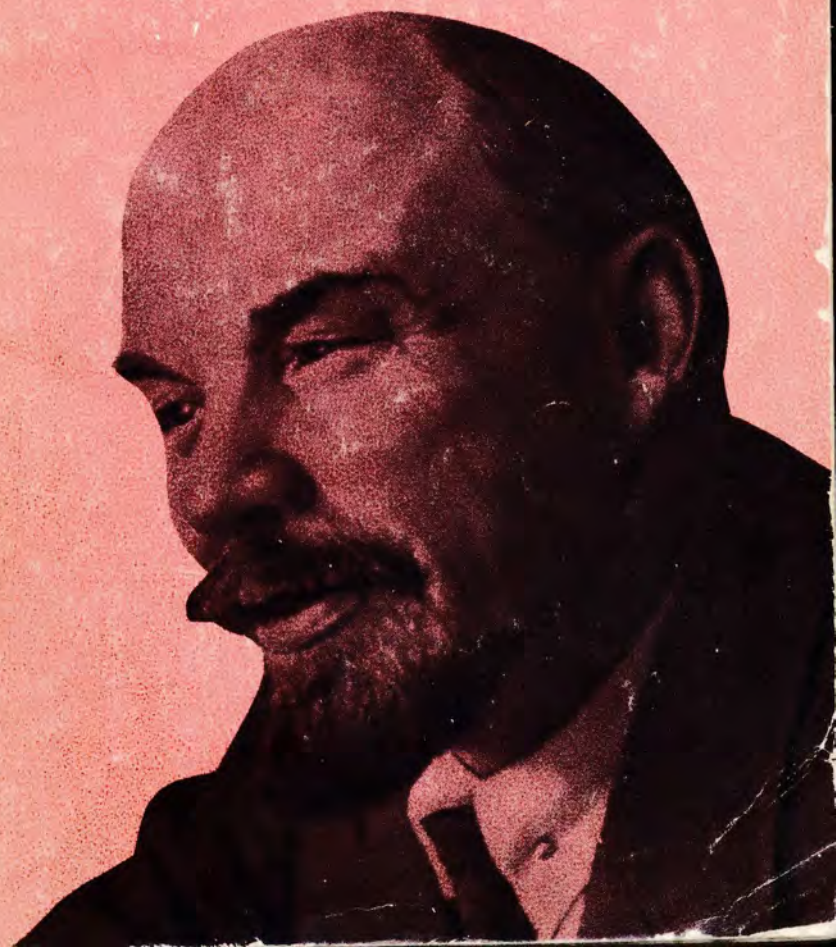


*Lenin*  
comrade  
and man





*Lenin  
comrade  
and man*

PROGRESS PUBLISHERS  
MOSCOW

PRINTED IN SOVIET UNION

TRANSLATED FROM THE RUSSIAN

The world knows Lenin as a theoretician of genius and the greatest of revolutionary leaders, as one of the founders of Marxism-Leninism and as the architect of the Communist Party and the world's first socialist state of workers and peasants.

But besides all this, Lenin was also a most unassuming and warm-hearted person. He combined great perspicacity and wisdom with great simplicity and modesty; an implacable attitude towards the class enemy with a touching thoughtfulness for comrades and a love for the working man and children, with an unceasing concern for the people's welfare. "As simple as the truth itself" was how workers referred to Lenin.

The present book *Lenin-Comrade and Man*, tells us about the modesty and warmth of heart of "the most humane of men . . . the most down to earth of all those who have trodden it", to quote the apt expression of the famous Soviet poet, Vladimir Mayakovsky; about Lenin's high regard and consideration for the man of labour. The book contains numerous letters and notes written by Lenin, his marginal notes made on telegrams, and also excerpts from recollections of Lenin by workers, peasants and Soviet intellectuals.

The introductory article to the Russian edition was written by the late Nikolai Pogodin, a distinguished Soviet writer and dramatist, and author of the well-known plays about Lenin *The Man with the Rifle*, *Kremlin Chimes* and *The Third Pathétique*.

Compiled by N. Bychkova,  
R. Lavrov and I. Rusanova

# CONTENTS

	Page
IN LIEU OF A PREFACE . . . . .	11

## Documents

MINUTE WRITTEN ON LETTER OF A. ZHUZHGOV, SOLDIER OF PETER AND PAUL FORTRESS . . . . .	15
NOTE TO Y. M. SVERDLOV . . . . .	15
NOTE TO N. I. PODVOISKY . . . . .	16
NOTE TO A. P. SMIRNOV . . . . .	16
NOTES TO A. D. TSYURUPA REGARDING FOOD SUPPLIES FOR FACTORY ORGANISATIONS . . . . .	17
NOTES TO A. D. TSYURUPA AND ABOUT HIM . . . . .	18
TO THE MOSCOW FOOD COMMITTEE . . . . .	21
MARGINAL NOTE WRITTEN ON A LETTER FROM THE PEOPLES COMMISSARIAT OF EDUCATION . . . . .	21
LETTER TO V. D. BONCH-BRUYEVICH . . . . .	22
TELEGRAM TO TAMBOV UYEZD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	22
INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SECRETARY . . . . .	23
TO THE LIBRARY DEPARTMENT OF THE COMMISSARIAT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION . . . . .	23
REPLY TO TELEGRAM OF WORKERS OF GORKINO STATION	24
TELEGRAM TO THE KURSK EXTRAORDINARY COMMISSION .	25
TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER OF THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLES COMMISSARS . . . . .	25
TELEGRAM TO MAMADYSH UYEZD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	26
TELEGRAM TO YELATMA UYEZD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	26
INSTRUCTIONS . . . . .	27
NOTE TO SECRETARY . . . . .	28

NOTE TO L. A. FOTIYEVA . . . . .	28
MINUTE WRITTEN ON LETTER ABOUT SNOW CLEARING OF MOSCOW STREETS . . . . .	29
TELEGRAM TO CHEREPOVETS GUBERNIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE . . . . .	29
MINUTE WRITTEN ON TELEGRAM FROM REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FARMERS OF BUKHANOVKA . . . . .	30
TO SARATOV SOVIET INSTITUTIONS . . . . .	31
LETTER TO A. I. SVIDERSKY . . . . .	31
TELEGRAM TO VYATKA GUBERNIA EXECUTIVE COM- MITTEE . . . . .	32
TELEGRAM TO KALUGA GUBERNIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	32
MARGINAL NOTE WRITTEN ON TELEGRAM FROM DELEGATES REPRESENTING PASSENGERS STRANDED AT ARZAMAS STATION . . . . .	33
TELEGRAM TO ZHLOBIN RAILWAYS CHEKA . . . . .	33
TELEGRAM TO YELETS UYEZD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE . .	34
SAFEGUARD CERTIFICATE FOR V. I. TANEYEV . . . . .	34
TELEGRAM TO THE MINSK GUBERNIA MILITARY COMMISSAR AND GUBERNIA COMMITTEE . . . . .	35
NOTE TO MOSCOW SOVIET . . . . .	36
CONCERNING ARRANGEMENTS FOR TAKING CHILDREN TO SUMMER COLONIES . . . . .	37
NOTE TO MEMBERS OF THE C.E.C. PRESIDUM . . . . .	37
NOTE TO V. A. AVANESOV . . . . .	38
MINUTE WRITTEN ON LETTER FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF TSARITSYN METALLURGICAL WORKS . . . . .	39
NOTE BY DIRECT LINE TO PEOPLE'S COMMISSAR OF FOOD FOR CRIMEA . . . . .	39
TELEGRAM TO THE CRIMEA COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COM- MISSARS . . . . .	40
LETTER TO A. M. GORKY . . . . .	40
MARGINAL NOTE WRITTEN ON TELEGRAM FROM YARENK UYEZD . . . . .	41

LETTER TO THE ORGANISATIONAL BUREAU OF THE C. C. . . . .	41
TO THE AGRICULTURAL SECTION OF FOOD DEPARTMENT, MOSCOW SOVIET OF WORKING PEOPLE'S DEPUTIES . . . . .	42
TELEGRAM TO SIMBIRSK CHEKA . . . . .	42
NOTE TO L. A. FOTIYEVA . . . . .	43
TO ALL SOVIET INSTITUTIONS AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES	43
MINUTE WRITTEN ON LETTER FROM A. P. OSTAPCHENKO . . . . .	44
MINUTE AND MARGINAL NOTE WRITTEN ON STATEMENT ABOUT REQUISITIONING OF PERSONAL BAGGAGE. . . . .	44
NOTE BY DIRECT LINE TO B. S. WEISBROD . . . . .	45
NOTE TO A. S. YENUKIDZE . . . . .	46
TELEGRAM TO OREL GUBERNIA COMMISSAR OF FOOD . . . . .	46
TELEGRAM TO N. A. RESKE . . . . .	47
NOTE TO A. B. KHALATOV . . . . .	47
TELEGRAM TO RYAZAN . . . . .	48
MINUTE WRITTEN ON REPORT OF CHIEF OF C.P.C. MOTOR DEPOT . . . . .	49
LETTER TO CENTRAL COLLEGIUM OF AGITATION CENTRES	49
MARGINAL NOTE WRITTEN ON REPORT OF WORKERS OF BALASHIKHA TEXTILE MILL . . . . .	50
LETTER TO M. A. BONCH-BRUYEVICH . . . . .	50
TELEGRAM TO REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE OF UKRAINE	51
MINUTE WRITTEN ON TELEPHONE MESSAGE FROM CHIEF OF CENTRAL OFFICE HANDLING UNLOADING OF FREIGHT (ERO) . . . . .	52
DECISION OF COUNCIL OF DEFENCE . . . . .	52
NOTES TO INESSA ARMAND . . . . .	53
LETTER TO DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF REVOLUTIONARY MILI- TARY COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC . . . . .	55
NOTE TO Y. D. STASOVA . . . . .	55
LETTER TO CHAIRMAN OF KAZAN GUBERNIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, I. I. KHODOROVSKY . . . . .	56

NOTE TO ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER AND TO SECRETARIES OF THE C.P.C. . . . .	57
MINUTE AND MARGINAL NOTE WRITTEN ON LETTER FROM A. V. LUNACHARSKY . . . . .	57
NOTE TO N. A. SEMASHKO . . . . .	58
LETTER TO REVOLUTIONARY MILITARY COUNCIL OF THE TURKESTAN FRONT . . . . .	59
MINUTE WRITTEN ON LETTER FROM M. ILYIN AND S. KA- RYAKIN OF THE VILLAGE OF BORSKOYE, SAMARA GU- BERNIA . . . . .	59
LETTER TO A. S. SERAFIMOVICH . . . . .	60
LETTER TO V. A. OBUKH . . . . .	60
LETTER TO PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT OF AGRICULTURE AND PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT OF FOOD . . . . .	61
LETTER TO SOVIET INSTITUTIONS IN SIBERIA . . . . .	62
TELEGRAM TO AZERBAIJAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL . . . . .	62
MINUTE WRITTEN ON SECRETARY'S NOTE . . . . .	63
LETTER TO G. K. ORJONIKIDZE . . . . .	63
NOTES TO THE MINOR COUNCIL ABOUT V. V. VOROVSKY. . . . .	64
MINUTE WRITTEN ON TELEGRAM FROM SARATOV. . . . .	65
MARGINAL NOTE WRITTEN ON LETTER FROM ACTRESS N. A. NIKULINA . . . . .	65
TELEGRAM TO PODOLSK UYEZD FOOD COMMITTEE . . . . .	66
LETTER TO A. G. SCHLICHTER . . . . .	66
FROM LETTER TO SIBERIA REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE. . . . .	67
NOTE TO PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT OF FOOD. . . . .	68
DECISION OF THE C.P.C. TO GRANT A PENSION TO M. N. CHER- NYSHEVSKY AND TO REPAIR THE N. G. CHERNYSHEVSKY MUSEUM IN SARATOV . . . . .	69
MARGINAL NOTE WRITTEN ON SECRETARY'S NOTE . . . . .	70
NOTE TO SECRETARY . . . . .	70
MINUTE WRITTEN ON TELEGRAM FROM G. K. ORJONIKIDZE . . . . .	70
NOTE TO N. P. GORBUNOV . . . . .	71



ORDER . . . . .	72
LETTER TO N. A. SEMASHKO . . . . .	72
NOTE TO N. N. KRESTINSKY . . . . .	73
TELEGRAM TO CHAIRMAN OF UFA GUBERNIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE . . . . .	73
NOTE TO E. M. SKLYANSKY . . . . .	74
CERTIFICATE . . . . .	75
NOTE TO DEPUTY PEOPLE'S COMMISSAR OF MILITARY AF- FAIRS . . . . .	75
NOTE TO D. I. ULYANOV . . . . .	76
NOTE TO N. P. GORBUNOV . . . . .	77
NOTE TO A. Y. BADAYEV AND A. S. YENUKIDZE . . . . .	77
NOTE TO Y. S. GANETSKY . . . . .	78
NOTE TO MANAGER OF MOSCOW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCA- TION, A. BURDYUKOV . . . . .	78
NOTE TO M. I. FRUMKIN AND G. K. ORJONIKIDZE . . . . .	79
LETTER TO THE PETROGRAD SOVIET . . . . .	79
LETTER TO MOSCOW LAND DEPARTMENT . . . . .	80
NOTE TO N. A. SEMASHKO . . . . .	80
LETTER TO M. M. LITVINOV . . . . .	81
LETTER TO B. S. STOMONYAKOV . . . . .	82
TELEPHONE MESSAGE TO N. A. SEMASHKO . . . . .	82
NOTES TO L. B. KRASSIN . . . . .	83
TELEPHONE MESSAGE TO CHAIRMAN OF MOSCOW GUBER- NIA CONSUMERS' COMMUNE . . . . .	84
NOTE TO V. A. SMOLYANINOV . . . . .	85
TELEGRAM TO A. D. TSYURUPA . . . . .	85
NOTE TO V. A. SMOLYANINOV . . . . .	85
TELEGRAM TO M. K. VLADIMIROV, KHARKOV . . . . .	86
LETTER TO THE ORGANISATIONAL BUREAU OF C.C. R.C.P.(B.)	86
NOTE TO G. D. TSYURUPA . . . . .	87

NOTE TO M. M. LITVINOV . . . . .	87
LETTER TO I. I. MIROSHNIKOV . . . . .	88
LETTER TO THE ORGANISATIONAL BUREAU OF THE C.C. R.C.P.(B.) . . . . .	88
TELEGRAM TO A. D. TSYURUPA . . . . .	89
LETTER TO THE ORGANISATIONAL BUREAU OF THE C.C. R.C.P.(B.) . . . . .	89
NOTE TO HOUSE AND LAND DEPARTMENT MANAGER . . . . .	89
ORDER TO SECRETARY WRITTEN ON LETTER FROM I. A. PET- RUSHKIN, MEMBER OF ALL-RUSSIAN CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE . . . . .	90
NOTE TO N. P. GORBUNOV . . . . .	91
TO HOUSE MANAGER OF A.R.C.E.C. . . . .	91
TELEGRAM TO IRKUTSK GUBERNIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	92
TELEGRAM TO DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS OF THE CRIMEA, POLYAKOV . . . . .	92
TELEGRAM TO T. A. ROTHSTEIN . . . . .	93
NOTE TO L. A. FOTIYEVA . . . . .	93
FOR MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE C.C. R.C.P.(B.) . . . . .	94
LETTER TO THE MANAGEMENT OF HOUSES OF SOVIETS. . . . .	94
FROM A LETTER TO A. D. TSYURUPA . . . . .	95
FROM A LETTER TO P. A. ZALUTSKY AND A. A. SOLTS . . . . .	96
LETTER TO P. A. ZALUTSKY AND A. A. SOLTS . . . . .	97
TELEPHONE MESSAGE TO PRESIDIUM OF A.R.C.E.C. . . . .	98
FROM A LETTER TO THE C.C. SECRETARIAT . . . . .	99
REGARDING MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR V. A. AVANESOV . . . . .	100
1. TELEGRAM TO THE EMBASSY IN RIGA. . . . .	100
2. NOTE TO V. A. AVANESOV . . . . .	100
TO THE C.C. SECRETARIAT . . . . .	100
LETTER TO THE PRESIDIUM OF THE SOCIALIST ACADEMY	101
LETTER TO P. M. KERZHENTSEV . . . . .	101

TO THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT OF HEALTH . . . . .	102
NOTE TO A. D. TSYURUPA . . . . .	102
NOTE TO V. A. SMOLYANINOV . . . . .	103
NOTES TO RENDER ASSISTANCE TO PERSONNEL OF THE SOLDATENKOV HOSPITAL . . . . .	104
NOTE TO N. A. SEMASHKO . . . . .	104
FROM A LETTER TO THE C.C. SECRETARIAT. . . . .	105
NOTE TO L. B. KRASSIN. . . . .	105

### Recollections

MAN AND COMRADE . . . . .	109
LENIN'S CONCERN FOR PEOPLE . . . . .	109
LENIN AND CHILDREN . . . . .	112
CARE FOR COMRADES . . . . .	115
THOUGHTFULNESS FOR THE NEEDS OF OTHERS . . . . .	115
MODESTY THAT CAME FROM THE INMOST HEART . . . . .	118
STORY ABOUT WITHHELD WAGES . . . . .	119
THE ELDER . . . . .	123
PEASANT REPRESENTATIVES VISIT ILYICH IN THE SMOLNY	124
WHEN I AM DOWNHEARTED I THINK OF HIM . . . . .	128
CONSTANT CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS . . . . .	131
IN 1918 . . . . .	136
A VISIT TO LENIN . . . . .	136
IN LENIN'S OWN HAND . . . . .	137
UNASSUMING AND WARM-HEARTED . . . . .	140
THAT WAS THE KIND OF MAN OUR LEADER WAS . . . . .	142
ILYICH'S THOUGHTFULNESS . . . . .	144
IF PEOPLE ONLY KNEW WHO THE PRESENT WAS FROM! . . . . .	145
FROM N. K. KRUPSKAYA'S REMINISCENCES . . . . .	147

FROM MAXIM GORKY'S REMINISCENCES . . . . .	150
COMRADELY SOLICITUDE . . . . .	153
FIVE YEARS WITH LENIN . . . . .	154
HE TAUGHT US TO SEE THE FUTURE . . . . .	157
AN EPISODE . . . . .	161
IN A MILITARY HOSPITAL . . . . .	163
A NOTE WRITTEN BY LENIN . . . . .	167
A LETTER FROM A PEASANT . . . . .	168
ON GUARD DUTY IN THE KREMLIN . . . . .	169
IN THE KREMLIN . . . . .	171
I. D. PUTINTSEV VISITS LENIN . . . . .	172
FROM THE REMINISCENCES OF S. K. GIL . . . . .	175
A MAN WITH A GREAT HEART . . . . .	176
HE WAS ATTENTIVE TO PEOPLE . . . . .	177
HEART-TO-HEART CHAT . . . . .	179
DAGHESTAN BOLSHEVIKS VISIT LENIN . . . . .	180
AN UNFORGETTABLE VISIT . . . . .	184
WHILE ON DUTY . . . . .	186
ON LENIN'S ORDERS . . . . .	187
RECOLLECTIONS OF A NURSE . . . . .	189
AN ACQUAINTANCE OF LENIN'S . . . . .	191

## IN LIEU OF A PREFACE

It is with a feeling of great pleasure that I recommend this remarkable little book to the reader. But first of all I want to say why it is remarkable.

Many Soviet people, the writer of these lines among them, do not always have a very clear idea of what is implied by Leninist standards of behaviour in everyday life. With the older generation certain concepts have faded from the memory, with the younger they have still to stabilise themselves. One cannot set down a rigid code of conduct and behaviour for it would then become a dogma, divested of all its potency and its irresistible live content.

The irresistible quality of Leninism lies in the fact that it gives full scope to one's imagination, to the creative initiative of the individual. In other words, what we call the Leninist code of ethics offers wide scope today for man's spiritual development and creative endeavour in the building of a communist society.

Before me is a little book, simple in style but pulsating with life, a book in which Lenin appears as he was in everyday life when there took shape, as a matter of course, that very concept which the new generation of Soviet people must treasure as the apple of one's eye—the Leninist standards of behaviour.

Here I would like to make a reservation.

The authors of this little book probably did not set out to show what I have in mind. They confined themselves to a more modest task. And rightly so, for otherwise they would have had to enlarge the book to tremendous proportions, for Lenin is, indeed, tremendous. Yet as a reader I have the right to express my opinion about this, to me, remarkable booklet. I also have the right to say, I believe, that the booklet provides much food for thought about how we, and in the first place Communists, should behave.

"How to behave." Maybe this sounds somewhat old-fashioned, especially seeing that in the old days these words implied purely outward behaviour. But I am referring to something else, something that is of

greater moment. I am referring to a higher standard of behaviour, the concept of which is reflected in the present slender volume.

It seems to me that in this instance it is impossible to write the usual preface in which the author who has been asked to do so singles out one thing and omits another, in a word, tries to orientate the reader.

Everything in this small book—from the brief excerpt from Kirov's recollections of Lenin to the routine memorandum hastily pencilled by Lenin himself at a meeting of the Council of People's Commissars—is of equal importance because it is basic to the idea and the theme which must give us a many-sided and life-like portrait of Lenin, comrade and man. That is why it is impossible to just review the book, for you will find yourself retelling the whole book.

But there is one thing that has to be said about the contents, and a very remarkable thing, indeed. As you begin reading you are under the impression that the material is rather familiar, that you have read it somewhere long ago. But as you leaf through the booklet, page by page, you have the indescribable feeling of a fresh encounter with the living Lenin.

Who has not heard of Lenin's pithy expression "milksofs", the nickname he gave to the so-called "nice people", to the very kind who, because of their "kindness" were incapable of revolutionary struggle, let alone taking a firm proletarian stand. I mention this because Lenin is tremendous. Himself a man of deep feelings, he despised the shallowness of the so-called very kind who shilly-shallied and were devoid of will power, firmness or Communist integrity.

In conclusion I would like to say that out of this slender volume compiled with such loving care, and which gives us a true-to-life portrait of Lenin, there will eventually take shape a monumental literary canvas worthy of the name of Lenin.

*Nikolai Pogodin*

# DOCUMENTS

**MINUTE WRITTEN ON LETTER  
OF A. ZHUSHGOV,  
SOLDIER OF PETER AND PAUL FORTRESS<sup>1</sup>**

[November 9 (22)-15 (28), 1917]

*To the War Ministry.* Please comply with his request, if possible.

Lenin

**NOTE TO Y. M. SVERDLOV<sup>2</sup>**

Written not earlier than November 21, 1917

*To Cde. Sverdlov*

1st floor, Room No. 39

The bearer has a mandate from the local Soviet.

Wants to work *in Petrograd*.

Makes an excellent impression.

---

<sup>1</sup> In this letter A. Zhuzhgov asks V. I. Lenin to release him from military service after four years in the ranks and to help him enter a school and get an education.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> Y. M. Sverdlov—Chairman of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee.—*Ed.*



Wants to be in the thick of work among the masses (agitator, etc.).

*Strongly* advise that he be given the chance right away to prove himself in work among the masses in Petrograd.

