
Account of the Executive Committee's Work: Meetings of June 25-26, 1921 in the Kremlin.

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Summary.

Krasnaia Gazeta, June 29, 1921.

The Communist International has existed now for 3 years said Zinoviev, but its Executive Committee for only 1, beginning with the Second Congress [July 19-Aug. 7, 1920]. We must now take all measures so that that committee should be a worthy representative of the International Communist movement and should complete organized work on an international scale.

Our Activities in Figures.

During the last 10 months we have held 31 meetings at which 196 questions were examined. Of these 128 were purely political — the rest had to do with organization. We have settled the affairs of the following countries: Germany takes the first place (as we have better relations with her), of her affairs we spoke 21 times; of Italy, 12; of France, 1; Czecho-Slovakia, 12; England, 8; etc. Besides that there was the Small Bureau of the Executive Committee consisting of 7 comrades which sat nearly twice as often.

Nature and Character of the Executive Committee's Work.

The Second Congress decided the Constitution of the Communist International, worked out its statutes and tactics, which had to be on the one hand the leaders of the so-called "Left" currents discovered in Germany, Italy, England, and America.

Noting the work of various members of the Communist International, Zinoviev decided that the most lamentable conditions existed in France, and Italy, Germany and Switzerland, the question of subordination to the members of the party, discipline, and their actual revolutionary tactics.

Chief Problems of the Work of the International.

That was, of course, to establish closer contact with the masses, especially in England and America where the Communist Party was still weak (as stated above in the resolutions).

Serrati and the Serrattists.

Zinoviev decided that the Italian question was more serious than the German. They had been sadly deceived at the 2nd [Congress?] by Serrati and his delegates. Serrati spoke 4 times on national, agrarian, and the principal Communist problems. On every question he either went against them or repressed his opinion. We printed and distributed a book in 4 languages describing *The Laws and Resolutions of Serrati and the Serrattists*. We regret that they are not present at the Congress and we must settle the Italian question without them. Zinoviev quoted further from books showing Serrati's activities and how he has developed from Communism to Opportunism. In one article of *Avanti* Serrati says: "Italy's industry is dead, can the proletariat take possession of and responsibility for it under such conditions?" Evidently he wishes to wait until Capitalism gets on its feet and the power in its hands



and then the working class will struggle with them. This is quite a la Kautsky. It is a lesson to the Italian party the way Serrati had played into the hands of the minister Gioletti with regards to the factories and works. They must be convinced that Serrati and the [Centrists] are our natural enemies.

The German Question.

In Halle we had a great victory in breaking up parties of Socialists, Reformists, and Independents and creating one great Communist Party of 100,000 mem-

bers.

After that we had two burning questions to tackle: 1) Did the Spartacist Union still exist independently? and 2) At what rate of development should the party proceed?

We expressed ourselves against the former question and we saw then the Communist Party could organize itself better. The question of our relations with the German Communist [Labor] Party was examined already in the Second Congress. It would be well to have an international of inviolable parties, but then the question would arise why not admit Serrati, why not give inviolability to the other parties? The decision of the International must be our laws.

French Question.

We wished to be careful in our relations with the French party because we considered here position different from Italy's. When Cashen and Froissart were in Moscow the French party had not split, it still had in it the Scheidemannists, Thomas and Renaudel. We knew that at that time their party was small and their leaders mostly in prison. My agreement with Renaudel contained the point as to whether or not Jean Longuet accepted the 21 conditions; he did not and his party was excluded.

France's development was in front of Italy's; we had, so to speak, concluded a silent agreement with France. We left them some months to reorganize themselves and I consider that the Executive Committee has acted correctly in showing care and patience in its relations with the French party.

Its line with regard to trade unions is not yet defined but in spite of its weakness and its bad habits, which the deputies brought with them from the old party, we trust the French party.

HBQ/IL

Edited by Tim Davenport.

Bust of Grigorii Zinoviev by Clare Sheridan, 1920 (from life).

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