PMUNC 2015

Cuban Missile Crisis JCC: USSR

Chair: Jacob Sackett-Sanders
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Chair’s Letter

Dear Delegates,

It is my great pleasure to give you an early welcome to PMUNC 2015. My name is Jacob, and I’ll be your chair, helping to guide you as you take on the role of the Soviet political elites circa 1961.

Originally from Wilmington, Delaware, at Princeton I study Slavic Languages and Literature. The Eastern Bloc, as well as Yugoslavia, have long been interests of mine. Our history classes and national consciousness often paints them as communist enemies, but in their own ways, they too helped to shape the modern world that we know today. While ultimately failed states, they had successes throughout their history, contributing their own shares to world science and culture, and that’s something I’ve always tried to appreciate. Things are rarely as black and white as the paper and ink of our textbooks.

During the conference, you will take on the role of members of the fictional Soviet Advisory Committee on Centralization and Global Communism, a new semi-secret body intended to advise the Politburo and other major state organs. You will be given unmatched power but also faced with a variety of unique challenges, such as unrest in the satellite states, an economy over-reliant on heavy industry, and a geopolitical sphere of influence being challenged by both the USA and an emerging Communist China. You will have the opportunity to celebrate uniquely Soviet victories, such as the first successful manned space mission, and hopefully you will be able to engineer even greater successes. And of course, you will be forced to deal with the political games and maneuvering inherent in a bureaucratic system like the USSR, where who you know can be even more important than what you know.

Throughout the conference, I encourage you to push the limits of history. It is a historical simulation, not a retelling. Remain true to your character, but test the boundaries. Explore opportunities. And craft an alternate history for yourself. That, in the end, is the real delight in Model United Nations. Doing what wasn’t, and having a moment to revel in the big what if’s. And believe me, there will be plenty of what if’s over the course of the conference.

The details, for now, I’ll leave to your imagination. Until then, Comrades.

Sincerely,
Jacob A. Sackett-Sanders
Introduction

1 January 1961

Greetings, Comrade!

You have been chosen as a select member of the newly forged Soviet Advisory Committee on Centralization and Global Communism (SKCK). It is a new, secret gathering of the greatest Soviet minds, intended to function effectively behind closed doors, combining top expertise from the major state organs with a flawless efficiency unhindered by the bureaucratic nature of the Party Mechanisms (which remain in place as a cumbersome but necessary part of our development toward the final Worker’s Revolution.) While on this committee, you will be subordinate to nothing and no one except the greater ideals of our Union, made manifest in our chair, Comrade Nikita Khrushchev himself.

That said, you are still a member of the Party and a citizen of our grand Soviet Union. In our halls your speech will be uncensored and your loyalty unquestioned, but your actions will be held accountable to the ideals you profess to hold, and the state organs may take their toll on any who are unable to defend their actions with results. The system exists merely as an extension of the Workers themselves, a collective striving against the excesses of Capitalism and unchecked religion. So while you are being granted a great freedom, a chance to be an actor outside the shadow of the Presidium and the Central Committee and even the
Supreme Soviet, remember that the Worker is an eternal, beloved knife above us all, simultaneously the threat of our own annihilation but also the tool with which we are most able to cut this dark and corrupt world into an ideal world. The hammer and the sickle remain our symbolic mantra. We build for the Proletariat; cut down all those who would stand in our way. No man who loves Communism is a foe, be he from East or West; no enemy of our state is a Communist, no matter what his lips and hands may seek to say or write.

With that, I welcome you to the SKCK. Attached is a political dossier, intended for your eyes only. It will help prepare you for the first meeting of the committee. Many different forces will be at play; many diverging opinions will vie for attention and action. With you, you bring your entire network of friends, associates, and civil or political associations. This document will help you understand at least a fraction of what your fellow committee members are bringing as well. The full details I will leave to you to find out on your own. Tread carefully.

Glory to Lenin!

Yakov Vukovich Sadzakov

First Secretary of the SKCK
Topics of Concern

The Space Race

It was with the great power and ingenuity of true Socialist Labor that the Soviet Union succeeded in launching the first satellite, Sputnik, up into the cosmos. In that one fell swoop, we captured the attention of the world, showing the First, Second, and Third World alike the heights of what we are able to accomplish. To be sure, it terrified the capitalist Western dogs, who have since attempted to match our progress, albeit with varying success. But they know not what we have in store, as the final touches are being put on our first manned space flight, set to take place in April. To the best of our knowledge, this plan is still a secret to the United States, and we endeavor to keep it so, all the better to use surprise and awe to capture not just the attention but the very hearts of the world.