Lenin

#### NOTE TO N. I. PODVOISKY<sup>1</sup>

[February 11] 29.I.1918

Cde. Podvoisky,

In my opinion the bearer, Balonov, is justified in requesting that military honours be shown his wife's father, killed on 13.VII.1917 for Bolshevism.

Please telephone me your opinion or let me know personally.

Lenin

#### NOTE TO A. P. SMIRNOV<sup>2</sup>

7.VI.1918

Cde. Smirnov,

The bearers are interested in the question of elections to the Soviets. I told them that they always have the right to recall their representatives.

Tell them of your experience in the matter and advise them accordingly.

Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> N. I. Podvoisky—People's Commissar of Military Affairs.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> A. P. Smirnov—member of the Collegium of the Commissariat of Internal Affairs, member of the Executive Committee of the Moscow Soviet.—*Ed.*

**NOTES TO A. D. TSYURUPA<sup>1</sup>**  
**REGARDING FOOD SUPPLIES FOR**  
**FACTORY ORGANISATIONS**

I

June 7, 1918

To Comrade Tsyurupa or his deputy  
Cde. Tsyurupa,

I am sending representatives of the Vyshni Volochok Soviet of Working People's Deputies to see you.

The famine there is dreadful. It is necessary to take urgent measures and to give them some help at once.

I have already talked to these comrades about the formation of [food] detachments and the tasks with regard to food supplies, but I would suggest that you, too, explain the situation to them.

Lenin

II

June 10, 1918

To Cde. Tsyurupa or his deputy

The bearers are comrades from the Maltsev factories (up to 20,000 workers and up to 100,000 in the district). The food situation is disastrous.

Please hear what they have to say and

(1) take urgent measures to provide immediate relief at least to the minimum extent, but at once;

(2) draw representatives of the Maltsev District into the Minor Food Council;

(3) strain every effort to organise detachments of the Maltsev workers.

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

---

<sup>1</sup> A. D. Tsyurupa—People's Commissar of Food.—*Ed.*

III

June 11, 1918

To Cde. Tsyurupa or his deputy  
Cde. Tsyurupa,

The bearers are representatives of the Bryansk factory.<sup>1</sup> Since you (or was it Cde. Svidersky<sup>2</sup>) were able to come to an agreement with the Maltsev representatives yesterday I am sure that you will be able to do the same in the case of the representatives from Bryansk. I very much ask you to receive them right away and give them every possible assistance.

Regards,  
Yours,  
Lenin

**NOTES TO A. D. TSYURUPA AND ABOUT HIM**

I •

July 1918

Cde. Tsyurupa,

You don't look well. You must take two months' rest at once. If you don't promise faithfully to do so, I shall complain to the Central Committee.

Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> The memorandum, addressed to the Chairman of the C.P.C., on the food situation at the factory has been preserved in the materials of the Council of People's Commissars. Dated June 7 and signed by representatives of the factory organisations, it does not indicate who were appointed representatives.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> A. I. Svidersky—member of the Collegium of the People's Commissariat of Food.—*Ed.*

## II

[Summer 1918] To A. D. Tsyurupa

Dear A[lexander] D[mitriyevich],

You are getting to be quite impossible in the way you handle government property.<sup>1</sup>

I hereby instruct you to go away for three weeks' medical treatment. And you are to listen to Lydia Alexandrovna who will send you to a sanatorium.

Really, the way you squander your poor health is simply unpardonable. You will have to mend your ways.

Regards,

Yours,

Lenin

## III

### *Instructions*

13.VII.1918

People's Commissar Cde. Tsyurupa is ordered to leave for a rest and medical treatment in a sanatorium at Kuntsevo.

Chairman, C.P.C.,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

## IV

### *Instructions*

[August 24, 1918]

For his careless attitude to government property (2 attacks) A. D. Tsyurupa is given his

<sup>1</sup> This was how Lenin jokingly referred to the health of his colleagues.—*Ed.*

*first warning and ordered to go home immediately (Yuryev<sup>1</sup> will take over; we will also call in Ruzer<sup>2</sup>).*

Lenin

V

Note to L. A. Fotiyeva<sup>3</sup>

[Summer 1918]

Lyd[ia] Al[exandrovna],

Enclosed is a letter to Tsyurupa.

He must be sent for a rest in the country. Arrange (through Sverdlov and Tsyurupa's brother) for Tsyurupa to come here<sup>4</sup>: there is a lovely big room here; the place is heated. When we leave a cook will have to be found for Tsyurupa. A sanatorium for People's Commissars could be set up here. See what can be done about this without fail.

Regards,

Len[in]

---

<sup>1</sup> A. A. Yuryev—member of the Collegium of the People's Commissariat of Food.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> L. I. Ruzer—worker in Food Commissariat; in 1919—member of the Collegium of the People's Commissariat of Food.—*Ed.*

<sup>3</sup> L. A. Fotiyeva—Secretary of the Council of People's Commissars and of the Council of Labour and Defence and also Lenin's secretary.—*Ed.*

<sup>4</sup> In the summer of 1918 Lenin occasionally went to a dacha in the village of Komarovka near Tarasovka on the Northern Railway line.—*Ed.*

## TO THE MOSCOW FOOD COMMITTEE

June 14, 1918

I request that Cde. T. I. Popov, Commissar-Manager of the Moscow Branch of the People's (State) Bank, be given permission, without delay, to acquire 5 poods of smoked meat, 5 poods of grain, 20 pounds of sugar and 10 pounds of tea as additional rations for workers engaged in urgent work at the Branch. The enumerated provisions to be delivered to Cde. Popov not later than 6 p.m. on June 15.

Chairman, Council of People's  
Commissars, V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

Administrative Manager of the Council  
of People's Commissars, V. Bonch-Bruyevich  
Secretary p. proc., L. Fotiyeva

## MARGINAL NOTE WRITTEN ON A LETTER FROM THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT OF EDUCATION

July 17, 1918

*To the Council of People's Commissars*

The Department of Extra-Mural Education of the People's Commissariat of Education hereby encloses a list of stock and linen, amounting to 14,000 rubles and 8,156 rubles respectively, and asks the Council of People's Commissars to issue this stock and linen (which belongs to the War Department) *free of charge* to the work commune for juveniles who do not receive wages and who are setting off to the work commune in Yelets Uyezd, Orel Gubernia. The Department requests that the matter be settled today.

Commissar of Public Education p. proc.,  
M. Pokrovsky

Head of the Department of Extra-Mural  
Education, N. Ulyanova<sup>1</sup>

14,000

8,156

---

22,156

Approved

July 17, 1918

Lenin

<sup>1</sup> N. K. Krupskaya—Soviet government figure and leading educationalist; the wife of V. I. Lenin.—Ed.

## LETTER TO V. D. BONCH-BRUYEVICH<sup>1</sup>

1.X.1918

Dear Vladimir Dmitriyevich,

I only learned of the terrible news this morning. I cannot travel to Moscow, but I want, at least through a letter, to express my deepest sympathy and also our warm affection for Vera Mikhailovna and to give some comfort so far as it is possible to a person in your terrible sorrow. Take good care of your daughter's health. Once more I express my deepest sympathy.

Yours,

V. Lenin

## TELEGRAM TO TAMBOV UYEZD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tambov

Executive Committee of the Uyezd Soviet  
of Working People's Deputies  
*Copy to Red Cross*

25.X.1918

The sick woman Azanchevskaya, living in rooms at Mikhailov's is not to be evicted. Please see to it that she is placed in the care of the Red Cross. Telegraph reply. [1036]

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,

Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> The letter to V. D. Bonch-Bruyevich, Administrative Manager of the Council of People's Commissars, was written in connection with the death of his wife, V. M. Velichkina-Bonch-Bruyevich, member of the Collegium of the People's Commissariat of Public Health, who died on September 30, 1918. Lenin was in Gorki at the time, convalescing.—*Ed.*

## INSTRUCTIONS TO THE SECRETARY<sup>1</sup>

[1918, November, written not earlier than 21st]

Telephone the nature of the complaint to the Housing Department of the Moscow Soviet of Working People's Deputies and inquire what they intend to do about it.

## TO THE LIBRARY DEPARTMENT OF THE COMMISSARIAT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

December 30, 1918

Please see the bearer Cde. Prokofyev. I think his request that Surkov's<sup>2</sup> library be requisitioned for the region which has a population of 40,000 is justified; perhaps Surkov should be allowed certain rights of use? Please send me a copy of your decision on the matter; also see what can be done to help the comrades in Rodniki to enlarge their library. Is it possible to send them one of the requisitioned manor libraries? Let me know about this as well.

Chairman, C.P.C.,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

---

<sup>1</sup> Lenin gave these instructions in connection with a complaint lodged by the tenants of one of the houses in the Krasnaya Presnya district, Moscow, that the house was being requisitioned and they were being evicted.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> P. I. Surkov—former deputy of the workers of Kostroma Gubernia to the Third State Duma (representative body under tsarism, which enjoyed restricted legislative rights). He had a large library in the village of Kutilovo. In the early years of Soviet government there was a big demand for literature. Lenin was greatly concerned about the development of public libraries and, therefore, supported the demand that Surkov's library be requisitioned. Surkov agreed to give his library to the local workers' reading-room. He was allowed to keep more than 400 books of his own choice.—*Ed.*



**REPLY TO TELEGRAM OF WORKERS OF  
GORKINO STATION**

January 5, 1919

Gorkino, Northern Railway

To Ryabinin, Chairman of the general meeting of workers

The elected representatives can come at their convenience.  
I shall try to receive them personally; if I am unable to do  
so then my secretary will see them.

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,

Lenin

*Moscow, Council of People's Commissars,  
Lenin*

We, office employees and workers of Gorkino Station on the Northern Railway, considered it necessary at a general meeting to ask your permission to send our elected representatives to take up urgent matters with you. Would you please inform us if you agree and just when you can receive us.

Chairman of general meeting,

Ryabinin

Secretary, Nesterekhin

**TELEGRAM TO THE KURSK EXTRAORDINARY  
COMMISSION**

6.I.1919

Kursk

Cheka

Copy to the Gubernia Executive Committee

Immediately arrest Kogan, member of the Kursk Central Purchasing Board, for failing to help 120 starving workers of Moscow and for sending them back empty-handed. Publish this in newspapers and leaflets so that all employees of purchasing agencies and food supply bodies should know that those responsible for a formal and bureaucratic attitude, and for failure to help starving workers will be severely punished and if need be—shot.

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,

Lenin

**TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER OF THE  
COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS**

January 18, 1919

You will please report to me immediately all complaints received by the Administrative Office against government institutions, as well as officials, complaints in writing to be reported to me within 24 hours, verbal complaints—within 48 hours.

A special complaints desk must be opened in the Administrative Office and the executive clerk of the Administrative Office is to check most carefully on fulfilment of my instructions concerning these complaints.

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,  
V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

**TELEGRAM TO MAMADYSH UYEZD  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Mamadysh

Uyezd Executive Committee

18.II.1919

Is it true that the Sormovo Communist Rukavishnikov has been in prison for a month now and that his case has not been examined yet? If so, the person responsible for this must be tried for red-tape. Telegraph reply. [281]

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,  
Lenin

**TELEGRAM TO YELATMA UYEZD  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Yelatma

Uyezd Executive Committee

18.II.1919

Mikhail Mitrofanovich Fedoseyev of Azeyev complains that you have nationalised his printing-works, refusing on February 6, under No. 455, to pay for the printing-works

and to remunerate the two apprentices and the bookbinder who were dismissed. Let me know at once whether these facts are true and also whether it is true that the printing-works is standing idle in a shed in Sasovo. Please consider the possibility of giving Fedoseyev typographical work, or of forming an association of workers and putting him in charge of his former printing-works under the control of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies. [282]

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,

Lenin

### INSTRUCTIONS<sup>1</sup>

February 19, 1919

People's Commissar A. D. Tsyurupa is hereby instructed, in view of his resuming work and the need to protect government property, *to take strict precautions.*

Not to work more than two hours without a break.

Not to work later than 10.30 p.m.

Not to receive people.

*Implicitly* to carry out the restrictive orders of Lydia Alexandrovna Fotiyeva.

Chairman, C.P.C.,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

---

<sup>1</sup> V. I. Lenin wrote these instructions in connection with A. D. Tsyurupa returning to work after a serious illness.—*Ed.*

## NOTE TO SECRETARY<sup>1</sup>

[March 8, 1919]

If Khryashcheva<sup>2</sup> lives far away and has to walk there, that must be hard on her. Tell her on a suitable occasion, and very tactfully, that on the days when there are no statistical matters to discuss, she may leave earlier and, in fact, need not attend at all.

## NOTE TO L. A. FOTIYEVA<sup>3</sup>

[Written after March 17, 1919]

Lyd[ia] Al[exandrovna],

Let him know that I have passed on the address, to which the decrees are to be forwarded, to the C.C. Bureau (and send it there please) and that he may write to me directly to Moscow, the Kremlin.

---

<sup>1</sup> The note was written during a meeting of the Council of People's Commissars.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> A. I. Khryashcheva—member of the Collegium of the Central Statistical Board.—*Ed.*

<sup>3</sup> Y. Nikitin, a peasant from the village of Alexeyevo, Belsk Uyezd, Smolensk Gubernia, had written to Lenin with a request that decrees and other materials which he needed for his study circle with peasants be sent to him.—*Ed.*

## MINUTE WRITTEN ON LETTER ABOUT SNOW CLEARING OF MOSCOW STREETS

March 27, 1919

Dear comrades,

We want to know under what decree the tenants of Vulfovich's house were driven out at 2 a.m. to clear away the snow in front of their house. . . . The tenants were not given due notice that the snow had to be cleared. They only learned of this when the rounds were made of the flats and they were wakened. They were threatened with six months' imprisonment if they refused to go to work. And the end result? The tenants went out but there were only sufficient shovels for one-tenth of their number; the remaining nine-tenths had to stand around and look on.

In my opinion there was no need for such ill-considered measures. Why not, instead, establish a sort of rotation system under which the tenants in each house take turns in clearing away the snow when necessary? Such a decision will only be welcomed. If people are driven out to work in this way there is every chance that their flats may be burgled.

*One of those who worked in the  
early hours of the 12th of March*

### TELEGRAM TO CHEREPOVETS GUBERNIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Cherepovets

Gubernia Executive Committee

29.III.1919

Check complaint by Yefrosinya Andreyevna Yefimova,<sup>1</sup> soldier's wife, of the village of Novoselo, Pokrov Volost,

<sup>1</sup> Y. A. Yefimova's telegraphed complaint was received by Lenin on March 28, 1919. Lenin sent a telegraphed inquiry to the Cherepovets Gubernia Executive Committee, noting at the bottom of the telegram received from Yefimova: "Telegram sent on 29.III".—Ed.

*To the Moscow  
Soviet*

Please read the letter at a plenary meeting of the Soviet of Working People's Deputies and give it due consideration.

Lenin

Belozyorsk Uyezd, concerning confiscation of her grain for common granary, although her husband has been a war prisoner for over four years, and she has a family of three and no farm help. Let me know the results of the investigation and the measures taken by you. [381]

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,

Lenin

**MINUTE WRITTEN ON TELEGRAM FROM  
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FARMERS OF  
BUKHANOVKA**

April 3, 1919

*To Chairman Lenin*

Permit him to  
come<sup>1</sup>

The farmers of Bukhanovka, Galkino Volost, Medyn Uyezd, Kaluga Gubernia, who settled in these parts in 1914, do not have the same rights as other citizens; we have to put up with constant pressure, our farmsteads are going to wreck and ruin. We can bear it no longer. If you consider it necessary, permit me to come to see you and bring documentary proof.

Representative Mikhail Mikhalchuk

---

<sup>1</sup> On April 8, 1919, L. A. Fotiyeva, Secretary of the Council of People's Commissars, sent a telephoned message to Mikhalchuk inviting him to come to see Lenin.—*Ed.*

## TO SARATOV SOVIET INSTITUTIONS

(Gubernia Food Committee, Gubernia Executive Committee,  
City Executive Committee, and others)

April 5, 1919

I fully support the request of the People's Commissariat of Food to assist in every way the Saratov Council for the Protection of Starving Children of the Red Capitals.<sup>1</sup> For my part, I earnestly request you to do everything in your power to help the Council for the Protection of Children.

Chairman, C.P.C.,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

## LETTER TO A. I. SVIDERSKY

5.IV.1919

Cde. Svidersky,

Will you please receive the delegates (or have Frumkin<sup>2</sup> do so) and see what you can do about satisfying their request<sup>3</sup> regarding which we have reached agreement.

Chairman, C.P.C.,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

---

<sup>1</sup> The reference is to Petrograd and Moscow.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> M. I. Frumkin—member of the Collegium of the People's Commissariat of Food.—*Ed.*

<sup>3</sup> The reference is to the petition of the peasants of Skopin Uyezd contained in the instructions of the Uyezd Consultative Congress in which they raise the question of exempting the middle peasant from taxation, increasing the grain quota allowed the peasants, etc.—*Ed.*



**TELEGRAM TO VYATKA GUBERNIA  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Vyatka

Gubernia Executive Committee

Copy to Ustyugov, House Department Registrar

14.IV.1919

Immediately take measures to provide Second Army Commander Shorin's family residing in Svoboda Street, in Khokhlov's house, with decent living conditions. Telegraph exact date of fulfilment of instructions. [445]

Chairman, Council of Defence,

Lenin

**TELEGRAM TO KALUGA GUBERNIA  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Copy to Mosalsk, Uyezd Executive Committee

April 18, 1919

Immediately investigate why property was confiscated from the parents of village schoolteacher Burykin in Spas-Demensk, Mosalsk Uyezd. Investigate actions of Commissar Sinitsyn in village of Lazansk. Inform me personally of results of investigation.

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,

Lenin

**MARGINAL NOTE WRITTEN ON TELEGRAM  
FROM DELEGATES REPRESENTING  
PASSENGERS STRANDED AT  
ARZAMAS STATION**

April 19, 1919  
Telephone Markov<sup>1</sup>  
and note answer

*Moscow, Kremlin, Comrade Lenin*  
Comrade Lenin, we ask you to help us to  
leave Arzamas Station for Moscow. Very many  
passengers are stranded at the station; some of  
them for eight days already. Several passengers  
have fallen ill. Please help us.

**TELEGRAM TO ZHLOBIN RAILWAYS CHEKA**

Zhlobin

Railways Cheka

Copy to Uyezd Executive Committee  
Copy to Mogilyov Gubernia Executive Committee

21.IV.1919

Rabkin, manager of a chemist shop, complains that his bicycle has been confiscated by the Railways Cheka. Immediately investigate matter thoroughly and verify the facts. Telegraph, if there are no military or other special reasons, then those responsible for the confiscation of the bicycle will be punished. [467]

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,  
Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> S. D. Markov--Deputy People's Commissar of Communications.--*Ed.*

**TELEGRAM TO YELETS UYEZD EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE**

Yelets

Uyezd Executive Committee

23.IV.1919

Verify immediately confiscation of rye from Gorichev and his comrades at Yelets Station. Were receipts given, was the confiscation lawful? Should not part, or all of it, be returned? Telegraph. [470]

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,

Lenin

**SAFEGUARD CERTIFICATE FOR V. I. TANNEYEV<sup>1</sup>**

April 26, 1919

This safeguard certificate has been issued, by decision of the Council of People's Commissars of March 25, 1919, to Vladimir Ivanovich Taneyev, aged 78 years, who for many years was engaged in research and who, as Karl Marx said, proved to be "a devoted friend of the emancipation of the people".

---

<sup>1</sup> The Council of People's Commissars, having considered on March 25, 1919, the question of rendering material assistance to V. I. Taneyev, resolved:

"(a) To grant social maintenance to the sum of 2,000 rubles monthly to disabled citizen V. I. Taneyev, 78, who for long years was engaged in research and who, in the words of Karl Marx, showed himself to be 'a devoted friend of the emancipation of the people'.

"(b) Comrade Lenin to sign the safeguard certificate." (Minutes No. 270, folder 2.)—Ed.

Citizen Vladimir Ivanovich Taneyev has the right to visit the library of the Council of People's Commissars; all other state libraries are requested to give him every assistance in his research work. All Soviet authorities are instructed to see to it that Citizen Vladimir Ivanovich Taneyev and his family are given protection and that his house and property are safeguarded. If he should want to travel in the Russian Socialist Soviet Republic all railway and shipping authorities are instructed to give Citizen Vladimir Ivanovich Taneyev and his family all possible assistance to secure train tickets and seats.

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

**TELEGRAM TO THE MINSK GUBERNIA  
MILITARY COMMISSAR AND GUBERNIA  
COMMITTEE**

May 3, 1919

Fyodor Alexandrovich Armand, reconnaissance flyer of the 38th Air Wing, is personally known to me. Although he is an ex-officer and is not a Communist he is trustworthy. I ask the Red Army men and commissars to treat him with confidence. Let me know by wire that my telegram has been forwarded to military unit concerned.

Chairman, Council of Defence,

Lenin

## NOTE TO MOSCOW SOVIET

To *Mos[cow] Soviet of Working People's Deputies*  
for *Cde. Ilya*<sup>1</sup>

or

*Cde. Zagorsky*,<sup>2</sup>

or to the Secretariat of the *M[oscow] C[ommittee]*

5.V.1919

I recommend the bearer Comrade Philip Ilyich Bodrov who has been in the Party since 1894; Nadezhda Konstantinovna has known him *since then*, from the Petrograd days. An experienced Party worker, he wants to work in Moscow; for personal reasons he was unable to do anything up to now.

I ask you to give him a job immediately. I would suggest work in *Ero*<sup>3</sup> which I think is more important for the moment than Party work.

Regards,

Lenin

Please admit the bearer, Comrade P. I. Bodrov, to the Moscow Soviet of Working People's Deputies.

Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> I. V. Tsivtsivadze—member of the Investigation Commission of the Moscow Soviet, Deputy Chairman of the Moscow Revolutionary Tribunal.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> V. M. Zagorsky—Secretary of the Moscow Party Committee.—*Ed.*

<sup>3</sup> Russian abbreviation for the central office under the Soviet of Working People's Deputies handling the unloading of railway freight.—*Ed.*

## CONCERNING ARRANGEMENTS FOR TAKING CHILDREN TO SUMMER COLONIES<sup>1</sup>

May 12, 1919

The removal of children from the northern gubernias to the south, where they will be accommodated in children's colonies during the summer, has begun. All arrangements connected with this are to be made by the Central War Prisoner and Refugee Administration. By decision of the Central Medical Department, hospital trains will be used as far as possible. Since the number of hospital trains will be limited it is necessary to make the most efficient use of them. I therefore urgently request that after unloading, the hospital trains immediately return to place of call for the next trip and that the empties are nowhere delayed. The hospital trains route can be changed only with the permission of the Central Evacuation Bureau.

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,  
Lenin

### NOTE TO MEMBERS OF THE C.E.C. PRESIDUM

May 15, 1919

Tsyurupa receives 2,000 rubles; has a family of 7; dinner costs 12 rubles (and supper); daily expenses  $84 \times 30 = 2,520$  rubles.

They are undernourished, eating only 4 *dinners*, which is clearly not enough. Moreover, the children, adolescents need *more* than adults.

