

19th Presidium of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

March 5th, 1953

Honorable Comrades members of the Soviet Presidium,

It is with the deepest regret that I announce you the death of our beloved Comrade and Leader Joseph Stalin. At the age of 74, our Comrade Stalin was found dead in the Kuntsevo Dacha after suffering a stroke. With his departure, our Union mourns for the loss of the greatest of our men, however we must act quickly and consistently as the governing body over the nation. We have several tasks that we must tackle to ensure the continuity of our great nation among which the most important one is establishing a legitimate successor that will consolidate the power of the Union and advance our principles throughout the globe. We must also organize the funeral for the farewell of our great compatriot and address the current situation of fear that our citizens live in. Remember, Stalin had his reasons for the spread of fear, however is upon you to decide the course of the Union's domestic and foreign policy from this day on. Comrades, remember that history is for you to write in the next session of our Presidium.

Best of luck,

Dietwin Smoli

Chairman of the Historical Crisis Committee

Background of the Presidium:

The Politburo of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was the highest policy-making government authority of the Soviet Union. It was formally established in October 1917, and refounded in March 1919, at the 8th Congress of the Bolshevik Party. It was known as the Presidium from 1952 to 1966. The existence of the Politburo ended in 1991 with the breakup of the Soviet Union. From 1917 to the mid-1920s, congresses were held annually and the Presidium met once a week. With Joseph Stalin's consolidation of power, the frequency of formal meetings declined, and by the mid-1930s the Politburo convened at most once every third week.

The Presidium was established, and worked within the framework of democratic centralism meaning that higher bodies are responsible to lower bodies and every member is subordinate to party decisions. By 1929 the freedom of expression which had been previously tolerated within the party, was replaced with monolithic unity. Throughout the late-1920s, Presidium member Lazar Kaganovich, a Stalin ally, campaigned for a party organisational by-law which reduced inner-party democracy in favour of hierarchy and centralism. To strengthen his system of centralised decision-making, Stalin appointed his allies to high standing offices outside the Politburo; for example, Molotov succeeded Rykov as Chairman

of the Council of People's Commissars in 1930, to reduce the chance of another independent locus of centralised power coming into form which could threaten him and the Politburo. The year 1936 signaled the beginning of the Great Purge, a nationwide purge of what Stalin deemed as anti-socialist elements.

The Presidium was the highest organ of the party when the party Congress and the Central Committee were not in session. The General Secretary of the Communist Party served as *ex officio* chairman of the Politburo, although there was no formal rule that stipulated that.

Goals of the Committee

Comrades, the 19th Presidium of the Communist Party of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has three main goals that must be addressed in our next session. First and foremost is the naming of the next Secretary General of the Communist Party. Even as comrade Georgy Malenkov is serving as Acting Secretary General by the desires of our late Comrade Stalin, the committee must decide to back up a formal leader for a long term service; it could be comrade Malenkov as it could also be any of the members of this committee. Our second goal is the preparation of the funeral for Comrade Stalin, which entails logistics for the transportation of the people from all across the Union who will visit him and, the arrangement of the private ceremony with members of government, family, friends and foreign heads of state. Our last goal is to establish long term policy that will

define the future of the Union and our image abroad.

Note

While it is common in crisis committees to use historical events and outcomes as the basis for ideas on resolving the crisis at hand, it is a waste both of our time and yours to attempt to solely use them. Crisis is about being quick thinking and adapting to issues, and you will find quickly that by being unimaginative, you will be less successful in your endeavors. That being said, creativity will almost always be rewarded with support from your friends in the crisis rooms, so do your best!

Members

1. **Lavrentiy Beria:** Minister of Internal Affairs
2. **Leonid Brezhnev:** First Deputy Head of the Political Directorate of the Army and Navy
3. **Nikolai Bulganin:** Minister of Defense
4. **Lazar Kaganovich:** First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union
5. **Nikita Khrushchev:** First Secretary of the Moscow Regional Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union
6. **Alexei Kosygin:** Minister of Industry
7. **Georgy Malenkov:** Acting Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union
8. **Anastas Mikoyan:** Minister of Trade

9. **Vyacheslav Molotov:** Minister of Foreign Affairs
10. **Nikolai Patolichev:** First Secretary of the Communist Party of Belarus
11. **Mikhail Pervukhin:** Minister of Power Plants and Electrical Industry
12. **Panteleimon Ponomarenko:** Minister of Culture
13. **Alexander Puзанov:** Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Soviet
Federative Socialist Republic
14. **Maksim Saburov:** Minister of Mechanical Engineering
15. **Ivan Tevosyan:** Minister of Metallurgy
16. **Kliment Voroshilov:** Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR
17. **Andrey Vyshinsky:** Permanent Representative of the USSR to the United Nations
and the UN Security Council
18. **Pavel Yudin:** Deputy High Commissioner of the USSR in East Germany
19. **Georgy Zhukov:** First Deputy Minister of Defense
20. **Arseny Zverev:** Minister of Finance

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