SERIOUS CHANGES HINTED

Soviet System Loses In ShakeUp

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"The biggest loser in the recent power shakeup in the Soviet Union was the Soviet system itself," according to Dr. Oleh Fedyshyn, Rice's Soviet Area specialist.

The Soviets obviously face great difficulty in reconciling the severe denunciation of Nikita Khrushchev with the stated intents of the new leaders to follow the purposes of the ousted leader.

"I'm afraid there might be certain changes in Soviet policy," stated Fedyshyn. "If not, they wouldn't have tried to disgrace him." While Khrushchev was denounced immediately, there was a three-year lull before anything derogatory was said about Stalin.

Satellite Support

The criticism of Khrushchev was begun immediately after his fall from power. Since then nothing has been said of him in the Soviet press. Pravda carried President Johnson's report to the nation but omitted the President's mention of Khrushchev.

In the meantime the press of the satellite countries and of European communist parties have come to Khrushchev's defense.

Dr. Fedyshyn emphasized that "we don't know much about the two new individuals." Their careers are known and transcripts of their speeches are available, but they may have been merely echoing Khrushchev's party line.

"These two individuals would have become leaders in the event of Khrushchev's death." This fact makes the method chosen to oust him all the more mysterious.

Resembles Khrushchev

Aleksei Kosygin, the new Premier, was typified as a "wunderkind," a young and fast-climbing administrator who did not hold great power in the party. Leonid Brezhnev, new First Secretary of the Communist party, had come up through party posts in a career which in many ways resembles Khrushchev's.

The decision to drop Khrushchev was officially made in the Presidium, the eleven-member controlling body of the Party's Central Committee. Of these eleven, Kozlov had suffered a stroke two years ago, Kuusinen had died recently, and Khrushchev himself was vacationing.

Thus no more than eight men, perhaps fewer, were directly involved in the decision. Dr. Fedyshyn pointed out that Brezhnev, Kosygin, and Suslov, the Party theoretician, may have made the decision on their own and then have obtained the concurrence of the Presidium. It is even possible, Fedyshyn thinks, that Suslov is the power behind the scenes and that the new Soviet "troika" began to assume control as early as July, 1964, when Brezhnev was appointed Second Secretary of the Party.

In searching for the cause of the change, Dr. Fedyshyn stated "I believe internal domestic problems are more important than international ones." He did not see any direct connection between Khrushchev's fall and the latest Russian connection or the Chinese nuclear bomb.

The new officials' first acts will probably include attempts to patch up relations with China. In his speech at the reception for the astronauts Brezhnev called for a meeting "of all Marxist-Leninist parties," and said "May our great multinational Soviet homeland continue confidently to advance, to flourish and blossom."

'Multinational'

The term "multinational" may (Continued on Page 8)
SOVIETS—

(Continued from Page 3)

well counter the policy laid down in 1961 to consolidate all non-Russian Soviet peoples into a single Soviet Nation.

China has made some friendly gestures toward the new leaders. Originally Peking had no comment on the Russian astronauts, but after the coup congratulations were sent.

Dr. Fedyshyn saw no connection between the coup and the crash in Yugoslavia which killed a planeload of Russian military leaders. "These are military experts and they can be replaced very easily. I think it was an accident."