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Stories about Lenin

N. Mikhailov

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Nikolai Mikhailov

Stories
about
Lenin

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Н. МИХАЙЛОВ
«Рассказы о Ленине»
на английском языке
Цена 20 коп.

More than three and a half thousand million people live on our planet, and it would be no exaggeration to say that everywhere there will be some who have heard of Lenin.

Why?

Because Lenin's name is associated with the October 1917 Revolution which opened the way to socialism not only for Russia but for all mankind.

Because Lenin, as nobody else after Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, fought for the happiness of those who by their labour are contributing to the well-being of our world and multiplying its material and spiritual wealth.

The Ulyanov Family

Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (Lenin) was born on April 22, 1870, in the town of Simbirsk (now Ulyanovsk), situated on the great Russian river Volga.

His father, Ilya Nikolayevich Ulyanov, came from a lower middle-class family. By dint of hard work he succeeded in taking his degree at Kazan University and becoming a mathematics and physics master at secondary schools. Eventually, he was appointed director of public schools. A man of progressive views and a dedicated teacher, Ilya Ulyanov enjoyed general respect.

Lenin's mother, Maria Alexandrovna, was the daughter of a physician. She was educated at home where she learned several foreign languages. She acquired an extensive knowledge of literature, loved music and played the piano very well.

She was destined to face severe ordeals—her children, having taken the path of revolution, were persecuted by the tsarist government. But misfortune could neither break nor bend this woman of strong character and great willpower. She remained by the side of her children always.

There were six children: Anna, Alexander, Vladimir, Olga, Dmitry and Maria.

The personal example set by the parents helped the children to grow honest and appreciative of human values.

At the age of nine, Volodya Ulyanov entered the Gymnasium. He took his studies seriously and went up from form to form with honours. He finished the gymnasium at 17, with a gold medal.

Times were difficult during Lenin's childhood and youth. The tsarist government, in an attempt to consolidate its shaky regime, suppressed every manifestation of free thinking. But it was impossible to quell popular discontent. In 1881, terrorists of the secret revolutionary organisation *Narodnaya Volya* (People's Will) assassinated Tsar Alexander II.

Vladimir's eldest brother, Alexander, was a very gifted young man, of high principles and unbending will.

While in St. Petersburg (then the capital of Russia) he joined the *Narodnaya Volya* organisation, whose members mistakenly believed that through terror a new free life could be attained. They conspired to assassinate Tsar Alexander III, but the plot was uncovered. On March 1, 1887, Alexander Ulyanov and his associates were arrested.

Maria Alexandrovna courageously went to St. Petersburg to attend the trial. Her husband Ilya Ulyanov had died.

In her reminiscences Maria Ulyanova wrote that her brother displayed staunchness at the trial. Conducting his own defence he delivered a spirited speech in which he stressed that the tsarist regime was doomed.

Alexander Ulyanov and his four associates were executed in May 1887.

His brother's death was a great shock to Vladimir, but at the same time it strengthened his revolutionary views. He studied assiduously and was the only one among the graduates to receive a gold medal.

In the summer of 1887, the Ulyanov family left Simbirsk for Kazan, a big trading centre on the Volga. Vladimir entered the University (Faculty of Law).

There he became an active member of the revolutionary students' circle. There he received his revolutionary baptism.

Student societies were banned under the Kazan University Statutes, and even the slightest manifestation of democracy was suppressed. On December 4, 1887, angry students gathered in the assembly hall and demanded that the Statutes be repealed and expelled students reinstated. For his part in this meeting Vladimir was expelled and then arrested.

"What's the use of rebelling, young man? Don't you see there's a wall before you?" asked the police officer who escorted Vladimir to prison. "Yes, but the wall is rotten. Give it a good push, and it will topple over!" the young man replied.

He was banished to the village of Kokushkino, Kazan Province (now the village of Lenino). In Kokushkino Lenin read a great deal and continued his studies.

His first exile lasted about a year. He was then permitted to return to Kazan but he was not readmitted to the University. Shortly afterwards Ulyanov joined a Marxist study circle organised by

Nikolai Fedoseyev, a revolutionary. Then began a serious study of Marxism—a revolutionary teaching named after Karl Marx, the founder of this doctrine. Particular attention was paid to Marx's chief work, *Capital*.

From Kazan the Ulyanovs moved to Samara (now Kuibyshev).

Denied entrance to the University, Lenin decided to sit for his university examinations without attending lectures. In 1891, he took Law examinations at the St. Petersburg University in two stages—in the spring and autumn, and was awarded a first-class diploma.

Vladimir returned to Samara where he resumed his revolutionary activity. He fought against the Narodniks who opposed the doctrine of Karl Marx and underrated the strength of the working class.

In Samara Lenin translated *Communist Manifesto* (by Marx and Engels) from German into Russian, and organised a Marxist circle, where he upheld an advanced revolutionary outlook on history and advocated revolutionary methods of fighting the autocracy.

The Samara period was marked by intense activity, but he wanted wider scope for revolutionary work and to be in a major industrial centre with a numerous proletariat.

In August 1893, he left for St. Petersburg.

Lenin in St. Petersburg

At the end of the nineteenth century the development of capitalism brought a rapid increase in the numerical strength of the working class. Conditions for workers were wretched. They toiled for a twelve or even fourteen-hour day. Children's labour was extensively exploited, their workday was eight, ten and sometimes twelve hours.

The workers' wages from which all kinds of deductions and fines were taken were a mere pittance. The employers of many industrial enterprises kept their workers in special barracks. These were large dimly-lit rooms, filled with rows of bunks separated from each other by cotton curtains. Adults and children were huddled together in such dwellings.

The appalling living conditions drove the working masses to protest. But these sporadic outbursts against capitalist exploitation usually ended in defeat.

It was necessary to organise the workers, to explain to them their historical role, and to educate them politically.

The proletariat needed its own revolutionary party—the Communist Party. With tremendous energy and passion Lenin plunged into the work of creating it.

In St. Petersburg he established contact with advanced workers and conducted political study-groups. Among the workers Lenin

found capable people, good organisers, propagandists who eventually became prominent revolutionaries, people like I. Babushkin and V. Shelgunov.

Early in 1894, Vladimir Ilyich met Nadezhda Krupskaya who taught at an evening Sunday school. The cause they served in common sealed their friendship. She became his wife and together they traversed the glorious and difficult road of revolution.

The creation of an independent workers' party was no easy task. There existed in Russia during those years the Narodniks (Populists) movement. Its adherents believed that capitalism would not develop in Russia and denied the decisive role of the working class in revolutionary struggle. The makers of history, they claimed, were individual "heroes," and the role of the masses was to follow them blindly.

Of course, an individual with a correct understanding of historic developments, can do a great deal for society, but the real makers of history are the people.

Lenin considered it essential to arm the masses ideologically, to show that only the working class, led by its party and in alliance with the peasantry, could topple tsarism. To this end the working class should, first and foremost, master the ideas of scientific socialism.

In the spring of 1895 Lenin went abroad for the first time in order to study the experience of the working-class movement in other countries. He visited Switzerland, France and Germany where he met workers and leading revolutionaries.

That same autumn he returned to Russia, and united the Marxist circles of St. Petersburg into a single political organisation, the League of Struggle for the Emancipation of the Working Class.

Similar organisations and unions soon appeared in other Russian towns—Moscow, Kiev, Tula, Yaroslavl, etc.

The creation of the League was of signal importance since it laid the foundation for a working-class party.

To broaden the revolutionary struggle a newspaper was needed in order to maintain daily contact with the masses.

Lenin and his associates decided to start the paper *Rabocheye Delo* (The Workers' Cause). The first issue was about to come out when, as a result of a police raid, Lenin and his comrades were arrested.

But neither hardships nor setbacks could make Lenin give up. Even when behind prison bars, he continued to guide the League of Struggle, wrote pamphlets and proclamations which were smuggled out of the prison and published clandestinely. It was then that he started writing *The Development of Capitalism in Russia* which was of major significance for the revolutionary struggle.

Early in 1897, the tsarist court sentenced Lenin to three years' exile in Eastern Siberia.

Exile

Before the revolution Siberia was very different from what it is now. Immensely rich in natural resources, today it has a highly developed industry and agriculture, large industrial enterprises, power stations, new railways.

But formerly it was a neglected God-forsaken area.

Lenin was banished to the village of Shushenskoye, Yenisei Province. From Moscow to Krasnoyarsk by train took him more than ten days. Then he had to wait almost two months for the ice to break so that he could travel further by boat. His boat trip to Minusinsk lasted a whole week. From there, escorted by gendarmes, he travelled hundreds of miles by cart to Shushenskoye. Leaving Moscow on February 22, he reached Shushenskoye on May 8, 1897.

Living in exile was difficult. It took about a fortnight for the mail to come from European Russia. Letters from relatives and friends rarely reached him. But here, too, Lenin remained as optimistic as ever. He started correspondence with St. Petersburg, Moscow and other centres of the labour movement.

He corresponded with exiles scattered all over Siberia, reassuring and cheering them up.

Nadezhda Krupskaya was sentenced to three years' exile in connection with the League of Struggle case. She asked for permission to go to the village of Shushenskoye on the grounds that she was Lenin's fiancée. Lenin, for his part, also asked for her to be allowed to come to Shushenskoye. Krupskaya arrived there early in May 1898 along with her mother.

Lenin worked hard in exile. He wrote more than thirty works, the most important of them being *The Tasks of the Russian Social-Democrats* and *The Development of Capitalism in Russia*.

It took Lenin several years to complete the second book. In preparing it he studied hundreds of books and much statistical data.

Lenin proved that a firm alliance of workers and peasants was essential for the triumph of socialism and that the working class, being the most militant, would play the chief role in the revolution to come.

Today, Communist and Workers' Parties call for struggle against revisionism and dogmatism. At the time when Lenin was beginning his revolutionary activity, there were quite a few opportunists who sought to confuse the working class, to distort Marxist teachings. Among them was the German Social-Democrat Eduard Bernstein who published a book in which he revised Marxism and advocated rejection of the revolutionary struggle by the working class.

Lenin strongly criticised E. Bernstein for his distortion of Marxism.

