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Khrushchev Interview Becomes Available in West

By ROBERT E. DALLOS

For the first time since Nikita S. Khrushchev was removed from power in the Soviet Union in October, 1964 a tape-recorded interview, with silent color film showing him in and around his country home, has become available in the West.

During the interview, Mr. Khrushchev said he still felt that the 1962 missile confrontation with the United States involving Cuba was a victory for the Soviet Union. He reasoned that he had sent rockets to Cuba to protect that country from American attack and, since there was no attack, his action served its purpose. The tape recordings and film were acquired by the National Broadcasting Company. N.B.C. officials refused yesterday to disclose how they had acquired the reminiscences, which were made at Mr. Khrushchev's dacha, Petrovo-Dalneye, 17 miles west of Moscow.

The network officials said that the film and voice tapes had not been made by N.B.C. crews and that, as far as they knew, the Soviet Government was not aware that such interviews had been conducted.

Made in Several Months

According to William R. McAndrew, N.B.C. news president, the interviews were made over a period of several months, with the last one made in March. He said it was "going to be hard to predict the Russian Government reaction."

In discussing the decision to send missiles to Cuba, Mr. Khrushchev said: "Perhaps we shouldn't have done it, but if rockets had not been installed, would there be a Cuba now?"

"No, it would have been wiped out and, if that's true, it means that our transportation of rockets was justified. It cost us money, but we didn't lose a single man."

"What was the American aim?" he asked. "They aimed to liquidate Socialist Cuba. The invasion by the Cuban emigres was part of the American plan. Our aim was to preserve Cuba, and Cuba still exists," he said.

The former Soviet Premier said that when his nation learned that a new socialist state had appeared, his Government knew that it would not last long if the Soviet Union did not help, and thus, after "consultations with colleagues," he decided to send the rockets.

Slept Fully Dressed

On the voice tape, Mr. Khrushchev recalled that during the missile crisis, "I must confess that I slept one night in

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my studio fully dressed on the sofa."

"I did not want to be in the position of one Western minister who, during the Suez crisis rushed to the telephone without his trousers," he added. "The following day, when the conflict was over, I slept quietly in the bed at home," he said.

He also recalled a 1959 meeting with Chairman Mao Tse-tung in Peking, during which he said he refused to supply nuclear armaments to China and for which he took credit for maintaining world peace.

He quoted Chairman Mao as having said, "Comrade Khrushchev, you have only to provoke the Americans to military action and I will give you as many people as you wish—100 divisions, 200 divisions, 1,000."

Donald V. Meaney, an N.B.C. news vice president, said in an interview yesterday that about one third of the hour-long film would consist of recent interviews with Mr. Khrushchev and that the remainder would be some that had been given both during and prior to his term as Premier.

On the tapes Mr. Khrushchev's voice is audible while a interpreter translates his words into English.

No Mention of Leaders

Mr. Khrushchev, who is now 73 years old and seldom leaves his villa, did not mention the current Soviet leadership or the circumstances of his ouster, according to the network spokesmen.

According to Mr. Meaney, the documentary will show Mr. Khrushchev's life on the seven-acre property bordering on the Moskva River.

"He looks like a little old man watching life go by," said the official.

The films include views of Mr. Khrushchev pursuing a hobby, building bonfires. He made a pile of twigs, stuffed it with paper and lighted it, then sat in his yard watching it burn.

Other scenes show him romping with his grandchildren during their weekend visits and playing with his dog, Arbat, an Alsatian. He is also shown sitting on his porch eating grapes and pulling himself up to the top of the wall of his property peering through binoculars at the countryside.

There are also scenes of Mr. Khrushchev at the dinner table

with his wife, Nina, though she was not interviewed.

In one sequence, one of the Khrushchev's five servants—they have two cooks, two chauffeurs and a gardener at the villa that is supplied by the Government—is shown beating eggs.

Other broadcasters said yesterday that the fact that N.B.C. had obtained the film was considered a coup in the industry. Mr. Khrushchev seldom is interviewed by reporters and then only on such occasions as his once-a-year trip to Moscow to vote.

On March 16, 1965, an Italian weekly, *L'Europeo*, published what it said was the first interview with the deposed Premier. It quoted him as having said that President Johnson was not as aware of world problems as was President Kennedy.

Two days later, Moscow branded the alleged interview a forgery.

N.B.C. correspondents have twice been ordered to leave the Soviet Union and the network bureau was closed. The first time was in 1948. In 1963, Frank Bourgholtzer, a correspondent, was ousted as a result of Soviet anger over two of the network's documentaries, "The Death of Stalin" and "The Rise of Khrushchev." Mr. Bourgholtzer was allowed to return a year later.

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