Continuation of discussion of the Executive Committee report. Speakers: Malzahn, Radek, Jacquemotte, Marković, Kolarov, Clara Zetkin.

Loriot (Chair): Comrades, now that the Italian Socialist Party delegation has arrived, the Presidium is unanimously in favour of combining the last two points on the proposed agenda, the Italian and German questions, together with the present discussion on the Executive report. The Presidium also believes it necessary to ask delegations not to repeat what has already been said. It proposes to give the floor first to the Italian Socialist Party and then to the Italian Communist Party, and to other delegations only if they ask to speak on particularly important questions.

Koenen: Comrades, it has been proposed that further discussion should deal with the Executive report together with the German question and the resolution of the Italian question, because there is no way to separate them out. We ask that the comrades of the Italian Socialist Party be prepared to speak about their case early tomorrow morning, so that we can dispose of the Italian issues tomorrow together with the report of the Executive. The Presidium asks the congress to approve this change.

The discussion continues. Comrade Malzahn has the floor to make a statement.

Malzahn: Comrades, in his comments yesterday, Comrade Radek tried to create the impression –
Radek: I protest the fact that the Presidium has given the floor to Comrade Malzahn for this statement, which does not figure in the agenda.

Malzahn: Comrades, in his comments yesterday, Comrade Radek tried to create the impression that we of the German opposition wished to evade a debate on the March Action. In response, I wish to point out that when I placed my name yesterday on the speakers’ list, the chair asked what topic I wished to discuss. I said the March Action, to the extent that it was covered by Comrade Zinoviev in his report. The chair responded that he did not consider that necessary, because the March Action would be taken up during the discussion of tactics and strategy. I then clarified that I would deal with the issues only to the extent that Comrade Zinoviev did in his speech. I will address tactics and theoretical issues under the question of tactics and strategy, as I stressed at the outset of my remarks. I went into the theoretical issue only to the extent that Comrade Zinoviev did in his remarks, that is, giving an assessment of the action, since that is agreeable to the Executive. It is therefore clear that we have no intention of evading a debate. I want to stress that during the action we carried out our responsibilities fully. (Shouts: ‘Hear! Hear!’) The Zentrale will confirm that. (Commotion and objections. Cries: ‘Comrade, that is not a point of order.’)

The opposition represented here carried out our responsibilities fully during the March Action. The Zentrale will confirm that, and we will speak to the other questions later.

Radek: Comrades, Comrade Malzahn has made a statement defending himself against charges that were not made against him. No one accused him of failing to present his theoretical views of the March Action. I criticised him because neither he nor Comrade Neumann, as representatives of the opposition, had the courage to defend the outrageous attacks on the Executive made by the group they represent, namely that the Executive had, through its representative, instigated a Bakuninist putsch in Germany. Nor did they have the courage to withdraw this insinuation. I note that Comrade Malzahn has used the occasion to make a statement regarding the opposition’s heroic activity during the March Action, but has said not a word on the issue that is decisive for this group’s relationship to the International.

So we are left with the fact that despite an opportunity to state whether it still stands in agreement with Levi’s attacks, which assert that the Executive provoked the March putsch, the group has said nothing on this point. As for Malzahn’s statement regarding the group’s participation in the action, I note that no charges have been made that Malzahn, Neumann, or Zetkin sabotaged the action, as were made against Richard Müller and Däumig. And