At the end of January, 1900, Lenin was allowed to return from exile.

The Foundation of a Working-Class Party

The tsarist government forbade that Lenin live in the capital or in any of the country's industrial centres, so he decided to settle in Pskov, a small town. From there he intended to travel secretly to St. Petersburg in order to carry out revolutionary work among its workers.

Krupskaya had still a year to spend in exile, this time not in Siberia but in Ufa Province. Lenin went to Ufa to help her settle down. While there he met some of the Social-Democrats.

Disregarding the police ban, he went to Moscow to meet other Social-Democrats. Then he made a secret trip to St. Petersburg, also to meet his associates.

He also made trips to Pskov, Riga, then again to St. Petersburg. From there—to Ufa, Nizhni Novgorod, Samara, Smolensk and other towns.

He was paving the way for the publication of an All-Russia political newspaper, which would help in organising a working-class party.

With great difficulty, in mid-summer 1900, Lenin managed to get out of the country. This was his first period of emigration and it lasted five years. He spent the time in Switzerland, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Britain and France.

Thousands of books and hundreds of thousands of articles have been devoted to Lenin's activity. This brochure is too short to describe, even briefly, all aspects of the life of the great leader and teacher of the working people the world over.

The appearance of the newspaper *Iskra* (Spark) was one of the most important events that occurred during Lenin's first period of emigration. Its purpose was to spread Marxist ideas among Russian workers.

The first issue came out in January 1901. As its slogan it carried a line from the exiled Decembrists' reply to Pushkin: "The spark will kindle a flame."

Now, a few words about the Decembrists.

In 1825, Russia was ruled by Tsar Nikolai I dubbed *Palkin* (the Stick) because of his brutality. Among the Russian nobility, mainly officers, there were progressive people who decided to organise an uprising against the tsar, to overthrow him and improve the people's lot. On December 25, 1825, several insurrectionist units came out on to Senate Square in front of the royal palace. But the revolt failed. The plotters were arrested and tried. Some were executed, others sentenced to hard labour for life.

The insurrection took place in December, hence the name Decembrists. In reply message to Pushkin's verses, dedicated to them, the Decembrists compared their cause, their struggle to a sparkle which would kindle a flame. That is why these words were chosen as a militant slogan for the newspaper.

Lenin was most active in organising the newspaper. He contributed many articles and selected and published letters which came to the editorial board from all over Russia. From the end of 1901 some of his articles were signed Lenin. He chose this pen-name after the great Siberian river Lena.

Differences between members of the *Iskra* editorial board made the atmosphere very strained. They were not of a personal nature but reflected the political situation in Russia and the class struggle which, as it developed, acquired new forms.

These differences sharpened in the process of working out the draft Party Programme, a basic document defining the Party's goals.

The paper helped prepare the Second Congress of the Russian Social-Democratic Labour Party.

The Second Congress founded the RSDLP which was later renamed the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU).

The 2nd Congress was attended by 43 delegates representing 26 Party organisations.

The 23rd Congress of the CPSU was attended by over five thousand delegates representing about twenty million members and candidate-members of the Party.

These figures speak for themselves.

The question of Party membership was heatedly debated. Certain delegates claimed that Party membership did not entail belonging to a Party organisation. According to them, it was sufficient to take part in Party work and to assist it.

Lenin thought otherwise. He held that in a working-class Party there must be firm discipline; a Party member must belong to a Party organisation and take an active part in its work. A Party member must abide by the Party's decisions. It could not be otherwise. The Party is an advanced contingent of the working class and should display a high level of activity and cohesion.

Debates flared up on other issues, too, but Lenin firmly and consistently defended his view-point. His position was supported by many large Party committees. The opportunists, in protest against the rejection of their proposals, walked out of the Congress. But they were in a minority. After that Lenin's supporters, who had received a majority of votes, began to be known as Bolsheviks (from the Russian word *bolshinstvo*, meaning "majority"), while Lenin's opponents who were in the minority became known as Mensheviks (from *men'shinstvo*, or minority).

The setting up of a Russian working-class Marxist Party was the chief result of the Second RSDLP Congress. It was this party that led the country to proletarian revolution. For this reason the Second Congress was a turning point in the world labour movement.

The struggle that developed at that Congress continued for a long time, and Lenin consistently upheld the principles of Marxism, the interests of the working class. He mercilessly denounced those who were distorting Marxism mouthing "left" phraseology to prove

how "revolutionary" they were, but in fact were betraying the interests of the working class.

Lenin's opposition to the opportunists served as a good lesson for the entire communist movement. Opportunism must be opposed. It is necessary to be ever firm and unswerving in the struggle for a united party of the working class.

The Year 1905

In Leningrad there is a large plant, *Krasny Putilovets*. It turned out tractors during the years of collectivisation, and tanks during the Second World War.

Before the Revolution it was named after its owner, Putilov. In January 1905, almost all of the 12 thousand workers there, came out on strike.

Workers at other factories came out in support. In four days it had become a general strike.

Meanwhile, the tsar ordered that the police and troops in St. Petersburg receive additional reinforcements. The police took provocative measures. The priest Gapon, one of their agents, proposed that the workers form a procession and present a petition to the tsar stating their grievances: the tsar, he said, would be sure to help them, so why go on strike.

Gapon's plan received support. On the morning of Sunday, January 9, the workers set out in procession towards the Winter Palace—the royal residence. Many brought along their wives and children. They carried icons and portraits of the tsar. The naive, unarmed people were shocked to be met with gun-fire. They panicked, and over a thousand were killed and nearly five thousand wounded.

The event electrified the country and the treachery was remembered. It was reflected in numerous works of Russian art. For instance, Gorky's book *Mother* was written under the impression of the 1905 events.

Lenin was abroad at the time. He responded to the massacre with an angry article entitled *Revolution in Russia*.

Strikes swept the whole country. Peasants attacked, burnt and destroyed landowners' estates. The first Soviets of Workers' Deputies were formed. They directed armed struggle and were representatives of workers' and peasants' power.

Lenin longed to return home, but managed to come to St. Petersburg only at the end on November 1905. He immediately threw himself into vigorous revolutionary activity. He uncompromisingly denounced those who held that the workers should not take up arms. Lenin called for armed uprising against tsarism.

Grim events flared up in Moscow in December 1905.

Early that month the Bolsheviks called on the workers to come out on a general strike and take up arms.

On December 7, barricade fighting began between the Moscow workers and tsarist troops. The most determined fighting took place in Presnya Street which is now known as Krasnaya (Red) Presnya in memory of the uprising. The barricade fighting against the tsarist military units and the police lasted nine days.

The Moscow workers' insurrection was cruelly suppressed. In studying the lessons of the uprising Lenin said that a more resolute struggle must be put up against the tsarist government, active efforts must be made to win over the troops, all wavering units. The peasantry must be drawn into the struggle against the common enemy.

Lenin was without fear in those years. He wrote articles, pamphlets and books, made frequent trips, addressed meetings, got in touch with revolutionaries in many cities, worked for the convocation of regular Party congresses and fought there for the Marxist principles.

Tsarist spies shadowed him. In November 1907, the authorities imposed a ban on Lenin's collection of articles under the title *Twelve Years*. The book was confiscated, and proceedings were instituted against its author. Shortly afterwards the order was given that another book, *Two Tactics of Social Democracy in the Democratic Revolution*, be destroyed.

To evade the police Lenin moved from apartment to apartment, then went into hiding in Finland. Once he was to leave Helsinki for another place. Noticing that the police were following him, he got out of the train several miles before reaching his destination. With great difficulty he went abroad, first going to Sweden, and then to Switzerland.

That was the second time he went into emigration.

The defeat of the revolution was followed by a period of increased reaction which lasted over three years. Many advanced workers were thrown into prison or sent to hard labour camps. Certain representatives of the intelligentsia and petty bourgeoisie, who had joined the Party at the peak of the revolution, abandoned it.

These trying times for Russia badly affected literature and art—many pessimistic works appeared.

But Lenin and the entire Bolshevik Party did not lose heart. Nor did they remain inactive.

In the obtaining conditions of terror it was necessary to retain forces, to organise work underground, to assess the experience of the uprising in order to defeat tsarism in a future showdown.

In Switzerland, Lenin immediately set about starting the newspaper *Proletary* (Proletarian). In less than two months its first issues were smuggled into Russia by Bolshevik secret agents. At a time when many had lost heart and even lost faith in revolution, the paper founded by Lenin and his associates called for new battles for

socialism and forecast that the proletarian Party was advancing to victory.

As mentioned above, one of the lessons of the revolution was the need for closer alliance between the working class and the poorest peasantry.

Vladimir Lenin again got down to studying the peasants' problems and working out the Party's agrarian programme. In his book *Agrarian Programme of Social-Democracy in the First Russian Revolution, 1905-07* he cited these figures: ten million peasant households owned 73,000,000 dessiatines of land, whereas 28,000 landlords had 62,000,000 dessiatines. In this way, 28,000 exploiters had only slightly less land than 10,000,000 toiling peasants.

"Land for the peasants" was the slogan Lenin advanced.

In the USSR the Communist Party made good this slogan. Millions of peasants in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America are now fighting for its implementation in their countries.

Despite the difficult times that followed the defeat of the first Russian revolution, Lenin and his comrades succeeded in preserving the forces of the Party and the working class; they rebuffed the opportunists and pessimists, and prepared the Party for new battles.

Those who know Lenin's biography invariably speak of his charm and integrity. He put all his energy into work. At the same time in his rare moments of relaxation he could be entertaining and would spend time with friends and comrades.

Lenin was fond of nature. Whenever he had a free day he would walk in the woods (during the Siberian exile), or in the mountains (in emigration). With Krupskaya he frequently went on cycling trips.

While in prison he wrote his sister Maria Ilyinichna strongly recommending that she take up gymnastics.

Lenin had an excellent knowledge of literature, was fond of music, and appreciated art.

He was devoted to his family being especially tender and considerate to his mother Maria Alexandrovna, a courageous and determined woman. At the age of 75 she undertook a difficult journey abroad to see her son who was in his second emigration then. He could not return home to see her as he may have been arrested.

