

GECMUN 6: CREATE!

SOVNARKOM

STABILISATION OF THE SOVIET UNION UNDER
COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY
CHAIR REPORT

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Dear Comrades! (Delegates and Honoured Guests)

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to Sovnarkom, the Historical Crisis Committee from the sixth iteration of GECMUN. We are Sung-min Hong, Eunice Lee, and Ji-hwan Kim who will be serving as your chairs for the committee and our agenda will be on the political instability, economic struggle, and social inequality of post-revolution Soviet Union. Delegates will be invited to the pinnacle of Red October and come up with effective ways to govern USSR in the post-revolution era.

Reading the chair report will provide you with vital information on this topic and may guide you as the starting point of your research and preparation for this committee. We encourage you to delve into the political atmosphere of the USSR (or CCCP) at the time and focus on the Questions to Consider as they will serve to be the core aspects of our debate. Be prepared to ponder ways of governing post-revolutionary Soviet Union, immerse yourself into passionate discussions regarding measures to prevent socio-economic instability, and enjoy the abrupt crisis scenes that will completely twist the debate now and then. As chairs, we are happy to provide you with further guidance if necessary.

We thank you for joining our committee and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to the commencement of this historical journey.

Yours sincerely,

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INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

In GECMUN 6, delegates will be invited to participate as members of the Sovnarkom under the chairs as Vladimir Lenin in order to discuss effective ways to govern the post-revolutionary era of the Soviet Union from a communist perspective. The main agenda of this committee is stabilizing the Soviet Union under communism.

The committee, imitating the historical council of Sovnarkom, will focus mainly on three aspects: political anomy, economic struggle, and social inequality. Delegates should consider effective measures to deal with these three aspects.

As a consequence of the two preceded revolutions, political anarchy was created in the Soviet Union. The ongoing war against Germany and her allies along with Western states' instigation against citizens to revolve against the current regime further exacerbated the chaos and intimidation from the white army force scattered all over the Soviet Union.

Further on, the economic struggle deprived citizens from necessities such as food, money, or even shelter. Unemployment was extremely rampant due to the abolishment of serfdom, and western capitalist sectors refused to conduct business trades with the Soviet Union. The devastated national revenue worsened the poverty and new economic systems were rioted against.

As the national status was overall devastating, social inequality started to grow due to the regional differences in total productivity. Factors such as gender, religion, and even traditional customs increased inequality among the people which led to greater dissatisfaction and injustice.

Delegates should contemplate such historical complications and come up with possible solutions to resolve the issue through Sovnarkom as a representative of the Soviet Union.

BASIC RULES

This historical crisis committee takes place in 1923 when Sovnarkom was established in the Soviet Union. All historical events up to this time period must be considered, but all future events will be ignored and regenerated by the committee. Each delegate will represent a historical figure who was a member of the Sovnarkom as the chairs will serve as Vladimir Lenin, the head of Sovnarkom. As the committee holds a strong communist stance, delegates should keep in mind to come up with solutions in the same political view, and stay in character. The aim of the committee is to stabilise and develop the Soviet Union along with improving the quality of citizens' daily lives.

Frequent crisis updates (every 20~30 minutes) will be reported to delegates spontaneously which may produce major or minor impacts on the situation. Delegates will have to respond to such cases by raising creative public or private directives, which can serve as methods to allow the flow of debate. Delegates may also call for figures outside the delegations in the middle of the conference who will be impersonated by the chairs. Examples may include citizens, conflicting partisans, or even foreign diplomats.

KEY TERMS

Ancient Regime (Ancien régime)

Historically referring to political system in France before the French revolution - the society with no national citizenship, but every person was subject to the King; Lenin used this term to describe the Imperial Russia under Tsarist autocracy

People's Commissar

An official title of minister in post-revolutionary USSR

April theses

Document of ten points presented to the April Conference of Bolsheviks by Vladimir Lenin in 1917; main points were to focus Bolshevik efforts on the opposing government and to promote a socialist revolution

Bolshevism

A communist form of government adopted in Russia following the Bolshevik revolution of 1917

February Revolution

The revolution before the October Revolution that overthrew Tsarist autocracy

Leninism

A body of doctrine by Lenin, including his insistence on 'proletariat dictatorship' and a small vanguard party consisted of professional revolutionists (Bolsheviks); the ideology is controversial as his inclination towards the one party dictatorship and partisans-led state had created the autocratic bureaucracy and first modern totalitarian state