Beyond the real, moral victories of our current path, (which prove once again that we march with the full weight of history behind us), we must also consider our future trajectory. The development of advanced rocketry has been expensive, and the advances in our ability to project our power into space have been marred by the uncertainty of what exactly to do. Some suggest the mobilization of space itself into a weapon against the soulless systems of oppression in the West; others suggest that space may provide a new opportunity and venue to develop never before thought of technologies. The rockets themselves have thus far been mainly civil in design, but it is believed they may serve as templates to more efficiently deliver both nuclear and traditional payloads. The Cold War front is ever shifting, and as the cosmos is
Mankind’s latest frontier, we must be vigilant and aware of how best to shape it for our use.

Do not underestimate the Americans. They are capitalist pigs, but pigs willing to exploit their own people to no end in order to maintain the illusion of legitimacy and modernity. The will stop at no end to compete in such a prestigious arena as the exploration (and perhaps even colonization) of space. The costs, already high, will only spiral higher as the years go on. Ensure the plan of action we develop is one that will result in a victory worth the costs.

**The Third World**

Since the end of the Great Patriotic War, we have waged a ceaseless battle against Western propaganda that seeks to prevent the nations of the world from realizing their true, innate potential. While many nations, such as those of Eastern and Central Europe, have sought to make real their own Socialist Dream from within our great Union, there is another class of nation that has sought a path of their own. Claiming to reject the excess of West and “impersonality” of East, a so called “Third World” has begun to assert its own sense of authority in the fractured and perilous realm of geopolitics. While there is little doubt that the local political elites mean well by their machinations, it falls upon the Soviet Union to reassure and assert the overwhelming truth of the Worker’s Goal into their viewpoints, thereby ensuring that the global Proletariat continues its march towards innovative and creative self-actualization.

As our agents report, there are strong indications that later this year a conference of Third World nations will be organized, led by non-other than the
heretical “communist” propagandist Josip Broz Tito. While the Soviet government now rejects the former excesses of Stalin, who hated Tito on a personal level and erred in his extreme criticism of Tito as being a corporatist of all things, it remains true that Titoist Yugoslavia represents a perversion of the true Communist system, almost akin to Trotskyism in its misguidedness. Under his rule, Yugoslavia remains the lost lamp of the Revolution, attempting to somehow reconcile the inherently exploitative economic systems of the West with the egalitarian future we strive for. While it may be too late to bring Yugoslavia back into the fold, we must make sure that this budding movement of so-called “Non-Aligned Nations” does not evolve into a pawn of the West or die a sputtering death in a barren middle ground. As history as shown, the West has no qualms about the manipulation of the innocent, and those nations will tell any lie to force the righteous citizen into signing his own papers of enslavement. We must advance the cause wherever and whenever possible.

Of particular note is the newly minted government of Cuba. Recent revolution having overthrown the corrupt dictator Fulgencio Batista, the new government under Fidel Castro has so far failed to align itself with first, second, or third world. Batista was a yes man willing to sell the soul of Cuba to America, and for that we believe that the nation is in a good position to align itself with the truths of Communism. We must reach out to them and help shape their destiny. They represent a trying but telling litmus test of our ability to sway the fragile, young nations of the Third World. Do we possess strength of character and trueness of ideology to sway nations to the Worker’s Cause, or will we lack the fortitude and courage to throw back the
advance of those ideologies that would
soon see the worker in chains again, as
much a serf as in the reign of Tsar
Alexander II or an American slave
beneath the yoke of “Liberté”.

The Eastern Bloc

It is possible that you have heard the
rumors that the Soviet Government and
Politburo are unpopular among the
Eastern Bloc; I can assure you this is
patently untrue. That said, there is a
growing problem with a small group of
faux-intelligentsia who seek to rile
nationalist passion and extinguish the
flames of class warfare (sensing, of course,
the inevitable victory of the Proletariat.)
These bourgeois and petty-bourgeois
“thinkers” have been moderately
successful in corrupting the youthful and
impressionable minds of local students;
they also seek to rally the worker in a fight
against the Worker, thereby turning the
wheel of progress against itself. The
Hungarian rebellion of 1956 was primarily
a result of this systemic subterfuge,
though it is with pleasure that we can
recall our united response to this
capitalist-imperial threat (a precedence I
hope will not be called upon again,
although I sleep well knowing that the
precedence exists).

