Resolution of the First All-Bashkir Conference of the RKP(B) on the Tasks Facing the Communists of Bashkiria in the Period of Civil War

City of Sterlitamak 8 November 1919

The conference of Communists of Soviet Bashkiria, meeting on the day after celebration of the second anniversary of the October Revolution, defines the international and domestic position that has emerged for the Soviet Republic, and its own tasks, as follows:

1. The disintegration of capitalism in the West and the collapse of the bourgeoisie’s productive forces are continuing and intensifying. In all the countries of Europe, it is becoming evident that the bourgeois class is unable to manage the ruinous consequences of the World-War. The food-crisis is intensifying, inflation is growing, and working-class consumption is being curtailed.

2. On the basis of industrial collapse and hunger, a powerful strike-movement has begun in all the capitalist countries. This movement demonstrates in practice the impossibility of the workers improving their

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1. [Adopted by the evening-session of the All-Bashkir Conference of the RKP(B) on the basis of a draft submitted by E.A. Preobrazhensky, representing the Central Committee of the RKP(B).]
2. [The report could not be found. The text of the resolution is published here according to the stenogram.]
4. [The beginning of the Conference was planned for 5 November, but ‘in view of the absence of the CC representative, comrade Preobrazhensky, and of delegates from the majority of the cantonal conferences’ the opening day was postponed to 8 November 1919.]
position within the limits of the capitalist system, and everywhere it is driving the proletariat to the path of seizing political power. Successes of the revolution in the West are being expressed in the formation of strong Communist Parties everywhere, in a number of strikes that are putting forth the demand for socialisation of industry, and in numerous actions by the European proletariat in defence of Soviet Russia. The successes of the revolutionary movement are also evident in America and recently in Japan.

3. The crisis of bourgeois society and the collapse of the predatory system of world-imperialism is also occurring through endless uprisings in the colonies, for whom the present moment is more favourable than ever-before to emancipate themselves from European oppression and thus to accelerate the crash of the entire capitalist system, which is founded on plunder of the oppressed peoples in the colonies.

4. In such conditions, the two-year existence of Soviet power and of Russia already represents, in itself, an enormous victory of the proletarian revolution. This victory will be even more decisive if the final stronghold of world-capitalism – the White-Guard army of Denikin – is defeated by the Red troops. A speedy destruction of Denikin is also imperative for Soviet Russia due to the enormous exhaustion of the country resulting from the prolonged Civil War that threatens to undermine all its vital forces.

5. The conference of Communists in Bashkiria places before the organisations in Bashkiria not only the common tasks of all Communists in Russia, but also special tasks in providing assistance to the Red front by conducting intensive Communist work among the backward Bashkir people, through political work in the Bashkir units that are being mobilised and through motivating all organisations in Bashkiria to succeed in the matter of supplying the starving centres with food-products.

Appendix

Note by V.I. Lenin Concerning the Policy of the RKP(B) Among the Eastern Peoples

If we merely ‘fleece’ the Eastern peoples, without giving them anything, then our entire international policy and the entire struggle ‘for Asia’ goes to the devil.

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