Marxism

A body of doctrine of which originally consisted of three related ideas: a philosophical anthropology, a theory of history, and an economic and political program

Materialism

The philosophical view endorsing physical processes to be the cause for human mind and will; Lenin and Bolsheviks believed in materialism to oppose the religious influence of Russian Orthodox church

New Economics Policy

Abbreviated as NEP, the policy projected by Lenin in order to promote the economy of the Soviet Union; the policy suggested for a market-oriented economic growth i.e. allowed individual farmers to own lands under the state-control, but was abolished by Stalin soon after Lenin's death and replaced with nationwide collectivisation policy

Ober Ost

Abbreviation of "Oberbefehlshaber der gesamten Deutschen Streitkräfte im Osten", which is German for "Supreme Commander of All German Forces in the East"; the term is used during WWI to not only refer to the German commander of the East front, but also of his controlled districts i.e. Lithuania, Latvia, and parts of Poland.

October Revolution (Red October)

The revolution in Russia led by the Bolshevik Party of Vladimir Lenin; the revolution was instrumental in the larger Russian Revolution of 1917-23

Proletariat

The lowest or one of the lowest economic and social classes in a society; Marx interpreted the term as the class of wage earners whose only source of living is by providing manual labour

Sovnarkom

Council of People's Commissar established after the October Revolution during 1917

The Communist Manifesto

A pamphlet written by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels to serve as the platform of the Communist League; it became one of the principal programmatic statements of the European socialist and communist parties in the 19th and early 20th centuries

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The February Revolution in 1917, provoked by the Russian military failures during World War One along with public dissatisfaction on the governance of the home front and economic instability in the nation, dethroned the Tsar through massive clashes and demonstrations. The following October Revolution deposed the formal democratic-socialist government led by Kerensky. Lenin, in spite of managing such abrupt political changes, had to face chronic problems to the traditional Russian society under conservative feudalism. This gave rise to Bolshevism, a communist political ideal led by Lenin in Russia.

As Bolshevism prevailed through the society, all Romanovs and aristocrats were sent either in exile or under arrest. The people's government led by Lenin had been bestowed the ownership of almost every palace and mansion. In 1917, Lenin published the April Theses which specified ten directives with regard to Bolshevism and Russia. In summary, these points were:

- Calls an immediate end to Russia's commitment to the Great War
- Establishes the Republic of Soviets of Workers', Agricultural Laborers', and Peasants' Deputies through the countries
- Abolishes the police, army, and bureaucracy of the ancient regime
- Condemns and provides no support for the provisional capitalist government
- Confiscates all landed estates in the Soviet Union and disposes them by the local Soviets of Agricultural Laborers' and Peasants' Deputies
- Merges all banks into a single national bank under the control of the Soviet of Workers' Deputies
- Alters the party congress' program and changes its name from "Social-Democrat" to "Communist"

Most clauses of the theses were instantly effective as the October revolution had succeeded, but later caused numerous predicaments which in turn led to the establishment of Sovnarkom.

After the Bolsheviks seized power, Lenin and other party members accepted the popular demand of the public: holding the first democratic election. This election was titled the Constituent Assembly Election, where various parties with contrasting ideologies participated. However, when the vote results provided more than half of the parliament seats to social-democrats and only a few to revolutionary communists, Lenin declared a decree of disapproval and announced the Stabilisation of the Soviet Union Under Communist Ideology

communist party dictatorship with an irrational justification: "the election result does not truly reflect the demands of the people." While only allowing communist partisans to join, this led Lenin and the Bolsheviks to institute a central committee for the governance of the new state: Sovnarkom - Council of People's Commissar.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

February 1917

The Tsar is dethroned as a result of the February Revolution.

April 1917

Lenin Publishes the April Theses.

November 1917

The October revolution puts Lenin's Bolsheviks in power. Aristocrats are seized and Russia's involvement in the Second World War ends. The Russian Civil War simultaneously begins.

November 1917~January 1918

The Russian Constituent Assembly is elected democratically.

January 1918

The assembly is dissolved, and a decree of the Sovnarkom is established.

January 1924

Lenin dies.