Lenin met his mother in Stockholm and they spent a short time together. When she was leaving he went to see her off. She was travelling on a Russian ship and he did not go aboard because of the risk of arrest. It was a sad farewell. They never met again. Maria Alexandrovna died in 1916.

At the cemetery in Leningrad where Maria Alexandrovna was buried, Soviet people have erected a monument to her—a remarkable woman who went through untold sufferings and hardships to ensure that her children became true sons and daughters of their people.

The Newspaper "Pravda"

The tsarist government believed that jails, the gallows and hard labour might check revolution, but it had miscalculated.

The working class, having recovered from the blows it had received, picked up strength, renewed the struggle against imperialism.

Lenin, who was constantly in touch with Russia, with the advanced workers' and Bolshevik organisations, recognized a new revolutionary upsurge. The revolutionary movement needed a party at its head. The time had come for all the Bolshevik forces to unite.

Lenin decided to visit the Swiss towns of Zurich, Berne, Geneva, and then go to Paris to meet his Party comrades. Common effort resulted in preparing and holding the All-Russia Conference of the RSDLP in Prague in January 1912. The building where it was held is now a museum cared for by the Czechoslovak people.

The Party thus succeeded in mustering its forces and frustrating its ideological opponents who harmed the cause of the working class. It also managed to get rid of opportunists and expose various agents of the bourgeoisie.

And once again there was urgent need of a paper that would influence the masses and keep contact with them.

The answer was *Pravda* (Truth) which is known now throughout the world.

Its first issue came out on May 5, 1912. This anniversary is now celebrated in the Soviet Union as Press Day.

The paper's fiftieth anniversary was marked in 1962. People from many countries came to Moscow to honour the paper Lenin founded and which did a great deal to ensure the victory of socialism.

In Moscow, near the Byelorussian Railway Terminal there is a street named after *Pravda*. The paper's editorial office and printery occupy a whole block. There are also apartment houses, a club and other buildings for *Pravda* workers. Once workers' donations financed *Pravda*. For instance, in the year of its foundation workers took up 620 collections to support it.

Here are some facts showing the difficult conditions in which *Pravda* had had to come out. In the first year of publication alone, 36 court suits were filed against its editors, and 41 issues were confiscated. Eight times the tsarist government banned the paper, but it continued to come out under different names.

Pravda has always been with the Party, with the Soviet working people. When the fascists attacked, many young people joined the army and guerilla detachments. Liza Chaikina, a collective-farm girl of Kalinin Region, was among them. She went from village to village in the enemy rear, distributing *Pravda* so that the population could learn how the Soviet people were fighting the invaders.

She was captured by Germans who found the latest issues of the paper on her. As she was being taken to the gallows Liza called

on the Soviet people to fight on because she firmly believed in the power of the people and that victory would be won over fascism.

... Lenin spent many years abroad. He went through many hardships with Nadezhda Krupskaya, his true companion and courageous fighter for the working people's cause. Wherever he went he always left behind fond memories of himself.

In Paris, we saw the house where Lenin worked. It was with love and affection that the French people recalled him.

In London, soon after the end of the Second World War, we decided to see the house where Lenin had lived while in emigration there. We set out for it early in the morning but did not find it. The house had been demolished. Then we went to a little boulevard nearby. There were only very few people about at such an early hour. An aged Englishman and a young woman who came out for a walk with her children told us in detail about the house and Lenin's apartment. The surviving furnishings, they said, had been handed over to a local municipal council and are kept there.

We attended a ceremony at which Helsinki residents handed over to the Soviet people a locomotive on which Lenin happened to ride. It had been preserved by the Finns who had cleaned it and painted it anew.

We were in the village of Poronin in Poland where Lenin lived in 1914. The Poles fondly preserve the house where Lenin occupied the garret on the second floor. The furnishings are very modest—a wooden table, a wooden bench and wooden chairs. He lived unpretentiously. With Nadezhda Krupskaya, he would take a walk in the mountains, cycle to the station to post and receive mail. There, just as elsewhere, he talked to workers and peasants, was interested in their life, and readily got acquainted with people.

Lenin treated people with deep respect and affection, and they reciprocated in kind. The image of this most humane man lives in the memory of succeeding generations.

World War One

In August 1914, mankind was thrown into disaster.

Over four thousand billion dollars were spent on the two world wars and the other wars unleashed by the imperialists in the first half of this century.

This money would provide free bread for the entire population of the world for fifty years. Decent dwellings could have been built for 500 million families.

The two world wars took a toll of 80 million killed or maimed.

The war brought incalculable misery and suffering, huge economic damage, death at the front and also in the rear caused by hunger, cold and disease.

The outbreak of war found Lenin in Poronin, Poland. He im-

mediately gathered his adherents. Lenin felt sure that the war would sharpen even more relations between the exploiters and the exploited. It would intensify the class struggle and hasten the new revolution in Russia.

Hardly ten days had passed since the outbreak of the war when Lenin was falsely accused of espionage. The objective was to use any pretext to square accounts with him. There were many strong protests from Polish progressives who demanded Lenin's immediate release. The charge was so preposterous that even the police had to admit that there was no incriminating evidence to support a charge of espionage against him.

Upon his release, Lenin immediately left for Switzerland.

What was his attitude to the war?

"War against war!" This was the slogan he advanced. He called upon all peoples to rise in struggle against the instigators and organisers of the world conflict.

At that time, the German Social-Democrats, using their influence in the Second International, betrayed the interests of the working class by supporting the imperialist war.

Lenin urged that the Third International be set up free of opportunists and social-chauvinists. He held that only a Third International would make it possible to educate the workers in a truly internationalist spirit and prepare them for a socialist revolution.

Lenin called on the Russian Bolsheviks to use all possible means in the struggle against the imperialist war. A Bolshevik faction headed by G. Petrovsky was formed in the State Duma. Its members vigorously opposed the war and were all arrested, tried and condemned to penal servitude. This was how the imperialists dealt with those who told the people the truth.

Large numbers of workers and peasants were called up, and the Bolsheviks began carrying out propaganda in the navy and the army to form a united front of the workers and the army.

Lenin mercilessly denounced those who betrayed the cause of the working class at such a trying time. He gave firm support to any opposition to the imperialist war. He praised Karl Liebknecht who in Germany came out against war loans.

A powerful movement for peace, against the attempts of imperialism to unleash a new world war has developed in the world today. Peace between the nations, an end to plunder and violence is our ideal, Lenin would say. He emphasised that the time would come when there would be no wars and disarmament would become a reality.

Concerned with the internationalist education of the working people, with defeating the traitors—social-chauvinists and opportunists—Lenin actively prepared for an international socialist conference. His efforts were not in vain. Such a conference was convened in Zimmerwald, Switzerland.

The Zimmerwald Conference was attended by representatives from eleven countries who adopted a Manifesto concluding with these words:

"Never before in world history has there been such a noble, and pressing task, the accomplishment of which must be our common cause. No sacrifices are too great, no burden too heavy for the achievement of our goal—peace among the nations.

"Working men and working women! Mothers and fathers! Widows and orphans! Wounded and ill! To all of you who suffer from the war and through the war; to all of you, across frontiers, across smoke-filled battle-fields, across destroyed towns and villages, we address this appeal:

Workers of All Countries, Unite!"

Lenin foresaw a new revolutionary tide. He was right. At the end of February 1917, the people of Russia, weary of the war, came out against the tsar and toppled the autocracy. A Provisional Government was formed. It advocated continuation of the war, and was, in fact, a bourgeois government.

Lenin was impatient to leave Switzerland for home immediately. But he was unable to do so at once. It was during the night of April 3, 1917, that he crossed the Russian frontier.

The Great October Revolution

There is a painting by a Soviet artist showing a dark night in Petrograd (now Leningrad). A large square is thronged with workers, soldiers and sailors. Standing on an armoured car Lenin addresses the crowd.

That was what happened. On April 3, 1917, Lenin returned to Petrograd. He was welcomed by huge numbers of people. Amid a roar of cheering, workers and soldiers lifted him onto the armoured car.

Lenin was overwhelmed with emotion, filled with the spirit of struggle for the working people's happiness.

Millions of Communists in many countries know Lenin's *April Theses*, among his many other works. The *Theses* outlined a plan of action in the new conditions of Russia and the tactics of struggle for the triumph of a proletarian revolution. Lenin presented his *April Theses* in the Taurida Palace on April 4.

The country was ravaged by war. There was no bread, meat, sugar. The people were starving. Many families had lost their relatives at the front.

What was to be done? How to live in the future?

Lenin provided the answer. The war, he said, was predatory, imperialist. Power must be wrested from capital. This was the task of the working class and the poorest peasantry. Only then would

The Ulyanov family. On the extreme right—Volodya Ulyanov (Simbirsk, 1879)

La famille Oulianov. Le premier à droite, Volodia Oulianov. Simbirsk, 1879.

Familie Uljanow (ganz rechts Wolodja Uljanow). Simbirsk, 1879

La familia Uliánov. A la derecha — Vladimir Uliánov. Simbirsk, 1879.





Lenin, aged 4, with his sister Olga (Simbirsk, 1874)

Lénine à l'âge de quatre ans avec sa sœur Olga. Simbirsk, 1874.

W. I. Lenin (vier Jahre alt) mit seiner Schwester Olga. Simbirsk, 1874

Volodia Uliánov (a los cuatro años) y su hermana Olga, 1874.

Lenin in his last year in secondary school (Simbirsk, 1887)

Lénine au moment de la sortie du gymnase. Simbirsk, 1887.

W. I. Lenin als Abiturient. Simbirsk, 1887

V. I. Lenin en 1887, año en que terminó el liceo. Simbirsk.

Lenin, a college student (Samara, 1890)

Lénine étudiant. Samara, 1890.

W. I. Lenin als Student. Samara, 1890

V. I. Lenin estudiante. Samara, 1890.

N. K. Krupskaya (1895)

Kroupskaïa. 1895.

N. K. Krupskaya. 1895

N. K. Krúpskaya, 1895.



House in the Shushenskoye village where Lenin lived as an exile from May 1897 to July 1898

La maison dans le village de Chouchenskoïé où V. Lénine a vécu en exil. Mai 1897-juillet 1898.

