

LET US SALUTE  
THE  
SOVIET WORKERS

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BM BOX 2521  
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## Introduction

On the 21st of September 1993 the President of Russia, Boris Yeltsin, onetime member of the C.P.S.U. and Secretary of the Moscow District, decided to dissolve Parliament and rule by decree. The Russian Parliament, however, elected in 1989 in the days of Gorbachev, rejected Yeltsin's decrees as a violation of the Constitution (itself drafted in the days of Brezhnev). Then the Constitutional Court, whose members had also been appointed by Gorbachev, decided - and they were supposed to have the final word - that Yeltsin's decree was indeed unconstitutional. Yeltsin however rejected the decisions both of the Parliament and of the Constitutional Court and claimed that these had been issued by bodies already dissolved by himself. The members of Parliament, most of whom were close friends of Yeltsin, including his own Deputy President, Rutskoi and speaker of the House, Khasbulatov, decided to occupy the Parliament building. They issued decrees replacing the Ministers of Defence, Interior and Security and appointing Rutskoi as President. The Government however stood by Yeltsin and on September 28th decided to send the army to surround the Parliament building, ringing it with barbed wire and cutting off gas and electricity. They then demanded that the deputies leave the building.

## The Uprising

From the beginning of the crisis the Anglo-American imperialist leaders declared their unconditional support for Yeltsin, insisting that he alone could maintain capitalist democracy in Russia - even if this meant the use of force! He must be given financial aid therefore so that he stays in power.

The Soviet people who are now suffering from hunger, deprivation, disease, unemployment and hyper-inflation, which have brought in their train theft, beggary, prostitution, Mafia gangsterism and civil war - this proud people and its working class, oppressed both by the Parliament and the President of this greedy new capitalist state and by imperialist companies bent on robbing them of their wealth, took the initiative as they

did in their victorious struggle against Hitler fascism. They rejected the so-called democratic laws and decrees, rejected this capitalism being imposed upon them and poured out on to the streets with their red flags and hammer and sickle to demonstrate their loathing of this government of criminals. Realising that slogans to which no one pays any heed are of little use, they came out again on the night of Saturday, October 2nd, this time with their Kalashnikovs and Molotov cocktails, burning down the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. All of a sudden Moscow resembled Los Angeles on the 29th of April 1992!

The next day - October 3rd - the masses attacked radio and television stations, Tass News Agency and the Town Hall and succeeded in occupying all of these buildings. People all over the world, riveted to their T.V. screens, saw the heroic Soviet working class trample on the imposed democracy, even attacking and dispersing the police. Many of the latter joined the masses in their assault on other government buildings.

Yeltsin was left with no choice but to impose a curfew and state of emergency, sending in tanks and armoured vehicles to attack the people and bombing and destroying the Parliament building. The battle went on for another day until Ruskoi (one of Brezhnev's Afghan war heroes) and Khasbulatov surrendered without shame or dignity, pleading for their lives, while the working class of Moscow continued the fight for several more nights.

Yeltsin seized the opportunity like the Tsars before him to spill more blood, attacking the buildings captured by the revolutionaries, killing hundreds and arresting thousands more. He also revealed the sham of democracy by banning many newspapers and political parties, arresting members and accusing them of rebellion.

Similar violent incidents took place throughout Russia and particularly in Leningrad, but the imperialist propaganda machines concealed the truth. The imperialists heaved a sigh of relief and described the bloody massacres as a democratic necessity, unavoidable in the circumstances, where force had been necessary to keep Yeltsin in power. The vast majority of the peoples of the world, however, sympathised with the Soviet working class, realising the calamity brought about by the market economy - that economy dreamed up by Khrushchev, practised by Brezhnev and finally openly imposed by Gorbachev and Yeltsin. Many, however, had been unaware of the depth of hatred latent in the Soviet working class. They did not forecast the armed revolt at this speed and in this early stage. But the bloody facts were there on their T.V. screens,

highlighting the heroism of October all over again. Let us therefore salute the Soviet working class and let us have confidence that it will rise again in revolution until the final victory.

