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Reports for 10–16 May 1919¹ from the Plenipotentiary of the VTsIK and Responsible Representative of the Central Committee of the RKP(B) to Orel Province E.A. Preobrazhenskyy² to the Central Committee of the RKP(B) on Assisting the Local Authority in Mobilisation of the Population for the Struggle against Denikin

No. 43

A Short Report of Four Days from Central-Committee Plenipotentiary Preobrazhensky

Orel Province 10–13 May 1919

10 May

Upon arrival, arranged a meeting of most active party-workers. Complete contact established. They selected a leading group of five to speed the work. Organised a bureau of complaints under the Department of State-Control, with Communists on duty for 24 hours. Spoke to the plenum of the city-soviet. Attended meeting of the elected bureau. Insisted on a trip about the province by several responsible local workers.

¹ The reports for 10–13 and 13–16 May were registered in the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the RKP(B) on 21 May 1919 with No. 5255.

² E.A. Preobrazhensky was dispatched to Orel province in accordance with the following decision by the Central Committee of the RKP(B):

‘Resolution of the Central Committee of the RKP(B) on the delegation of responsible plenipotentiaries to conduct mobilisation in the localities and look into party-work (April–May 1919).

‘For the purposes of more successful mobilisation in the localities and familiarisation with the party-work of provincial organisations, the Central Committee of the RKP(B) has resolved to delegate the following responsible plenipotentiaries for temporary work:
n May

Spent five hours in discussion with students. Familiarised them in detail with the coming work. To dispatch them quickly turned out to be impossible: 1) they must all, especially their leaders, be acquainted with the affairs of the district to which they are being sent; 2) need a minimum of two to three days to sort them all out according to their degree of preparedness. Decided to send them directly to districts where there are already reliable comrades and with leaders to the others.

From the report of the Cheka-inspector, assigned by the Supreme Cheka-Committee, received a disgraceful picture of the local Cheka. Meeting was convened of a small group of comrades on the question of how to liquidate this cesspool most carefully and usefully in terms of the business at hand. Incidentally, a fugitive from arrest, Ul'yanov, who is accused of various crimes, is now Chairman of the Chekists in Chernigov province.

Established that many convicted bandits and scoundrels, who were driven out of the Party, now occupy responsible positions in Ukraine. This is an important reason for peasant-disturbances there.

12 May

Began assigning the students to the districts. This took the better part of two days. For now, sent three persons to each district. Unexpectedly received

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to Vyatka province, comrade Steklov; Vladimir, comrade Krylenko; Voronezh, comrade Eremeev; Gomel, comrade Pravdin; Ivanovo-Voznesensk, comrade Ryazanov; Kaluga, comrade Yaroslavsky; Kostroma, comrade Lunacharsky; Kursk, comrade Bukharin; Minsk, comrade Dmitriev; Moscow, comrade Maksimovsk; Nizhegorod, comrade Semashko; Orel, comrade Preobrazhensky; Tambov, comrade Podbel’sky; Tver, comrade Sosnovsky; Tula, Kanatchikov and comrades from the Moscow organisation: Kryukov, Merkulov, Emel’yanov, Ilyushin, Osipov, Ovsyannikov, Pisarev.

‘Each of the above-listed comrades, as a responsible representative of the Central Committee of the RKP(B), is to head a group of students for courses established by the VTsIK and the proletarian university.’

‘On Monday 5 May, at 5 pm at the premises of the Secretariat of the Central Committee RKP (third floor, apartment 4, and in Moscow, No. 7, apartment 3) there is to be a meeting of the comrade-plenipotentiaries to discuss the work.’

‘Secretary of the Central Committee RKP
‘Travelling-Inspection Department of the Secretariat of the Central Committee’.


E.A. Preobrazhensky sent back from Orel province a large collection of documents (reports, accounts, telegrams, and texts of resolutions sent from the parishes by the students), which subsequently constituted an entire fund in one of the most important archives of the country, TsGAOR USSR (the Central USSR State-Archive of the October Revolution, now GA RF, the State-Archive of the Russian Federation). See GA RF. F. 1240–P. Op. 1. D. 1.

3. [Mobilisation was conducted in the parishes of Bolkhov, Bryansk, Dmitrov, Kroma, Livnensky, Orel and Trubchevsk.]