Das Haus in Schuschenskoje, das W. I. Lenin in der Verbannung bewohnte. Mai 1897-Juli 1898

Shúshenskoye, casa donde vivió V. I. Lenin desterrado. Mayo de 1897 — junio de 1898.





Lenin (Paris, 1910)
Lénine. Paris, 1910.
W. I. Lenin, Paris, 1910
V. I. Lenin durante su estancia en París, 1910.

Lenin on a walk in the mountains near Zakopane, Poland (1914)

V. Lénine au cours d'une promenade dans les montagnes des environs de Zakopane. Pologne, 1914.

W. I. Lenin während eines Spazierganges in den Bergen der Umgebung von Zakopane. Polen, 1914

V. I. Lenin paseando en los montes cerca de Zakopane, Polonia, 1914.

Lenin (Zurich, Switzerland, 1917)

Lénine. Zurich (Suisse), 1917.

W. I. Lenin. Zürich (Schweiz). 1917

V. I. Lenin cuando vivía en Zurich. 1917.



Lenin in disguise in Razliv near Petrograd (August 1917)

V. Lénine grimé et en peruke. Razliv, août 1917.

W. I. Lenin mit Perücke und geschminkt. Rasliw, August 1917

V. I. Lenin, guardando las reglas de la clandestinidad, maquillado y con peluca. Razliv, agosto de 1917.

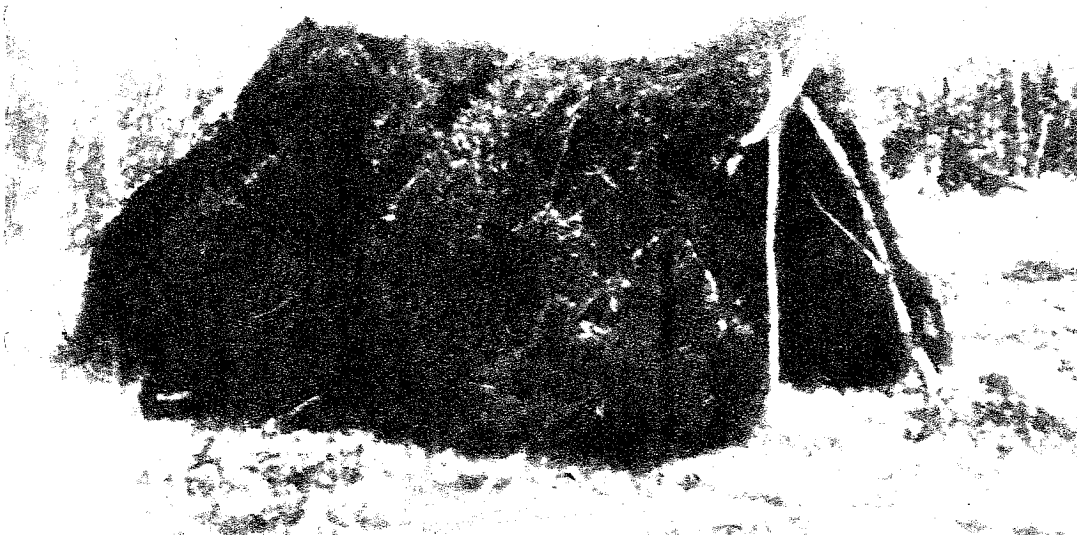


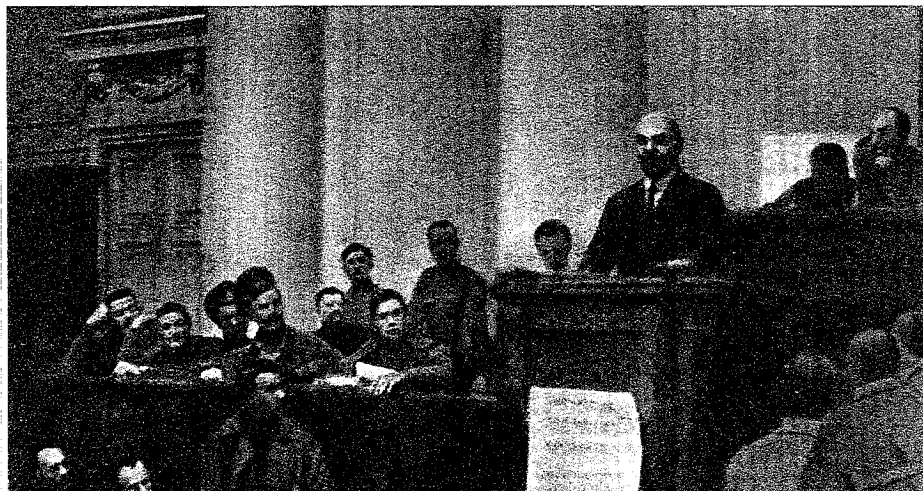
Hut in Razliv (1917)

La hutte de Razliv. 1917.

Die Laubhütte in Rasliw. 1917

La cabaña de Lenin en Razliv, 1917.





Lenin delivering a speech ("The April Theses") at the Tavrishesky Palace (Petrograd April 4 [new style 17], 1917)

V. Lénine expose ses Thèses d'Avril au Palais de Tauride. Pétrograd, 4 (17) avril 1917.

W. I. Lenin verkündet die Aprilthesen im Taurischen Palais. Petrograd, 4. (17) April 1917

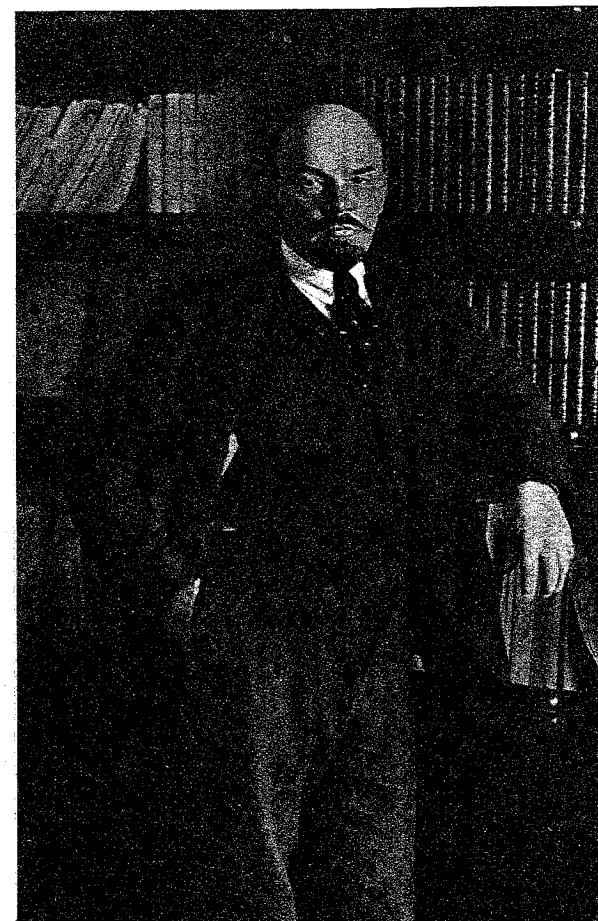
V. I. Lenin exponiendo "Las Tesis de Abril" en el Palacio Tavrisheski, Petrogrado, 17 de abril de 1917.

Lenin in his study in the Kremlin (Moscow, October 1918)

V. Lénine devant la bibliothèque dans son cabinet du Kremlin. Moscou, octobre 1918.

W. I. Lenin vor dem Bücher-schrank in seinem Arbeitszimmer im Kreml. Moskau, Oktober 1918

V. I. Lenin al lado de la biblioteca de su despacho del Kremlin. Moscú, octubre de 1918.



Lenin in the Red Square for the May Day celebration (Moscow, May 1, 1919)
 V. Lénine sur la Place Rouge pendant la manifestation du 1^{er} Mai. Moscou, 1919.
 W. I. Lenin auf dem Roten Platz während der Mai-Demonstration. Moskau, 1. Mai 1919
 V. I. Lenin durante la manifestación del 1 de mayo de 1919, Moscú.



there be peace, bread and freedom. A road would be open to a new life. The Provisional Government could not be trusted. It must receive no support. All power to the Soviets.

A new socio-political system cannot appear overnight. Time and effort are necessary to create it. For this purpose it was essential to do away with economic disintegration, hunger, poverty. It was necessary to set about building a powerful economy.

These words of Lenin remain topical even today, especially for the young states which have rid themselves of colonialism. Is it not necessary for them to rebuild their economy, develop industry and improve agriculture?

In Russia at that time the Communists had, first of all, to show the workers and peasants that the Provisional Government was, in fact, a bourgeois government. When the masses saw this for themselves they would rise and fight for power.

Lenin's theses were generally accepted as a guide to action. A new, tumultuous period set in. There was not a single day that Lenin did not address a meeting. He wrote articles, contributed to heated discussions, exposed the foes of the working class, the traitors to the Party, the opportunists. Along with the foremost representatives of the Party he fought for the victory of a socialist revolution.

The First All-Russia Congress of Soviets met in June, 1917. It was attended by 1,000 delegates, of whom 105 were Bolsheviks.

There were speakers from different parties, including Socialist-Revolutionaries and Mensheviks. One of them claimed that there was not a single revolutionary party in Russia that was prepared to take power.

A firm voice rang out from the middle of the hall:

"There is such a party!"

The voice was that of Vladimir Lenin.

The situation in the country was becoming tense. The Provisional Government proved incapable of dealing with the economic dislocation and of keeping prices down. Discontent grew apace. In the working-class districts there were calls for a mass demonstration.

The Socialist-Revolutionaries and Mensheviks wanted the demonstration to be held under their own slogans, supporting the Provisional Government and its military ventures.

The Bolsheviks led by Lenin strongly opposed them. They wanted the slogans: "Down with the war!", "Long live peace!" and "All power to the Soviets!"

On June 18, half a million workers and soldiers marched through the streets of Petrograd under the Bolshevik slogans. This was a big victory for the Communists.

