



Bulletin 4/07

Information for revolutionary and Marxist-Leninist forces of all countries

Excerpts and synopsis from the publications by "Gegen die Strömung" - Organ for the Building of the Revolutionary Communist Party of Germany: September - December 2007



Appears quarterly in ENGLISH, French, Italian, Dutch, Spanish, Russian and Turkish



The leaflet from September/October has as its theme:

90 years since the victorious socialist October Revolution in Russia The victorious armed insurrection of the proletariat against the bourgeoisie

„The socialist October Revolution, which began in Russia on October 24th, 1917, and lasted 'ten days which shook the world', was quite clearly prepared over the preceding years, indeed decades. The October Revolution showed that a victorious armed insurrection in a country like Russia, with its three million working women and men and its one hundred million working peasant women and men, can indeed be truly successful, even if such an insurrection represents just one step on the long road to the socialist revolution. It is therefore of major importance that we examine carefully the precise requirements, the hidden agenda, the strategy and tactics for these 'ten days which shook the world'.

1. Preparation of the October Revolution I:

In the section „From the 1917 February Revolution to August 1917“ the leaflet goes on to describe how, even if it did not achieve tsarism's absolute destruction, the armed struggle smashed it to pieces and made it incapable of exercising power, as well as the role that was played by the butchery of the imperialist First World War. The February Revolution created the Soviets of workers and peasants.

At this point the bourgeois Mensheviks and Socialist-Revolutionaries were the majority against the revolutionary Bolsheviks. At the same time the counter-revolutionary bourgeoisie established their own so-called 'provisional government'. This was the beginning of the so-called 'dual power'.

At this point (from April 1917 onwards) the Bolshevik Party was headed for the transition to the proletarian revolution. At the crux of the issue the following goals took centre stage:

„The downfall of the bourgeoisie, the armed dem-

olition of the bourgeois state apparatus and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat in the form of Soviets, the expropriation of the banks and large companies, the gradual construction of socialism across the whole country. Other than this it is important to fully realise the remaining democratic objectives of the civic revolution, provoked by the February Revolution, characterised for example by the dispossession of the landowners, the nationalisation of land and the combating of national suppression. Ultimately one of the most decisive democratic demands was the termination of the imperialist war, a question of special importance for winning allies among the exploited masses.

In May 1917 the Mensheviks and Socialist-Revolutionaries crossed over into the camp of the counter-revolutionary bourgeoisie...

The Bolshevik Party fought side by side with the exploited masses against the imperialist war, fighting for the conversion of this imperialist war into a civil war as well as for the overthrow of their 'own' ruling class. The Bolsheviks fought under these slogans in this democratic struggle, and united them into a coordinated revolutionary struggle. They mobilised the working class for the struggle for the socialist revolution, for socialist goals and made clear that all of these goals, democratic or socialist, were only achievable through the overthrow of the bourgeoisie by armed insurrection.”

In July 1917 the 'dual power' came to an end.

2. Preparation of the October Revolution II: „The direct preparation for the armed insurrection across the entire nation“ (Sept.-Oct. 1917)

a) Lenin on the requirements for a successful armed insurrection by the proletariat

„In September 1917 Lenin concluded that armed insurrection was high on the agenda and had victory in its sights. Amongst other issues, he specified in his letter „Marxism and Insurrection“ those particular conditions in which an armed insurrection by the proletariat can be successful:

- **Firstly:** in order to be successful, the insurrection must not be based on a plot between parties, nor on one single party, but rather on the great majority of the working class.
- **Secondly:** the insurrection must be based on the rebound of the exploited masses in the cities and rural areas.
- **Thirdly:** the insurrection must be based on that particular turning point in the history of the growing revolution, when the activity in those foremost rows of the exploited is at its greatest and the jitters in the rows of the enemy and in the rows of the weak, half-hearted, indecisive friends of the revolution are at their strongest.

b) The strength of the revolution and the strength of the counterrevolution in October 1917

The leaflet now turns to the question of how the Bolsheviks realistically evaluated the strengths of their own forces as well as of the counterrevolutionary forces. An indicator was the composition of the Soviets, but other aspects were important too:

- „**In rural areas** the working and exploited peasants crossed over from using methods such as the withholding of rent payments to the annexation of the landowners' estates. ...“
- „But the **oppressed peoples of Russia** stood up for the struggle against the imperialist bourgeoisie. ...“
- „The exact evaluation of the **situation inside the army** of the reactionary 'Provisional Government' was of great importance. ...“

In section c), „**Lenin's guiding principles for the implementation of the armed insurrection**“, the leaflet goes on to explain the five golden rules in the art of uprising:

„1. **Never play** with insurrection, but, when beginning it realise firmly that you must **go all the way**.

