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THE STALIN MYSTERY

From behind Moscow's impenetrable Kremlin-wall, a new mystery. For many months, the world has listened to news of changes at the highest levels of the Russian state. Climax came in Moscow's Red Square where the vast night of the Soviet Union paraded for the November anniversary of the revolution of 1917 at which the rule of the Soviets was born. At these parades (with one exception in 20 years) central figure has been iron-willed, all-powerful Joseph Stalin. Standing on Lenin's red granite tomb November 7th has been Stalin's day. This year - the west waited - and waited in vain. Stalin did not appear. Rumours of his illness or impending retirement found new confirmation. At 67 Stalin is ill and ageing. Around him are 8 resolute men. One of them will be Russia's future ruler.

Will it be Malenkov?

Kagnovich? Zdanov? Andreyev? Mikoyan? or Voznesenski? To them, the world looked. To Russians, the heir apparent is Police-chief Beria or Party Leader, Malenkov. In the cities of Russia, this is the great question of the future. Who will succeed Stalin to rule over Russia's 200 million citizens.

For 23 years, Joseph Stalin has been the voice of Russia. At his health resort in Jochi by the Caspian Sea except for written pronouncements delivered in his name, he is silent. From the Kremlin, the mystery deepens.

*W. B. ...  
Soviet ...  
S. K. ...*