---

<sup>1</sup> Summer colonies—the prototype of the Young Pioneer camps of today.—Ed.

Please consider increasing his salary to 4,000 rubles and issuing, in addition, a grant of 5,000 rubles to his family, who have arrived from Ufa, *to buy clothes*.

Please reply.

Lenin

### NOTE TO V. A. AVANESOV<sup>1</sup>

To Avanesov in the State Control Commission. The official who replied in this manner to be *arrested*.<sup>2</sup>

Lenin

20.V

*Written on May 20, 1919*

---

<sup>1</sup> V. A. Avanesov—member of the Collegium of the C.C. of State Control; from the end of 1919 to 1924—Deputy People's Commissar of Workers' and Peasants' Inspection, member of the Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> Lenin wrote this note to Avanesov in connection with the following fact: On May 13 and 14, 1919, the Administrative Office received two petitions from peasants addressed to the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, in which they complained of the unlawful requisitioning of their horses by the local authorities. The Administrative Office sent both petitions to the Mobilisation Commission of General Field Headquarters. The latter in its turn forwarded the petitions to the Special Commission for Affairs of the Capital, which returned it to the C.P.C. with the inscription on the envelope, "We have more than enough work without having to attend to trifles". It was this reply that aroused Lenin's indignation.—*Ed.*

**MINUTE WRITTEN ON LETTER FROM  
REPRESENTATIVES OF TSARITSYN  
METALLURGICAL WORKS**

[June 6, 1919]

Take down their telephone No. and address.  
Please come at 1.30 p.m. If I am not able to receive you personally, my secretary will see you.

*To Comrade Lenin*

Representatives of the Tsaritsyn Metallurgical Works earnestly ask you to receive them tomorrow, June 7, to discuss the further work of the plant. In spite of repeated requests and telegrams from the Southern Front the matter has not been definitely settled.

*Member of the Works Management  
Member of the Workers' Committee*

**NOTE BY DIRECT LINE TO PEOPLE'S  
COMMISSAR OF FOOD FOR CRIMEA**

**Simferopol**

June 20, 1919

In view of the grave food situation in Great Russia and the acute shortage of food for children, especially sick children, I hereby order that all Crimea's available supplies of canned fruit, and also its cheese supplies be sent to the north of Great Russia to be used exclusively for the nourishment of sick children. The supplies to be addressed to the Commissariat of Food. Promptly inform of measures taken.

Chairman, Council of Defence, Lenin  
People's Commissar of Food, Tsyurupa



**TELEGRAM TO THE CRIMEA COUNCIL OF  
PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS**

Council of People's Commissars, Simferopol

Alupka Executive Committee, Alupka

[Written prior to June 26, 1919]

The widow of the late geologist and scholar Mushketov, who rendered great services in investigating the geology of Russia, is being evicted from her room in Medzhe's cottage, 15 Primorskaya Street, Alupka. If possible, please revoke the eviction order, or see to it that she is moved into another, suitable room.

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,  
Lenin

**LETTER TO A. M. GORKY**

18.VII.1919

Dear A. M.,

Come here for a rest—I often spend a couple of days in the country where I can put you up splendidly for as long as you like.

By all means come.

Wire *when*; we will arrange a sleeper for you so that you can travel comfortably. A change of air will do you a world of good. Awaiting your answer.

Yours,  
Lenin

**MARGINAL NOTE WRITTEN ON TELEGRAM  
FROM YARENSK UYEZD<sup>1</sup>**

[July 30, 1919]

To Vladimirsky.<sup>2</sup> *Energetic* measures must be taken.

**LETTER TO THE ORGANISATIONAL  
BUREAU OF THE C.C.**

To the Organisational Bureau of the C.C.

8.VIII [1919]

I have just received additional information from a *reliable* source that Collegium members are *starving* (for instance, Markov of the Commissariat of Railways, and others). I insist most energetically that the C.C. should: (1) order the Central Executive Committee to issue a special grant of 5,000 rubles to every Collegium member (and those holding a *similar* position); (2) put them all permanently on the *maximum* rations that specialists receive.

It is a shame, really—they are starving and their families are starving!!

There are 100 to 200 people who should be better fed.

---

<sup>1</sup> In this telegram Chukichev reported about the acute food situation in the uyezd and the poor assistance given to the farms of Red Army men.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> M. F. Vladimirsky—member of the Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee.—*Ed.*

**TO THE AGRICULTURAL SECTION  
OF FOOD DEPARTMENT,  
MOSCOW SOVIET OF WORKING PEOPLE'S  
DEPUTIES**

August 23, 1919

I have received some samples of fruit from you grown on state farms, under communication No. 4936 (August 22, 1919). I earnestly beg you not to do this again; no fruit, etc., is to be sent to me. Instead, I want some facts and figures about how fruit, etc., grown on state farms, is distributed generally, whether any is *given to hospitals, sanatoria, children, and if so, where and exactly how much. I want facts about how many state farms you have, the composition of their management boards, how regularly reports are sent, how many have been sent to date and for what period, etc.*

Chairman, C.P.C.,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

**TELEGRAM TO SIMBIRSK CHEKA**

Simbirsk

Gubernia Cheka

28.VIII. 1919

The old man Ivan Yakovlevich Yakovlev and his wife are not to be evicted from their flat.<sup>1</sup> Report back on execution of order.

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,

Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> I. Y. Yakovlev was chairman of the school council of the Chuvash Teachers' Seminary in Simbirsk up to 1917.—*Ed.*

## NOTE TO L. A. FOTIYEVA

[September 11, 1919]

Lyd[ia] Al[exandrovna], please receive him and *do all you can* for him.<sup>1</sup>

Regards,  
Lenin

## TO ALL SOVIET INSTITUTIONS AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES

October 27, 1919

The bearer, Cde. Boris Solomonovich Weisbrod, physician, is personally known to me. He is an old Party worker. You can have *complete* confidence in him. Please give him every assistance.

Chairman, C.P.C.,  
V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

---

<sup>1</sup> The reference is to V. A. Yemelyanov, brother of N. A. Yemelyanov, a Petrograd Bolshevik worker, at whose house V. I. Lenin hid in 1917. In a note to Lenin, dated September 11, 1919, N. A. Yemelyanov asked to help his brother.—Ed.

**MINUTE WRITTEN ON LETTER FROM  
A. P. OSTAPCHENKO**

November 5, 1919

To phone to *prison*,  
to those handling  
the case, and in-  
form me of results.

*Kind Comrade Lenin.*

I have heard of you as a kind and humane person who is sensitive to the misfortunes of others. That is why I have decided to write to you about a mother's grief, trusting in your fairness and that you will understand a broken-hearted mother.

My son, Vladimir Nikolayevich Ostapchenko, is imprisoned in Moscow, in Butyrki Prison, corridor 12, cell 37. Since December 28, 1918 no charge has been brought against him, i.e., no accusation. . . .

I beg you, Comrade Lenin, to interrogate him and let him out on bail. . . . Comrade Lenin, my son is honest, he is incapable of doing anything dishonest. Many Soviet officials in Ryzan know him and they will confirm the truth of my words. . . .

**MINUTE AND MARGINAL NOTE WRITTEN  
ON STATEMENT ABOUT REQUISITIONING  
OF PERSONAL BAGGAGE**

November 19, 1919

**To People's Commissariat of Food**

Please give orders to investigate the matter most carefully and let me know what it is all about. I know Boitsov from the emigration days.

Lenin



V. I. Lenin. A still. 1919

(2)

Мов Семашко!

Еще прошла Я обещаю МВ Кра-  
тову помочь фельдшерше

Грешневой, которая всту-  
палась со мной много раз по ве-  
операции увеченных людей.

Козлов просит дать ей перед-  
ной очередь после целого вмешате-  
лства с девочкой сироткой, которая у нее  
на руках.

Вопрос был, это "вмешате-  
лство" из правил, неразрешаемое  
без Вашего приказа?

Будете любезны, пожалуйста Ва-  
шему секретарю справку об этом  
и вернуть мне или поручить рект.

Купил несконско село,  
и окупиле ранигоридијско  
на згод окупила неј.

21/2 1922

Дат. Летин





V. I. Lenin and N. K. Krupskaya among peasants of Kashino village, Moscow Gubernia. 1920

To Dear Comrade Vladimir Ilyich  
from I. Boitsov (Yegorov)  
Statement

?

why?

In appreciation of the presents sent by the Butyrki district to the Red Army men of the Turkestan Front, the Red Army men sent the district a carload of flour, which it received having the necessary papers. The personal baggage of the escorting personnel, however, was partly requisitioned for they had no official papers authorising its unloading. The personal baggage included that of my brother's, a parcel weighing 15 poods, sent him by our sister, a political worker, for the whole Yegorov family (16 persons).

Our family has been engaged in agriculture for 12 years, but we do not possess our own house or our own horse; we have no grain supplies. Part of the family is away fighting on different fronts of the civil war (the Petrograd and Turkestan fronts); part of the family has been temporarily discharged from the army after two years' voluntary service (the Western and Southern fronts), part are preparing to go to the front; the rest are old folk and small children. . . .

**NOTE BY DIRECT LINE TO B. S. WEISBROD**

November 25, 1919

Samara, Weisbrod

I will inform Semashko<sup>1</sup> immediately of your telegram.<sup>2</sup> We shall try to take all the necessary measures. We have mobilised dentists as doctor's assistants. I wish you all the best.

Lenin

<sup>1</sup> N. A. Semashko—People's Commissar of Public Health.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> In his telegram addressed to V. I. Lenin Dr. Weisbrod wrote: "The situation with regard to typhus in Orenburg is extremely grave, it is impossible to fight the epidemic. There is no firewood, the public baths are closed, the hospitals are not heated, no disinfection can be made. Delivery of firewood is possible only from Bashkir Republic, provided

## NOTE TO A. S. YENUKIDZE<sup>1</sup>

5.XII.1919

Cde. Yenukidze,

Would you please give orders that provisions be issued to Cde. Valentina Petrovna *Smirnova*, who lives in the Kremlin. She is the wife of Vlad[imir] Mikh[ailovich] Smirnov who is away at the front.

They say she is starving.

Please phone and let me know your answer.

Yours,  
Lenin

## TELEGRAM TO OREL GUBERNIA COMMISSAR OF FOOD

December 11, 1919

Peasants of Lavrov Volost complain of high grain quota. They point out that by Christmas they may be short of grain for personal consumption. Check most carefully validity of complaint. If justified rectify injustice.

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,  
Lenin

---

they help with the loading at Kuvandyk and Saraktash stations: although personnel available, no assistance forthcoming. Advisable that Soviet Government of Bashkir Republic directly brings influence to bear on the local Revolutionary Committees. At the same time the Bashkir Republic must be helped with the needed medical personnel. In Orenburg the number of contagious beds must be brought to five thousand. It is necessary to send two additional hospitals."—*Ed.*

<sup>1</sup> A. S. Yenukidze—member of the Presidium and Secretary of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee.—*Ed.*

**TELEGRAM TO N. A. RESKE**

Ufa

Representative, All-Russian Central Executive Committee,  
Reske  
Copy to Fotiyeva

Copy to Gubernia Commissar of Food, Kotomkin

11.XII.1919

Fotiyeva is forbidden to leave earlier than January 1. Report back.<sup>1</sup> [972]

Lenin

**NOTE TO A. B. KHALATOV**

To Cde. Khalatov,

Member of Collegium, People's Commissariat of Food  
Order

19.XII.1919

You are ordered to remain in the sanatorium for *one month* until *complete* recovery so as to be fit for a very difficult job that is awaiting you.

Chairman, C.P.C.,  
V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

---

<sup>1</sup> L. A. Fotiyeva, Secretary of the C.P.C., was undergoing treatment in Ufa at the time.—Ed.

## TELEGRAM TO RYAZAN

December 21, 1919

Express Telegram To 3 addresses in Ryazan:

Ryazan Gubernia Party Committee, Gubernia Executive  
Committee, Gubernia Food Committee

Dear Comrades,

At your conference on December 19 you resolved to dispatch 800 carloads of potatoes in ten days for Moscow workers and outlined a number of measures to this end. It is a splendid undertaking but the crux of the matter is just how successfully and rapidly you will be able to cope with the job you have set yourselves. The working class of Moscow is being throttled by hunger. The question of its salvation is a question of the salvation of the revolution. The brunt of the struggle against the counter-revolution fell and still falls on the working class of Moscow. The Red Army has smashed Kolchak and Yudenich; it will be Denikin's turn next. In order to enable the Red Army to cope as quickly as possible and with a minimum of forces with this task and so make it possible to end the war and turn to the job of peaceful socialist construction, the Moscow worker had to make still another sacrifice. He had to forego for army needs the transport intended for bringing supplies to Moscow. Under these circumstances it is only natural that the localities surrounding the centre of the world revolution should come to the worker's assistance. All Party and all Soviet bodies should realise that supplies for Moscow, the salvation of its working class, is their most sacred revolutionary duty. The success of the revolution depends on your energy and determination. All out to help load and couple the cars. The People's Commissariat of Railways is in charge of the dispatch of food trains to Moscow. Insistently demand of the local bodies of the People's Commissariat of Railways that they carry out this commitment. To work, comrades! For prompt and decisive revolutionary assistance to the Moscow workers!

With Communist greetings,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

**MINUTE WRITTEN ON REPORT OF CHIEF  
OF C.P.C. MOTOR DEPOT<sup>1</sup>**

December 22, 1919

Vladimir Dmitriyevich,<sup>2</sup>

Please convey my thanks to the comrades for their energetic work and issue one pood of flour to them as a premium.

Chairman, C.P.C.,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

**LETTER TO CENTRAL COLLEGIUM  
OF AGITATION CENTRES<sup>3</sup>**

To Central Collegium of Agitation Centres

30.XII.1919

I recommend the bearer, Cde. Maria Movshovich, whom I have known for many years, as a most devoted Party worker. I ask you to place the utmost trust in her and to give her every assistance, in particular, to permit her to take ten days' rest right away to restore her health.

Chairman, C.P.C.,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

---

<sup>1</sup> In a report addressed to the Administrative Manager of the C.P.C. the chief of the motor depot reported: repairs were started on December 15, and finished on December 19; on December 20 the car was put on trial runs. Taking into account the difficulty of the job, the short time in which the repairs were carried out is indicative of the workers' diligent and zealous attitude to the urgent job they had been given.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> V. D. Bonch-Bruyevich.—*Ed.*

<sup>3</sup> The Central Collegium of Agitation Centres was formed by decision of the Defence Council (May 13, 1919) to organise agitational and educational centres at railway junctions and places of entrainment.—*Ed.*

## MARGINAL NOTE WRITTEN ON REPORT OF WORKERS OF BALASHIKHA TEXTILE MILL

5.I.1920

Comrade Svidersky,

Receive the comrades *without fail* or ask another member of the Collegium to receive them and *be sure* to let me know of your decision.

Lenin

[January 5, 1920]

We, workers of the Balashikha state textile mill, Razino Volost, Moscow Uyezd, gathered at a general meeting on January 1, 1920, to discuss the food situation, since we, workers, receive supplies only every 5 or 14 days, and at that only bread. When the Centre sends supplies of potatoes even they are left lying about on the rail track for nearly a month. The general meeting decided to ask you, Comrade Lenin, to appreciate our position. We workers are not asking for the impossible, all we want is to have the strength to work, especially now that our mill is supplied with raw materials and fuel and has started operating. But hunger, coupled with spreading typhus, is putting the workers out of commission. . . .

### LETTER TO M. A. BONCH-BRUYEVICH<sup>1</sup>

5.II.1920

Mikhail Alexandrovich,

Cde. Nikolayev gave me your letter and told me the substance of the matter. I made inquiries with Dzerzhinsky and immediately sent off the two telegrams you requested.

<sup>1</sup> M. A. Bonch-Bruyevich—outstanding wireless engineer. He was in charge of the wireless laboratory which he founded in 1918 in Nizhni-Novgorod (now Gorky).—Ed.

I take this opportunity to express my warm thanks and appreciation for the important work you are doing in wireless invention. A newspaper that needs no paper and to which distances are no obstacle, which you are creating, will be a great thing. You have my promise of every assistance in this and similar work.

Wishing you all the best,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

## TELEGRAM TO REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE OF UKRAINE

Kharkov

February 18, 1920

Please let me know whether you have any information about Sergei Yakovlevich Alliluyev,<sup>1</sup> who had been sent from Kharkov by the Ukrainian Supreme Economic Council as a member of a special commission to inspect the Krivoi Rog mines where he worked from April to the end of June. With the advance of the Whites he evacuated together with the commission to Kiev. At the end of July he returned to Krivoi Rog where he had been sent by the Ukrainian Central Executive Committee to pay the workers of the mines. Since then there has been no news of him. Please inquire of Krivoi Rog and wire me.

Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> S. Y. Alliluyev—worker, revolutionary, Bolshevik. Carried on active underground Party and revolutionary activity in the Transcaucasus, Moscow and Petrograd. V. I. Lenin hid in his flat in Petrograd in July 1917. After the October Revolution Alliluyev held industrial executive posts in Moscow and Leningrad.—*Ed.*



**MINUTE WRITTEN ON TELEPHONE MESSAGE  
FROM CHIEF OF CENTRAL OFFICE HANDLING  
UNLOADING OF FREIGHT (ERO)**

February 22, 1920

To Khalatov: if possible, please see to it that children get it.

Lenin

To Chairman, Council of People's Commissars  
Copy to People's Commissariat of Food

One carload of millet, under No. 458765,  
invoice 2378, has arrived at Moscow Station,  
Kazan Railway, addressed to the Chairman of  
the Council of People's Commissars. ERO wants  
to know where to deliver the millet.

Signed for Chief of ERO, Shapiro

**DECISION OF COUNCIL OF DEFENCE**

February 27, 1920

In view of the completion of the restoration of the bridge across the Kama, at Perm, in exceptionally hard conditions two months ahead of time, calculated on the basis of the maximum labour productivity, the Council of Workers' and Peasants' Defence, noting the exceptional energy and labour discipline displayed on the job by the technical personnel, employees and workers, has decided:

To award all workers, employees and technical personnel who directly participated in the work for not less than three months with two months' wages, and those who were on the job for more than a month but under three months, with a month's wages.

Chairman,

Council of Workers' and Peasants' Defence,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

## NOTES TO INESSA ARMAND<sup>1</sup>

February 1920

1

Dear Friend,

I wanted to telephone you when I learned that you were ill, but the telephone is out of order. Let me know the No. and I will see to it that it is put right.

What is the matter with you? Drop me a line about your health, etc.

Regards,  
Lenin

2

Dear Friend,

Please let me know what is the matter with you. The times are bad what with typhus, influenza and cholera.

I am just out of bed myself and am not allowed outdoors. Nadya is running a temperature of 39; she asked to see you.

What is your temperature?

*Do you need anything* in the way of treatment? I beg you to write frankly.

Get well.

Yours,  
Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> Inessa Armand (Yelizaveta Fyodorovna, 1875-1920)—outstanding figure of the Communist Party and of the international women's communist movement. Member of the C.P.S.U. since 1904, friend of the Lenin family.—*Ed.*

Dear Friend,

Please write, has the doctor been and *what did he say*.

You must do *everything* prescribed.

The telephone is again out of order. I have given instructions to have it fixed and ask your daughters to phone me about your health.

You must do everything the doctor says.

(Nadya's temperature in the morning was 37.3. Now, 38.)

Yours,  
Lenin

February 16-17, 1920

To go out of doors with a temperature of 38 (and up to 39) is sheer madness!

I beg you not to step out of the house, and to tell your daughters *from me* that I ask them to look after you and *not to allow you to go out*

(1) until your temperature is *absolutely* normal and (2) until given permission by the doctor.

Be sure to reply without fail.

(Today, February 16, Nadezhda Konstantinovna's temperature was 39.7 in the morning and now, in the evening, 38.2. I called in the doctors, they say it is quinsy; they will treat it. I am *quite* well.)

Yours,  
Lenin

Today, the 17th, Nadezhda Konstantinovna's temperature is 37.3.

**LETTER TO DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF  
REVOLUTIONARY MILITARY COUNCIL  
OF THE REPUBLIC**

March 22, 1920

Please give orders that Red Army man Pavel Sergeyeovich *Alliluyev* (Sixth Army, First Rifle Division, 159th Rifle Regiment; signals team; deputy chief of signals team) be granted a long leave (for treatment) and then transferred to the Caucasian Front (for a rest in the south, in the reserve).

With Communist greetings,

V. Lenin

P. S. Alliluyev was down with typhus; he has weak lungs. Please have the corresponding authorities inform me that he has been granted leave and given permission to visit his mother in Moscow.

Lenin

**NOTE TO Y. D. STASOVA<sup>1</sup>**

To Y. D. Stasova

[Written not later than March 1920]

Chicherin is ill and there is nobody to take care of him; he shuns treatment and is simply killing himself.

It is necessary to write a letter to him on behalf of the C.C., *courteously worded* (so as not to hurt his feelings), with

---

<sup>1</sup> Y. D. Stasova (b. 1873)—veteran figure in the revolutionary movement; member of the C.P.S.U. since 1898, Hero of Socialist Labour. From February 1917 to March 1920 she worked as a secretary of the C.C., at first in Petrograd and then in Moscow. In 1918-19 she was a member of the C.C. In 1920-21—held responsible Party posts. Now retired on a government pension.—*Ed.*

the C.C. *decision* that government property must not be squandered, that he call in the best doctor (through Karakhan<sup>1</sup> at least), *obey* him and if the doctor so advises, take a vacation and *spend the necessary time in a sanatorium*.

Lenin

**LETTER TO CHAIRMAN OF KAZAN GUBERNIA  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,  
I. I. KHODOROVSKY**

At the University of Kazan there is a docent or professor by the name of

*Adoratsky.*

I have known him for more than 10 years. A most reliable person. A well-educated Marxist.

I have asked him to write an essay on the history of the revolution.

Please

(1) use him extensively for lectures, etc.,

(2) help him and his family with rations (*increased*), firewood, etc.,

(3) wire me his address (and what has been done for him).

6.IV.1920

Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> L. M. Karakhan—member of the Collegium of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs.—*Ed.*

**NOTE TO ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER AND  
TO SECRETARIES OF THE C.P.C.**

April 14, 1920

To the C.P.C. Secretariat and C.P.C. Administrative Office

Immediately see to it that there are *always* carafes with boiled water and several glasses in *all* rooms of the C.P.C. and Defence Council, as well as in all commissions appointed by them.

Chairman, C.P.C.,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

**MINUTE AND MARGINAL NOTE WRITTEN ON  
LETTER FROM A. V. LUNACHARSKY<sup>1</sup>**

April 17, 1920

To the Minor Council<sup>2</sup>: Please attend to the matter. Even more, teachers must be given *preference*.

Lenin

*Chairman, Council of People's Commissars  
Cde. V. I. Lenin*

You have forwarded me a telegram from Kazan complaining about the lack of banknotes.

I have received similar telegrams from Vyatka and Vologda gubernias. In all these places the teachers, for lack of money, have not been receiving their salaries for the past three months.