2. **Concentrate a great superiority of forces** at the decisive point and at the decisive moment, oth-

erwise the enemy, who has the advantage of better preparation and organisation, will destroy the insurgent.

3. Once the insurrection has begun, you must act with the greatest **determination**, and by all means, without fail, take the **offensive**. 'The defensive is the death of every armed rising.'

4. You must try to take the enemy by surprise and seize the moment when his forces are scattered.

5. You must strive for daily successes, however small (one might say hourly, if it is the case of one town), and at all costs retain '**moral superiority**'.”

(Lenin, Advice of an Onlooker, 1917, Collected Works“, vol. 26, p. 180)

There then follows the section „**The concrete plan for the implementation of the armed insurrection**“. The following appears in conclusion to this section:

c) The armed insurrection in Petrograd

The following three points are addressed:

- The trigger for the insurrection
- Occupation of all places of importance inside the city and gathering the armed revolutionary forces
- The process of the armed insurrection

In closing the leaflet elaborates:

„But the counterrevolution, internally as well as externally, had still not been destroyed once and for all. ... The struggle to fight back intervention by foreign powers as well as the internal counterrevolution lasted until 1920. This difficult struggle by Soviet forces, beset by losses, but which was ultimately successful, secured Soviet democracy by securing the dictatorship of the proletariat. In this manner the conditions were created for the further construction of socialism.“

☆☆☆

The leaflet contains as a supplement a short extract from „RotFront“ (pp. 91-131) with the title „**The tricks and speculation of the modern revisionists with an ostensibly possible 'peaceful development' towards socialism in Russia in 1917**“, in whose introduction it is claimed:

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„The upshot of our analysis is as follows: For a particular period of time in particular historical situations, such as during the phase of ‘double-leadership’ from April until July 1917 in Russia, Lenin and Stalin did not fully rule out a ‘peaceful’ further development of revolution. However, in this context they did not by any description use the term ‘peaceful’ in the sense of ‘non-violent’. The basic principle of this term, according to Lenin and Stalin, is that there was no non-violent, non-revolutionary, unarmed path to socialism and that there never would be; that the proletarian revolution, at any rate, was only possible if the revolutionary path was followed; that the path to socialism could not, therefore, exist without the forceful demolition of the incumbent bourgeois state machinery and with-

out their replacement by the power of the armed working class, the dictatorship of proletariat, which – on the basis of its revolutionary violence – held down the overthrown exploiters and other reactionary forces in their entirety.“

This supplement is eight A4 sides long. The entire leaflet is eight A3 pages long and contains the following additional supplements:

- The armed insurrection in Moscow
- Western European chauvinist instigation against the October Revolution
- Lenin’s Greetings from April 1919 to the Bavarian Republic of Councils
- Decrees and provisions of the socialist October Revolution (October 1917 – January 1918)



The leaflet from November/December has as its theme:

Experiences of the strike by train drivers and by other personnel of the Deutsche Bahn:

Expose the tricks and mudslinging against the justified struggle by the personnel of Deutsche Bahn!

„On August 6th, 2007, an indefinite strike was declared by the train drivers of the Deutsche Bahn, as well as the accompanying train and service personnel, who shared membership of the union GDL (Gewerkschaft Deutscher Lokführer – Union of German Train Drivers). Their demands were: a separate wage settlement of their own, a wage rise of up to 31% and a limit on working hours which would fall to 40 hours from 41 hours. Thus the longest-ever strike in the history of the German railways commenced at the start of August, which laid low the vast majority of transport system repeatedly and for many days at a time; private travellers and commuters, as well as freight services, were stopped in their tracks. In the face of the massive real-term losses in wage values in the last few years, as well as the enormously aggravated work conditions in the transport service, we cannot hesitate to lend our support and solidarity to this justified struggle by the women and men employed as train drivers and as other personnel in this field against aggravated exploitation.

