The authority created by the Congress of Soviets can become stronger and hold its ground only in the event that the demands set forth by participants in the October Revolution are at least partially realised. The demand for bread is the most fundamental and pressing demand of the broad popular masses, and it is necessary to turn immediately to its implementation. It would be completely inadmissible and ruinous for our Party and for the Revolution if we postponed measures in this direction until after the final suppression of counter-revolution and the fortification of the new authority. This would amount to strengthening the new authority through the military-technical suppression of our opponent, while at the same time impairing it by not giving to the people those things for which the second revolution was accomplished.

What exactly are the measures that must be taken without delay?

Implementation of the decree on land and the actual transfer of landlord-holdings to the peasants will increase the supply of grain coming to the market from former estates.

1. [From Ural’skiï rabochii, 15 November 1917.]
2. [The Second All-Russian Congress of Soviets took place in Petrograd from 25–7 October 1917. The Congress passed a decree on peace and another on land, proclaimed the establishment of Soviet power and created the first Soviet government.]
But this supply will not be sufficient. It is necessary to extract grain from that section of the peasantry that possesses large surpluses. But in the majority of cases, this means precisely those strata of the peasantry that are profiting less than other strata (those with little land or grain) from confiscation of the landlords’ estates. Grain can be acquired from the well-to-do strata of the peasantry only in exchange for the products of manufacturing industry.

Consequently, it is necessary to turn to the demobilisation of industry and to do so speedily and without losing a moment. According to a declaration by one informed representative of the military department, as early as a month ago there was a supply of shells on hand sufficient for half a year of the most intensive firing.

It is possible, therefore, without the slightest risk to the country's defence, to turn at least to partial demobilisation.

I appeal to the Urals comrades and to all responsible members of factory- and works-committees, and of the soviets and of other workers' organisations, to take the most decisive and immediate measures in the matter of demobilising the Urals industry. There must be rapid organisation of a regional committee for demobilisation and preparation of a demobilisation plan, and in certain factories it is already possible to have a rapid transition to peacetime work. Of course, it is especially necessary to see that advances made on orders from the military department, orders whose completion can be postponed or cancelled (there are some orders that are based on a calculation of a war lasting two to three years), instead be used for peacetime work.

There are certain items (ramrods, for instance) that can go directly to the market, instead of senselessly being left for months to rust in commissariat-warehouses.

All iron-trimmings and small scraps of metal must be immediately put to use in preparing cramps, nails, clamps and other products necessary for the village.

There is no space in a short article to list everything that must now be done. The main thing is to be persuaded that what we need today is not simply to pass a resolution about what must be done, but actually to do what is required. What we need is feverish and urgent work. A pood of iron or steel committed to the village-market means a bag of flour for those who are starving, new support for the workers' and soldiers' authority, and the most well-aimed and accurate volley against our enemies in the counter-revolutionary camp.

Comrades! Long distances have prevented us from actively participating in battles against the troops of Kerensky and the counter-revolution. But here in the localities, we can lay down fire against the counter-revolution by putting out iron-products for the rural market.