---

<sup>1</sup> A. V. Lunacharsky—People's Commissar of Education.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> The Minor Council of the C.P.C.—a body with the rights of a commission of the C.P.C. formed to relieve the Council of People's Commissars of minor matters.—*Ed.*

Thus, it appears that where there is absolute starvation in the gubernias the teachers are starving for lack of products, whereas in producer gubernias like Kazan, Vologda and Vyatka where the teachers could actually subsist they are starving for lack of money.

I ask you, Vladimir Ilyich, to issue an order, or to submit for consideration to the Council of People's Commissars that banknotes issued for the needs of the gubernias be distributed proportionally, i.e., if there is a shortage of  $10-20\%$  that this shortage should be apportioned among all departments. Otherwise you have a situation where absolutely everybody, except education workers, are paid their salaries. . . .

### NOTE TO N. A. SEMASHKO

May 3, 1920

If Cde. Semashko is not in, then to be given to Cde. *Solovyov*.

Cde. Semashko,

Please receive the bearer, Cde. Dmitry Nikitich *Yeroshenkov*, medical assistant. He has been recommended to me by a very reliable comrade. Comrade Yeroshenkov will be free for the next few weeks (until we give him a special assignment) and would like to use the time to brush up his medicine, and also to apply himself in this sphere of work. Please help him in the matter.

Yours,  
Lenin

P.S. The comrade has an invention, a very *practical disinfection* chamber. It should be tested and used.

**LETTER TO REVOLUTIONARY MILITARY  
COUNCIL OF THE TURKESTAN FRONT**

May 7, 1920

Please convey my thanks to the 30th Regiment of Red Communards, Turkestan Front, for the macaroni and flour they sent me. I have had it delivered to the children of Moscow.

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,  
V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

**MINUTE WRITTEN ON LETTER FROM  
M. ILYIN AND S. KARYAKIN<sup>1</sup>  
OF THE VILLAGE OF BORSKOYE,  
SAMARA GUBERNIA**

I want Cde. Sereda<sup>2</sup> (or Cde. Milyutin<sup>3</sup> of the Supreme Economic Council, if it concerns him) to give the matter attention and to let me know his opinion.

13.V.1920

Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> In this letter M. Ilyin and S. Karyakin, millers, asked V. I. Lenin to help them work again at their trade, to repair the mill which had been smashed, as a result of which the village of Borskoye was left without flour.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> S. P. Sereda—People's Commissar of Agriculture.—*Ed.*

<sup>3</sup> V. P. Milyutin—Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Economic Council.—*Ed.*



## LETTER TO A. S. SERAFIMOVICH

To Cde. Serafimovich

21.V.1920

Dear Comrade,

My sister has just told me of the terrible misfortune that has befallen you.<sup>1</sup> Allow me to express my deep sympathy, and to wish you firmness of spirit. I am extremely sorry that I have not been able to realise my wish to see you more often and to make your closer acquaintance. But your works, and what my sister has told me, have filled me with a very warm sympathy for you, and I very much want to tell you how much the workers and all of us *need* your work, and how very necessary it is for you to have the strength to overcome your grief and *to force* yourself to return to work. Excuse the brevity of my letter. Once again, allow me to express my deep sympathy.

Yours,  
Lenin

## LETTER TO V. A. OBUKH<sup>2</sup>

June 5, 1920

Dear Vladimir Alexandrovich,

I have just learnt from Maria Ilyinichna about the death of your son. We were both overwhelmed by the news. It was probably a heart disease. Allow me to express on my own behalf, and on behalf of Nadezhda Konstantinovna and Maria Ilyinichna, our deep sympathy for you and your wife who, unfortunately, I have not yet had occasion to meet. You will

---

<sup>1</sup> The writer's son was killed at one of the civil war fronts in May 1920. -Ed.

<sup>2</sup> V. A. Obukh - physician, Party member since 1894. In 1919-29, headed the Moscow department of public health. -Ed.

need great fortitude, in the face of the terrible overstrain of work, to bear the blow. But bear it you must for we have all too few to do the work. Once again, I extend my deep sympathy to you.

Sincerely yours,  
Lenin

**LETTER TO PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT  
OF AGRICULTURE AND PEOPLE'S  
COMMISSARIAT OF FOOD**

June 22, 1920

I propose that Citizen *Tyrkov*, one of the last Mohicans of the heroic Narodnaya Volya group and a participant in the March trial in connection with the assassination of Alexander II,—he is now a very old man—be given two or three dessiatines of land from his former estate, and two cows for his family.

People's Commissar of Agriculture, Cde. Sereda and People's Commissar of Food, Cde. Tsyurupa (or his deputy) to carry out the order promptly by agreement, *via telegraph*, with the local Gubernia Executive Committee.

Chairman, C.P.C.,  
V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

The People's Commissars to state in writing whether they agree or not.

Remind me that the *People's Commissariat of Agriculture* is to report back on *fulfilment of order*.

**LETTER TO SOVIET INSTITUTIONS  
IN SIBERIA**

June 26, 1920

Please give every assistance to the bearer, Comrade *Putintsev*, Ilya Danilovich, to organise a kindergarten and other such undertakings in his locality, Pavlodar Uyezd, Semipalatinsk Gubernia.

Chairman, Council of Labour and Defence,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

**TELEGRAM TO AZERBAIJAN  
ECONOMIC COUNCIL**

**Baku**

June 29, 1920

According to information received by the People's Commissariat of Food you have six thousand poods of pressed black caviare at your disposal which you intend to export by way of independent commerce. We consider it necessary to draw your attention to the undesirability of your unilateral action from the viewpoint of state interests. If you really have a surplus of six thousand poods of pressed caviare we ask you to send it to Moscow, to the People's Commissariat of Food, for distribution among children and sick workers in the starving cities. Wire the People's Commissariat of Food what measures have been taken.

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,

Lenin

## MINUTE WRITTEN ON SECRETARY'S NOTE

July 1920

Two comrades, who have brought on Narimanov's instructions six carloads of caviare from Azerbaijan to be placed at your disposal, are in the reception office, awaiting your orders on the matter.

To be delivered to the *People's Commissariat of Food* for distribution among children.

### LETTER TO G. K. ORJONIKIDZE<sup>1</sup>

August 18, 1920

Comrade Sergo,

Inessa Armand is leaving today. Please don't forget your promise. It is necessary that you wire instructions to Kislovodsk to make the proper arrangements for her and her son and see that your instructions are carried out. Without verification of fulfilment nobody will as much as lift a finger.

Please send me a letter or, if possible, a telegram stating: "letter received, will do everything necessary and see to it that instructions are properly carried out."

In view of the dangerous situation in the Kuban please be in touch with Inessa Armand so as to be able, if need be, to evacuate her and her son in good time to Petrovsk or Astrakhan, or to the mountains (her son is ill) near the Caspian shore, and in general to take all measures necessary.

Please write from time to time about Persia, etc.

You hardly send any news.

Regards,

Yours,

Lenin

<sup>1</sup> G. K. Orjonikidze (1886-1937)—outstanding figure of the Communist Party and the Soviet state and close associate of V. I. Lenin. In 1920 he was a member of the Caucasian Bureau of the C.C. of the Russian Communist Party and a member of the Revolutionary Military Council of the Caucasian Front.—Ed.

**NOTES TO THE MINOR COUNCIL  
ABOUT V. V. VOROVSKY<sup>1</sup>**

1

August 27, 1920

To the Minor Council

In view of Comrade *Vorovsky's extremely grave and dangerous illness* (typhoid, pneumonia, etc.) it is necessary immediately to grant him a substantial allowance for medical treatment and nourishing food.

Chairman, C.P.C.,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

2

September 29, 1920

I support the request for I myself have seen Vorovsky's grave condition; I have received similar requests from other comrades.<sup>2</sup>

Lenin

3

October 28, 1920

To the *Minor Council*: please consider request. If it is impossible to get a nurse on any other conditions you will have to allow for extra expenses. He must be *restored to health* without fail and sent to Italy.

Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> V. V. Vorovsky—prominent figure of the Communist Party, literary critic and Soviet diplomat. Ambassador of the R.S.F.S.R. to Sweden, Norway and Denmark. In 1921-23—Ambassador to Italy.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> Written on V. D. Bonch-Bruyevich's memorandum to the Minor Council requesting that an allowance be granted to V. V. Vorovsky.—*Ed.*

**MINUTE WRITTEN ON TELEGRAM  
FROM SARATOV<sup>1</sup>**

August 31, 1920

To the *Minor Council*: relief must be centralised and co-ordinated, and *properly* distributed.

Lenin

**MARGINAL NOTE WRITTEN ON LETTER  
FROM ACTRESS N. A. NIKULINA**

September 3, 1920

*Dear Vladimir Ilyich,*

Only desperate circumstances compel me to trouble you with a most humble request. I am 74 years old, 51 of which I have served my beloved Moscow to the best of my ability. . . . Aware of the cramped housing situation, I gave up several rooms in my house of my own accord, leaving myself only those I absolutely need and those not fit to be used. Now they threaten to take away these rooms as well. I implore you to help me. Just a few words written on your orders will be a sufficient guarantee.

Verify and phone:  
leave her in peace.

Most respectfully yours,  
N. Nikulina,  
Honoured Actress of the State Maly  
Theatre

---

<sup>1</sup> The telegram contained a request for clothing, footwear and utensils for 345 Saratov railwaymen's families, the victims of a fire.—*Ed.*

**TELEGRAM TO PODOLSK UYEZD  
FOOD COMMITTEE**

September 6, 1920

The following petition has been forwarded to me directly.<sup>1</sup> I can testify to the acute food situation in the village of Bogdanovo (Bogdanikha in common parlance). I therefore ask you to give their petition immediate consideration and, if possible, to ease things for them, that is, if possible to reduce taxation.

Please inform me of your decision by letter and by telephone.

Chairman, C.P.C.,  
V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

**LETTER TO A. G. SCHLICHTER<sup>2</sup>**

**Tambov**

September 9, 1920

Comrade Schlichter,

I have a favour to ask you. Nadezhda Konstantinovna has some friends in Tambov: the old lady Azanchevskaya, Yelizaveta Nikolayevna, and her daughter, Anna Vasilyevna Azanchevskaya. Their address is: Tambov, Hotel Nicholas, Room, I *think* it is No. 1.

---

<sup>1</sup> Reference is to a petition from peasants of the village of Bogdanovo, Moscow Gubernia.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> A. G. Schlichter—Chairman of the Tambov Gubernia Executive Committee in 1920.—*Ed.*

Would you please see to it that they are *adequately* supplied with food. The old lady fully *deserves* it.

Be so good as to drop me a few lines letting me know what you have been able to do, and what provisions have been made that they should not be neglected *if you are no longer there* (in case you *leave, etc.*).

How are things in Tambov Gubernia?

Famine?

Not enough to feed the population (with local supplies)?

What are you doing about it?

Best regards,

Yours,

Lenin

### FROM LETTER TO SIBERIA REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE

September 26, 1920

I am sending you the following points for your consideration. Let me know what you think of them.

Lenin

1. Attention to be paid to the rural poor of Siberia, to supply them under the local surplus-requisitioning system.<sup>1</sup>
2. The production of tar to be organised in Siberia with

<sup>1</sup> Food surplus-requisitioning system—an emergency measure introduced by the Soviet government in the grim years of foreign military intervention and civil war (1918-21) under which the state requisitioned from the peasants at fixed prices all surplus grain and fodder over and above the amounts laid down for personal consumption, seed and cattle feed. In 1921 the surplus-requisitioning system was replaced by a fixed tax in kind, which was more profitable for the peasants.—*Ed.*



the assistance of the local Soviet and the population (local production of tar).

3. The peasants receive one pood of wheat and grind it into fine flour, obtaining 18 to 20 pounds of it. It would be better to grind it into ordinary flour; the peasants would agree to this.

4. Special attention to be paid to the village smiths who repair farm machinery; they should be supplied with coal.

Is it true that there have been cases in Siberia when butter (instead of tar) was used to grease carts?

Lenin

#### NOTE TO PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT OF FOOD

October 21, 1920

The Stavropol peasants (who have brought bread for children) complain that the co-operatives do not give them wheel-grease (although supplies are available) matches and other items.

They let the herring *rot* rather than issue it.

Resentment is running high. The Gubernia Food Commissar's cry is that supplies will be issued only after the full quota has been delivered.

The peasants insist that supplies *be issued immediately*.

They maintain that a quota of 27 million poods is excessive, what is more, *seed* is taken. They say the sowing will surely be *inadequate*.

Stavropol Gubernia has an average harvest (27).

The Kuban (37 million poods) is better than the Stavropol.

Please give the matter your **immediate** attention, especially the first point and let me have your opinion not later than tomorrow.

Address: Kazan (Station), goods yards, goods van No. 506955, on the Krivoi track, *Petrov*, the Gubernia Party Committee.

Chairman, C.P.C.,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

**DECISION OF THE C.P.C.  
TO GRANT A PENSION TO  
M. N. CHERNYSHEVSKY AND TO REPAIR  
THE N. G. CHERNYSHEVSKY<sup>1</sup> MUSEUM  
IN SARATOV**

[October 26, 1920]

At its meeting of October 25, 1920,<sup>2</sup> the Council of People's Commissars decided:

1. To grant Mikhail Nikolayevich Chernyshevsky, the son of Nikolai Gavrilovich Chernyshevsky, a life pension of 20,000 rubles a month and three Red Army non-combat rations.

2. To propose to the Saratov Gubernia Executive Committee to carry out quick repairs on Chernyshevsky's house, where the N. G. Chernyshevsky Museum and the flat of his son, M. N. Chernyshevsky, are housed, and to take the necessary measures to protect and maintain it in good repair.

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

---

<sup>1</sup> N. G. Chernyshevsky (1825-1889)—great Russian revolutionary democrat, scholar, writer and literary critic; one of the outstanding representatives of Russian Social-Democracy.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> The decision was drafted on October 25 and adopted by the Minor Council of People's Commissars at its meeting on October 26, 1920.—*Ed.*

## MARGINAL NOTE WRITTEN ON SECRETARY'S NOTE

December 11, 1920

Maria Fyodorovna Andreyeva telephoned from Petrograd and asked that Vladimir Ilyich be informed that Maxim Gorky left for Moscow today at 1.30 p.m. and will arrive in Moscow tomorrow, December 12, about 1 p.m. She asks that a car be sent to meet him at the station.

Phone V. D. Bonch-Bruyevich to send a car and table down his answer.

## NOTE TO SECRETARY

[Written at the end of 1920 and beginning of 1921]

- (1) read it
- (2) *if necessary*, tell N[adezhda] K[onstantinovna]
- (3) do all you can and *let me know* what still needs to be done to meet the request<sup>1</sup> fully.

## MINUTE WRITTEN ON TELEGRAM FROM G. K. ORJONIKIDZE

January 8, 1921

Do everything possible.

Forward *this* telegram to the *Crimea*, to the Crimea Revolutionary Committee for *Ulyanov* (Simferopol or place of whereabouts) with note: *support Orjonikidze's request.*

Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> This refers to a request by L. Borozdich (Ananyina), an old Narodnaya Volya member, to help her get a flat and some pieces of furniture.  
-Ed.

*Moscow, Kremlin, Lenin*

Rostov, January 7, 1921. Comrade Markov's mother lives in the Crimea. For two and a half years there has been no news of her; she is quite alone, ill and without any means. Please help to find her and, if she is alive, to accommodate her in a sanatorium. Her address was: Alupka, Lutovinova's cottage, down in the orchard. Orjonikidze

**NOTE TO N. P. GORBUNOV<sup>1</sup>**

Comrade Gorbunov,<sup>2</sup>

I have known the author for more than 20 years. He is a most devoted revolutionary. His sister (or two sisters?) works here, and according to everybody, is an excellent and devoted worker. I think that he fully deserves to be helped. Please do not take offence at his irritability (the man is *worn out*) and give him every possible assistance.

26. I [1921]

Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> Written on a letter from P. N. Lepeshinsky, a C.P.S.U. member since 1898, in which he asks that the question of his living quarters be settled. —Ed.

<sup>2</sup> N. P. Gorbunov—Administrative Manager of the Council of People's Commissars from 1920.—Ed.

## ORDER<sup>1</sup>

February 5, 1921

Kropotkin<sup>2</sup> to be allowed a special train.  
To remind me about letter tomorrow.

## LETTER TO N. A. SEMASHKO

28.II.1921

Cde. *Semashko*

Nikolai Alexandrovich,

Cde. Ivan Afanasyev *Chekunov*, a most interesting working peasant who propagates the fundamentals of communism in his own particular way, is here in my office. He has lost his spectacles and paid 15,000 rubles for *junk*. Could you possibly help him get a good pair of spectacles?

---

<sup>1</sup> The order was written in reply to the following note from the secretary: "Semashko asks for a special train to take the doctors to see Kropotkin tomorrow for a consultation. At the People's Commissariat of Railways he was informed that your permission was needed."—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> P. A. Kropotkin (1842-1921)—one of the leaders and theoreticians of anarchism, outstanding geographer and explorer. He lived abroad from 1872 to 1917. Returned to Russia after the February revolution. In 1920 he appealed to the workers of Europe to force their governments to abandon intervention in Soviet Russia. Died of pneumonia on February 8, 1921.—*Ed.*

Please do what you can for him and ask your secretary to let me know *whether you succeeded*.

Yours,  
Lenin

### NOTE TO N. N. KRESTINSKY<sup>1</sup>

[1921, written prior to March]

To Krestinsky

Manuilsky<sup>2</sup> must be *compelled* to see the *best* doctors (send them to him) for a diagnosis and *proper* treatment.

Lenin

### TELEGRAM TO CHAIRMAN OF UFA GUBERNIA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Ufa

To Chairman, Gubernia Executive Committee

Please forward an invitation immediately to Alexei Romanovich Shaposhnikov and Taras Grigoryevich Kondrov, peasants of the village of Beketovo, Bulgakovo Volost, Ufa Uyezd (36 versts from Ufa on the Orenburg Highway) to come to

---

<sup>1</sup> N. N. Krestinsky—People's Commissar of Finance at that time.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> D. Z. Manuilsky—People's Commissar of Agriculture of Ukraine in 1920-21, Secretary of the C.C. of the C.P.(B.) of the Ukraine in 1921.—*Ed.*

Moscow right away to discuss important matters concerning the peasantry and agriculture.<sup>1</sup> They will be in Moscow a few days. Send an efficient, business-like person to Beketovo with the invitation. If they agree, arrange immediately for them to travel in the car of the Party congress delegates, also see to it that they have provisions for the journey and everything else required, and that they are shown every attention and care. Immediately report back by telephone.

1.III.1921

People's Commissar of Food, A. Tsyurupa  
Chairman, Council of People's Commissars, Lenin

#### NOTE TO E. M. SKLYANSKY<sup>2</sup>

3.III.1921

Cde. Sklyansky,

Cde. Kondraty Yemelyanov, a Red Army man (address: 16th Army, 1st Sapper's Company, 5th Rifle Division)

asks me to have him recalled from his unit and to allow him to enter the *Military Engineers Academy* in Petrograd (Sadovaya 4).

He graduated from the Military Engineers School on 22.III.1920 and was assigned to the Western Front.

---

<sup>1</sup> In connection with preparations to substitute a tax in kind for the food surplus-requisitioning system, Lenin received peasants from different gubernias and sounded them out on the best ways and means of improving agriculture. The peasants A. R. Shaposhnikov and T. G. Kondrov, who came to Moscow in early March, 1921, at Lenin's request, had talks with him and with M. I. Kalinin and A. D. Tsyurupa. They also attended the meeting of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee which approved the law on replacement of the surplus-requisitioning system by a tax. On March 30 Shaposhnikov and Kondrov reported at a gubernia non-Party conference in Ufa on their trip to Moscow and their talk with Lenin.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> E. M. Sklyansky—Deputy Chairman of the Revolutionary Military Council of the Republic, Deputy People's Commissar of Military and Naval Affairs.—*Ed.*

He would like to take advantage of the lull at the fronts to continue his education.

I know Cde. Kondraty Yemelyanov and the whole Yemelyanov family personally (he comes from the old guard of Petrograd Bolshevik workers), and that is why I ask you (if you have no particular objections) to comply with Cde. Kondraty Yemelyanov's request and give the necessary orders.

Please drop me a few lines in reply.

With Comm. greetings,

Lenin

### **CERTIFICATE**

March 22, 1921

This is to certify that Shaposhnikov, Alexei Romanovich, peasant from the village of Beketovo, Bulgakovo Volost, Ufa Uyezd, Ufa Gubernia, came to Moscow at my request for talks and advice on important matters concerning peasant farming.

In the talks we had Citizen A. R. Shaposhnikov displayed a conscientious and earnest attitude to the matter in hand.

All Soviet authorities of the R.S.F.S.R. are hereby instructed to give Citizen A. R. Shaposhnikov every assistance to return home to his peaceful labours.

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

### **NOTE TO DEPUTY PEOPLE'S COMMISSAR OF MILITARY AFFAIRS**

March 25, 1921

I have learnt that Cde. Nemitz<sup>1</sup> was kept waiting 3½ hours in the Defence Council and in vain, for his question was not discussed.

<sup>1</sup> A. Nemitz—Commander-in-Chief of the Republic's naval forces.—Ed.



I consider this to be irregular and suggest that in future Cde. Nemitz should be notified in time by telephone or through the secretaries of the Military Department and the Defence Council, and that a car be sent for him (in view of his illness).

Chairman, C.L.D.,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

### NOTE TO D. I. ULYANOV<sup>1</sup>

To Dmitry Ilyich Ulyanov

April 6, 1921

Gubkin (Central Board of Oil Industry) and Lomov (member of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of National Economy) ask me to support their request, and I do so;

Geologist Mushketov<sup>2</sup> (director of Petrograd Mining Institute) is to be given the necessary assistance to bring his mother from the Crimea where she is suffering great privations.

If need be wire me and I'll send another telegram from here, the kind needed.

Regards,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

---

<sup>1</sup> Dmitry Ilyich Ulyanov—V. I. Lenin's brother. Represented the People's Commissariat of Health in the Crimea.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> D. I. Mushketov—the son of a noted professor of geology. In the spring of 1919 Mushketov organised the exploitation of slate deposits in the suburbs of Weimarn, on the Baltic line. In view of the whiteguard offensive on Petrograd, this work had to be stopped.—*Ed.*



V. I. Lenin. A still. 1920



окончанием 2-х шагов  
на шаг вперед

Хочет ли быть, когда  
на опорах держится, продолжая  
свое существование

А было время г. Кондратьев  
Емельянов и все сестры  
Емельяновы (из деревни на-  
звания деревни Солонен-  
кино "Зарянка") и  
поэтому прокуратура (есть то  
лишь одно изображение)  
интервьюировать прокуратуру  
Кондратьев Емельянов и др.  
содержатся в тюрьме.

Даже описано в журнале  
оно слова в описании.

С. Косов. ир. М. М. М.

№ 19 2/1 22

Управление Домов  
Советов.

Ваше письмо от  
22-го июля 1919 г. Комму-  
нальному отделу, касавше-  
гося вопроса о передаче  
зданий бывшей полиции,  
находящихся в районе  
улицы у здания бывшего  
Управления

генерал-квартир-  
ного 2-го дома советского (549),  
который очень мал и  
наблюдает вред сыра в

другую, сухую комнату  
(у коммунальной для  
детей, одну квартиру  
материи).

