

B. Belegov

“The Cold Summer” of 1953. L. P. Beria – the Known and the Unknown

(Summary)

Not long ago, in the Nineties, on the basis of the published documents which had been made secret and of the full text of the Shorthand Record and of the Shorthand Account of the July Plenary Session (1953), appeared studies which in a different light revealed the complex political situation in the USSR in the spring and summer of 1953, as well as the role and place of Beria and the other participants in the struggle for political power after Stalin’s death. It is precisely on this documentary and research basis that the author tries to build up the complex and contradictory image of L. P. Beria, until recently connected solely with the mass repressions and arbitrary acts committed by the bodies of the Ministry of the Interior. Arguments are advanced in support of the thesis that many formulations so far should not be accepted without reservation. The view is supported that in order to restore the historical truth about one of the greatest statesmen during the time of Stalinism further thorough investigations are required on L. P. Beria’s merits in the achievements of the Soviet Union.