Kerensky's Provisional Government, determined to continue the war, launched an offensive at the fronts. But the workers, poor peasants and soldiers detested the war. That is why on July 3, the

working masses again came out into the streets of Petrograd demanding the transfer of all power to the Soviets. But armed action would have been premature at the time, for the army was not yet prepared to give its support.

To prevent provocation and murder, the Bolsheviks decided to take part in the demonstration of workers and soldiers on July 4 in order to lend it a peaceful and organised character.

This time, too, there were more than 500,000 demonstrators. Lenin was unwell and could not address the meeting, but workers and sailors asked if he could come out on the balcony. From the balcony Lenin made a short speech.

The demonstrators' columns moved on to the Taurida Palace, the headquarters of the All-Russia Central Executive Committee and the Petrograd Soviet. The mighty upsurge of the working movement terrified the bourgeoisie. The foes of the Party and the working class committed another monstrous crime—the demonstrators were fired on.

Again the counter-revolutionaries attempted to rout the forces of the Party. Searches and arrests began. There were demands for the introduction of capital punishment in Russia.

A hunt for Lenin started. He was charged with being a German agent. The Provisional Government issued warrants for the arrest and indictment of Lenin and a number of other Bolsheviks. The apartment where he stayed was raided. The police turned everything in the rooms upside down in an effort to find even slight evidence incriminating him. Those were hard days and nights. From July 5 to 8, Lenin was in hiding, moving from one apartment to another.

Lenin's friends and associates strongly opposed his appearance in court. They knew well that his life was in danger.

Lenin shaved off his beard, put on a wig and cap, after which he bore some resemblance to a peasant. Taking every precaution he got to the station, boarded a train and safely reached Razliv Station near the Finnish border.

Today, near the shelter in which he lived is a granite memorial with the following inscription carved on it: "Here in July and August 1917, in a shelter made of branches, the leader of the October Revolution hid from the bourgeoisie and wrote his book *The State and Revolution*. In memory of this we have built here a granite shelter. Workers of the city of Lenin. 1927."

The Soviet writer L. Kazakevich has written a story *A Blue Copy-Book* describing Lenin's life underground, his close contact with the Party through Sergo Ordjonikidze, Felix Dzerzhinsky, Yakov Sverdlov and other prominent members of the Bolshevik Party.

Lenin worked hard, writing articles and appeals urging an armed uprising to attain the victory of a socialist revolution.

The Sixth Party Congress opened at that time. It adopted the propositions worked out by Lenin while underground. Preparations for an armed insurrection were high on the agenda.

The working people were rising in their final struggle against the autocracy and its henchmen.

In the autumn, when cold weather set in, it was decided that Lenin would move from Razliv to Helsingfors, Finland. There, too, Lenin continued guiding preparations for the uprising. He master-minded all the Party's activity.

While underground Lenin wrote his outstanding works: *The State and Revolution*, *The Impending Catastrophe and How to Combat It*, and *Can the Bolsheviks Retain State Power?*

In the middle of September Lenin wrote the Central Committee, the Petrograd and Moscow Committees of the Bolsheviks the letters *The Bolsheviks Must Assume Power*, and *Marxism and Insurrection*. These letters were a kind of action programme in carrying out the October Revolution.

To be closer to the centre of revolutionary struggle, Lenin decided to move to Vyborg, some 60 kilometres from Petrograd.

On October 1, he wrote a letter whose gist was: If power cannot be assumed without an uprising, it is necessary to start one immediately.

In a day, Lenin moved to Petrograd and lived in secret in an apartment.

From then on the Party Central Committee had its meetings under the chairmanship of Vladimir Ilyich. Meetings to prepare for the uprising were held directly at industrial enterprises and army units. Veteran members of the Central Committee went to different parts of Russia to visit industrial enterprises and army units.

On the night of October 24, 1917 Lenin went to the Smolny Institute—the headquarters of the revolution.

According to eye-witness accounts, on that historic night the Smolny was brilliantly illuminated and humming with activity. Red Guards and representatives from the regiments, factories and revolutionary military committees came for instructions. Signallers maintained contact with all strategic points. On the square outside the institute were armoured cars, motor-cycles, guns and machine-guns.

Lenin and his associates were at headquarters to direct the revolution. This was a critical moment indeed. The working class led by the Communist Party was to shake off the exploiter system that had prevailed in Russia for over three hundred years. The destinies of the people and the country were at stake.

The blow at the enemy was dealt in a planned and swift manner. By the morning of October 25 (November 7) the revolutionary workers and soldiers were in control of all the bridges across the Neva, the central telephone exchange, the telegraph agency, the radio station, the railway and power stations, and the bank.

The Provisional Government had taken refuge in the Winter Palace. It was past three in the morning on October 26 (November 8) when the assault on the Winter Palace began. The seizure of the Winter Palace and the arrest of the ministers of the Provisional

Government was announced at the Second All-Russia Congress of Soviets.

The second session of the Congress began on the evening of October 26 (November 8). Lenin entered the hall at 8.40 p. m. amid enthusiastic cheers.

The first decree adopted by the Soviet state was the Decree on Peace. This was how many years ago the Soviet state launched the struggle for peace, for the prevention of war, for friendship among nations.

The Decree on Land was the second decree passed by the Soviet Government. Under this decree the landed estates were to be abolished forthwith without any compensation, and turned over to the Soviets of Peasants' Deputies.

The October 1917 Revolution was a major event in world history. The Revolution ushered in a new era not only in the history of one country but all mankind. It blazed a path to socialism for the whole of mankind.

Subsequent events have proved that Lenin was right. Socialism is winning all over the globe.

New Russia

Led by Lenin, new Russia wanted only peace, but her enemies denied her this.

For more than four years (from the end of 1917 to 1922) the young Soviet state had to rebuff her enemies and defend the gains of the October Revolution.

At times the situation was extremely grave. In the summer of 1918, Russia found herself squeezed in the ring of foreign invasion. The American imperialists wanted to put an end to the Soviet Government and Churchill, then a member of the British Cabinet, announced that 14 states would attack Russia.

And in Moscow too, the counter-revolutionaries were not idle. On January 1, 1918, as Lenin was returning from a meeting, terrorists fired at his car, but fortunately, he was not harmed.

In August 1918, Lenin spoke at a meeting at the Michelson plant, which today is named after him. After the meeting when, with a group of workers he was on the way to his car, Fanny Kaplan, a Socialist-Revolutionary terrorist, fired on him inflicting two serious wounds.

For several days Lenin's life hung in the balance. Daily medical bulletins were issued.

Cables and letters from every corner of Russia and from many other countries poured into Moscow wishing Lenin a speedy recovery. It was a month before the doctors allowed him to do any work.

Life was exceedingly difficult. The bread ration for workers was

100-200 grammes daily. Saccharin was used instead of sugar. Old houses and fences were torn down for firewood.

Many plants and factories were closed and production had dropped to a fraction of what it had been. After visiting Russia in 1920 the English writer H. G. Wells wrote *Russia in the Shadows* in which he described the country's plight and called Lenin the "dreamer in the Kremlin". He smiled as he heard Lenin dreaming about construction at such a time. Wells thought the end of Soviet rule was not far distant. That Lenin should find it possible to plan construction projects and power stations was beyond him.

Lenin did dream about it and he believed in socialism.

Though troops were advancing from Britain, France, America, Japan, Germany and other imperialist countries, not for a moment did Lenin doubt the power of the working class and peasantry. He gave all his knowledge, intelligence and inexhaustible energy to the struggle. The entire people and Party were united in their determination to destroy the enemy.

Nothing favoured the imperialists. Better weapons could not save the White Guards and foreign invaders from defeat at the hands of the young Red Army.

The Red Army was a school of valour for the younger generation. During the Civil War Red Armymen performed incredible feats of heroism in defending their country. Among these heroes were the legendary leaders Chapayev, Shchors and Kotovsky.

When the situation worsened the Bolshevik Party announced that the Communists and Komsomol members would be called up. Hungry, shabbily dressed, they went into battle. At such times a notice would be posted on the doors of regional Komsomol Committees' rooms: "Committee closed: all gone to the front."

Throughout the Civil War Lenin never stopped thinking about building a new society in Russia. He insisted that the country should take the road of industrialisation and build up its heavy industry. It was essential to become independent of the imperialists, make the economy strong. In those days he kept saying that Russia must either push ahead at top speed or perish. He believed that, industrially, it was possible to overtake and even surpass the advanced capitalist countries.

Lenin said that the old backward villages had to be rebuilt along new socialist lines. Machinery had to be supplied and mechanized farming replace the existing primitive methods. Lenin dreamed of the time when it would be possible to provide the villages with hundreds of thousands of tractors. And his dreams have been realised. Today the Soviet state and collective farms have millions of tractors, and tens of millions of other farm machines.

Despite the devastation in the country Lenin continued to think of ways of developing science and culture. Measures were taken to wipe out illiteracy. Schools were opened for adults and even elderly people learned to read and write.

Lenin showed great concern for scientists. Today the whole world knows about the Soviet Union's successes in the exploration of outer space and in unravelling the mysteries of nature. At the time about which we speak problems of interplanetary flights were being considered by the Russian scientist Konstantin Tsiolkovsky and his associate, engineer Tsander. Together they worked on their ideas for building rocket engines for space flights. At the end of 1920, Tsander spoke at an inventors' conference in Moscow. He described his project for a space craft. Lenin was interested and promised to help him.

Lenin wanted to create an efficient state machine. He could not abide red-tape. The famous Soviet poet Vladimir Mayakovsky once wrote lines in which he twitted officials who spent hours in futile conferences. Lenin enjoyed the rebuke administered by the poet.

Administration should be as smooth as clockwork, he said and demanded that administrative workers who did not work properly be punished or even tried in court.

As far as foreign policy was concerned, Lenin worked for peaceful relations and economic cooperation with other countries. He favoured business and trade contacts with capitalist states.

From its inception the Soviet Union as Lenin advised, has followed a policy of peace and friendship towards other nations.

In 1922, there was a peace conference in Genoa, Italy. It is interesting that even then Lenin instructed the Soviet delegation to raise the question of a universal reduction of armaments.