DELEGATE POSITIONS

VLADIMIR LENIN: CHAIR/PREMIER

Lenin is the current head of government of the Soviet Union. Under Lenin's administration, the Soviet Union is closely becoming a full communist state and he displays a passionate ideological belief codified as Marxism-Leninism. He plays an important role in the October Revolution, in which the Bolsheviks overthrow the Provisional Government.

NIKOLAI GORBUNOV: SECRETARY

Gorbunov is the secretary to Vladimir Lenin and of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR. Under the Council of People's Commissars of the Soviet Union, Gorbunov also works to co-sign, with the Premier of the Soviet Union, decrees and resolutions made by the government.

GRIGORY ZINOVIEV: MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO

Zinoviev is a Bolshevik revolutionary, represented as one of the seven members of the first Politburo founded to manage the Bolshevik Revolution. Shortly before the October revolution, he opposed Lenin's plan to organise the military revolt against the capitalist regime due to its radicality. His withdrawing from the revolution caused Lenin to criticise him as a 'deserter'. He currently seeks to maintain his Party position by forming an anti-Trotsky alliance with Kamenev and Stalin.

LEV KAMENEV: MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO

Kamenev is a Bolshevik revolutionary, represented as a member of the Politburo. He too, opposed Lenin's plan with Zinoviev, and was blatantly criticised by Lenin. Influenced by Zinoviev, he currently considers joining the anti-Trotsky alliance and to weaken Trotsky's position in the Party.

GRIGORI SOKOLNIKOV: MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO

Sokolnikov is an old Bolshevik revolutionary and economist, represented as a member of the Politburo. He joined a Bolshevik faction in 1905, and was a passenger of the famous 'sealed train'. His creation of new centralised banking system was highly praised by Lenin, whereas his dedicated focus on rehabilitating the Soviet Union economics limited his inner-Party power.

ANDREI BUBNOV: MEMBER OF THE POLITBURO

Bubnov is an old Bolshevik revolutionary, represented as a member of the Politburo. He joined a Bolshevik faction in 1903 and was expelled from his college due to revolutionary activities. His political stance is flexible and is currently represented as a leader of the Left Opposition - the alliance de facto headed by Trotsky, which opposes the NEP.

NIKOLAI BUKHARIN: EDITOR-IN-CHIEF IN PRAVDA

Bukharin is one of the few NEP supporters within the Party. His stance in advocacy of 'right-wing' economics reform limits his position in the Party, yet his title as the editor-in-chief allows him to exploit the state media (Pravda) to criticise his political enemies and to defend his position in front of the public.

VLADIMIR MILYUTIN: PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR AGRICULTURE OF THE RSFSR

Milyutin is a Bolshevik leader and a People's Commissariat for Agriculture. He is against Lenin's decision to impose a one-party rule over the state and is in the stance that argues for the transference of power to the Soviets rather than the Bolsheviks.

NIKOLAI KRYLENKO: PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS ON WAR AFFAIRS

Krylenko is the People's Commissariat for Justice of the USSR and the face of the Soviet justice system. He firmly believes that one's political stance outweighs the guilt or innocence of the crime when determining the punishment.

PAVEL DYBENKO: COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS ON NAVY AFFAIRS

Dybenko is a Soviet revolutionary and a leading officer within the state. He leads the Baltic fleet to seize power in St. Petersburg during the October Revolution. He enters the Ministry of Justice and destroys papers referring to the German Government that funds the Bolshevik Party.

VIKTOR NOGIN: PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR TRADE AND INDUSTRY OF THE RSFSR

Nogin is a prominent Bolshevik who holds many positions in the government, including the Chairman of the Moscow Military-Revolutionary Committee and Chairman of the Presidium of the Executive Committee of Moscow Council of Workers' Deputies. As the Chairman of the Moscow Military-Revolutionary Committee, Nogin aims to pursue a peaceful transfer of power to the Bolshevik.

ANATOLY LUNACHARSKY: PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR EDUCATION OF THE RSFSR

Lunacharsky is in charge of one of the most important government offices in the Soviet Union: The Ministry of Education of the USSR. Lunacharsky displays an internationalist antiwar position and joins the Mezhraiontsy, a group of members who were independent of the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party (RSDLP). As the Commissariat for Education, Lunacharsky seeks to improve the Soviet Union's literacy rate and also initiating an independent proletarian art movement. He has previously established several local schools and currently receives credit for preserving the cultural heritage of Russia.