Moving forward, however, we must make
sure to continue integration of the
Republics and strengthen our ties with
other members of the Warsaw Pact. At
home, the other soviets look to the
example set by, above all else, the
Supreme Soviet. While some have levelled
the claim that Russians are too well
represented in positions of power, we
must remind the people that nationality is
merely a descriptor, and that notions of
nationalism should not serve to separate
us or inhibit our unity as Communists.
The memories of the masses can be
chronically short; we should not forget that less than a generation ago we fought against the fascist nationalists that sought to destroy us all alike. We remain multicultural, but united in our common pursuit of Revolution.

Abroad, our allies have begun to fall victim to western propaganda. From across the divide (so ridiculously denoted ‘the Iron Curtain’ by the capitalist dogs) it can be easy to imagine that life is better or freer ‘over there’. But what freedom can there be other than man’s right to toil for the good of himself and his neighbor? What justice can exist other than the historic justice of the lowest rungs of society rising to take their rightful places as the guides and beneficiaries of the great masses of capital which they themselves produce? Reformation is a beautiful dream, but we must not allow reformation to block the progress that we have made over the past half century. We must set an example that the other Warsaw Pact countries will be proud of. And where necessary, we must purge those elements that would replace progress with regressive oppression, for the very good of our joint Nation of Workers which transcends any modern notion of boundary or contained nation-state.

The Chinese Communists

In the Far East, the great dragon grows restless. It was just two years ago that Comrade Khrushchev and Comrade Mao began their open feud, each denouncing the other as deviant and revisionist.

Despite our sure knowledge that Comrade Khrushchev is a fine example of pure Communist ideology, it would be foolhardy not to admit that as China grows in power, so too does the importance of our relationship with them. Comrade Mao ascribes to a traditional but antiquated view of communism; we must
convince him and the Chinese Party that it is better to play the long game of history, rather than to prematurely throw ourselves on foreign bayonets.

Communism will be victorious, and we will carve out the ideal plan for that victory, as dictated by Lenin and Marx before him. Nevertheless, the next several years will be critical in determining the fate of the Second World. There is still time to warm the Sino-Soviet relationship, hopefully before the two great communist nations are irreparably cut off from one another, intellectually and politically.

Our analysts have determined a number of points on which our party has split with theirs (reflecting our own acknowledgment of the push and change of history.) Firstly, our emphasis on keeping the peace seems to the Maoists a rejection of the inevitable state of warfare that Communism inherently demands. Our de-Stalinization (a critical part of Soviet progress) is to them nothing more than revisionist history of a great Communist leader. And our historical issues (such as Tsarist annexation of Chinese land and support for Tibetan rebels) remain bad tastes in the mouths of the Chinese communists. While this program of Soviet deficiencies is self-evidently wrong, crafted by a provincial nationalism and poor understanding of the true guiding principles of the Revolution, they are the main talking points of any discussion between us. Surely we must do something; the Second World must not be split, nor should Communism be allowed to be perverted once again as in the Titoist doctrines of the South Slavs.

De-Stalinization and Domestic Reform

It is with great sadness that we recall the excess of the Stalin administration. As Khrushchev critically stated in his speech,
Stalin is a blight that ought to be purged from the annals of proper communism, and his supporters with him. That said, there are those who would have us moderate our reprobation, who see Stalinist thought as the true successor to original Marxist-Leninist doctrine, despite recognizing the errors of Stalin himself. There are even those among the common Proletariat who still see him as a hero, even despite his many crimes against the Worker and the Party. And despite our current efforts of De-Stalinization, not every supporter is a madman, nor every proponent unworthy of participation in our realization of History’s conclusion (in the form of this temporary Communist state.)

In other words, we must continue our efforts of De-Stalinization while simultaneously maintaining unity in the party. While the newly formed KGB is intended to excise the extremes of the NKVD, they continue to play a vital role in maintaining the integrity of our communist thought by finding and reeducating those who have fallen victim to Western lies. We find ourselves in the unfortunate situation of balancing the need for repayment after Stalin’s crimes with the political reality of moving people past the crimes of the past. And we face growing pressure to liberalize, and to at very least increase our program of rehabilitation, in recognition of Stalin’s madness.