Lenin, believing that Communist Parties and all progressives should unite in the name of anti-imperialist struggle, worked for the unity of the international communist movement, and strongly opposed any who hindered the unity of the international proletariat. He would never be reconciled to opportunism of any hue. When Trotsky opposed the signing of the Brest peace treaty, and used a lot of revolutionary verbiage to justify his position, Lenin criticised him remorselessly. In fact he barred Trotsky from the Brest talks and on his insistence, the treaty was signed. Had he not done so the Soviet Government would have found itself in desperate position.

Lenin held huge responsibility in the government but always remained an extremely modest person. He categorically refused any rise in his salary and ate in an ordinary canteen. His study and apartment in the Kremlin have been preserved just as they were when he lived there; visitors are always struck by the simplicity of the whole interior.

One of Lenin's outstanding characteristics was his boundless consideration for the people—workers, peasants and intellectuals alike.

There is a well-known painting by V. Serov, called *Peasant Messengers Visiting Lenin*. It shows Lenin and three peasants who have come to see him from a far-away village. Round a small table are white slip-covered armchairs. The peasants' bundles are on the

floor beside the armchairs. One of the peasants, in a sheepskin coat and rough boots, sits on the very edge of the armchair, another stands and a third sits a little away from Lenin. The oldest of the three is saying something and Lenin is listening to him very intently.

This is a true picture. Though Lenin was always extremely busy he managed to visit workers, write letters to peasants in far-away villages and oblige anyone who turned to him for help (get a pair of glasses, send books to a village library, etc.).

It is quite a job to build a house. But how much bigger a task it is to build a new state in a vast country surrounded by enemies!

Overwork affected Lenin's health. By the spring of 1922 the doctors were insisting that he have rest and treatment. He went to Gorki, a small place some 30 kilometres from Moscow.

There he suffered his first attack. It left him paralysed in the right arm and leg with his speech affected. After about three weeks his condition improved. By the end of summer he was able to return to Moscow and resume work.

In a speech at the end of October 1922 at a session of the All-Russia Central Executive Committee Lenin said that through heroism and selflessness of the workers the Bolshevik Party had been able to rehabilitate the country fast.

On November 13, speaking on "The Five Years of the Russian Revolution and the Outlook for World Revolution" at a Communist International Congress he insisted that with skilful and correct work the prospects for world revolution were not just good but splendid.

Lenin's health deteriorated and he again went to Gorki at his doctors' suggestion.

On December 12 Lenin returned to Moscow but that was the last time he was to work in the Kremlin. The next morning he felt very ill and went back to Gorki. On the night of December 15 he had a second attack.

On doctors' orders he was forbidden to read papers or see friends. Towards the end of December he felt a little better and asked to resume work.

At first he was allowed to dictate for some 5-10 minutes daily and in a few days he could work for half an hour or so but not more.

Treasuring every minute of his worktime, Lenin dictated his outstanding articles: *Letter to the Congress, Granting Legislative Functions to the State Planning Commission, The Question of Nationalities or 'Autonomisation', Pages from a Diary, On Co-operation, Our Revolution (Apropos of N. Sukhanov's Notes), How We Should Reorganise the Workers' and Peasants' Inspection, Better Fewer, but Better* and others.

The doctors attending Lenin did all they could to restore his health. Addressing the second All-Russia Congress of Soviets on January 19, 1924, M. I. Kalinin reported that leading specialists thought Lenin would be able to resume his state and political activities.

But on January 21 his condition drastically changed for the worse and at 6 : 50 p. m. he died of cerebral haemorrhage.

The Central Committee published a message to all the working people. It said:

"Never since Marx has the history of the great liberation movement of the proletariat produced such a titanic figure as our departed leader, teacher and friend. All that is truly great and heroic in the proletariat—a fearless mind, a will of iron, unbending, persistent and able to surmount all obstacles, a burning, undying hatred of slavery and oppression, a revolutionary passion that moves mountains, boundless faith in the creative energies of the masses, vast organisational genius—all this found splendid embodiment in Lenin, whose name has become the symbol of the new world from East to West, from North to South . . .

"But his physical death is not the death of his cause. Lenin lives on in the heart of every member of our Party. Every member of our Party is a part of Lenin. The whole of our Communist family is the collective embodiment of Lenin . . . The death of our teacher, a heavy blow, will unite our ranks even more closely. We are marching against the capital in a solid militant chain and no force on earth will be able to prevent our ultimate victory.

"This victory will be the finest monument to Comrade Lenin, to the man whom as their best friend the masses called their 'Ilyich'.

"Long live our Party and may it ever be victorious!

"Long live the working class!"¹

That winter was unusually cold but great multitudes of people went to pay their last tribute to Lenin.

At 4 o'clock on January 27 the coffin with Lenin's body was installed in the Mausoleum.

On that day workers all over the world stopped work for five minutes: trains came to a stand still and silence descended on plants and factories.

The proletariat of the world were parting with Lenin.

The Soviet people were experiencing grim times. But Lenin's death did not break their will. They remained staunch and courageous. Politically mature workers handed in applications for admission to the Leninist Party. Two hundred and forty thousand people joined the Communist Party that time.

Friend and Teacher of the Colonial Peoples

For ages hostility has divided the peoples of the world, be it in the same country or between different nations.

The historical experience of the Soviet Union and the other

socialist countries shows vividly that different nations can be friends and that there need be no enmity between them.

Lenin gave much of his strength and time to the study of the nationalities question. Making historical material and contemporary reality his premise, he elaborated a comprehensive theory on the nationalities question. He believed that the collapse of colonialism was approaching and that the time was not far off.

History has proved how right he was.

In 1916, he wrote an article entitled, *Imperialism and the Split of Socialism*. It says: "On the one hand, there is the tendency of the bourgeoisie and the opportunists to convert a handful of very rich and privileged nations into 'eternal' parasites on the body of the rest of mankind, to 'rest on the laurels' of the exploitation of Negroes, Indians, etc., keeping them in subjection with the aid of the excellent weapons of extermination provided by modern militarism. On the other hand, there is the tendency of the masses, who are more oppressed than before and who bear the whole brunt of imperialist wars, to cast off this yoke and to overthrow the bourgeoisie. It is in the struggle between these two tendencies that the history of the labour movement will now inevitably develop."

Over 1,500 thousand million people in more than 40 states in Asia and Africa shook themselves free of colonialism after the Second World War. In Latin America there was revolutionary Cuba. The Cubans have won love and respect by their staunchness and courage. The development of socialism marked a new stage in the process of liberation of the oppressed peoples.

Lenin always felt deeply for the peoples of the East. In his notebooks we see comments on books he had read, and the notes he made when preparing a new work. He wrote much on the position of the people of the Congo exploited by Belgium, on Egypt whose wealth was being drained away by Britain, and India where millions were dying of starvation.

Deeply interested in China Lenin knew Sun Yat-Sen, leader of the Chinese democrats. He followed developments closely and was glad to see the mounting struggle of the Chinese people against their oppressors.

Lenin detested the British colonialists, condemned their ruthless plunder of the colonial peoples, their cruelty and lawlessness—everything that capitalism engendered.

He thought much about the Indonesians and watched the wave of discontent against the Dutch colonialists mounting on islands some ten thousand kilometres from Russia.

Lenin sympathised with the peoples of Burma and Iran, Rhodesia and the Congo and predicted that the time would come when the colonial peoples would break the chains of colonialism and imperialism.

Man should not be concerned for the fate of his own country only. He should not confine his interest to just his own hearth: he

¹ V. I. Lenin. *Biography*. Progress Publishers, 1965, pp. 560-561.

should feel the sufferings of other men and of his own people, be a patriot and respect other peoples i.e., be an internationalist. Only then can he sympathise with and help other peoples in their struggle. But he cannot be a true internationalist unless he loves his own people and his country.

Lenin considered national narrow-mindedness dangerous. He told the working people that imperialism was a society of oppressors of different countries, and that a united front should be organised against them. The struggle should be waged under the slogan: "Workers of all countries, unite!"

It is not enough to win political freedom. Peoples which do not grow strong economically may have their political independence wrenched from them by the imperialists.

What is neo-colonialism? It is a policy intended to camouflage old colonialism. And here the imperialists gain advantage from the fact that the young states have inherited a grim legacy from capitalism and so far have not been able to build up their national economies.

The Soviet Union has always assisted the emergent countries to consolidate economic independence and build industries, reconstruct agriculture and develop science and culture. These goals are deeply understood by the Soviet people who had to rely only on themselves when they were building their economy.

Today the USSR has everything for success in communist construction. It does not need the wealth of others. Rich itself, it can render assistance to other peoples and does so without selfish motives.

True the Soviet Union itself needs materials, machinery and plant but it believes in support for the young developing countries in their freedom-loving efforts.

Enemies try to undermine the young nations' trust in the Soviet Union. They spread tales of every kind. Among other things, they say that the Soviet people forbid the practice of religion and persecute believers. Just ask those who have visited the Soviet Union if this is so.

It is true that the Communist Party teaches atheism and that nothing happens at the will of God.

Lenin always insisted that people must not be insulted because of their religious beliefs. Communists are perfectly aware that it is impossible to ban or abolish religion and they never interfere in the affairs of believers.

Imperialists claim that the Soviet Union spreads communism to other countries. This is a lie. It is impossible to force a social system on a people; the people themselves decide what they want to have.

When the ideas of socialism win peoples' minds they themselves choose the path of socialism.

The imperialists spread their myths in order to confuse people and sow distrust in the new social system. This is their way of pro-

tecting the millions gleaned through exploitation of workers and farmers.

In November, 1917, the Soviet Government published its *Message to all Working Moslems of Russia and the East*. Signed by Lenin it said: "From now on your customs and beliefs, your national and cultural institutions are declared free and inviolable. Arrange your national life freely and uninhibitedly. You have the right to do it."

This is the truth about the Soviet Union, where Lenin's behests are being fulfilled.

Along the Road Charted by Lenin

In the autumn of 1961, the Twenty-Second CPSU Congress held in the new Kremlin Palace of Congresses discussed and adopted the Soviet Communist Party's new Programme.