IVAN TEODOROVICH: PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR FOOD

Teodorovich is the Commissariat for Food, a committee for the provision of technical supply in the Soviet Union; another primary responsibility is the allocation of producer goods to enterprises. Teodorovich upholds liberal land reforms, which would allow the peasants to gain authority over land—such view is against the agrarian policy of Bolshevism.

LEON TROTSKY: PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RSFSR

Trotsky is a Russian revolutionary, represented as a member of the Politburo. Trotsky serves as the People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs and is currently the founder and commander of the Red Army, whilst de facto leading the "Left Opposition" against Lenin's NEP.

ALEXEI RYKOV: PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR INTERIOR AFFAIRS OF THE RSFSR

Rykov is a Russian Bolshevik revolutionary and is part of the Bolsheviks led by Vladimir Lenin. He plays an important role in the 1905 Russian Revolution and is now a member of the Petrograd and Moscow Soviets. He is also a member of the Bolshevik Party Central Committee. He is the Commissariat for Interior Affairs and is the agency tasked with carrying out police duties and overlooking the country's labor camps.

GEORGY OPPOKOV: PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR JUSTICE

Oppokov is a left Communist and a member of the People's Commissar for Justice. He is a Bolshevik candidate for the 1917 Russian Constituent Assembly election. His position is in charge of general management regarding the state's courts, prisons, and probation. The criminal justice policy is also one of the primary responsibilities of his.

ALEXANDER SHLYAPNIKOV: PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR LABOR

Shlyapnikov supports a coalition government composed of left socialist parties which never came to fruition. He is a key member who evacuates industry from the Petrograd and drafts directives on workers' industrial control along with the nationalisation of industry. He also organises government bureaucracies with staff from trade unions and gathers food for the Bolshevik-controlled population.

SEMYON DUKELSKY: PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT OF MARINE FLEET OF THE USSR

Dukelsky is a worker of the All-Russian Extraordinary Commission for Combating Counter-revolution and Sabotage as well as the State Political Administration. As a participant of World War 1, he is an experienced administrator of military departments across the world including Russia, Finland, and Ukraine.

JOSEPH STALIN: PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT OF NATIONALITIES

Stalin is a politico-military leader in the 1918-20 Civil War and a ministerial post in the new Bolshevik government. He is also represented as a member of the Politburo. His origin from Georgia limits his proficiency of Russian, yet his ambition towards the party's central position far surpasses his political rivals: Trotsky and his supporters. He currently endorses

NIKOLAI GLEBOV-AVILOV: PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS OF THE RSFSR

Glebov-Avilov is released from exile by the February Revolution and returns to the Petrograd as a delegate to the Bolshevik Congress. After being elected in the Central Committee, he participates in the Third All Russian Conference of Trade Unions to present Bolshevik views. He also takes part in the Civil War by commanding military actions of the Black Sea coast.

IVAN SKVORTSOV-STEPANOV: PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR FINANCE

Skvortsov-Stepanov is a prominent Bolshevik who is one of the oldest participants in the revolution, experiencing numerous arrests and exiles for revolutionary actions. As a Marxist writer, he is also appointed as the chief editor of Izvestia, a daily broadsheet newspaper.

ALEXANDRA KOLLONTAI: PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR SOCIAL WELFARE

Kollontai is a Marxist revolutionary appointed as a diplomatic counsellor to the Soviet legation in Norway. She voices her support for Lenin's April Theses as a member of the Petrograd and works as a speaker and writer for revolution in Russia. She wants to resign from her position as the People's Commissariat for Social Welfare in opposition to the Brest-Litovsk Peace.

STANISLAV KOSIOR: LEADER OF THE UKRAINIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

Kosior is the first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party. After the February Revolution, he moved to Petrograd, where he worked in the party organisation of the Narva-Peterhof district, then was a member of the St. Petersburg Committee of the Bolsheviks in the Executive Commission. He then moved to German-occupied Ober Ost and Ukraine to work for the Bolsheviks cause. He is currently organising the local communist cells in both Ober Ost and in Ukraine and requires the Party's support.

VINCAS MICKEVIČIUS-KAPSUKAS: LEADER OF THE LITHUANIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

Known under his famous pseudonym Kapsukas, Mickevičius is a Bolshevik revolutionary who currently plans to revolt against the German rule in Lithuania. He is a stalwart defender of Marxist-Leninism, but has a limited political power with his own and seeks to enhance his inner-Party position by supporting the internationalists like Trotsky and Kollontai. He is currently organising the local communist branches in Ober Ost.