М. И. В. (подпись)

С. К. Г. Хрущев  
Хрущев

Ваше письмо от  
22-го июля 1919 г.  
касавшееся вопроса  
о передаче зданий  
бывшей полиции,  
находящихся в  
районе улиц у  
здания бывшего  
Управления

29 июля

29 июля

## NOTE TO N. P. GORBUNOV

8.IV [1921]

Cde. Gorbunov, try to give them real help and let me know the outcome.<sup>1</sup>

Lenin

## NOTE TO A. Y. BADAYEV<sup>2</sup> AND A. S. YENUKIDZE

April 23, 1921

(1) Will you please give Cde. Kritsman, member of the Presidium of the Gosplan (State Planning Commission), a second room in the former Metropol, next to the one at present occupied by him, because he needs a special room, in addition to the one occupied by his family, for work and to receive people;

(2) also please arrange for Cde. Kritsman to receive food from a state farm near Moscow, for the doctors have categorically forbidden Comrade Kritsman, who is a sick man, to eat food from stores.

Chairman, C.P.C.,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

---

<sup>1</sup> The note is written on a letter, signed by 49 citizens of the village of Golovkino, Kaluga Gubernia, in which they appealed to Lenin for help after informing him about abuses by the local authorities, and the methods of intimidation practised by them against the peasants.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> A. Y. Badayev—Chairman of the Moscow Consumers' Commune in 1920-21.—*Ed.*

## NOTE TO Y. S. GANETSKY<sup>1</sup>

25.IV.1921

Cde. Ganetsky, two of my secretaries will be seeing you in Riga;

(1) Anna Petrovna Kizas and

(2) Natalya Stepanovna Lepeshinskaya.

I have known both of them in the course of work for a number of years. Their devotion is magnificent. Work in my secretariat is real drudgery—no rest, no holidays. They are tired out and could do with a rest. Please give them their salaries in advance (and a little extra), but

do not give them any work. Let them attend to their health, take a rest and *feed up*.

Regards,

Yours,

Lenin

## NOTE TO MANAGER OF MOSCOW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, A. BURDYUKOV

Sent on 30.IV [1921]

To Manager of Moscow Department of Education,  
Burdyukov

Please make arrangements for Iv[an] Iv[anovich] Skvortsov (Stepanov) to spend the summer in a Moscow country house with a kitchen-garden if possible.

Let me know.

---

<sup>1</sup> Y. S. Ganetsky—member of the Collegium of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador and trade representative in Latvia.—*Ed.*

**NOTE TO M. I. FRUMKIN AND  
G. K. ORJONIKIDZE**

5.V.1921

To Cde. Frumkin,

Rostov-on-Don

and Cde. Orjonikidze,

Tiflis or Baku

or to their deputies

Please see what you can do to help Olga Panteleimonovna Lepeshinskaya, who is tubercular, to get treatment and also what can be done to improve the living conditions of her parents, Panteleimon Nikolayevich and Olga Borisovna Lepeshinsky, old Bolsheviks who will not themselves ask for help. They should be helped by all means.

Please drop me a few lines letting me know what you have been able to do for them.

With Comm. greetings,

*Lenin*

**LETTER TO THE PETROGRAD SOVIET**

May 5, 1921

I have been informed

(1) that Gintsburg, the sculptor who is making a bust of Plekhanov,<sup>1</sup> needs *materials*, clay, etc.

---

<sup>1</sup> G. V. Plekhanov (1856-1918)—a prominent figure of the Russian and international socialist movement and an outstanding Russian philosopher and propagandist of Marxism. He formed the first Russian Marxist group, the Emancipation of Labour, which did a great deal to spread Marxism in Russia. After the Second Congress of the R.S.D.L.P. (1903) Plekhanov advocated reconciliation with the Mensheviks, becoming a Menshevik himself subsequently.—*Ed.*



(2) that the graves of Plekhanov and Zasulich<sup>1</sup> are neglected.

Would it be possible to give instructions on both points, to press the matter and check up on it?

Lenin

### LETTER TO MOSCOW LAND DEPARTMENT

To Moscow Land Department

11.V.1921

The workers of the Soldatenkov Hospital Co-operative ask that the Petrovsky kitchen-gardens be turned over to the workers of the Soldatenkov and Khodynka hospitals and also of the tractor repair shops—in all up to 3,000 people.

I support this request made by the workers and by Dr. Rozanov and ask that it be complied with immediately. If the Moscow Gubernia Land Department is encountering any obstacles in the matter let me know right away what they are; also just what the Moscow Gubernia Land Department thinks about it.<sup>2</sup>

Chairman, Council of Labour and Defence,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

### NOTE TO N. A. SEMASHKO

[May (?) 1921]

Cde. Semashko,

I have been told that Avanesov who is in very bad shape—he has only one lung left (?)—is simply killing himself with work.

<sup>1</sup> V. I. Zasulich (1851-1919)—a Narodnik and later a Social-Democrat. She helped to form the Emancipation of Labour group. In 1903 she aligned herself with Menshevism.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> On the copy of the letter V. I. Lenin noted: "copy 11.V" and "by telephone at 2 p.m. on the 12.V".—*Ed.*

Please have the appropriate professors examine him and get them to give their opinion in written form (both as regards diagnosis and treatment).

With Comm. greetings,  
Lenin

### LETTER TO M. M. LITVINOV<sup>1</sup>

June 23, 1921

Cde. Litvinov,

The bearer, Peshkov, is the son of Gorky. He is a Communist.

When Peshkov went to Italy the first time as a courier we had agreed with the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs that he would remain in Italy.

He was asked to return and, all for the best it would seem, for otherwise we would have had no news and documents from Vorovsky.

But he is going abroad again, and *again they don't want him to remain there*. He needs a rest, which was promised him long ago. Would it be possible *this time* to arrange for him to remain there? Please see what you can do about it and *phone me*.

With Communist greetings,  
Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> M. M. Litvinov—Deputy People's Commissar of Foreign Affairs.—Ed.

## LETTER TO B. S. STOMONYAKOV<sup>1</sup>

30.VI.1921

Cde. Stomonyakov,

I recommend to you the bearer Cde. Georgy Dmitriyevich  
*Tsyurupa*,  
builder of the Kashira Power Station,<sup>2</sup> which is of *extreme*  
importance to us.

He is to be helped with advice, and especially with money  
so as to be able to place the necessary order in Berlin *right*  
*away*, pay for it on the spot and get it attended to *without*  
*the slightest delay*.

Please do what you can to help.

Would it be possible to get hold of Krassin by telegram  
in Berlin en route [from London to Moscow].

With Comm. greetings,

Lenin

## TELEPHONE MESSAGE TO N. A. SEMASHKO

July 15, 1921

Will you please send a doctor immediately to the Kashira  
Power Station site where a cholera epidemic might break out  
owing to the congestion of workers.

Ordered by Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars,  
Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> B. S. Stomonyakov—trade representative in Germany.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> Kashira Power Station—the first Soviet power station to be built by  
decision of the Council of Labour and Defence of March 25, 1919, under  
Lenin's plan for the electrification of the entire country. Lenin took close  
interest in the construction work on the power station and gave it every  
assistance. On May 1, 1922, the Kashira Power Station went into opera-  
tion, supplying Moscow and adjacent regions with an additional substan-  
tial source of electric power.—*Ed.*

## NOTES TO L. B. KRASSIN<sup>1</sup>

[July 16, 1921]

1

Cde. Krassin,

Goldenberg<sup>2</sup> does not want to go abroad, nor does he want to take up literature.

He wants to be useful in the economy where things are most difficult. He asks to be placed in the Commissariat of Foreign Trade.

Have a talk with him.

And arrange that he should have tolerable *material* conditions in Moscow. Discuss the matter with Yenukidze. Please settle the matter.

With Comm. greetings,

Lenin

2

[July 18, 1921]

Cde. Krassin,

Thank you very much for your prompt action on Goldenberg.

But what about *dinners* for him and his family?

If *neither* you *nor* Yenukidze can do anything about it let me know *at once*.

And about the second letter, too.

Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> L. B. Krassin—Ambassador of the R.S.F.S.R. in Britain and People's Commissar of Foreign Trade.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> I. Y. Goldenberg—a leading Bolshevik in 1905-07. In 1921 worked for a short while in the Press Bureau of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs.—*Ed.*

## TELEPHONE MESSAGE TO CHAIRMAN OF MOSCOW GUBERNIA CONSUMERS' COMMUNE

Copy to Presidium of Moscow Soviet  
of Working People's Deputies,

the People's Commissariat of Education

Cde. Smolyaninov<sup>1</sup> has informed me that a delegation of workers and peasants of Stavropol Gubernia have brought a carload of food, addressed to me, as a present for the starving workers. Please see to it, first, that this car is unloaded as quickly as possible and without any delay; secondly, that the food is sent to the most needy Moscow workers, and that they are notified, without fail, that it is a present from Stavropol workers and peasants; thirdly, that the delegation is properly taken care of, and that it is informed of the appreciation of the Moscow Soviet of Working People's Deputies and, finally, that they are supplied with literature and given the opportunity to visit Moscow institutions of interest to them.

Please inform me immediately and precisely of measures taken.

*Lenin*

*Written on July 30, 1921*

---

<sup>1</sup> V. A. Smolyaninov—Deputy Administrative Manager of the Council of Labour and Defence, in charge of economic matters; Administrative Manager of the C.P.C. of the R.S.F.S.R.—*Ed.*

### **NOTE TO V. A. SMOLYANINOV**

To Cde. Smolyaninov

July 30, 1921

Please give every assistance to Cde. Korostelev, member of the Collegium of Workers' and Peasants' Inspection, who is doing a special job for us. See him and if you find you are unable to satisfy all his requests let me know so that I can see what I can do about it.

Lenin

### **TELEGRAM TO A. D. TSYURUPA**

July 1921

To Tsyurupa

In accordance with your application your vacation has been prolonged for another three months. Be of good cheer and be sure to take the full course of treatment. Get yourself fit for work.

Lenin

### **NOTE TO V. A. SMOLYANINOV**

To Cde. Smolyaninov

2.8 [1921]

Have the Minor Council of the C.P.C. attend to the matter *as quickly as possible*.<sup>1</sup>

Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> Reference is to a request made by L. A. Shanyavskaya, an invalid who was becoming blind, to grant her and her companion an allowance to live on.—*Ed.*

## TELEGRAM TO M. K. VLADIMIROV,<sup>1</sup> KHARKOV

August 17, 1921

*To Ukrainian Commissar of Food, Vladimirov*

Copy to Simferopol Special Food Committee,  
Central Ukrainian Health Resort Administration

According to information from Simferopol the food situation in the Crimean health resort is extremely acute, especially with regard to bread. The Ukraine alone can help. See what can be done to dispatch to the Health Resort Administration, Simferopol, as quickly as possible ten carloads of grain, partly in flour, and two carloads of fodder. Inform Bryukhanov<sup>2</sup> and me, reference No. 0976, of measures taken.

*Chairman, Council of People's Commissars*

## LETTER TO THE ORGANISATIONAL BUREAU OF C.C. R.C.P.(B.)

29.VIII.1921

*To Organisational Bureau, C.C. R.C.P.*

Please *order* the Chairman of the State Planning Commission, Cde. Krzhizhanovsky, to go with Krassin to *Riga* for *one month* for a rest and a cure, in a sanatorium or in private lodgings. I particularly ask that this be done today, for I have convinced myself in my capacity as Chairman of the Council of Labour and Defence that the Chairman of the

---

<sup>1</sup> M. K. Vladimirov—People's Commissar of Food in the Ukraine in 1921.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> N. P. Bryukhanov—Deputy People's Commissar of Food (R.S.F.S.R.) in 1921.—*Ed.*

State Planning Commission is *on the verge of a break-down*. He must be put in shape *urgently* and *without delay*. Only an Organisational Bureau decision will compel him to do so.

Chairman, C.L.D.,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

### **NOTE TO G. D. TSYURUPA**

[September 3, 1921]

Kashirstroi, G. D. Tsyurupa

I have been informed that you have arranged for Cde. Krzhizhanovsky to spend his vacation with you. You must prevent him under all circumstances from going to Moscow during his month's rest. Incidentally, please let me know whether you have received an answer from Stomonyakov, and whether work on the Kashira Power Station is proceeding according to schedule or not.

Lenin

### **NOTE TO M. M. LITVINOV<sup>1</sup>**

September 15, 1921

Cde. Litvinov,

Please drop me a few lines letting me know whether this can be arranged. I would very much like to help him study there. I knew nothing about his wife.

With Communist greetings,

Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> Written on a letter from the Ambassador to Italy, V. V. Vorovsky, in which he asked Lenin to issue instructions that M. A. Peshkov, the son of A. M. Gorky, and his wife be granted an allowance to study.—Ed.



## LETTER TO I. I. MIROSHNIKOV<sup>1</sup>

Copy to Cde. Gorbunov and to Cde. Miroshnikov

September 19, 1921

I have been informed that the lift will not be working on September 20, 21 and 22.

This is absolutely outrageous. There are people suffering from heart trouble for whom climbing stairs is both harmful and dangerous. I have made it clear a thousand times that the lift must be kept in order, and that somebody should be made responsible for this.

I severely reprimand you and charge you to establish who are responsible for not giving due notice: let me have a list of their names once again and the penalties imposed on them.

Chairman, C.P.C.,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

## LETTER TO THE ORGANISATIONAL BUREAU OF THE C.C. R.C.P.(B.)<sup>1</sup>

*To Organisational Bureau, C.C.*

September 22, 1921

I have known Cde. Shapovalov for a very long time, since the years of exile at the end of the 19th century and of emigration at the beginning of the 20th. I can testify that he is one of the best of the old Party guard, a devoted and honest man. I therefore consider it my duty to support his request to be allowed to go abroad for a cure and to work in the People's Commissariat of Foreign Trade.

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

---

<sup>1</sup> I. I. Miroshnikov—Assistant Administrative Manager of the C.P.C.—*Ed.*

## TELEGRAM TO A. D. TSYURUPA

Berlin. Urgent. Tsyurupa

October 19, 1921

Without fail strictly carry out Professor Kraus' orders. Take *full* course of treatment and bring *me* professor's written opinion and *prescription for convalescent*. [01267]

Chairman, C.P.C.,

Lenin

## LETTER TO THE ORGANISATIONAL BUREAU OF THE C.C. R.C.P.(B.)

October 21, 1921

In view of I. I. Skvortsov's (Stepanov's) request, please cancel his business trip and, instead, "banish" him for one or one and a half months to a dairy state farm *near Moscow* where he will not be distracted by other matters, and will be able to finish his literary work.<sup>1</sup> (The state farm to be found through the corresponding Moscow body.)

Lenin

## NOTE TO HOUSE AND LAND DEPARTMENT MANAGER

To House and Land Department Manager

7.XI [1921]

Please grant this request,<sup>2</sup> and telephone L. A. Fotiyeva in the Administrative Office of the C.P.C. that this has been done.

Chairman, C.P.C.,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

<sup>1</sup> Reference is to I. I. Stepanov's book *Electrification of the R.S.F.S.R. in Connection with the Transition Phase of World Economy*, published in 1922 with a preface written by V. I. Lenin.—Ed.

<sup>2</sup> The request was made by B. A. Rubiner-Sliozberg who asked that she be given two rooms for herself and her child in view of her difficult condition.—Ed.

**ORDER TO SECRETARY WRITTEN ON LETTER  
FROM I. A. PETRUSHKIN,  
MEMBER OF ALL-RUSSIAN CENTRAL  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

To

*Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,  
Lenin*

From

Petrushkin, All-Russian Central Executive  
Committee member representing non-Party  
peasants

Request

Make an ap-  
pointment for  
*Friday*, 12 noon,  
tentatively: check  
at 11.30,<sup>1</sup> 23.XI  
[1921]

Lenin

In order to share my impressions with you  
of my trip to Vladimir, Cherepovets, Rybinsk  
and other gubernias, and in order to convey  
the requests of the peasants who grow grain  
addressed to you I would appreciate it if you  
could spare me a few minutes to report briefly  
to you, for as a peasant and representative of  
the peasants it is most desirable that I see you.

I know that you are terribly busy, still I  
venture to ask you to spare me a few minutes  
and make an appointment. My address is: First  
House of Soviets, Room 312, telephone 2-06-82,  
extension 312.

With comradely greetings,  
Iv. Petrushkin,

22.XI.21

Member of A.R.C.E.C.

---

<sup>1</sup> V. I. Lenin received I. A. Petrushkin on November 30, 1921, - *Ed.*

## NOTE TO N. P. GORBUNOV

To N. P. Gorbunov

29.XI [1921]

Please check whether anything been done and what, and let me know.<sup>1</sup>

Lenin

## TO HOUSE MANAGER OF A.R.C.E.C.

November 30, 1921

Please see to it that a room in the First House of Soviets be given right away to Cde. Cecilia Samoilovna Bobrovskaya, whom I know well as an old Party worker. Her present living conditions are absolutely intolerable and her doctors have ordered her to be moved at once to one of the Houses of Soviets.

Let my secretariat know when this has been done.

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

P.S. I know Bobrovskaya since *before* 1905 and that she is capable of suffering in silence indefinitely. Therefore she must be helped quickly.

---

<sup>1</sup> It was a question of issuing additional rations to Belov, a member of the Minor Council, who had tuberculosis, regarding which A. Kiselyov had written to Lenin.—*Ed.*

**TELEGRAM TO IRKUTSK GUBERNIA  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

December 5, 1921

Immediately find out why the worker Kotov of the Cheremkhovo economic department has been put into the Irkutsk prison. In a letter addressed to Lenin dated August 23 he complained that the elections to the Cheremkhovo City Soviet had been irregular, for non-Party people were not admitted. This complaint has been confirmed in a statement signed by worker members of the Party. If this is the reason for his arrest, immediately release him and bring to trial and Party cleansing those responsible, irrespective of who they may be. At the same time inquire of the Irkutsk Management Department why Kotov was not sent to his home town of Voskresensk, as requested by the Secretariat of the Council of People's Commissars in its letter of September 20. Immediately wire reply.

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,

Lenin

**TELEGRAM TO DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE  
COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS OF THE  
CRIMEA, POLYAKOV**

Simferopol, Deputy Chairman, Council of People's Commissars of the Crimea, Polyakov

6.XII [1921]

Please see what you can do to help Alexei Andreyevich Preobrazhensky whose living conditions are bad. He is an old revolutionary whom I have known personally since the nineties. The address is: Yalta, District Health Resort Administration. [01461]

Lenin

## TELEGRAM TO T. A. ROTHSTEIN<sup>1</sup>

To Rothstein (c/o N. P. Gorbunov)

December 7, 1921

Please look after Varya Armand.<sup>2</sup> If necessary, send her here with somebody. See that she is warmly clothed.

Lenin

## NOTE TO L. A. FOTIYEVA

9.XII [1921]

L[ydia] Al[exandrovna],

After you have read the enclosed (so that you can check on what has been done) please forward it to Cde. Semashko.

Then check and expedite matters to send

*Smilga*<sup>3</sup> to Germany for a cure and

*Rudzutak*<sup>4</sup> to a sanatorium.

Please phone and let me know what you have done about this and the results.

Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> T. A. Rothstein—Ambassador in Persia.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> Varya Armand—daughter of Inessa Armand.—*Ed.*

<sup>3</sup> I. T. Smilga—Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council of National Economy, Head of the Central Fuel Board.—*Ed.*

<sup>4</sup> Y. E. Rudzutak—Chairman of the C.C. of the Transport Workers' Union, General Secretary of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions.—*Ed.*

**FOR MEMBERS OF THE POLITICAL BUREAU  
OF THE C.C. R.C.P.(B.)**

12.XII.21

Circular for members of the Political Bureau.

Krestinsky writes that Gorky has left Riga without any money and that he hopes to get royalties for the publication of his books from Stomonyakov. Krestinsky thinks that Gorky should be included among the comrades who are undergoing a cure abroad at the expense of the Party or the Council. I propose that the Political Bureau approve Krestinsky's proposal to include Gorky among these comrades and to check that he is amply provided with the necessary money needed for his cure.<sup>1</sup>

Lenin

**LETTER TO THE MANAGEMENT OF HOUSES  
OF SOVIETS**

[January 2, 1922]

To House Management of Soviets

Please move Cde. Kolesnikova, the wife of a responsible Party worker who was shot,<sup>2</sup> from the room she at present occupies in the Second House of Soviets (549)—it is a very small room, but the main thing is that it is *very damp*—into

---

<sup>1</sup> On December 21, 1921, the Political Bureau of the C.C. R.C.P.(B.) approved V. I. Lenin's proposal.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> Y. D. Zevin—one of the 26 Baku commissars shot on September 20, 1918, by the British interventionists with the connivance of the Socialist-Revolutionaries.—*Ed.*

another, dry room (Kolesnikova has two children, one of whom suffers from malaria).

Chairman, C.P.C.,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)<sup>1</sup>

### FROM A LETTER TO A. D. TSYURUPA

Cde. Tsyurupa,

After having given every consideration to the situation and the doctor's written statement which you showed me, I beg you to take the following into account:

I shall not be able to return to work for another three, or maybe, four weeks. The situation at the moment is a very difficult one and C.C. members cannot therefore afford to tear themselves away from other matters and participate directly in the work of the C.P.C. and the C.L.D. The doctor has permitted you to work 8 hours a day. I absolutely insist that in the coming four weeks you confine yourself to a four-hour working day, and completely rest on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. The rest of the time you are to observe a sanatorium regime. I am arranging that lodgings are found near Sokolniki Park for you and your wife, so that you will have your constant nurse, good food, etc. Otherwise I am certain that you will not be able to hold out for four weeks, and it is absolutely necessary that you do, considering the political situation. You will devote two out of the four hours to meetings of the C.P.C. and C.L.D., each of which we will arrange to meet twice weekly, the remaining two hours you will devote solely for signing protocols, and for the absolute minimum of telephone and private talks. If we arrange matters in this way our apparatus will not be impaired in the least in the coming four weeks. . . . Once more I ask that you accept this plan and carry it out implicitly, for it is an ab-

---

<sup>1</sup> V. I. Lenin's request was compiled with on the following day, N. N. Kolesnikova receiving the necessary papers.—*Ed.*



solutely utopian undertaking to try to guard your flat against the stream of friends from the Commissariat of Food and other organisations.

Please let me know your answer as soon as possible through Fotiyeva.

Lenin

21.I.22

**FROM A LETTER TO P. A. ZALUTSKY<sup>1</sup>  
AND A. A. SOLTS<sup>2</sup>**

To Cde. Zalutsky and Cde. Solts

The news has reached me that Nadezhda Sergeevna Alliluyeva has been expelled from the Party. Personally I know her work as secretary in the Administrative Office of the C.P.C., that is, very closely. However, I think it necessary to inform you that I know the whole Alliluyev family, i.e., the father, mother and two daughters, since before the October Revolution. In particular, during the July days when I... had to go into hiding and the danger was very great, it was her family that hid me, and all its members who enjoyed the complete confidence of the Party Bolsheviks... rendered a number of services of a secret nature... It is very possible that the Commission is unaware of this, considering the youth of Nadezhda Sergeevna Alliluyeva. Furthermore, I wonder whether the Commission had an opportunity when examining her case to check it against information about her father who performed the most diverse functions for the Party long before the Revolution and who, I have heard, rendered major services to the Bolsheviks when they worked illegally under tsarism.