The first Party Programme adopted by the Second Congress in 1903, called on the workers and all working people of Russia to fight to overthrow the tsarist regime, then, the bourgeois system, and to establish a dictatorship of the proletariat.

As history relates, the Communists fulfilled their First Programme.

The Second Programme was adopted by the Eighth Congress in 1919. Its goal was the building of socialism. The Soviet people led by the Communist Party attained it.

Today the Communist Party is mobilising the Soviet people to build a communist society—the objective of the Third Programme.

Bourgeois ideologists can produce no arguments strong enough to discredit the Soviet Union and other socialist countries or belittle their successes. There are no grounds to back up the assertion that capitalism has already become a society of universal well-being.

Let us take a look at the state of affairs in Europe.

Even bourgeois papers (the London *Financial Times*, for one) write that Europe is living through a time of stress.

Between March and December 1968, West Europe was in the throes of a currency crisis and there were government reshuffles in Italy, Belgium and Denmark. France got a new Prime Minister, and the British press twice discussed the desirability of replacing the Labour government.

West Germany toyed with the idea of turning all power over to the Christian Democrats and Christian Socialists and strengthening the positions of the Social-Democrats. Somehow these facts do not fit into a picture of universal well-being.

As far as industry in the European capitalist countries is concerned, there too, there are clashes between the monopolies. The Italian *Fiat* and French *Citroen* merged and "swallowed up" the famous West German *Volkswagen*, which had been protected by US

financiers. In Britain there were several mergers of companies involving two thousand million pounds.

Europe echoes with the roar and thunder of military bands. War games are staged on land, at sea and in the air.

In the past year Europe has been convulsed by powerful strikes.

According to statistics about a hundred million cars carry people along America's roads, but 35 million exist below the "threshold of poverty" and ten million suffer from malnutrition.

America's annual military spending has reached 80 thousand million dollars, 30 million of it on the Vietnam war.

The US Negro population is becoming increasingly active in struggling for their rights. In April 1968, disturbances involving Negroes spread to 125 cities. The government had to employ a big police force and 70 thousand troops to restore order.

Over half of the world's population lives in Asia. The age-long rule of imperialism is felt there to this day. It has been estimated that every thousand million dollars that the United States gets from its exports to Asia means employment for over a hundred thousand Americans and deprives a minimum of 300 thousand people of jobs in the Asian countries. The Philippines has over a million and a half unemployed. According to economists even one steel plant there could provide work for 300 thousand people.

Statistics show that in South Asia there are around 40 births per thousand of the population annually. The Indian Government has set itself the task of cutting the birth rate to 22 people per thousand. Pakistan is about to deal with the same problem. Such measures are being taken to improve the food situation in that part of the world.

Lenin predicted that a bitter struggle against colonialism would begin. Today 41 African countries (population—244 million) have won independence. The peoples of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea (Bissau), Rhodesia and Namibia are still under the rule of colonialists and racialists.

The emergent countries have to struggle hard to strengthen their independence. Africa will have to attain a six per cent annual increase in production until the year 2000 to catch up with where Europe was at the beginning of the 60s. A vast amount of work has to be done to develop agriculture.

What is the situation in Latin America?

Here is a quote from the statement issued by the Second General Assembly of Latin American bishops which was held in Medellin, Columbia:

"The population of Latin America is 268 million of whom 40 per cent are under 15. A family earns barely 25 dollars a month. Almost 50 per cent are illiterate. . ."

Regarding this the Brazilian magazine *Cruseiro* observed:

"The situation on the continent is really frightening when even highly-placed prelates are sounding the alarm."

Lenin said that colonialism was a terrible scourge for the working people.

Life in Latin America is one example proving he was right. Twenty-two million children are suffering from malnutrition, reported Rafael Galvan of Mexico at the 12th International Pediatricians Congress.

USSR Today

Numerous foreigners visit the Soviet Union. Among them even those who do not nurture particularly kind feelings for it cannot deny the tremendous progress in Soviet economy and culture, science and technology and in all spheres on which living standards depend.

The changes in former provinces of tsarist Russia are particularly striking. In Kazakhstan industrial output is 114 times the 1913 level, in Moldavia 110 times, Kirghizia 138 times and in Armenia 136 times.

Those who have visited these and other Soviet Republics would not have failed to see the numerous plants and factories and new cities.

Farming has changed beyond recognition. There are no private farms in the Soviet Union. Instead there are *kolkhozes* and *sovkhozes*—collective and state farms.

The state supplies agriculture with all the machinery necessary to ensure a steady rise in production. Soviet state and collective farms turned out 80 thousand million roubles worth of produce in 1968.

National income is a basic indicator of a country's level of development. As in the other socialist countries, the national income in the USSR belongs to the working people and is so distributed as to benefit them. Distribution is carried out along two channels: the first in expanding production and the second, in raising living and cultural standards. Over three-fourths of the national income is turned over for individual and social consumption and the rest—for the expansion of production and accumulation of the necessary reserves.

The public consumption fund is used to pay old-age pensions and allowances and to meet the expense of social insurance and social welfare, education and medical services (which are free); to pay allowances to students and for accommodation vouchers to sanatoriums and rest homes (issued to recipients free or at part of cost); to pay for the maintenance of kindergartens and nurseries and numerous other social and cultural establishments.

In 1967, the total sum devoted to these purposes was 49 thousand million roubles (7.7 per cent more than in the preceding year), reported the USSR Gosplan and the Ministry of Finance.

Per family spending both for town and country out of the public consumption fund is something like 750 roubles a year. This does not include the 150 roubles the government and collective farms spend

on the construction of housing, schools, cultural and service establishments, and medical institutions.

Housing construction in the Soviet Union has been really remarkable. Nearly two million modern apartments are being built in cities and up to 400 thousand houses in rural areas every year. Over the last three years alone it has been possible for upwards of 30 million people to improve their living conditions. The number of schools and pre-school establishments, hospitals, clubs, cinemas and libraries grows constantly.

Much has been done to make the life of women easier. The number of pre-school establishments grows unceasingly. There are places in them for about ten million children now. It goes without saying that children attend them only at the wish of their parents. There is no ground for the allegation that parents are forced to send their children to state institutions.

There are almost 46 million schoolchildren in the Soviet Union. In 1969, over four million boys and girls left school. Just in pre-Soviet times for a worker to study was a dream. Very few of them even did so.

The number of students in the Soviet Union today is 4,311 thousand—182 students per 10,000 population.

A quarter of the entire population studies. It must also be remembered that many attend courses and seminars.

Certain difficulties and shortcomings remain but this is only natural in a developing society which does not mark time, but is advancing towards its cherished goal—communism.

Foreign Guests Have Their Say

When unprejudiced foreign observers come to study life in the Soviet Union, they invariably comment upon the great social and economic changes that have occurred.

In 1968, a book *Armenia Today* by Sarkis Sarkisyan, journalist and film director who lives in France, was published in Paris. The author had visited Armenia twice during the last few years. He wrote:

"When Soviet rule was established in the north-eastern part of the country, Armenia lay in ruins and her people faced disaster. Becoming a Soviet Republic was the only way to salvation for the Armenian people."

Sarkisyan went on to speak of the arts, agriculture, industry, etc., and provided telling illustrations of the changes there with his descriptions of power stations and irrigation systems, plants and factories, collective farms and the people's life, and cultural achievements.

He continued:

"As for education in Armenia—a most important sphere—all the planned targets have been reached. At the population's disposal

are numerous educational establishments staffed by skilled teachers; tuition is free. The University and the technical institutes train thousands of specialists, not only for Armenia, but also for the fraternal republics."

It is with deep satisfaction that the author noted the concern for people:

"Armenia is a socialist country and so the major concern is care of its chief capital—man."

Sarkisyan gave a detailed description of the medical services.

"You will not find a spot, however outlying, which has no doctor."

Armenians, the author said, have every opportunity to build a new life and can look to the future with confidence.

Another book came out in Stockholm. It is entitled *The Soviet Union—a Transforming Continent* and is by Rita and Victor Vinde. They wrote:

"The Soviet Union is the motherland of revolution. There are few countries in which so much is done to inculcate in the people such love for their country. Here people remember and cherish heroes and pay tribute to fallen soldiers. This is something you feel especially strongly when you stand with the thousands of people at the Lenin Mausoleum in Red Square. People come here to pay tribute to the leader of the Revolution and to their Great Motherland."

The authors went to the Soviet Ukraine. This is what they wrote about it:

"The Ukraine today is a great power comparable with other European countries. Her territory is larger than any of them and her many industries can successfully compete with theirs. The Ukraine turns out 40 million tons of steel, 92 million tons of iron ore and almost 200 million tons of coal. Most of the tractors and almost all steam engines used by the other republics come from the Ukraine. The Ukraine produces a tremendous amount of the grain, meat, dairy produce and most of the sugar consumed in the country."

And here is what the authors had to say about Moscow:

"Moscow had always been considered a 'big village'. Its architecture could never boast the finesse that is typical of Leningrad's. The city spread in all directions and lacked individuality. But still, there has always been the Kremlin, the country's architectural miracle, and the Red Square.

"Naturally most of the new building is in the suburbs. But in the central districts old houses are torn down and in their place new blocks of flats go up. Depending on the location the buildings have 9, 12 or 14 storeys but in the new residential districts they prefer 18-20-storey buildings.

"Today a great amount of living space is being built—about 125-150 thousand apartments a year, having mostly two or three rooms. However, it will still take several years to solve the housing

problem completely. Per capita living space has doubled as compared with 1917.

"Those who visited Moscow in the 50s and again at the end of the 60s find it difficult to recognise the city.

"Moscow has joined the world's bright, beautiful and modern cities."

International Event

The birth centenary of Lenin will be observed in April, 1970.

The tremendous impact his ideas have had on the course of world developments has made him immortal.

The Soviet Communist Party and the whole people will mark his anniversary, and the best way of doing this is to get on with building communism.

The country is working tirelessly. People everywhere—at plants and factories, state and collective farms and research institutions—are making their contribution to the national effort.