JÓZEF UNSZLICHT: LEADER OF THE POLISH COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY

Unszlicht is a Bolshevik revolutionary activist, participated in the October revolution and is known for his contribution in founding the post-revolution secret police Cheka. He currently serves as the Party authority over Lithuania and Belarus, but seeks to hold further central titles from Moscow. He wants to work for the Soviet government, not for the Polish nationalists.

BÉLA KUN: HUNGARIAN LEADER OF THE COMMUNIST WORKERS' PARTY

Kun is a dedicated Communist revolutionary and politician who managed to establish the Hungarian Soviet Republic in March 1919. He soon lost his seizure of power due to his ambition in spreading the communist states over Europe; Hungarian people lost nationalist faith in him, and Romanian troops placed his security in breach, forcing him and his few supporters to flee to the Soviet Union in August the same year. He currently seeks to revolt against the anti-communist regime in Hungary, but is in short of resources to fund for the underground communist party in Budapest.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

WAR

- What post-war relations will the Soviet Union maintain with international relations with surrounding European nations?
- What efforts will be placed to recover from the Great War?

International Relations: Approaches to Peace

- Should the government initiate the peace talks with the remnants of the White Army? If so, what can possibly be the means of communication between the enemies and the government?
- How should the government treat the captured White Army Forces?
- To what extent should the government open its talks to the foreign countries? To what means can the government initiate its foreign ways of communication?

Administration: Internal Stabilisation

- Should the government conscript the people from the region where the remnants of White Army operates? What are the benefits and consequences?
- To what extent can the government utilise the internal terror of war-time against the state's public enemy? What will be the general public's perception regarding these remnants?
- To what extent can their presence be beneficial to the revolutionary government in terms of the internal stabilisation?

POLITICS

- To what extent and in which form should democracy be implemented in the Soviet Union?

- Which should the media in the Soviet Union be prioritising: criticism or propaganda?
- In which manner will the Soviet Union treat the foreign countries, including the neighbouring countries with capitalist and/or imperialist regimes?

Administration: Centralisation versus Devolution

- Should the government disallow the political activities of other parties?
- To what extent should the government permit the regional autonomy?
- To what means can the government achieve democracy? Or to what extent is it necessary for the Soviet Union to have democracy? What will be the democracy under the communist ideal?

Society: Press freedom versus Propaganda

- Should the rights of the Soviet people to know the reality be prioritised before the reinforcement of communist ideal (or socialist optimism)?
- To what extent is it necessary to have the state-media?
- To which group(s) of audience should the government direct its propaganda to? Or to what extent should the government invest on propaganda?

International Relations: State versus Party

- Which expression should be used in a higher significance? A state, or a party?
- To what extent should the government support the spread of communism?
- How can the government re-initiate the relations with capitalist countries? Or to what extent is it necessary for the Soviet Union to re-normalise its relations with these countries?

ECONOMICS

- To what means can the Soviet Union be economically developed?
- How will the NEP (New Economic Policy) be actualised?
- How will resources be utilised and distributed to the people from each social class?

Development: Primary versus Secondary

- Should the government prioritise its resources on supporting the industries in Primary Sector e.g. agriculture and mining, or to the Secondary related e.g. manufacturing?
- How should the government balance its future industrialisation policies? Should it be more focussed on Heavy Industries that will incur high risk and high return, or to the Light Industries that tend to be low risk, but low return.

Economics: Efficiency versus Equality

- Should the government permit the private ownership of land to the farmers?
- To what extent can the private possessions be justified in the Soviet Union?
- To what extent should the NEP be implemented? To what means can the government alternatively improve the Soviet economics? Consider other instances of NEP programs in China and future Russia (though these can not be referred to in the actual committee).

Welfare: Individuals versus State

- What criteria should the government use to distribute resources e.g. land and food to stakeholders in the nation?
- Which type of education should be encouraged for which purposes for each age group, gender, and social class? Should it be focused on the ideological education which enhances the civic compliance to the Bolshevik regime, or on the practical education which enhances the average work performance of the workers?
- Which particular state service and control measure should the government prioritise in developing?

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