

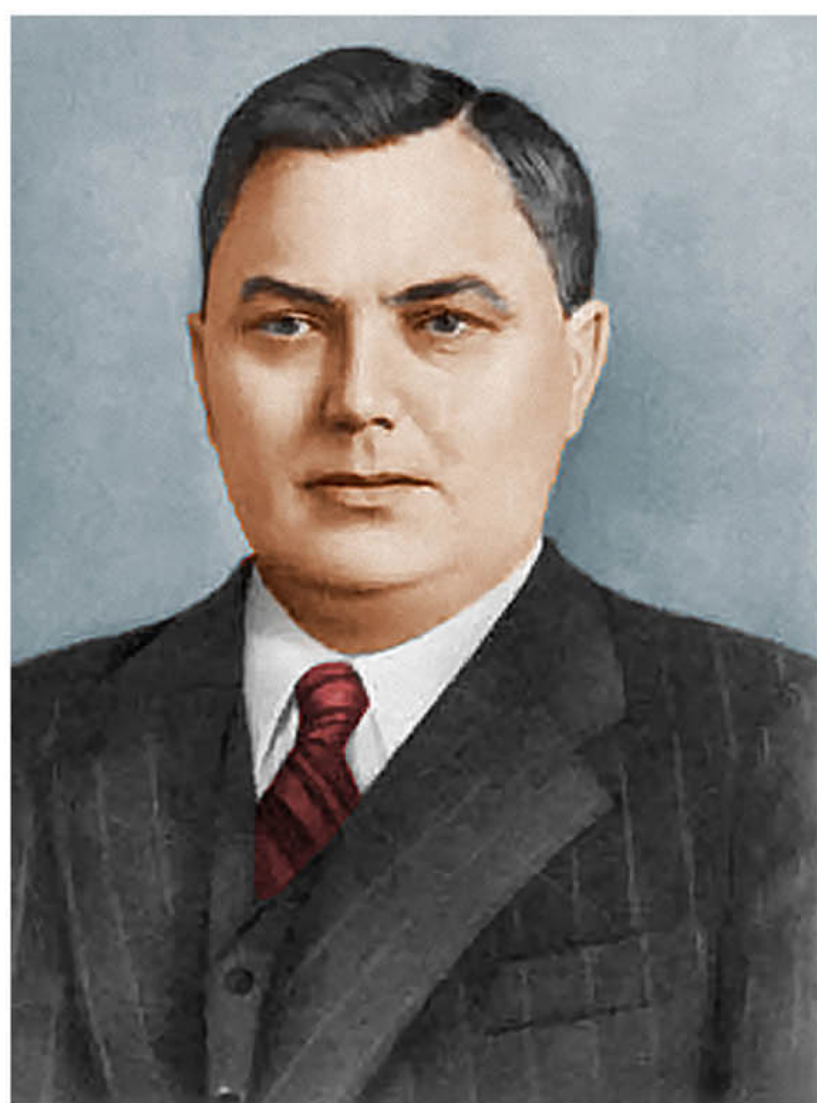
● THE WEEK'S BIGGEST NEWS

Russia: How Much of a Change?

The death of Joseph Stalin: 1) put Russia in the hands of his closest associates—with Red Army influence mounting; 2) shook the strong bonds which held Red China to Stalin as high priest of communism; 3) left the West wary—with scant hope of easing East-West tensions.

Successors: Despite the real grief shown by millions who lined up to view Stalin's body, new leaders moved in fast to "prevent panic or disarray." This indicated to QUICK's London observers that a struggle for power had gone on with the order of succession determined earlier. The five top men, who may rule as a committee, pledged at Stalin's funeral to strengthen the armed forces—while professing "peace."

Premier and head of the party: Georgi Malenkov, 51, (5'7" tall, 250 lbs.), Stalin's personal assistant in party affairs; never out of Russia; directed Russian plane and tank production in World War II; believed the



Promoted: Georgi Malenkov



Departed: Russian Premier

Army's choice because the Army thinks it can control him.

Deputy Premier and Interior Minister:

Lavrenti P. Beria, director of the secret police and boss of Russia's atomic program. He was despised by the Army. Like Malenkov, he was most concerned with political and domestic—rather than foreign—affairs.

Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister: V. M. Molotov, bitterly anti-Western in outlook, probably Malenkov's nearest rival. (*Pravda* left him out of a picture of new leaders at Stalin's bier.) First action: Reducing his enemy, Foreign Minister Vishinsky to U.N. delegate.

Deputy Premier and War Minister: Marshal Nicolai Bulganin, a former banker and production expert.

Deputy Premier: Lazar M. Kaganovich, a Jew, whose sister may have been Stalin's third wife (never announced); Malenkov's teacher in political affairs.

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