---

<sup>1</sup> P. A. Zalutsky—Chairman of the Central Party Purging Commission.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> A. A. Solts—member of the Commission.—*Ed.*

I consider it my duty to bring these facts to the notice of the Central Party Purging Commission.<sup>1</sup>

Lenin

December 20, 1921<sup>2</sup>

**LETTER TO P. A. ZALUTSKY  
AND A. A. SOLTS**

To Cde. Zalutsky and Cde. Solts

Cde. Kasparova-Popova (address: Third House of Soviets, Flat 63, tel. 58-97) has appealed to me. She writes that she is in absolute despair because she has been expelled from the Party and asks me to intercede with the Central Party Purging Commission to examine her case more thoroughly, referring in this connection to her brother Slava Kasparov and her husband Popov who had been sent by Cde. Sverdlov to the Far East where he was killed. She writes that together with her brother at the age of 14 she began to take an interest in the Party when she joined one of its study circles, and

---

<sup>1</sup> After October 1917, when the Communist Party became the ruling party, representatives of various parties and classes tried to get into its ranks. To safeguard itself against hostile and alien class elements the Party was obliged to purge its ranks.

Thus, in 1919, in accordance with a decision of the Eighth Congress of the R.C.P.(B.), a re-registration of Party members was carried out.

The first general Party purging took place in 1921, when there was a certain revival of capitalist elements in the country following the transition to NEP (New Economic Policy), under which private trade was permitted, the key positions in the national economy remaining in the hands of the proletarian state.

The Eighteenth Congress of the C.P.S.U.(B.) abolished the practice of periodic Party purges, resolving that the Party could purge its ranks in routine manner of persons who violated the Party Programme, Rules and discipline.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> N. S. Alliluyeva was reinstated.—*Ed.*

that already at the age of 17 she joined the Party where she performed purely technical work.

I do not know Kasparova personally, or I simply do not remember her; but I knew her brother very well when he was in emigration after the first revolution of 1905. He was a member of the Bolshevik organisation, and enjoyed the deserved respect of all Bolsheviks whom I had occasion to meet and who had known Kasparov through his work. Kasparov died in Switzerland before the 1917 Revolution (his health was broken by the wretched conditions of life in emigration).

I shall try to collect additional information about Kasparov's sister from persons who know her better.

I request the Central Party Purging Commission to re-examine Cde. Kasparova's expulsion from the Party.<sup>1</sup>

Lenin

December 20, 1921, 8 p.m.

### TELEPHONE MESSAGE TO PRESIDUM OF A.R.C.E.C.

January 9, 1922

Please help Sergei Frolov, a peasant from the village of Alakayevka, Samara Gubernia, which he represents, to purchase grain for the village, and to procure seed for the spring sowing. I happen to know this village<sup>2</sup> and I think it would be politically useful that peasants should not return without definite assurances of assistance.

Please try to arrange this, and let me know what you have managed to do.

Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> Y. M. Popova (Kasparova) was reinstated in the Party.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> Lenin lived on a farm near the village of Alakayevka in the spring and summer of 1889-93.—*Ed.*

## FROM A LETTER TO THE C.C. SECRETARIAT

January 17, 1922

I have the following request to make to the Secretariat of the C.C. (and if it comes within the competence of the Organisational Bureau, then to the latter) on behalf of two comrades.

(1) The daughter of Margarita Vasilyevna Fofanova, 15 years old, is suffering from a serious form of bone tuberculosis. Please send her (and if it is necessary, together with her mother) to our sanatorium in Riga. They have no means, of course.

I have known M. V. Fofanova, who is an energetic and devoted Bolshevik, since the summer of 1917. In the autumn of that year, just before October when things were critical she hid me in her flat.

Since the Revolution of October 1917 she has been working without a let-up. She is terribly worried about her daughter.

(Fofanova's address is: Fourth House of Soviets, Vozdvizhenka 5, Flat 31.)

(2) Please arrange for Nina Kotovich-Sammer, 14 years old, to enter the 1st class of a model school of the People's Commissariat of Education. The address is: Maroseika, House 2/15, Tsentrosoyuz hostel.

I knew her father, the late Ivan Adamovich Sammer, very well. He was an old revolutionary and Bolshevik, and a member of the Central Committee before the first (1905) revolution. He died in the Ukraine in 1920. He simply killed himself with work.

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

**REGARDING MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR  
V. A. AVANESOV**

1

**TELEGRAM TO THE EMBASSY IN RIGA**

[1922, written prior to March 29]

Make every effort to secure a visa immediately for Avanesov, Deputy People's Commissar of the Workers' and Peasants' Inspection. Visiting German doctors find that his condition is critical. The spring is particularly dangerous for him. He must leave at once. Pull all wires. We fully vouch for him.

Reply at once.

Lenin

2

**NOTE TO V. A. AVANESOV**

[April 1922]

So you are really and truly leaving? When? Or are you *again* going to sabotage? Don't you care about your health?

**TO THE C.C. SECRETARIAT**

March 29, 1922

I ask that you give Skvortsov-Stepanov a rest and instruct the Moscow Committee not to involve him in any work (note enclosed), for he *absolutely* needs a rest.

With Communist greetings,

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

## LETTER TO THE PRESIDIUM OF THE SOCIALIST ACADEMY<sup>1</sup>

To the Presidium of the Socialist Academy

I hereby certify that the bearer, Cde. Vladimir Viktorovich Adoratsky is a Bolshevik known to me personally since 1911. He is fully trustworthy. He is a member of the R.C.P.; is a man of letters.

He is preparing to put out a volume of the selected letters of Marx, which work he has discussed with me.

Please give him every assistance in the matter, order the necessary books for him and, in particular, allow him to spend four hours every morning in the Socialist Academy and to use its library.

10.IV.1922

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

## LETTER TO P. M. KERZHENTSEV<sup>2</sup>

13.IV.1922

Cde. Kerzhentsev,

I ask that you treat Cde. Bela Kun<sup>3</sup> with the fullest confidence and give him and his family *every* assistance to find

---

<sup>1</sup> The letter was written in connection with V. V. Adoratsky's letter to Lenin that he was preparing a selection of the letters of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels for publication, and asking Lenin to help him in the matter.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> P. M. Kerzhentsev was Ambassador of the R.S.F.S.R. in Sweden at the time.—*Ed.*

<sup>3</sup> Bela Kun—outstanding figure of the Hungarian and international working-class movement, and one of the founders and leaders of the Communist Party of Hungary and of the Hungarian Soviet government. After the fall of the Soviet power in Hungary in August 1919, he escaped to Austria where he was interned. Upon his release he left for Soviet

lodgings in Stockholm, get a rest and a cure (which he *badly* needs), etc.

Best regards,

Yours,

Lenin

## TO THE PEOPLE'S COMMISSARIAT OF HEALTH

April 25, 1922

Cde. Semashko,

Please give the necessary instructions for *Yekaterina Alekseyevna Nechkina*, a nurse of Soldatenkov Hospital, to be sent to a sanatorium in *the Crimea*, for a rest and a cure.

Please be good enough to send me a copy of your order to this effect, and if you meet with any obstacles in carrying out my request, please let me know what they are.

With Communist greetings,

Lenin

## NOTE TO A. D. TSYURUPA

[April 27, 1922]

Cde. Tsyurupa,

Will it be enough if I put it as follows:  
(to whom? to deputies?)

Recognising Cde. Yakovenko's request to be *politically* important and also that I positively promised to support him in the matter when he was appointed People's Commissar,

---

Russia. In 1920 he was appointed a member of the Revolutionary Military Council of the Southern Front and later Chairman of the Crimean Revolutionary Committee. — *Ed.*

I ask that you do what you can to comply with Cde. Yakovenko's request (if not 100 per cent, then at least 50 per cent).<sup>1</sup>

### NOTE TO V. A. SMOLYANINOV

May 13, 1922

Cde. Smolyaninov,

Will you please find out whether it is true, as I have been told privately, that Academician Lazarev who has for a long time been working on the Kursk magnetic anomaly is disheartened by the alleged refusal to give him any financial support.

Please find out what sum he had expected to receive and the amount he was actually<sup>2</sup> granted.

Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> Reference is to a request made by the People's Commissar of Agriculture, V. G. Yakovenko, for relief funds for the population of Kansk Uyezd, Yenisei Gubernia. In reply to the above note V. I. Lenin was informed that the People's Commissariat of Agriculture had made the necessary allocations.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> The necessary funds were duly allocated for the purchase abroad of the equipment needed to explore the Kursk magnetic anomaly, and Academician P. P. Lazarev subsequently reported that everything had been financially arranged.—*Ed.*



**NOTES TO RENDER ASSISTANCE TO  
PERSONNEL OF THE SOLDATENKOV  
HOSPITAL<sup>1</sup>**

[1922, written prior to May 21]

(Semashko)

To give Greshneva (very poor)  
a vacation (together) *with the orphan*  
(a girl) she is looking after  
(to give annual vacation)

To Dr. *Ochkin*  
materially very bad off  
(his wife is ill)  
(his daughter is ill)

To send him and *his son* to the *Riga* seashore in July<sup>2</sup>.

**NOTE TO N. A. SEMASHKO**

May 21, 1922

Cde. Semashko,

I have still another request. I promised V. N. Rozanov that I would help doctor's assistant *Greshneva* who looked after me for many days after the operation to extract the bullet.

Rozanov asks that she be given her *annual* vacation this summer *together with the orphan girl* she is taking care of.

---

<sup>1</sup> Lenin was operated on in the Soldatenkov Hospital (now named after Dr. S. P. Botkin) on April 23, 1922, to extract one of the bullets which remained in his body after the attempt on his life on August 30, 1918.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> Reference is to the surgeon V. N. Rozanov.—*Ed.*

Evidently this "together" is an exception to the general rule which cannot be permitted without your consent?

Please be good enough to have your secretary write an order to that effect and drop me a few lines, or ask somebody to do so, letting me know whether you can give such an order or not.

Yours,  
Lenin

### FROM A LETTER TO THE C.C. SECRETARIAT

... To send V. N. Rozanov, surgeon of the Soldatenkov Hospital, *with his son* to Riga in July, for a rest together.

V. N. Rozanov who refused to take any fee from me now, as in 1918, although he came to see me several times asked me to help him. According to Cde. Semashko he is the best surgeon we have; he does not rest enough.

That is why I ask that he be given an opportunity to do so; please have the secretary inform me of the decision of the Organisational Bureau or of the Secretariat of the Central Committee on the matter.<sup>1</sup>

Lenin

21.V.1922

### NOTE TO L. B. KRASSIN

[October 4, 1922]

Cde. Krassin,

You have a certain *Yermakov* (chief of the transport and supply department?), a member of the Collegium, working in

---

<sup>1</sup> On May 23, 1922, the Secretariat of the C.C. R.C.P.(B.) resolved to send V. N. Rozanov and his son to Riga for a rest.—*Ed.*

your place. I had occasion to meet him two or three times during the civil war years when he was carrying out most difficult, responsible and dangerous assignments. He is a remarkable person. It appears that he is *seriously* ill (he is spitting blood). He tried to undergo a cure but never saw it through, for the local "lads" usually involved him in work. He has a big family, his salary is 200 million rubles, which is a mere pittance.

That is bad. Such people must get the proper medical treatment. He must be sent to Germany for several months, and his family must be helped. (Drop me a few lines confidentially.<sup>1</sup>)

Yours,  
Lenin

---

<sup>1</sup> On the same day, October 4, L. B. Krassin wrote to V. I. Lenin that he had no objections to V. S. Yermakov, chief of the transport and supply department of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Trade, going abroad, to Italy, where he could take a cure and at the same time familiarise himself with the work of the ports, the unloading machinery, etc. On October 16, V. I. Lenin instructed his secretary to check whether Yermakov had been given money and received a note from the latter that all the necessary arrangements had been made.—*Ed.*

# RECOLLECTIONS

## **MAN AND COMRADE**

From the recollections of S. M. Kirov, outstanding leader of the Communist Party and Soviet State

A few words about Lenin the man. A more warm-hearted person none of us had ever met. His was a many-sided personality. He always found the key to our hearts. There was not a single Party member who did not know of his kind-heartedness.

He was an excellent judge of character but never made it obvious. He was always accessible and sociable. He could spend hours with workers and peasants discussing unimportant matters. Even our enemies were charmed by Ilyich.

Nobody had a better understanding of humanity than he did. That was the mainspring of his revolutionary daring.

## **LENIN'S CONCERN FOR PEOPLE**

From the recollections of N. A. Semashko

In my capacity as People's Commissar of Health I came into contact with the sufferings of comrades, with their personal requirements and needs. Knowing this Vladimir Ilyich often approached me when it was a matter of satisfying the needs of comrades, and also sometimes of other people. In most cases Vladimir Ilyich would get in touch with me by phone or in person, but as often as not through a note. Unfortunately, I was careless enough not to preserve these notes which could serve as the best illustration of Vladimir Ilyich's

fine spiritual qualities, of his ability to appreciate the personal needs of an individual and of his never failing consideration to all who came into contact with him.

Not a day passed without receiving a request from him to give a comrade help who needed it. And very often I openly expressed my amazement over the phone, or in person, that though engrossed in affairs of state he managed to find the time to attend to such particulars. I would beg him not to burden himself with such trifles, but to no avail.

There was the case of doctor's assistant G. whom he happened to meet in the hospital where he underwent an operation. He already knew that she was taking care of an orphaned girl, that she could be helped only as "an exception to the general rule", and he asked me to "be good enough" to let him know whether I could do it.

There were a number of similar requests: to arrange accommodation in the Crimea for a hospital nurse; to help a comrade to go abroad for a cure; to find a room for an old woman revolutionary, etc., etc. Needless to say Vladimir Ilyich's immediate colleagues enjoyed his constant solicitude. In his notes and requests you continually come across the names of comrades who stood in need of medical treatment which they invariably received.

Usually, Vladimir Ilyich would ask me to send in my conclusions about a comrade's health. He would then have the Central Committee pass a decision that the comrade in question must go away for a rest, thus precluding any arguments on the part of the comrade about "this being impossible" due to "pressure of work".

The following is a typical C.C. decision, made on Comrade Lenin's proposal: "In view of the fact that Chicherin is dangerously overstraining himself we consider it absolutely necessary that he be given a vacation and request that Comrade Semashko give us his opinion on the matter." (5.XII. 1921.)

It is characteristic that Comrade Lenin was solicitous of comrades not only when they were sick; he saw to it that

the necessary "prophylactic" measures were taken in good time. Nothing escaped his attention. In one of the notes to me he wrote: "Cde. Semashko, I have been told that Avanesov who is in very bad shape is simply killing himself with work. . . . Please have him examined by responsible professors and get them to give their opinion in written form (both in regard to diagnosis and treatment). With Communist greetings, Lenin."

Vladimir Ilyich never allowed matters to be neglected. And it is indisputable that his solicitude and insistence helped to save the life of many of the "old guard" and the health of many and many a comrade.

Vladimir Ilyich extended a helping hand to comrades not only after he became Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars.

I knew him for sixteen years, from the days when we were in emigration. He was just the same there: ever ready to help, to interest himself in others. My family and I were living in extremely straitened circumstances at the time. And no matter how hard we tried to hide this from Vladimir Ilyich he invariably found a way of tiding us over. In 1918 my 18-year-old daughter, whom Vladimir Ilyich used to play with when we were abroad, died. Everything happened at once. Apart from my grief at her death I was weighed down by financial worries. I did not tell Vladimir Ilyich anything about my troubles. Imagine my surprise therefore when I received the following note:

"By a decision of the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars this sum is being forwarded to you for the funeral expenses of your daughter."

Many things flash across the memory today which give an insight into this profound and many-sided personality.

Remarkably attentive to the needs of comrades, trying in every way to improve their working and living conditions, Vladimir Ilyich was extraordinarily modest in his own tastes. In her reminiscences Nadezhda Konstantinovna Krupskaya describes how modestly they lived during the years of emi-

gration: a small room containing an iron bed, a deal table, cluttered with books, a couple of chairs and a stool. Vladimir Ilyich retained his simple habits even as head of the biggest state in Europe. When the government moved from Petrograd to Moscow a comfortable, spacious flat was put at his disposal. But he preferred to move into a small flat with tiny rooms—hardly larger than those he had lived in when in emigration. When he was moved to Gorki on doctors' orders and they wanted to put him in the former country house of the ex-governor of Moscow he refused to live there and moved into a small room in one of the wings. When the director of one of the state farms near Moscow brought Lenin fruit during his convalescence after the attempt on his life by the Socialist-Revolutionary Kaplan, he gave him a good dressing-down and ordered that the fruit be delivered immediately to a children's sanatorium.

Vladimir Ilyich combined exceptional consideration for the working people and remarkable sensitiveness to their needs with a bitter, implacable hatred for the enemies of the working class and the revolution. All his life he lived up to the definition of communist morality which he gave at the Third Congress of the Komsomol: "Our ethics spring from the interests of the class struggle of the proletariat". Vladimir Ilyich never hesitated to make a clean break with former colleagues once they stood in the way of the social revolution, and he never hesitated to fight them ruthlessly.

Vladimir Ilyich's words and deeds were never at variance. He was a man of rare integrity, devoted heart and soul to the cause of socialism.

## **LENIN AND CHILDREN**

Lenin loved children deeply and gave them his particular attention.

In the biographies of great people you often come across a feature common to them all—their love for children. We read that Marx liked to relax in the society of his children



and grandchildren and with zest would pretend to be a cavalry charger when the toddlers climbed onto his shoulders; that Tolstoy was most at ease in the company of children.

Vladimir Ilyich, too, loved the company of children. There is that familiar picture of him with children taken in a village near Moscow. It shows him relaxed and smiling, the wrinkles of care smoothed away. When I lived near Paris he often dropped in to play with the children. His innate ability to handle children was a constant source of wonder to me: they simply adored him and eagerly awaited his every visit. He knew how to talk to them, to invent entertaining games. I remember that time in 1911 when Lenin and I went cycling several miles out of Paris and my 11-year-old daughter begged us to take her along with us. Vladimir Ilyich of course insisted that we take her along. It was uphill going, the roadway being very steep. How tenderly he looked after her, riding by her side at every steep incline and helping her up on the bicycle. When I told him that it would not hurt her to pull her own bicycle, even if she was a little tired, that after all she was a healthy and robust lassie, he gave me a piece of his mind for my "barbarous attitude towards my daughter" adding, "children should be taken away from parents like you".

When he became the head of a state occupying a sixth of the globe, Comrade Lenin showed constant concern for the welfare of children in the Soviet state. Soon after the Great October Socialist Revolution the Council for Child Protection was set up under the People's Commissariat of Education. The Council board included representatives from all Commissariats concerned with children, such as the People's Commissariat of Health, People's Commissariat of Food, People's Commissariat of Social Maintenance, People's Commissariat of Home Affairs, etc. Later, when Vladimir Ilyich saw that the Council was not carrying enough weight with the other People's Commissariats and that its decisions were often not put into effect he suggested that a child welfare commission be formed under a supreme body, namely the Pre-

sidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee. F. E. Dzerzhinsky, a true friend of children, was placed at the head.

Vladimir Ilyich displayed particular solicitude for children in the grim years of famine and economic dislocation. The remarkable decrees signed by Comrade Lenin, issued at the period by the Council of People's Commissars, will always be evidence of the Soviet government's and Comrade Lenin's care for children. In connection with the formation of the Child Welfare Commission the C.C. of the C.P.S.U.(B.) and the Presidium of the A.R.C.E.C. addressed a letter to the respective local organisations, which ended with the words: "The children in the Soviet proletarian state must be fully provided for, and they will be provided for, notwithstanding the grave economic and food difficulties the country is experiencing."

A decree passed in 1919, signed by Comrade Lenin, declared: "All food supplies issued by the local food bodies to children up to 14, henceforth to be issued free of charge, at the expense of the state... Food products for children to be given priority... All children of the above-mentioned age limit are entitled to free food supplies..." The best country houses and buildings of state farms were taken over for children's institutions, in accordance with an order by Comrade Lenin to this effect. One of the decrees signed by him stated: "To regard the transport of goods for children's colonies as important as military freight."

Vladimir Ilyich displayed solicitude not only for the health of the child population. He also concerned himself with the education and upbringing of the rising generation, as his instructions concerning schooling, the introduction of universal education, etc., show.

## CARE FOR COMRADES

From the recollections of Y. D. Stasova

Vladimir Ilyich could combine care for comrades with matters of state importance. Although he was working at high pressure he always found time for comrades.

When Lenin learnt that Felix Dzerzhinsky had worked himself to a state where he was spitting blood he phoned me and proposed that the Central Committee adopt a resolution to the effect that Dzerzhinsky was to take two weeks' leave at Narofominsk. At that time the best state farm in the Moscow area was at Narofominsk and Dzerzhinsky could get good food there. Vladimir Ilyich, who always thought things out to the smallest detail, also took into account the fact that there was no telephone at the farm which meant that Dzerzhinsky could not phone Moscow and would therefore get a better rest.

Lenin was always concerned with the needs of the comrades, seeing to it that one got the footwear he needed, another a cap, that in all the offices of the Council of People's Commissars decanters of water and glasses for visitors were available. And through the secretary he would without fail check whether the matter had been attended to.

## THOUGHTFULNESS FOR THE NEEDS OF OTHERS

From the recollections of L. A. Fotiyeva, Secretary of the Council of People's Commissars and the Council of Labour and Defence

Vladimir Ilyich's unceasing concern for people, his extraordinary consideration for others is well known. This attentiveness to the needs of others was not only generous, it was also tactful and tender. He used to write letters and notes to various institutions asking that some person or other be helped. He never made it *an order*, however, but simply a

*request* to help a comrade with food, firewood, clothes, medical treatment, to send him for a rest, etc.

Take Lenin's note addressed to the Moscow Department of Public Education: "Please make arrangements for a summer holiday for Ivan Ivanovich Skvortsov (Stepanov) in the environs of Moscow, if possible where there is a kitchen-garden."

When Vladimir Ilyich noticed that A. I. Khryashcheva, assistant director of the Central Statistical Board, regularly attended all meetings of the C.P.C., which in those days ended about 1 or 2 in the morning, he wrote to his secretary during one of the meetings:

"If Khryashcheva lives far away and has to walk there, that must be hard on her. Tell her that she may leave earlier, and in fact she need not attend at all on the days when there are no statistical matters to discuss." And apparently afraid that Khryashcheva might take offence, he added: "Tell her on a suitable occasion and very tactfully."

Lenin usually wrote notes such as the above on a small writing pad. The notes were numerous but perhaps even more so were his verbal orders to the secretary: please ring up such and such a comrade, find out what help can be given, make definite arrangements and let the comrade in need know.

At one of the meetings of the Council of Labour and Defence the director of the Central Statistical Board, Comrade Popov asked that a car be placed at his disposal. The meeting agreed to this, but afterwards Vladimir Ilyich said to me: "He should be given a car, of course, but questions of this sort should not be brought before C.L.D. meetings. Our comrades are often helpless in matters of personal comfort; they have to be helped, they have their hands full and they can't be bothered. So it's up to you to take care of them. You must be mother, sister, and nurse to every People's Commissar."

