

"... We are technically in a position to seize power in Moscow (where the start might even be made, so as to catch the enemy unawares)."*

In the very beginning of October Lenin wrote a third time:

"It is not compulsory to 'start' with Petrograd. If Moscow 'starts' bloodlessly, it will undoubtedly be supported (1) by the sympathies of the army at the front; (2) by the peasants everywhere; (3) by the fleet and the troops in Finland *which are moving on Petrograd*."**

During the October days, Lenin and Stalin devoted constant attention to Moscow, even though they were up to their ears in the work of directing the armed uprising in Petrograd.

On October 28 Kerensky, who had managed to escape from Petrograd thanks to the assistance of the American Embassy, entered Tsarskoye Selo. A garrison of 20,000 soldiers was stationed there. Kerensky was strong enough to force the wavering soldiers to go into action against Petrograd.

In Petrograd itself the Junkers were preparing a rebellion to coincide with the approach of Kerensky's forces. The sound of the White Guard General Krasnov's guns just outside Petrograd was to serve as the signal for the uprising. But unforeseen circumstances hastened its outbreak. Late on the night of October 28, a Red Guard patrol detained two suspicious looking individuals outside the Kshesinskaya Mansion, one of whom tried to get rid of a piece of paper which he had in his pocket when he was detained. The Red Guards placed both of them under arrest. One of them turned out to be Bruderer, a

* *Ibid.*, p. 231.

** Lenin, *Collected Works*, Vol. XXI, p. 70.

member of the Central Committee of the Socialist-Revolutionary Party, and the paper proved to be the plan of the Junker uprising. This plan was straightway reported to the Revolutionary Military Committee, which took the proper measures.

In their turn, upon learning that Bruderer had been arrested and that the plan had fallen into the hands of the Reds, the Whites started their uprising in Petrograd at dawn of October 29. Thanks to the measures that had been taken it was suppressed in a few hours.

PETROGRAD SENDS AID TO THE MOSCOW BOLSHEVIKS

But even in this anxious moment, when the fate of the newly won power was being decided, Lenin and Stalin found it possible to think of Moscow. On October 29 Lenin spoke before a conference of regimental representatives of the Petrograd Garrison. After announcing the suppression of the Junker rebellion in Petrograd, Lenin said: "In Moscow they [the Junkers] have taken the Kremlin, but the outskirts, where the workers and the poorer population in general live, are not in their power."

Lenin concluded his speech as follows: "I do not doubt that the soldiers and workers of Petrograd, who have just completed a victorious uprising, will be able to suppress the Kornilovites. . . . Without losing a single hour, a single moment, we must organize ourselves, organize our headquarters; this must be done this very day. Having organized, we shall be able to secure victory within a few days, and possibly even sooner." * That same day, October 29, 500 Kronstadt sailors were dis-

* *Ibid.*, Vol. XXII, p. 31, Russian ed.