## The Root Causes

The imperialist media tried to show that the revolt was the result of personal rivalry between Yeltsin and his deputy, but this ridiculous simplification denies the fact that the market economy brought by Khrushchev and Gorbachev has failed, denies that the Soviet working class are rejecting capitalism and that instead of restricting ourselves to this shallow analysis, which has nothing to do with reality, we must study the real reasons which caused this upheaval in the land of Lenin. Engels says in "Germany: Revolution and Counter-Revolution" on page 9: "Everyone knows nowadays that wherever there is a revolutionary convulsion, there must be some social want in the background, which is prevented by outworn institutions from satisfying itself. The want may not be felt as strongly, as generally, as might ensure immediate success; but every attempt at forcible repression will only bring it forth stronger and stronger, until it bursts its fetters. If then we have been beaten, we have nothing else to do but to begin again from the beginning. And fortunately the probably very short interval of rest which is allowed us between the close of the first and the beginning of the second act of the movement gives us time for a very necessary piece of work: the study of the causes that necessitated both the late outbreak and its defeat; causes that are not to be sought for in the accidental efforts, talents, faults, errors or treacheries of some of the leaders, but in the general social state and conditions of existence of each of the convulsed nations."

It is therefore necessary to investigate the social background of the recent Soviet uprising. To do this we must go back to the last century when Marx and Engels were writing about the social revolution and the formation of a party to carry this out. Dialectics teaches us that everything has its opposite. Thus the ruling capitalism is the opposite of the working class and its communist movement and revisionism which preaches peace is the opposite of the armed revolutionary movement. As soon as the first communist party was founded by Marx and Engels to lead the working class the petty bourgeoisie infiltrated the party in order to spread its peaceful revisionist poison. This led Lassalle to write in a letter to Marx on June 24th 1852: "Party struggles lend a party strength and vitality; the greatest proof of the weakness of a party is diffuseness and the blurring of clearly defined boundaries; a party becomes strong by purging itself...."

The principal contradiction during the process of a social revolution is between the working class and the ruling capitalists. As soon as this revolution is victorious, the party declares the dictatorship of the proletariat as an unavoidable necessity in order to destroy totally all the remaining features of capitalism, by nationalising all its property and eradicating its ideology as a class. But this class refuses to die and struggles to survive even by deceiving the working class. They declare they have changed; they even enter the ruling communist party and they work hard to prove their devotion to the party. As for those petty bourgeois who enter the party of the working class even before the revolution, their aim is to capture the leadership, diverting it in their own class interests, thus accelerating the process of infiltrating the ruling working class party.

The history of the Bolshevik party after the revolution of 1917 proves that the petty bourgeoisie managed to divert the party in its own interests, Khrushchev for example joining only in 1918. The economic boycott of the infant Soviet state by world imperialism, the various plots and the civil war forced the Soviet state to concentrate on self defence. This was done by forming what was a necessary front between the ruling working class and the petty bourgeoisie. This in turn encouraged the petty bourgeoisie not only to join the party but often to impose their own conditions. For instance when the imperialist powers attacked the country in 1918, occupying four-fifths of its land, Lenin was forced to reinstate the officers of the Tsar to their previous positions in the army in order to resist the intervention and preserve the Soviet state. With the successful conclusion of the war thousands of petty bourgeois and even some of the big bourgeois joined the party. Of course they claimed they were working for the interests of the party and the working class, but in reality their aim was to penetrate the party and capture the leadership. The party also lost millions of its best cadres, not just by the imperialist-inspired assassinations - they tried to kill Lenin himself - but during the war of intervention and especially during the Second World War when twenty million Soviet people gave their lives in defence of socialism.

All this facilitated the entry of fresh waves of petty bourgeois into the ranks of the party and into its leadership, eventually establishing a bureaucrat class, which clapped and cheered for communism, but only in order to gain control of party posts and then use these positions to enjoy a comfortable life on the backs of the workers. These people claimed that they worshipped Stalin, cheering him as their great leader and teacher. Khrushchev was in the forefront of this gang. But when Stalin died in 1953 and the last obstacle was thus removed, the bourgeoisie declared its rule in the Soviet Union. At the 20th Congress in 1956 Khrushchev

declared the dictatorship of the proletariat null and void, abandoning support for revolutions throughout the world and stressing the peaceful road to socialism. He made detente and peaceful coexistence with imperialism the main aim of the Soviet government, sweeping Leninism to one side on the pretext of fighting the cult of the individual and replacing it by the social democracy of Bernstein and Kautsky.

