capital's two afternoon news-

papers and Tass, the official press agency, had not mentioned Mr. Khrushchev's death.

A front page editorial in *L'Unità* by Giancarlo Pajetta, a member of the party's directorate, said that Mr. Khrushchev "was human, but he was really a man, an unforgettable comrade."

In London, the Communist *Morning Star* printed a favorable two column obituary on the death of Mr. Khrushchev, paying him tribute for the reforms he made in Soviet life after he became party chief in 1953. It mentioned his speech to the 1956 party Congress denouncing the methods of Stalin.

The obituary concluded by saying of Mr. Khrushchev: "The full story of his life and times is the story of the rise of the Soviet Union and its people to the very forefront of world affairs."