The trick, however, is that the more independence we grant the masses, the looser we grip the reigns of progress and the Worker becomes so much more free to stray. While this concern may seem un-communist, consider the context—we face an unrelenting barrage of propaganda from the Western nations, and it is important that we steel the people for the long psychological battle against the
temptations of a gilded oligarchic system that can only one day fail. It is not a lacking of Communism that drives us, but the very moral poverty of our enemies. They know no limit, they understand no shame. No lie or slander is too low for them, no twisting of ideology off limits. While we are mere tools of the Worker, it rests on the Party to steady the hammer that builds and the scythe that culls the sick wheat from the crop. We must continue to step towards the glittering future that the people demand, but also remember that no conflict is pretty, let alone the final, all-encompassing conflict that signals the death knell of the Bourgeois systems.

Committee Members

Liberals

As a bloc, the liberals are neither all alike, nor do they all share the same exact vision of the future. What they do have in common, however, is a belief that the USSR is threatened by a deep stagnation that could result in the end of Communism. To some, these concerns seem overblown; after all, the USSR is in a period of great stability and technological advance, and is seemingly surging ahead of the USA in certain technical fields. These men, nonetheless, maintain their views, citing a weaker national industry and claiming that the USSR will need to do more than de-Stalinize to keep up with and eventually conquer the capitalist nations of the West. While they see the USSR as the necessary leader of global Communism, they are generally unwilling to respect what they see as deviant forms, such as the budding Maoist thought in China.

Alexei Kosygin—First Deputy Premier of the Soviet Union

A man with a long track record of service, Kosygin is well known
and well respected. Originally a mid-level bureaucrat, he distinguished himself as an effective organizer of people and goods during the Great Patriotic War, and was able to rise to several ministerial positions in the years that followed. Despite a brief fall from grace towards the end of Stalin’s rule, Kosygin later formed a solid bond with Khrushchev that catapulted him through the ranks (including a stint as head of Gosplan) to his current position, where he functions as part minister of foreign affairs and part symbol of the USSR abroad. He is a staunch communist but also exceedingly liberal, and supports the warming of relations between East and West. In addition to being one of the few Soviet men with international recognition, he maintains relations with industrial and agricultural leaders throughout the Russian Soviet.

*Otto Wilhelm Kuusinen—Secretary of the Central Committee, Editor and Academic*

A Finn who joined the USSR following the military defeat of the communists within his country of birth, Kuusinen is nominally only a minor member of the Politburo, but practically serves as a major ideologue within the Soviet Union. As editor of *The Fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism*, Kuusinen argues for a revised and revitalized communism that allows more cultural freedom and better incorporates the many constituent Soviet cultures. Radically, he has even come to reject the dictatorship of the proletariat as a path of continued progress. While this is extreme, he nonetheless
occupies a position of respect not only among liberals, but also among his fellow members of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

**Andrei Gromyko—Minister of Foreign Affairs; of the Order of the Red Banner**

If Kosygin could be said to be recognized abroad, Gromyko is legitimately known and well respected. A fixture in Soviet geopolitics since the end of the war, he had the distinct honor of being the first representative of the Soviet Union in the United Nations, where he made sure to exercise the power of the Soviet veto with great vigor. A practical man, his ideology extends only so far as it can serve his nation; he has been known to reject the extremism of conservatives both eastern and western, and has never failed to dialogue with those willing to give him a chance. This attitude has not won him any allies among the conservative politicians in the USSR, but this has not stopped him from slowly wrestling control of the state organs related to foreign affairs from the hands of less forward thinking men.

**Vladimir Semichastny—Former First Secretary of the Central Committee and Komsomol**

Currently a man without a sure place in the government at the current moment, Semichastny remains at the table of power due to connections. Well-liked by Khrushchev and other upper echelon politicians, Semichastny is being groomed to take over as an intelligence minister sometime in the future, perhaps even of the KGB itself, (if indeed Shelepin moves on to greater things.) He still exercises great influence
within Komsomol, the youth arm of the Communist Party, and his visions for the future are mostly predicated on a reform of national image. If the Soviet Union is to succeed, it must rebrand itself and its more visible state organs as a response to the despicable (if effective) propaganda of the West, particularly if the USSR hopes to peacefully hold onto the Pact nations.

Khrushchev’s Supporters

While tempting to call Khrushchev’s supporters moderates, if they are moderate, it is only because they most closely identify Khrushchev himself as being moderate. All seek to find their place in the current system as it stands now. Accordingly, most agree that de-Stalinization was and is the correct path for the USSR, and they tend to pursue a middle ground between radical change and the stricter interpretation of Dictatorship [of the Proletariat] used by Stalin and continued by some of his remaining supporters.