In the process of this strike, however, a complex jumble of positions emerged which is difficult to understand: the strike is not being led by the um-

rella-organisation DGB (Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund – German Confederation of Trade Unions) in this area, the area of Transnet (which previously had close relations with the SPD), but rather by the GDL, a union which is a member of the German Civil Service Federation, which has close links to the CDU. At the same time an enormous campaign against these strikes has been formed. This smacks of the federal government, bourgeois parties and media, the capitalist syndicates all the way through to the leadership of the umbrella-union DBG, Transnet, IG-Metall, Verdi, to name only the most important. In the face of this situation it seems to us to be vital to expose the tricks and mudslinging of this anti-strike campaign, in order to defend the justified struggle by these employees, without taking the false friends out of the firing line. The universally touted legal ban on the strike show clearly how absurd it is to characterise this situation as ‘neoliberalism’, characterised as it is by an increasing sharpening of state-organised suppression. It is difficult to evaluate the outcome of the strike right now. But, in any case, more important at the moment than the actual outcome of the strike are the experiences of this mo-

mentous strike action.

The strike as of July 2007

The leadership of Transnet and of the GDBA (Gewerkschaft Deutscher Bundesbahnbeamten und Anwärter – German Railway Civil Servants' Union) delivered a rushed and ridiculously low wage settlement after the first warning strikes in July 2007. There then follows a description of the strike under the leadership of GDL between August and November 2007. Finally, the following conclusion is drawn:

„The fact is that the only reason Deutsche Bahn let itself be forced into making these concessions at all was as a result of the strikes in the last few weeks and months. That the GDL strikers – comparatively small in number – have been successful in repeatedly laying this enormous transport system low for days at a time is an acutely important and tangible experience whose importance reaches far outside the area of labour relations at Deutsche Bahn.“

The section „Solidarity“ contains a description of how the strikers received a relatively high degree of sympathy from the general public for their strike, as a result of their determined struggle.

Expose the mudslinging against the justified strike by the personnel of Deutsche Bahn!

This section highlights the attempts to confound the strikers and nip solidarity for them in the bud – both by Deutsche Bahn as well as by the leaders of the DGB union, with their concerted demagogic trickery and manoeuvring. Three of arguments used to whip up hostility towards the strikers which stand out the most must be exposed:

Mudslinging argument # 1: „This strike means terror!“

Mudslinging argument # 2: „This strike is only about protecting privileged special interests!“

Mudslinging argument # 3: „The strike means the end of solidarity and weakens the unions!“

The concluding section „The solidarity with the striking GDL members and the position vis-à-vis the reactionary GDL leadership“ explains that the GDL leadership is only a militant force at face value, who simply used the strike to make themselves appear to be a better alternative than the leadership of Trans-

net. The GDL leadership is not forward-looking; it sees itself as entirely grounded in the capitalist social order. It supports the flotation of Deutsche Bahn and has concluded wage settlements with many privatised companies, far underneath the level of Deutsche Bahn. This means for the working women and men:

„The struggling working women and men must prepare themselves for the eventuality that, in particular situations during the struggle for better working conditions, the leadership of the GDL, as well as the leaderships of the DGB and their umbrella unions, are in the position to force themselves to the forefront of these justified struggles and to celebrate even half-hearted victories, in order to increase their reactionary influence and to abort the struggles at their most promising moment.“

In all of these questions of a year-long or decades-long struggle, one of the central objectives of the Revolutionary Communist Party has to be the creation of a truly revolutionary clarity and awareness amongst the working women and men. The creation of this clarity and awareness is therefore the number one objective for the most conscious forces amongst the proletariat today.“

The leaflet is four A3 pages long and contains the following additional supplements:

- Give the Nazis the right answer! Anti-fascist resistance against anti-Semitic provocation in Prague on November 10th, 2007
- Deutsche Bahn – a conglomerate of German imperialism, expanding worldwide
- Strikes and demonstrations by railwaymen and women and other personnel as well as by students in France
- On the importance of the transport and communications systems for German imperialism
- Supplement: Roter Pressespiegel 3/07 (May-June 2007)



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(*... but don't underestimate the secret services anywhere in the world)