

"The Moscow Committee, the Regional Committee, the Area Committee and the Army Organization of the Moscow Committee of the R.S.D.L.P. commission Comrade Vedernikov . . . to take all the steps necessary to have the revolutionary troops occupy the telegraph office, telephone exchange and post office, for the purpose of guarding these buildings."

Upon receiving these orders Vedernikov hastened to the barracks of the 56th Regiment. The Regimental Headquarters and two battalions were quartered in the Pokrovsky Barracks, the 1st Battalion and the 8th Company were stationed in the Kremlin, and the remaining companies of the 2nd Battalion were in the Zamoskvorechye District.

THE COMPROMISERS SEEK TO HINDER ARMED ACTION

At Regimental Headquarters Vedernikov found a meeting of the regimental committee in progress. The meeting was interrupted and Vedernikov made an announcement about the events in Petrograd. The officers on the regimental committee spoke against immediate action and demanded that the meeting be resumed. But the rank-and-file members on the committee left the meeting and rushed to rouse the men.

Fifteen minutes later two companies—the 11th and 13th—emerged from the barracks gates on the run. The men occupied the post and telegraph office on the corner of Myasnitskaya Ulitsa and the boulevard, and the long-distance telephone exchange nearby. Having done this, they considered the decision of the Moscow Committee carried out. No attempt was made to occupy the central telephone exchange, which was just around the corner, on Milyutinsky Pereulok, and in the evening

the Junkers took possession of it. But that was not all. Even at the post and telegraph office a guard was stationed only outside the building; nobody went inside. With no one to control them, the telegraph operators withheld the telegrams of the Bolsheviks while freely transmitting those of the counter-revolutionaries.

While the soldiers were hurrying to the telegraph office the various fractions of both Executive Committees, including the Bolsheviks, began to assemble in the Moscow Soviet. The fraction representatives drew up a draft resolution on the question of power, to be presented to the plenum. A resolution on the organization of a democratic organ of government power which would include representatives of the Soviets, the Zemstvo, the Municipal Duma, the military staff of the Area, the railwaymen and postal workers, was approved unanimously, practically without discussion. The official representatives of the Moscow Soviet, who followed the traitorous line of Zinoviev and Kamenev, made no protest against the proposal for the formation of a coalition government that would include all parties—from the Socialist-Revolutionaries to the Mensheviks.

The plenum of the Moscow Soviet was opened in the Polytechnical Museum at six o'clock in the evening. A report was made on the events in Petrograd, after which the Socialist-Revolutionaries and Mensheviks began to take the floor. They shouted that the Bolsheviks had false information, that things were far from finished in Petrograd. As proof they cited the "reliable information" of Colonel Ryabtsev, who in his order of October 25 had stated:

"Rumors are circulating in the city to the effect that the