On the other hand Khrushchev, Brezhnev, Suslov Mikoyan and their revisionist gang succeeded in expelling the true communists, those who carried out the October Revolution and led it to victory. Thus they killed Beria in July 1953 without a trial, expelled Molotov, Malenkov, Kaganovich and Shepilov and once Khrushchev felt he had no more need of them he got rid of Zhukhov, Bulganin and Voroshilov. These comrades had been leading members of the Politburo, prime ministers, foreign ministers, ministers of the Interior and Defence and heroes of the Second World War. They also expelled thousands of other communists, including 75% of the delegates to the 20th Congress itself. All were expelled on spurious pretexts: that they were ideologically unsound: that they had become anti-party elements because they refused to achieve communism by 1980! : that they refused to increase production in order to overtake the United States by 1975 and that they were refusing to make use of the virgin lands of Siberia. (See "History of the C.P.S.U.", written in 1960 in the days of Khrushchev, English edition, pages 680 - 717)

This is how Gorbachev, Shevardnaze, Yeltsin, Rutsкои and Khusbulatov sneaked into the Soviet party and captured the leadership, destroying the socialist camp, dismembering the Soviet Union and reducing its people to paupers living on the charity of imperialism. Nor should one neglect to mention here the heavy responsibility of all the revisionist parties for the catastrophe by their tailing along behind Khrushchev and Brezhnev over the years and this includes the British parties, the C.P.G.B., N.C.P. and C.P.B., all cronies of Yeltsin, when he was Secretary of the Moscow organisation until 1989, all dining and wining when they went to receive their annual handouts for loyalty to revisionism. As to what happened after Gorbachev captured power to the cheers of Reagan and Thatcher, when he declared perestr oika, he also received warm support from the leadership of all the revisionist British parties and the details are well known and recorded.

Such is the manner in which the petty bourgeoisie infiltrated the Bolshevik party, diverting it from its true path and eventually controlling the government of the Soviet Union. Today they have banned socialism and are imposing capitalism on the people by force of arms. To strengthen

their own grip on power they are selling off the nation's wealth to the foreign monopolies at scandalously low prices. The working class and the toiling masses are suffering misery and deprivation. They are confronted by tanks and armoured vehicles when they demonstrate their attachment to socialism. Yeltsin brutally crushed this latest social revolt to impose capitalism and to increase the wealth of the capitalists at the expense of the working class. This counter-revolution will intensify the poverty of the workers, increasing their political and economic problems, which is why they will of necessity embark on another revolution and yet another until final victory is achieved and the dictatorship of the proletariat is established to rebuild socialism.

This October uprising did not achieve victory because the new communist movement in Russia is still in its infancy. There are today many parties claiming to be communist; some of these preach Gorbachevism or Brezhnevism or Andropovism. The number of communists who believe in Marxism-Leninism and armed revolt is still small and the working class is not yet capable of distinguishing between revolutionary communism and peaceful revisionism. This is because the working class lost confidence in the revisionist party over the last 40 years, when it was claiming to be communist. Because of the immaturity of the revolutionary movement, the ability of a new party to achieve iron discipline in its ranks is small. In spite of such shortcomings, however, we should have confidence in the Soviet working class, particularly because this class has rediscovered the importance of fire-arms and has trained itself in their use on the streets of Moscow, achieving victories and giving sacrifices, which will remind it of the necessity of a new revolution.

The British working class like the Soviet working class suffer from poverty, unemployment, government terror and revisionist treachery. The British working class stand shoulder to shoulder with the Soviet working class and the working class throughout the world ready to engage in the next battle. Such battles will continue and intensify until final victory is achieved and imperialism and capitalism are destroyed.

Long live the memory of the gallant October uprising of 1993!