Anastas Mikoyan—First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Hero of Socialist Labor

Another Soviet “international man,” Mikoyan has served for decades as a political liaison both inside and outside the Soviet Union. Initially serving as a party coordinator under Stalin, Mikoyan oversaw the reorganization and integration of a number of fringe parties in the other soviets. Eventually falling from grace in Stalin’s eyes (likely due to his unwillingness to purge respected friends and allies), Mikoyan advanced with the times and found a new place in the post-Stalin government as an advisor to
Khrushchev and an international diplomat. Straightforward and amicable, Mikoyan is well liked in the West and retains significant respect among the governments of the entire Eastern Bloc as an honorable man, known for a sense of morality and justice.

Leonid Brezhnev—Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet

In many ways Khrushchev’s golden boy, Brezhnev is a talented and powerful politician. Historically, when things don’t go his way, he usually exerts enough influence to have the connection between those things and himself erased. Starting as a retired political commissar, he rocketed his way through the Ukrainian system into the Supreme Soviet, where he was given assignments in Kazakhstan to prove himself. Though his agricultural campaigns eventually failed, the initial results were positive enough to propel him into the reaches of the Politburo. He is currently, nominally, the head of state in the USSR, and he has extensive contacts in the space and nuclear programs.

Nikolai Podgorny—First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine

A Ukrainian politician with extensive connections in the Soviet heavy industrial sectors, Podgorny is a direct rival to Brezhnev, although they formally both serve Khrushchev directly. He is mainly concerned with revitalizing the national economy, and especially the economy of his native Ukraine. Generally liberal, he sees eye to eye with the liberal
bloc on many things, though is not quite so radical in his actions. Step by step, little by little, Podgorny seeks to better the life of himself and the common man alike.

Nikolay Shvernik—Chairman of the Central Control Commission and ‘Shvernik’ Commission

An older man, Shvernik is much less concerned with political advancement than other members of this committee, having already served as head of state under Stalin and having regained his seat on the Politburo following a period of exclusion. His role is mostly that of ideologue-bureaucrat, as he is principally responsible for maintaining party discipline as well as the choosing of suitable candidates for rehabilitation who were previously purged by Stalin. This gives him access to a number of political exiles who may be willing to help him if he can pull a few strings in their favor.

Conservatives

The conservatives, by and large, are the staunch defenders of “True Communism.” Many of them are former Stalinists who successfully distanced themselves from the man while defending the strength of his policies, or at very least his ideology. As a rule, the conservatives reject the notion that the Soviet Union must change its overall course, and some go so far as to suggest that even the repudiation of Stalin goes too far. There must be order in the ranks, so that Communism might present a steady and even face to the world.
Mikhail Suslov—Chief Ideologue of the Party and Hero of Socialist Labor

There is no individual citizen of the USSR more ideologically influential than Suslov. A strong opponent of dictatorial rule but a staunch believer in the righteousness of the difficult path toward the final stages of Communism, he frequently pushes back against the efforts and desires of the current Khrushchev administration. For Suslov, relations with the US are mere distractions, and efforts to reform the USSR (beyond attempts to correct the course of the initial path laid out by Lenin) are attempts to doom the great experiment itself. Stubborn, ornery, and unpopular with many of the career politicians, he nonetheless defies all logic by having somehow carved a permanent place in the government for himself. If nothing else, when Suslov speaks, people listen. Not always those in the room, but there are many ears in the whole of the USSR.

Alexander Shelepin—Chairman of the Committee for State Security (KGB)

A former disciple of Stalin himself, Shelepin is unscrupulous and unhesitating. He is willing to forge documents, destroy records, and replace underlings at a moment’s notice—though all for the good of the party, of course. He is principally responsible for the restructuring of the KGB to remove any remnant, non-party members left over from the NKVD, replacing them instead with loyal party members pulled from various communist youth
organizations. He makes no secret of his desire to continue to rise within the party system, but maintains a strict communist ideology in public. He has also helped to organize support for communist dissidents abroad, in an attempt to continue the global revolution.

