

10/25/60
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MR. K. AMONG THE PIGEONS.

New York presented its worst appearance to Khrushchev. The Russian liner Baltika was greeted by hostile crowds as it tied up at the dilapidated Pier 73, known to locals as the "Garbage dock". However, K put a cheery face on it, as if it were the red carpet treatment he is used to. And despite the downpour coming through the roof, he read his speech, though nobody but his own entourage understood a word. Then he was whisked away to the headquarters of the Soviet delegation.

An airliner of Swissair brought two more Communist, President Novotny of Czechoslovakia and Polish leader Gomulka. But the real show was reserved not for Gomulka but for the Cuban leader, irrepressible Fidel Castro. He got a great reception, there being thousands of Cubans sympathisers in New York. As usual, Castro was full of confidence. Later on he and his delegation walked out of their hotel claiming they were being overcharged. The hotel wept no tears.

Ukrainian refugees joined the anti-Khrushchev demonstrators, but the real drama was to be enacted at the United Nations. A sobering thought.