The Soviet people cherish places associated with Lenin. Large-scale reconstruction work, now under way, will transform Ulyanovsk—Lenin's birthplace.

In other places associated with his name monuments are being erected and exhibitions mounted to tell the working people about the activities of the Soviet Communist Party and its founder, Lenin.

Lenin's books are widely read. Suffice it to say that in the Soviet Union they have been published in an edition of over 300,000,000 copies. Today, with the approach of his birth centenary, there is heightened interest in what he wrote. Soviet publishing houses are working on books about Lenin and his teaching. Papers and magazines give large coverage to stories about him.

Soviet intellectuals, scientists, writers, composers, artists and film workers are doing their best to make a worthy contribution for his centenary.

The centenary will be a joyful nation-wide celebration in the Soviet Union and a demonstration of what has been done under the guidance of the Communist Party.

Preparations for it are under way in many countries, so we can say that it will also be a gala occasion for the working people all over the world. It will be a memorable event, for the victories of Leninism on the world scene are great as are the achievements of the fraternal Communist and Workers' Parties.



Lenin and Krupskaya with peasants in the Kashino village near Moscow for the opening of the electric station (1920)

V. Lénine et N. Kroupskaïa parmi les paysans du village de Kachino à l'inauguration de la centrale électrique. Gouvernement de Moscou, district de Volokolamsk, 1920.

W. I. Lenin und N. K. Krupskaja unter den Bauern des Dorfes Kaschino bei der Einweihung des Kraftwerkes. Kreis Wolokolamsk Moskau-er Gouvernement, 1920

V. I. Lenin y N. K. Krúpskaya entre los campesinos durante la inauguración de la central termoeléctrica en la aldea de Káshino, 1920.



Lenin before the memorial to the fighters for peace and brotherhood of nations (Moscow, November 7, 1918)

V. Lénine devant la plaque commémorative inaugurée à la mémoire de ceux qui sont tombés pour la paix et la fraternité des peuples. Moscou, 7 novembre 1918.

W. I. Lenin vor der eingeweihten Gedenktafel zu Ehren der für den Frieden und die Brüderlichkeit der Völker Gefallenen. Moskau, 7. November 1918

V. I. Lenin en la inauguración de la placa conmemorativa en honor de los caídos por la paz y fraternidad de los pueblos. Moscú, 7 de noviembre de 1918.



Lenin delivering a speech in the Red Square on the first anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution (Moscow, November 7, 1918)

V. Lénine prononce un discours sur la Place Rouge le jour de la célébration du 1er anniversaire de la Grande Révolution socialiste d'Octobre. Moscou, 7 novembre 1918.

W. I. Lenin spricht auf dem Roten Platz anlässlich des ersten Jahrestages der Großen Sozialistischen Oktoberrevolution. Moskau, 7. November 1918

V. I. Lenin en la Plaza Roja pronunciando el discurso del 1er aniversario de la Gran Revolución Socialista de Octubre. Moscú, 7 de noviembre de 1918.

Lenin on a walk in the Kremlin during convalescence after being wounded (Moscow, October 1918)

V. Lénine au cours d'une promenade dans la cour du Kremlin durant sa convalescence après sa blessure. Moscou, octobre 1918.

W. I. Lenin nach der Verwundung während eines Spazierganges im Kreml. Moskau, Oktober 1918

V. I. Lenin paseando por el Kremlin al restablecerse después de la herida. Moscú, octubre de 1918.



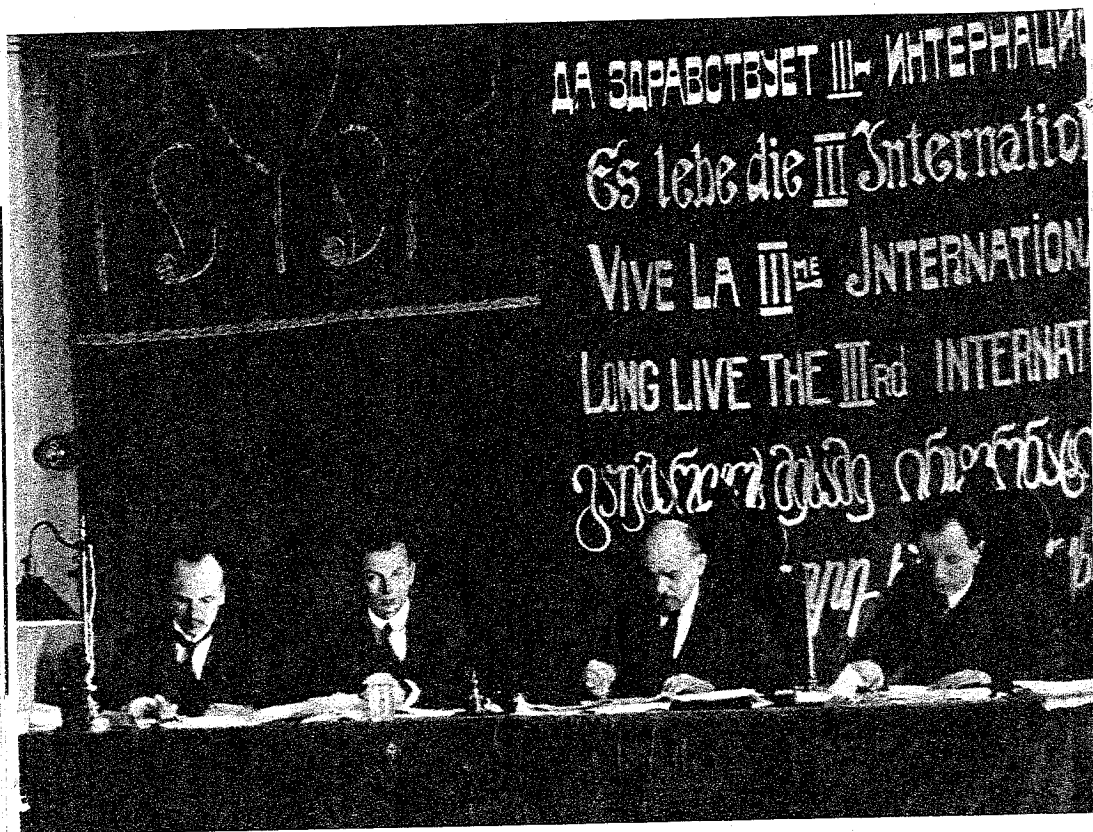


Lenin with the first members of the Council of People's Commissars at a meeting of the Council held at the Smolny (Petrograd, late 1917-early 1918)

V. Lénine à Smolny à une séance du premier Conseil des Commissaires du Peuple. Pétrograd, fin 1917-début 1918.

W. I. Lenin im Smolny auf der Sitzung des Rats der Volkskommissare der ersten Legislaturperiode. Petrograd, Ende 1917 — Anfang 1918

V. I. Lenin en el Palacio de Smolni en una reunión del Consejo de Comisarios del Pueblo de la primera legislatura. Petrogrado, finales de 1917, principios de 1918.



Lenin with members of the Presidium of the First Comintern Congress held in the Kremlin (Moscow, March 2-6, 1919)

V. Lénine au bureau du 1er Congrès du Komintern au Kremlin. Moscou, 2-6 mars 1919.

W. I. Lenin im Präsidium des I. Kongresses der Komintern im Kreml. Moskau, 2.—6. März 1919

V. I. Lenin en el Presidium del Congreso de la III Internacional Comunista. Moscú, Kremlin, del 2 al 6 de marzo de 1919.



Lenin (Moscow, May 1, 1919)

Lénine. Moscou, 1er mai 1919.

W. I. Lenin. Moskau, 1. Mai 1919

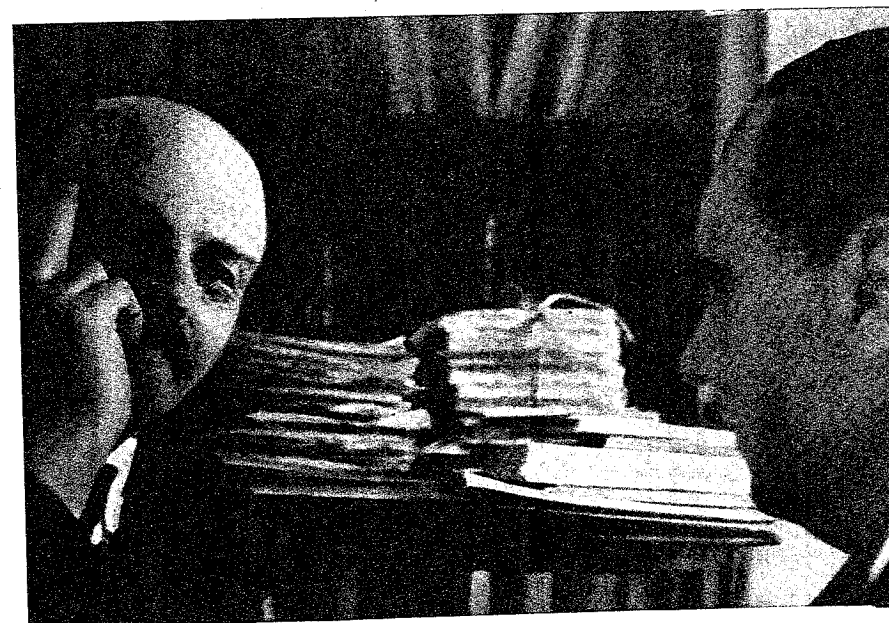
V. I. Lenin en el 1 de mayo de 1919, Moscú.

Lenin in his Kremlin study with British writer H.G. Wells (Moscow, October 1920)

V. Lénine dans son cabinet du Kremlin au cours d'un entretien avec l'écrivain anglais Herbert Wells. Moscou, octobre 1920.

W. I. Lenin im Gespräch mit dem englischen Schriftsteller Herbert Wells in seinem Arbeitszimmer im Kreml. Moskau, Oktober 1920

V. I. Lenin en su despacho conversando con el escritor inglés Herbert Wells. Moscú, octubre de 1920.





The Lenin Mausoleum

Devant le Mausolée de Lénine.

Vor dem Lenin-Mausoleum

Mausoleo de Lenin, Plaza Roja, Moscú.