Roman Rudenko—Procurator General of the Soviet Union

The highest legal representative of the USSR, Rudenko became famous for his brutal treatment of collaborators and fascists following the end of the Great Patriotic War. Having served in the Nuremberg Trials, his credentials and contacts (even in the West) are impeccable. A former soldier, he also maintains a plethora of contacts in the KGB from his time working closely with the NKVD, though Shelepin’s restructuring did hurt his once incredible influence. His status would be unquestionable in the USSR but for his conservative pro-Stalin stance and hatred of

Nuritdin Mukhitdinov—Secretary of the Presidium responsible for Central Asia

A staunch Stalinist who opposes many of the actions and proposals of the Khruschev administration, Mukhitdinov is notable for his status as one of the few non-European leaders amongst the upper echelons of the USSR. In fact, it is this distinction that preserves his spot on this committee; despite his pro-Stalin views, he remains wildly popular in his native Uzbek, and continues to serve as a symbol of representation for the poorer, central Asian soviets.
perceived anti-communist liberals.

Nevertheless, as Procurator General, he is still an invaluable source of legal legitimacy for any administration or state organ.

Rodion Malinovsky—Minister of Defense and Marshal of the Soviet Union

A veteran of World War I and one of the generals who prevented the Nazis from encircling Stalingrad, Malinovsky is effective and bipartisan. While he generally aligns himself with Khrushchev, he rejects the notion of using nuclear force in all but the most dire of circumstances. His credentials, his reputation, and his position as Minister of Defense arguably make him one of the most powerful people in the entire world. Luckily for the world, Malinovsky is a man of even temper. His enduring political passion is the establishment of autonomy for the Soviet military, free of interference from civilian bureaucrats.

Military Bloc

While sometimes accused of being apathetic to the wider issues of the Soviet Union, the members of the Military Bloc are grounded and focused. Where others see ideological threats, these men see military risks. While others dream of supreme military technologies, these generals tend to think more in terms of numbers and manpower. This sometimes puts them at odds with the incredibly ideological administrations of the Politburo, but they serve as a vital balancing force to the excess of central bureaucracy. They are primarily concerned with the threat of being left behind by US military technology and spending, as well as with the training of Pact forces, who often fail to meet Soviet standards.

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politicians and inter-party scheming.

Andrei Grechko—Commander in Chief of Warsaw Pact Countries and Marshal of the Soviet Union

A quieter, more soft-spoken man than his colleague Malinovsky, Grechko is a Ukrainian general who, even as a youth, saw the value of communism, choosing to fight for the Red Army in the Civil War. He has since risen to the position of First Deputy Defense Minister, and commands the Warsaw Pact armies in joint operations. Along with Malinovsky, he seeks to further modernize and professionalize the Soviet military, recognizing that reliance on rocket technology is insufficient for anything but assuring the irradiation of most of the civilized world.

Dmitry Ustinov—Chairman of Military-Industrial Commission (VPK)

Too young to have served in the First World War or the Civil War, Ustinov earned a reputation for excellence in wartime logistics during the Great Patriotic War. Over the years, he leveraged this into his current position, which gives him the ability to assert influence in any department or organization related to the armament and supply of the USSR and her allies. In many ways, he serves as a bridge between the career generals such as Grechko and Malinovsky, the military industries of the Eastern Bloc, and the political committees and processes of the Supreme Soviet. An ally of both aforementioned generals (whom he at least nominally served under during the...
war), Ustinov provides a practical and political force to the Military Bloc. He is also well known for his personal initiative in the acquisition and reverse engineering of German military tech.

**Unknown Factors**

Outside of all politics and scheming, there is always one constant: money. The following men are certainly not well known, nor are they powerful in the traditional political sense, but their expertise could not be easily replaced, and they hold as much practical sway (if not more), as the greatly revered generals and the surly ideologues of this committee.

**Vladimir Novikov—Chairman of the State Planning Committee (Gosplan)**

Little is known about Novikov, politically. He has known connections to Kosygin, who is believed to have recommended him for his current position, but it is unknown if he has the same political leanings. As head of Gosplan, he plays an invaluabley important role in setting the quotas and requirements for the Soviet command economy. While the Politburo is in charge of drafting the goals of each five year plan, Gosplan is responsible for the implementation—meaning Novikov holds great, if indirect, economic power within the USSR.

**Vasily Garbuzov—Minister of Finance**

Although many financial decisions flow outside the control of the Minister of Finance, the power of the purse eventually conquers all. All foreign trade and investment flows through this office (including investment from other countries in the Eastern Bloc), and
Garbuzov is responsible for ensuring that the financial requirements for enacting Gosplan’s 5 Year Plans are met. It is not a glamorous position, nor has it historically translated to strong political power, but Garbuzov has only just risen to the office, and may yet make his mark.
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