In fact Vladimir Ilyich would often tell me just what to do. He even wrote a formal order that I was to look after

the health of A. D. Tsyurupa, People's Commissar of Food, to see to it that he had the proper nourishment and rest, that he left in time for a sanatorium and obeyed the doctor's orders.

When Vladimir Ilyich insisted on a comrade taking a lengthy cure he would call it sending him for "a complete overhaul". When one of the comrades of his staff left for Ufa he sent a letter to a leading comrade there in which he wrote that "this 'government property' . . . must be put into good shape".

A dining-room was established at the C.P.C. on Lenin's initiative. There was famine in the country. Even leading officials were only slightly better off than the rest of the people. It so happened that at one of the C.P.C. meetings a member of the C.P.C. fainted. The doctor who was called in put it down chiefly to hunger. Soon after that Vladimir Ilyich said to me: "Keep an eye on the comrades. Some of them are so emaciated, they look simply awful. Arrange for a dining-room to be opened to feed about 30 to begin with, and include the most emaciated, the most famished." The dining-room was opened in the Kremlin, in the premises of the so-called Cavalier Wing, and at the start catered for 30 of the "most emaciated". Eventually it was removed from the Kremlin and placed under the management of the Kremlin Medical and Sanitary Inspection Department.

It was also on Lenin's initiative that a medical commission of the Central Committee was formed. When the doctors would insist on one or another comrade taking an immediate rest and treatment, Vladimir Ilyich demanded that the doctor's orders be obeyed to the letter. But the comrade in question believed that he was irreplaceable, that if he went on leave work would come to a standstill and, disobeying doctors' orders, continued to undermine his health. Vladimir Ilyich thereupon saw to it that the Political Bureau passed a decision on the matter and charged the Secretary of the Central Committee with its fulfilment, i.e., that the comrade

in question left for a cure. In most cases it was a hard job to get them to obey orders. These questions took up much of the Secretariat's time and to avoid this the Medical Commission of the Central Committee was formed on Lenin's instructions. . . .

## **MODESTY THAT CAME FROM THE INMOST HEART**

From the recollections of S. N. Alikin, Kremlin guard

During the grim years of the civil war and intervention and the difficult rehabilitation period workers or peasants would send Lenin some extras as a gift but Ilyich invariably had them forwarded to a kindergarten or crèche.

Once Sergei Mironovich Kirov who was working in Astrakhan at the time, sent a confidential letter to Lenin by special messenger in which he reported that the workers of Baku had managed to slip through the whiteguard lines and deliver petrol to Astrakhan. Knowing of the acute food situation in Moscow Sergei Mironovich had also sent along some butter and caviare for Ilyich.

The messenger delivered the letter and the package to Ilyich. After reading the letter Lenin called his secretary, L. A. Fotiyeva and asked her to forward the butter and caviare to a kindergarten or crèche.

The special messenger was puzzled and even somewhat taken aback.

"The package was addressed personally to you, Vladimir Ilyich," he said, "and you are sending it on to a kindergarten. What am I to tell Sergei Mironovich?"

"If you are worried on this score," Ilyich replied, "I can give you a receipt that I got the package of butter and caviare."

Whenever Lenin received food packages from different parts of the country, his housekeeper, Sanya Sysoyeva would report:

"Vladimir Ilyich, another food package has been delivered to you. Shall I take it?"

"Please do," came the answer, "and immediately send it on to a crèche or a children's hospital." And the following day he would inquire as usual:

"Well Sanya, have you sent off the package?"

Once Volga fishermen brought Ilyich a sturgeon. Sanya immediately began to clean it, delighted at the thought that Ilyich would for once have a substantial meal.

As she was preparing the sturgeon Lenin unexpectedly walked into the kitchen.

"What a capital fish," he remarked. "Where ever did you get it?"

And when he learnt that fishermen had sent it to him as a present he sternly said to Sanya:

"You have evidently forgotten my request that no presents are to be accepted. Wrap up this fish and send it right away to a children's home."

Sanya began to argue:

"Vladimir Ilyich, but you too have to eat. You're working so hard and eating next to nothing."

"Nonsense!" replied Ilyich. "Here children are starving and you've taken it into your head to treat me to sturgeon. Please send it right away to a children's home."

Lenin's modesty was not affected. It was innate with him. It was part of his very being.

## **STORY ABOUT WITHHELD WAGES**

Recollections of P. P. Alexandrov, member of the Anchar  
Factory Trade Union Committee

The Anchar munitions plant in the Narva district, started operating at the very beginning of the imperialist war. Already before the October Revolution the Bolsheviki at this

plant began to carry out control of production through the Factory Committee. The management, following Ryabushinsky's slogan "strangle the revolution with the gaunt hand of famine", retaliated by withholding wages.

After the October Revolution the Factory Committee took over management of the enterprise. The first problem that had to be tackled was the payment of wages which had been withheld since October 1917. To this end two members of the Factory Committee—Comrade Vasilyev and I—were appointed to obtain the necessary money.

We began to make the rounds of various institutions. We applied to the Petrograd and the Central Ordnance Department, to the Board of Directors, to the so-called Council of Factory Owners, but all to no avail. The old officials whom the Soviet government had not yet had time to replace sabotaged in every possible way. Either we were informed that we did not have the right documents, or that our question would be considered within a week or two.

October, November and the greater part of December passed, and still no money was forthcoming. The workers were starving, and resentment was beginning to run high at the plant. The workers were bitterly critical not only of the management, but of the "good-for-nothings" from the Factory Committee, and especially of the two of us. Finally, on December 30, in the evening, the Central Ordnance Department wrote out a cheque for 800,000 rubles to be drawn on the State Bank. We immediately informed the Factory Committee of this, and it was decided to pay the workers of the night shift on December 31, at 2 or 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

On December 31 we took the factory car and went to the State Bank only to be informed by the teller that it being a holiday in the bank we could get the money only on January 2. We then sought out the bank commissar but he merely shrugged his shoulders and said that there was nothing he could do about it.

Suddenly a happy idea struck us: let's go to Lenin.



Just a few days before the Council of People's Commissars had taken five million rubles from the bank to meet the immediate requirements of the revolution. We had learnt of this from the bourgeois papers still appearing in the country which had raised a howl that "the Bolsheviks were looting Russia".

We drove off to the Smolny and made straight for Comrade Lenin's reception office. Comrade Gorbunov who was in the reception office told us that Lenin was not in for the moment, and asked us to wait.

Some five minutes later Vladimir Ilyich entered. After shaking hands with us he inquired where we were from, whether there were many workers at the plant, whether we had an organisation of the Bolsheviks there, and so on and so forth. All questions answered, Ilyich then asked:

"Well, now what have you come to see me about?"

We told him about the deferred payment of wages, about the difficulties we had encountered and that although we had a cheque to be drawn on the bank the money had not been issued.

"And what can I do about it?" asked Vladimir Ilyich.

"Well, it's like this," we said, "we have learnt that the C.P.C. recently procured five million rubles from the bank. Would it be possible to draw on this cheque the money we need out of that sum?"

"Why not," replied Vladimir Ilyich. "Find Bonch-Bruyevich and Sverdlov and ask them to step this way."

We quickly found comrades Sverdlov and Bonch-Bruyevich and twenty minutes later were given the necessary slip of paper to pay out to us the needed sum.

On our way to the cashier our attention was caught by the pencilled inscription "Dining-Room" on one of the doors in the corridor. It was the dining-room of the C.P.C. We looked at each other: Maybe we could have a meal here. It was the lunch hour and we were feeling pretty hungry.

We went back to Comrade Gorbunov. He right away gave us two checks and took us to the dining-room. We looked forward to having a real substantial "government" lunch. It was a time of famine and meagre rations and we could do with a good meal.

The dining-room contained several long tables covered with oilcloth. On one of them was a platter of sliced bread, a pile of aluminium bowls and spoons. In exchange for the checks and money we were given two pieces of bread and two bowls of cabbage soup.

We sat down, took our first mouthful and... our eyes literally popped out of our heads—the cabbage soup was sour and the herring floating in it did not improve matters. The second dish was served in the same bowl and consisted of buckwheat porridge. We ate everything with gusto, of course, but it seemed to us that Comrade Gorbunov had given us checks to an ordinary dining-room.

We said as much to him, but he assured us that there was only one dining-room at the Smolny.

"Do you mean to tell us that this is where the People's Commissars dine?"

"Yes."

"And also Lenin?"

"Right!"

After hearing this we decided that our lunch could not have been more tasty.

On receiving the money we left straight for the plant where the workers were already waiting for us. But before paying them their wages we told them how we had been received at the bank, how Lenin had received us, and how in some twenty minutes he had settled the matter that had given us so much trouble. We did not forget to mention in passing the C.P.C. dining-room.

Vladimir Ilyich Lenin's simplicity and consideration won the hearts of all.

## THE ELDER

Recollections of Y. Aleyev, former aide-de-camp to the  
Commandant of Taurida Palace

On a November day in 1917 as I was climbing the stairs to the second floor of the Smolny I noticed four peasants with knapsacks elbowing their way through the crowd. All four wore sheepskin coats, caps with earflaps and bast-shoes. They peered curiously at every door, and at every person they passed.

Vladimir Ilyich was swiftly coming their way.

When he drew level with them, one of the peasants, a bearded old man, asked him haltingly:

"My good man, where can we find the elder who now rules Russia instead of the tsar? We are from Kostroma, from a village community. We need to see him."

Casting a cursory glance at the old man Vladimir Ilyich said: "You'll find the elder there"—and pointing to one of the doors continued on his way with his brisk step.

Going to the door indicated—it was Vladimir Ilyich's private office—the peasants hesitantly stepped into the empty room, and removed their caps and knapsacks.

I walked in after them.

A few minutes later Lenin entered his office.

A lively conversation ensued. Drawing up his chair to his visitors, Vladimir Ilyich began to ask them a host of questions—all about their families, about the community and its needs, about the changes that had taken place in the countryside following the revolution, etc., etc.

He spoke in simple and understandable language about the tasks of the new people's power, about the need to put an end to the war, to allot land to the peasants, and in the first place to the poor peasants.

Lenin conversed with the Kostroma peasants for more than an hour patiently explaining things and answering their questions. Members of the staff kept coming into the office

with urgent matters, but Lenin asked them not to interrupt.

At the end of their talk Ilyich warmly took leave of the four peasants, shaking hands with each. He then asked me to take them to the dining-room and on his behalf to tell Comrade Malkov, Commandant of the Smolny, to have the peasants taken to the station by car and to help them get tickets.

On the way to the dining-room the peasants asked me: "Son, did we actually talk with Lenin himself?"

"You did," I replied.

"We imagined him to be quite different. We thought he was a *barin* or a governor. But he is not at all like that. He is like any one of us." And their faces lit up with pleasure.

## PEASANT REPRESENTATIVES VISIT ILYICH IN THE SMOLNY

From the recollections of M. N. Skrypnik, staff member of the C.P.C. Secretariat

Those were days of a veritable pilgrimage to Lenin. No matter the time of the day, the reception office was filled with people who had come from different parts of the country to see Vladimir Ilyich. They would sit there for hours patiently waiting to be received. No matter how hard we tried to persuade them that it was useless, they would refuse to return without catching a glimpse of Lenin at least from a distance. Some of them, after having been received, would ask the secretary to give them "a paper" to the effect that they had really been received by Lenin. These requests were made, as a rule, by peasant representatives. They would carefully wrap the slip of paper in a clean rag, like a precious relic, and tuck it away.

Peasant representatives who had seen Lenin and received his wise counsel were held in high esteem in the village which would turn out en masse to hear the man "who had seen Lenin and spoken with him".

Peasant representatives came from the most outlying villages of the Ryazan, Kursk and even Kiev gubernias to see Ilyich. They came to the capital, caught up in the flame of revolution, on the kopeks collected by the community.

"We had to drop everything, the farm, the household, the kiddies, because the community had decided that representatives must be sent to see Comrade Lenin," peasant representatives would often tell me gravely.

I had occasion to witness how happy they were when they were received by this wonderful person.

The cordial and warm manner in which Lenin welcomed peasants always evoked a deep fellow feeling for him. When I would take them to the Smolny dining-room they would inquire how Vladimir Ilyich was being fed.

I call to mind the group of peasants who came to clear up matters about the strips of land they had purchased through the Peasant Bank long before the revolution. The villagers regarded them as landowners and had their eyes on their land, even though they were middle peasants who in blood and sweat had acquired the land strips the landlords had stolen from them in the post-Reform<sup>1</sup> period. The law on the socialisation of land, under which the land was to be allotted according to the size of the peasant family, had not yet been adopted. Under the Decree on Land the land of the ordinary peasant was not subject to re-allotment. I hesitated to give them a final answer on the matter and decided to take them in to see Lenin.

Following their talk with Lenin they were given the necessary document addressed to the local gubernia authorities.

"Now we know what to do," they said when taking leave of me.

A month later they came to see Lenin again. Encouraged

---

<sup>1</sup> The Reform of 1861 which abolished serfdom in Russia. Under this reform the tsarist government compelled the peasants, in return for the allotments assigned to them, to pay redemption to the landlords amounting to several times the real price of land.—*Ed.*

by their talk with him they had demanded, on their return to the village, new elections to the Soviet of Working People's Deputies where kulaks, who were shielding big leaseholders, had entrenched themselves.

"We have come to thank Vladimir Ilyich for giving us the right counsel," they said in tones of deep respect for Ilyich.

When I informed Lenin of their arrival he himself came out of his private office and heartily greeted them.

Before returning the greeting one of the peasants extracted a big loaf of bread from his knapsack and solemnly presented it to the dumbfounded Lenin, with the words:

"You could do with an extra loaf here."

Accepting the loaf with an embarrassed smile Lenin said: "I just won't have the time to eat it all."

Soon the whole group were seated at a round table with Lenin, deep in friendly conversation, the loaf forgotten.

Bread in those days was indeed the most precious gift the village could give. In this way the peasants showed their deep respect for the leader of the workers and peasants.

"We discussed the matter in the community," they told us in the Secretariat, "and it was decided to honour the defender of our rights by sending him a loaf of bread."

Cordially taking leave of me they expressed the wish that every volost send peasant representatives to meet Vladimir Ilyich personally.

I remember another visit, this time of peasant representatives from several gubernias. They wanted to seize fields sown to beet saying that "there was nothing better than land sown to beet". I argued with them that the workers' and peasants' power could not permit the beet fields to be destroyed. But they stubbornly kept reiterating one and the same thing:

"We can't manage without this land. We need it to sow it to wheat. Take us to Lenin. He will in all fairness permit us to do it."

I took them to Vladimir Ilyich. He himself opened the door of his private office and shaking hands with the peasants invited them in. Fifteen minutes later I walked into his office

to find him sitting, as was his wont in such cases, relaxed in an armchair, his hands thrust in his trouser pockets attentively listening to the peasants, who were telling Vladimir Ilyich unhurriedly about the affairs of the village. I heard snatches of what Lenin was saying.

"How are we going to manage without sugar refineries? We need sugar for export, to trade with. . ."

When the peasants came out of Lenin's office I could see that they were positively intoxicated with their talk, their meeting with the "chief Bolshevik", as they referred to the head of the workers' and peasants' government in conversation with me. Reserved by nature, and habitually suspicious of the city, they took nothing for granted. But it was obvious that they too had been impressed by the strength of mind of Vladimir Ilyich. This strength of mind expressed a clear and explicit proletarian line, his firm conviction of the need to establish a bond of friendship between the workers and peasants. The peasants surrounded me and kept saying:

"When we get back we shall tell the village all about our visit, how he explained everything to us the proper way."

One of the peasants added:

"Now we have a wise manager, one who understands the peasant."

In answer to this praise I told them that Lenin had studied the life of the peasants, knew of their struggle for land and freedom; that all his life he had taught the workers and the Bolshevik Party how to fight for land and freedom for the peasants. At this point one of the peasants suddenly asked me:

"Do you mean to tell us that he decides all matters on his own?"

I replied that Vladimir Ilyich decides all state matters together with the Party, with the Central Committee of the Bolsheviks, that the Party and Lenin are one.

Here another peasant interjected:

"Does this mean that nothing is decided without him, that he runs everything and approves all laws?"

So great was their confidence in him, in his skilful and wise leadership, that they wanted to take it for granted that nothing was done without Lenin.

I told Lenin of this. He clearly was pleased judging from his gay, slightly ironical smile. Did Vladimir Ilyich already then know that their reaction was a small indication of the great bond between worker and peasant? Maybe that is why Ilyich never, as a rule, refused to receive peasant delegates....

### **WHEN I AM DOWNHEARTED I THINK OF HIM**

N. N. Vorontsova, waitress in the C.P.C. dining-room

Before writing about Vladimir Ilyich I want to explain how I came to be in the Smolny, what I thought about the Bolsheviks, and especially about Vladimir Ilyich.

My husband, who worked at one of the plants in Petrograd, was in the Red Guard. After October he was stationed at the Smolny. It was then that he told me a reliable person was needed to prepare meals at the Smolny. He suggested that I take the job, although he knew that I considered the Bolsheviks to be antichrists. I feared them like the devil. To me they seemed to be anything but human. I regarded them as dangerous heathens, as supernatural spirits, and Vladimir Ilyich as the arch-fiend. He had even come racing by on some kind of armoured train. For all I knew he may have been cast out of heaven by God. Such were the kind of thoughts that passed through my muddled head.

My husband and I often had words on this score. I would rail at him and tell him that he had sold his soul to the antichrists, and that was why we were having such a hard time.

One day he specially came home to take me to the Smolny. We were living at the time in the Vasilyevsky Ostrov district.





V. I. Lenin on the Red Square. November 7, 1919



A heart-to-heart talk (drawing by N. Zhukov)

"You idiot," he said to me. "Go and see for yourself what this antichrist looks like."

And that is how I came to be at the Smolny.

Soon after I took up my duties I saw Vladimir Ilyich. With me was my six-year-old daughter Tanya. She was on crutches, one of her legs in a plaster cast because of tuberculosis of the bone.

"What is your name, my child, and what is the matter with your leg?" Vladimir Ilyich asked, shaking hands with me, but looking at my daughter all the time.

Turning to me he asked:

"So you are Comrade Vorontsov's wife?"

I replied in the affirmative, not daring to look at him.

I saw Vladimir Ilyich every day. He would never pass without stopping to talk to Tanya, or to give her a sweet or a biscuit, saying:

"Look what I have for you Tanya. It's not very much. But the time will come when you will have all the sweets and biscuits you'll want."

Vladimir Ilyich would often play with the child. He would stand her near the telephone and after explaining to her how to talk into the receiver, would climb to the second floor and phone her from there much to her delight.

There was that incident with the bread. I used to receive a bread ration for 15 people,  $\frac{1}{8}$  of a pound for each. That particular day I was given a ration for 25 people by mistake. I noticed this, but decided to say nothing for we could do with the extra bread. I thought of Vladimir Ilyich who worked round the clock and hardly ate anything. And so, after I had served him his tea with the extra portion of bread I lingered on in the room, hoping that he would praise me for this. Vladimir Ilyich, of course, noticed that there was more bread than usual and after glancing through the paper asked me:

"Comrade Vorontsova, why have you given me so much bread, when the ration has remained the same, half-a-quarter? Where did you get it?"

Lenin gave me such a stern look that I wished the ground would open and swallow me. I hastened to explain that the young lady who had served the bread had made a mistake.

"But I assure you," I went on, "they have plenty of bread, the shelves are stacked."

"Do you imagine, Comrade Vorontsova," said Vladimir Ilyich, "that they have to supply only us and the others you take care of?"

He there and then cut off the extra piece of bread I had served saying:

"Please take this right back and never do this sort of thing again."

I don't remember how I left the room, I was so embarrassed. But I came away convinced that he was a saint. And whenever I went outdoors I would get into the nearest chapel and light a candle for him.

"Forgive me," I would pray, "for having thought so unkindly of a saint."

The day the Whites were routed on the approaches to Petrograd, Comrade Lenin came into the kitchen, as usual to see Tanya. He was in high spirits. Giving Tanya a biscuit he said:

"Now, my child, you are going to get well soon. We will send you to a sanatorium."

I was overjoyed, of course. And then, plucking up my courage I blurted out:

"Please forgive me, Vladimir Ilyich, and don't be angry with me, but I thought you were. . . ."

And I told him what I had thought about him in the beginning and now.

Lenin smiled, and placing his hand on my shoulder said:

"You are not to blame for this. You were made to believe all kinds of things. It is not you, Comrade Vorontsova, who is at fault. And I am not in the least bit angry with you. Only I would suggest that with the money you spend on your candles you should buy something for your little girl. She could do with more food."

He then told me briefly all about the priests, how they dupe the credulous and live off them.

To this day I often find myself thinking of Vladimir Ilyich. I recall his kindness, his thoughtful, kind gaze. I think of him whenever I am downhearted.

## CONSTANT CONSIDERATION FOR OTHERS

From the recollections of B. S. Weisbrod,  
V. I. Lenin's physician

No one was more considerate of the health of the comrades he worked with than Ilyich. Although fully occupied with matters of state and leadership of the country he took a fatherly interest in them and sounded the alarm if he noticed that anyone was showing signs of ill health or overstrain.

"He looks rather poorly, Comrade Weisbrod," Lenin would often remark about some comrade. "I think you should drop in to see him, and find out what's wrong. I'll give you a car."

Many was the time I heard Vladimir Ilyich say to a member of his staff:

"You ought to be called to account for your careless attitude to government property, that is, to yourself."

Always thoughtful of others, Lenin was remarkably modest about his own needs.

When he was lying dangerously ill, following the dastardly attempt on his life by the Socialist-Revolutionary Kaplan, escaping death by a hairbreadth, we doctors, naturally were terribly upset and concerned for his life, to save which every worker would gladly have sacrificed his own. Vladimir Ilyich seeing our anxiety tried to cheer us up, to assure us that he was feeling better and that there was no need for all the fuss.

"Why are you sitting by my bedside," he said to me. "Shouldn't you be at the hospital?"

Lenin rapidly pulled through. Special medical bulletins daily informed the country of his condition. The people's deep anxiety and love literally filled the room where we battled for the life of their leader. We were flooded with inquiries and telephone calls asking for the latest news about his health. I shall never forget the day when Vladimir Ilyich himself added in his own hand on the latest medical bulletin that he was convalescing and asked people not to bother the doctors any more with phone calls inquiring about his health.

This was yet another instance of his solicitude for those who were looking after him.

When Vladimir Ilyich was on the highroad to recovery I began to spend more and more time in the hospital where I was working. He took a lively interest in everything concerning the hospital. He wanted to know how the patients were being fed, where and how we obtained provisions, and much else.

As soon as he was able to walk about Lenin promptly ignored doctors' orders and resumed intensive work. One night, shortly after his recovery, Maria Ilyinichna asked me to phone through to a meeting of the Council of People's Commissars and ask them to send Vladimir Ilyich home.

"You are asking for the impossible," Comrade Y. M. Sverdlov replied. "The only thing we can do is close the meeting right away."

