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Khrushchev 'Memoir' Asks Open Border

By THEODORE SHABAD

The reminiscences attributed by Life magazine to Nikita S. Khrushchev ended today with a plea to the present leadership to open the frontiers of the Soviet Union and give people "a chance to find out for themselves what the world is like." "Why should we build a good

life and then keep our borders bolted with seven locks?" the former Premier is quoted as saying in "Khrushchev Remembers," which is to be published in book form Dec. 21 by Little, Brown & Co.

The concluding excerpts also review the Cuban missile crisis of October, 1962, contending,

as Mr. Khrushchev did then, that his only purpose was to deter a United States invasion of Cuba.

"The two most powerful nations in the world had been squared off, each with its finger on the button," the account states. "But both sides showed that if the desire to avoid war is strong enough, even the most pressing dispute can be solved by compromise. The episode ended in a triumph of common sense."

In Power Until 1964

The final Life installment, in the Dec. 18 issue, on newsstands today, makes the following additional points in ranging over world events while Mr. Khrushchev was in power, from 1953 to 1964:

¶Soviet leaders "gasped with surprise and pleasure" when France, at the 1954 Geneva conference on Indochina, offered to divide Vietnam at the 17th parallel. This was the "absolute maximum we would have claimed ourselves."

¶Mr. Khrushchev felt ill at ease when he first stepped out into the world to meet with Western leaders at the Big Four conference at Geneva in 1955. "Their planes were more impressive than ours, and the comparison was embarrassing."

¶Mao Tse-tung and Mr. Khrushchev are portrayed lying next to a Peking swimming pool in 1954 in bathing trunks, discussing problems of war and peace. "I was never exactly

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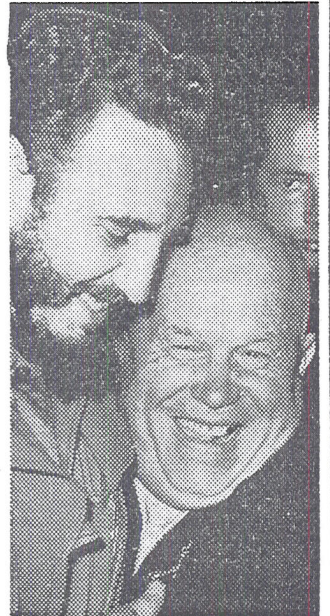
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sure that I understood what Mao meant," Mr. Khrushchev asserts.

In calling for freedom of movement across Soviet borders, the document quotes President Tito of Yugoslavia as having told Mr. Khrushchev:

"We've solved the problem very simply. Yugoslav citizens simply tell the border guard, 'I'm leaving to earn enough money to buy a car,' and they're let right through."

"I was intrigued by this approach," the Khrushchev account goes on. "I have no



Associated Press

Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, being embraced by Nikita S. Khrushchev at the U.N. in 1960, two years before Cuban missile crisis.

doubt that it's practically feasible for us to open our borders. . . . We've got to stop looking for a defector in everyone. We've got to stop designing our border for the sake of keeping the dregs and scum inside our country. We must start thinking about the people, give them a chance to find out for themselves what the world is like."

Under present rules, Soviet citizens must apply for special permission to travel abroad, and relatively few applications are granted. Jews eager to emigrate to Israel have recently been in the forefront of a campaign for an easing of regulations.

The Khrushchev recollections couple the appeal for freer travel with a condemnation of Stalinist restrictions on literature and the arts. The Life account says:

"You can't regulate the development of literature, art and culture with a stick or by barking orders. If you try to control your artists too tightly . . . there will be just a gloomy stereotype, boring and useless."

Report on Downfall

In a separate report in Life, Mr. Khrushchev is quoted as indicating that it was the militarists in the Soviet Union who helped bring about his downfall in October, 1964.

The report is by Dr. A. McGehee Harvey, of the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, who went to the Soviet Union a year ago for medical consultation with an unidentified relative of Mr. Khrushchev.

Dr. Harvey, who also visited the former Premier at his estate outside Moscow, quotes Mr. Khrushchev as having said that he lost control of the Soviet leadership after the U-2 reconnaissance plane piloted by Francis Gary Powers was shot down over the Urals in May, 1960.

"Those who felt America had imperialistic intentions and that military strength was the most important thing, had the evidence they needed," Mr. Khrushchev said, according to the American physician.