\* \* \*

Much has been said and written about Vladimir Ilyich's love for children. I often saw this for myself. But it is not enough merely to say that Lenin was kind and affectionate with children.

In our country many people love children. But not all of them know how to approach a child, how to win its trust without being excessively affectionate and maudlin. Vladimir Ilyich had an excellent understanding of child psychology, he talked to a child in the same grave manner as he did to a grown-up.

I particularly remember the following incident in Gorki in 1920. We were strolling through the park when a small girl came romping towards us. Vladimir Ilyich stopped in his tracks and silently watched her, his eyes lighting up with affection. The small girl also stopped short and gravely eyed Lenin. And then, stupidly enough, I called to her and, as might have been expected, she took fright and ran away. You should have seen how distressed Lenin was and the dressing-down he gave me for this small, but gross pedagogical error.

### IN 1918

#### Recollections of I. V. Zholtovsky, Member of the Academy of Architecture

Soon after the Soviet Government had moved from Petrograd to Moscow I received a note inviting me to come to see V. I. Lenin. Attached was a thick sheet of paper, which I treasure as a precious relic, on which Vladimir Ilyich had written down the address of the former city дума on Revolution Square, the hour of the appointment and also the number of his private office, so that I should not waste time looking for it.

In Moscow at that time the necessary departments for the reconstruction of Moscow had been set up—a legal department, departments for surface and underground building, and an architects' office for working out the plans for the new town.

As soon as I arrived Vladimir Ilyich began to ask me how work was progressing on the reconstruction plan for Moscow. I outlined the underlying idea of the plan which Lenin fully agreed with.

Moscow is exposed to south-western winds. Therefore it was proposed to develop new housing construction in a south-westerly direction, in the area of the Vorobyovy Hills,<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Now the Lenin Hills, where the new buildings of Moscow University stand and a new residential district has been developed.—*Ed.*

and the Novodevichy Monastery. Lenin warmly supported this idea.

During our talk Vladimir Ilyich discussed at length the question of the planting of trees and shrubs and thought that the new reconstruction plan should provide for this. He recommended that we architects take note of what had been done by some of the European capitals in this respect: London with its spacious Hyde Park, Paris with its magnificent Champs Elysées, and Vienna with its picturesque Ringstrasse. Vladimir Ilyich wanted Moscow's inhabitants to have plenty of wholesome air rich in oxygen, and advised us to consider the idea of planting greenery along the embankment of the Moskva River.

The warmth, keen attention and patience with which Lenin listened to what one had to say, and his lively wit made my meetings with him vivid and joyous events. He liked to sit right next to you when discussing matters and the most official conversation would be more in the nature of a heart-to-heart talk.

As I listened to Lenin I clearly visualised the beautiful city Moscow would become. It was on Vladimir Ilyich's suggestion that Theatre Square<sup>1</sup> was rebuilt, and Okhotny Ryad<sup>2</sup> was cleared of its ugly rows of stalls.

When we discussed the municipal economy and transport plan, which provided for an underground railway as well, Vladimir Ilyich suggested that we design deep lead-ins for transit trains.

One of the projects realised in the reconstruction plan of Moscow, which was approved by Lenin, was the Agricultural Exhibition built in 1923 on a dump on the banks of the Moskva River where the Gorky Central Recreation Park now stretches. The exhibition's huge tracts of greenery in this area were to form one of the links in the chain of green-

---

<sup>1</sup> Now Sverdlov Square.—*Ed.*

<sup>2</sup> Now Marx Prospekt.—*Ed.*



ery that was to stretch from the Vorobyovy Hills to the Kremlin.

Lenin repeatedly stressed that when reconstructing the capital it was necessary to preserve the monuments of ancient architecture, all that had been created by the artistic genius of the Russian people. In this connection he spoke of the importance of the country's cultural heritage, of utilising the achievements of science, technology and art.

During one of our talks Lenin, speaking of the paths of development of Soviet culture, warmly championed true beauty in art. We must proceed from the beautiful, he said, take it as a model for building up the artistic culture of socialist society.

At the same time he warned against the danger of philistinism in art. "Go in for beauty, but remember, never philistinism," he once said to me.

I often saw Vladimir Ilyich in the Kremlin. His advice and suggestions, which were always permeated with concern for the needs of the ordinary folk, were of great help to us architects.

I remember how Moscow was experiencing an acute food shortage in those years and food deliveries were further complicated by transport difficulties. Enlarging on the idea of rational city planning Lenin proposed building a viaduct at Simon's Monastery on the Moskva River similar to one in London, which would facilitate the transport of vegetables to Moscow by waterway so that they could be unloaded in tramcars and delivered during the night to the various workers' districts.

Lenin's extreme humanity, his consideration for others may also be gathered from the following fact. One day Vladimir Ilyich invited me to the Kremlin to look over some books on art that had been received from Berlin. When I arrived I apologised that I would not be able to spend the necessary time familiarising myself with the books since I had been ordered to move out of the flat that day.

Lenin wanted to know why I was being moved out, and on whose orders. After I had explained the circumstances, Lenin, highly annoyed at the way I had been treated, immediately dictated a letter to his secretary (I still have the letter) requesting to stop the eviction. The letter stated, incidentally, that "Comrade Lenin supports the request".

It is these seemingly everyday details, these seemingly prosaic traits which have left an indelible impression, that delineate Lenin, the man and comrade.

### A VISIT TO LENIN

From the recollections of S. F. Avdeyev, mechanic of the Doskin shipyards (Nizhni-Novgorod)

I was not kept waiting for long in Ilyich's reception office. An Army man emerged from Lenin's private office and Lydia Alexandrovna Fotiyeva nodded to me to go in.

You can imagine how excited I was as I stepped into the room.

Getting up from behind a small table Vladimir Ilyich came towards me with hand outstretched.

"How do you do, Comrade Avdeyev," he greeted me.

I returned the greeting, my face flushing with excitement and pleasure.

I told Lenin about our trials and tribulations, about the stoppage in ship repairs, about the starving workers and their children, about Radkov-Rozhnov, and about much else.

"So you say that the prince gives us no more than a month in power?" says Lenin to me with a sly twinkle in his eye. "Well he's making the mistake of his life, Comrade Avdeyev."

Vladimir Ilyich got up from his seat and pacing up and down the room, thumbs tucked behind his waistcoat, as was his habit, he began to tell me about that great force which keeps the Bolsheviks in power—about the people.

"Vladimir Ilyich, we're badly in need of money," I said.

"Is your joint-stock company a rich one?" Lenin wanted to know.

"It has something like two million rubles in the bank," I replied.

"Well, and how much do the river transport workers of Saratov and Nizhni-Novgorod need?"

"We estimated 285,000 rubles for a start."

"I think we can spare that sum."

Vladimir Ilyich then pressed a bell and Lydia Alexandrovna entered the office.

"While Comrade Avdeyev and I are discussing matters, please ask Vladimir Dmitriyevich Bonch-Bruyevich to prepare an order to the People's Commissar of Finance to issue 285 000 rubles to Comrade Avdeyev."

"See to it, Comrade Avdeyev, that the workers are paid first of all and that those who have many children get more. The children must not starve."

"We shall do so without fail, Vladimir Ilyich."

"I shall instruct Comrade Yelizarov to give you the necessary help. The fleet must be repaired by the spring at all costs and be ready to sail. You yourself know how badly damaged our railway transport is. The river transport workers therefore have a big job to tackle."

By the time we were through with our talk the order to the People's Commissar of Finance was ready. Vladimir Ilyich signed it and handed it to me. He then wished me good health and every success in my work.

"If you have any difficulties," he said as he saw me to the door, "don't hesitate to phone or drop in."

## IN LENIN'S OWN HAND

By A. V. Ivanov

I shall never forget my meeting with Vladimir Ilyich. After the victory of the Great October Revolution I was appointed assistant manager of the personnel department of the Peo-

ple's Commissariat of Food which had just been set up. In the summer of 1918 D. P. Malyutin, a member of the Collegium of the People's Commissariat of Food, was sent with a group of comrades to work in Kazan Gubernia where there had been infringements of the country's food policy. Malyutin suggested that I join the group, as I was a native of Kazan.

It was a difficult period. The workers of grain-producing Kazan Gubernia were starving. Dmitry Petrovich Malyutin, a veteran Party member, and the other comrades working with him, strained every effort to improve the food situation.

On November 9, D. P. Malyutin called me out and said: "You will leave tomorrow for Moscow to report to Vladimir Ilyich Lenin on the food situation in the gubernia. Be prepared to answer all questions Lenin might ask you about the food situation. Be brief and to the point."

I worked through the night making notes and jotting down data, figures, etc.

When I arrived in Moscow at the Kazan Station I decided, since I was there, to find out why my luggage left there two months previously for dispatch to Kazan had not yet arrived. I saw all the station officials, but they were not particularly co-operative, and no one appeared interested in discovering its whereabouts. Being pressed for time, I decided I would attend to the matter before returning to Kazan.

I went to the People's Commissariat of Food and from there to the Kremlin.

A young woman was sitting at a desk in the reception office. Later I learnt that it was L. A. Fotiyeva. I explained that I had come from Kazan with a packet for Lenin.

"Please sit down. I'll let Vladimir Ilyich know that you are here."

Before I had time to collect my thoughts the door flew open and Lenin swiftly came forward, greeting me with the words:

"You have arrived from Kazan? How do you do, comrade."

Warmly shaking my hand, Vladimir Ilyich invited me into his office letting me in first.

My timidity and nervousness vanished. Maybe it was Lenin's smile or his friendly handshake that put me at my ease completely.

Lenin opened the envelope and took out the papers. After glancing through them he began to read them carefully making marginal notes as he went along and every now and again asking me a question:

"What is the attitude of the workers in the gubernia to the Soviet government?"

"What is the mood of the peasants?"

"What assistance has been given to the poor peasants? What rations do the workers receive?"

If I strayed from the subject Lenin put in questions keeping the conversation focused on it.

After we had been conversing for something like half an hour, Lenin suddenly asked me:

"And where were you born?"

"In Kazan, Vladimir Ilyich."

"I thought as much. I'm a kind of townsman of yours."

Lenin began to ask me about myself, about my working and living conditions, and so on. Answering his questions I happened to mention the fact that when my wife and I left for Kazan we had sent off our luggage from the Kazan Station in Moscow, but it had not arrived as yet.

Vladimir Ilyich smiled.

"We'll put that right immediately." He there and then wrote on a form:

"Moscow Station, the Moscow-Kazan Railway.

"Please be so kind as to send on the luggage belonging to the bearer Alexander Vasilyevich Ivanov, an employee of the Kazan Gubernia Food Committee.

Chairman, C.P.C., V. Ulyanov (Lenin)."

On the following day I went to the Kazan Station and showed the station officials the note. They asked me to step into the office of the Cheka official on duty where I was asked a number of questions. It dawned on me that they sus-

pected me of having forged the note, for only a short three days ago I had made a fuss at the station about my luggage and here I was suddenly with a note from Lenin!

However, everything was soon put to right. The Cheka official phoned through to Lenin's reception office and was informed that the document had really been signed by Vladimir Ilyich. I have treasured this note as a precious relic.

### **UNASSUMING AND WARM-HEARTED**

Recollections of P. T. Baturin, collective farmer of the Voskhod Farm, Bureya District, Amur Region

It was the beginning of the civil war of 1918. The young Soviet Republic was heroically defending itself against the whiteguard bands and intervention troops.

Our Red Army detachment was first stationed in Byelorussia and then in the Smolensk area where we fought the Whites. From there we were sent to protect Moscow and were incorporated in the guards regiment which guarded the Central Telegraph, food storehouses, and industrial units.

Before long I was sent to special courses for training commanders for the young Red Army which was located on Khodynka Field. It was there that I saw Vladimir Ilyich Lenin for the first time.

Vladimir Ilyich often visited our barracks, and always unexpectedly. He grew very annoyed when the commanders on catching sight of him interrupted studies. Whenever he came he had a friendly word for everybody. His talks with the men were always lively and centred on questions relating to the home and international affairs.

Lenin was a most unassuming person. He had that rare quality of making you feel at ease. I recall how once, when we were sitting round him, one of the students suddenly said:

"I have not been home since 1914, Vladimir Ilyich. I left behind an old mother. I do not even know whether she is

alive. I asked for permission to visit her, just for a few days. But my request was refused. . . ."

Well, thought I to myself, what an unsuitable moment to make such a request. But Lenin, who was ever thoughtful of others, asked the student after a while his name, where he had fought the Whites, how far he had to travel, and then said:

"I'll speak to your commander and see what can be done, Comrade Sitin."

Soon after Vladimir Ilyich's visit Comrade Sitin was called out to headquarters.

Two weeks later Lenin visited us again. And his first question was: "Is Comrade Sitin back?"

And when the latter began to thank him on his own behalf and on behalf of his mother, Lenin simply remarked:

"So everything is all right at home?" but it was clear from his voice that he rejoiced with the student.

Lenin inquired how our people were getting on in the village, whether the Poor Peasants' Committees and local Soviets were helping the old folk.

I had the good fortune to meet Vladimir Ilyich again in the Kremlin where I was one of the guards.

One day when off duty, we were sitting in the guard-room discussing among other cheerless topics the famine in the Volga area, the atrocities of the Kolchak bands against the peasants in Siberia.

"What wouldn't I give for a smoke. Just one puff," one of the men remarked wistfully. We had not received our ration of shag for more than a month.

"So you are dying for a smoke, eh?" came a very familiar voice. We turned round. Vladimir Ilyich was standing in the doorway.

"I strongly disapprove of this bad habit, of course, but I take it that you want a smoke badly."

The men smiled in embarrassment.

Lenin left just as suddenly as he had appeared. A few minutes later he again stood in the doorway.

"Here you are, smoke to your heart's content. A comrade has just come from the Ukraine and I got him to give me this for you," and with these words Lenin proffered us nearly a half quarter of shag.

That is how I have always remembered Vladimir Ilyich, unassuming and warm-hearted.

## **THAT WAS THE KIND OF MAN OUR LEADER WAS**

By A. A. Fomin, worker of the Putilov Plant

Soon after the October Revolution the Putilov workers decided to organise a music studio in the plant's school for gifted children who formerly had had no opportunity to develop their talents. Our problem was to find suitable premises for the studio, a piano and string instruments. Mikhail Alexandrovich Plotnikov, a music teacher, volunteered to help us.

The two of us, after obtaining the consent of the Executive Committee of the District Soviet, went to the Department of Public Education.

"We quite approve of your idea, comrades," we were told, "but you yourselves understand that in these difficult times when there is no fuel, no bread, we have more pressing matters to attend to than your studio. You'll have to wait a year or so."

Plotnikov was crestfallen when he heard this, but I suggested that we go to the Smolny, to Comrade Lenin.

At that time people from all walks of life thronged the Smolny. Peasants, soldiers, and workers from Petrograd and other cities hastened to the headquarters of the revolution to settle urgent problems.

We found Lenin's reception office without any difficulty and told the secretary the nature of our business.

The secretary attentively heard us out and advised us to go... to the Department of Public Education. I began to ar-



gue, explaining that we had already been there and to no purpose, and that we had no intention of going back there. What's more, I went on to say, I was a delegate from the Putilov workers.

I must have been speaking rather loudly, for suddenly one of the doors in the room opened wide and Comrade Lenin appeared on the threshold.

"What's that I hear," he exclaimed. "Putilov workers have come to see me. Please come in, comrades."

It was all so unexpected that for a moment Plotnikov and I were somewhat taken aback. However, we entered Lenin's private office where we found several other people.

With left hand tucked behind his waistcoat and holding a pencil in his right hand, Vladimir Ilyich asked us:

"What can I do for you?"

We told Lenin the whole story.

"You hear what the Putilov workers want?" said Lenin addressing the comrades in his office. "They want to create their own working-class intelligentsia and are told, if you please, 'to wait a year or so'. The studio must be organised without delay."

Saying this he lifted the telephone receiver and phoned through to the Department of Public Education.

"Two Putilov workers will be coming to see you. Please help them in every way you can."

We heartily thanked Vladimir Ilyich for the trouble he had taken, and took our leave. Two days later we again went to the Department of Public Education but this time we were received quite differently. A few more days passed and a fine mansion with a lovely garden was found for our studio on Riga Prospekt (now Ogorodnikov Prospekt). The Putilov workers themselves helped to renovate the premises and obtain the necessary musical instruments. That is how the plant's art studio for children came into being, reorganised many years later into Leningrad's first music studio.

To this day I recall with deep emotion how Vladimir Ilyich Lenin in those grim years for the Republic found the

time, though taken up with affairs of state, to attend to the organisation of a children's music studio.

That was the kind of man Lenin was.

### ILYICH'S THOUGHTFULNESS

By A. Larionova, a member of the staff of the Council of People's Commissars

I first saw Lenin in 1918, in the Smolny reception office where I had just begun to work in the newspaper clipping department of the Council of People's Commissars.

On that memorable day the reception office was crowded as usual. Promptly at 10 Vladimir Ilyich arrived and greeted everybody as he passed into his private office.

"So that is what he is like," I thought. "What a kind face he has."

On my second or third day in the Council of People's Commissars Vladimir Ilyich came into the clipping bureau. He knew all the staff members by sight. When he saw me, a newcomer, he came over and asked:

"You have been with us only a short while, haven't you?"

"Yes, Vladimir Ilyich."

"And where did you work before you came to us?"

"At a factory," I replied, overcoming my confusion.

Ilyich looked at me and said:

"Splendid."

At the beginning of March 1918 the Government decided to move to Moscow. We had to pack up everything in a matter of 24 hours. Checking on how things were proceeding Vladimir Ilyich walked into our department and, after asking the comrades how they were managing, he then came up to me and inquired:

"Well, packing up? See that you do not leave anything behind."

He then turned to the department head and said:



V. I. Lenin at the Second Congress of the Comintern. 1920



V. I. Lenin and N. K. Krupskaya in the garden in Gorki.  
August-September, 1922

"Send the comrades home in an hour's time. They need time to pack their own things and to rest for a bit. You please stay here and see to it that the crates are delivered to the station."

Ever considerate of others Ilyich, though preoccupied with important matters of state, saw to it that the comrades got the needed rest and time to pack their own things.

On March 10, at 10 p.m. we left Petrograd for Moscow in the same train as Vladimir Ilyich.

## IF PEOPLE ONLY KNEW WHO THE PRESENT WAS FROM!

By A. N. Lavrentyeva, charwoman in the Council  
of People's Commissars

I have lived in Moscow all my life. For 35 years I worked as a domestic for Nina Stepanovna, a dentist. We lived at the Nikitskiye Gates. My Nina Stepanovna used to treat the poor without taking any money from them. And then, one fine day suddenly she decided, for some reason or other, to leave Moscow. She was a good soul and I knew she wouldn't abandon me after all these years in her service, and particularly as she was a Party member. One day she arrived home, her cheeks glowing with excitement, and said:

"Well, Alexandra Nesterovna (she always called me by my name and patronymic), I'm leaving."

"Where to, my dear?" I asked.

"The Caucasus."

"And what about me?"

"You will go to the Kremlin. I have recommended you there. You will now work in the same building as Lenin."

And so I, Alexandra Nesterovna Lavrentyeva, turned up at the Moscow Kremlin. I looked at the ancient cathedrals, the chambers of the *boyars*, and then reported for work.

The commandant asked me a lot of questions and especially wanted to know whether I knew my job. "Well," says I to

him, "the 35 years I was with my Nina Stepanovna speaks for itself, doesn't it?"

"All right, Lavrentyeva," he says, "you will do the room where Vladimir Ilyich works, and see that you do a good job. He likes things to be neat and tidy."

And so I started my work there. Going about the job I could not help thinking how could one person carry such a load of cares as Lenin did. What I just couldn't understand was how he stood the strain. No matter at what hour I would come to do the cleaning he was sure to be in the office already. And all day long all kinds of people would come to see him and he gave each and everyone his attention, received each and everyone with respect. But let me tell you he could give you a dressing-down too, if need be. He was one for order in everything.

It was not long before I came face to face with Vladimir Ilyich. On that particular day I was dusting a window-sill in one of the corridors. There I was, with duster in hand, when I heard brisk footsteps coming my way and then suddenly halt.

"Good morning," I hear somebody say behind me and hesitate, the person not knowing my name. I turned to look who it was and there was Vladimir Ilyich. I was so flustered that for a moment I was speechless.

"Good morning, Comrade Lenin," I finally managed.

Several days later when he met a group of us charwomen in the corridor he again, as before, stopped to greet us.

Once I fell ill and had to be taken to hospital. When I came out I was feeling very poorly, as you can imagine, after three operations. Vladimir Ilyich happened to see me shortly afterwards and asked me about my health. While talking to me he evidently noticed that the coat I was wearing was not a very warm one, for he called over the commandant and said to him:

"Please see to it that Alexandra Nesterovna is given a new coat," and added, "but a lightweight one, for it will be dif-

ficult for her to wear anything that is heavy after her operation."

I am still wearing that coat and hoping that it never wears out. I treasure it dearly. If people only knew who the present was from!

More than once I wanted to thank Lenin for the coat. But every time I'd see him I decided that it would be a shame to stop such a busy person. What's more, he did not like to be thanked. He had no time for that sort of thing.

### **FROM N. K. KRUPSKAYA'S REMINISCENCES**

Vladimir Ilyich demanded that all the administrative bodies pay attention to the needs of the population.

Lenin's solicitude for the children was strikingly shown during the famine in 1919. The food situation became critical in May. At the second meeting of the Economic Commission Ilyich raised the question of giving relief in kind to workers' children.

In the middle of May 1919 the situation became worse. There was any amount of grain, thousands of tons of it, in the Ukraine, the Caucasus and in the East, but the civil war had cut off all possibilities of communication; the central industrial districts were starving. The Commissariat of Education was swamped with complaints that there was nothing to feed the children with.

On May 14, 1919, the army of the North-Western Government launched an offensive against Petrograd. On May 15 General Rodzyanko captured Gdov, the Estonian and Finnish whiteguard troops took the offensive, and fighting began at Koporskaya Bay. Ilyich was worried about Petrograd. It was characteristic of him that at this particular period, on May 17 to be exact, he put through a decree whereby children were to be fed free of charge. This decree provided for the improvement of food supplies for children and the welfare of the working people, and ordered that such supplies should

be issued free of charge to all children up to 14, irrespective of the amount of ration their parents were entitled to. The decree applied to the large industrial centres of sixteen non-agricultural gubernias.

June 12 brought news of the treachery of the Krasnaya Gorka garrison. On the same day Ilyich signed an order of the Council of People's Commissars extending the decree of May 17 concerning free food supplies for children to a number of other localities. The age limit was raised to 16 years.

Ilyich was particularly intolerant of red tape in the matter of providing assistance to the needy. On January 6, 1919, he wired to the Cheka in Kursk:

"Immediately arrest Kogan, member of the Kursk Central Purchasing Board, for failing to help 120 starving workers of Moscow and sending them back empty-handed. Publish this in newspapers and leaflets so that all employees of purchasing agencies and food supply authorities should know that a formal and bureaucratic attitude and failure to help starving workers will be severely punished, and if need be—shot. Chairman, Council of People's Commissars, Lenin." . . .

Vladimir Ilyich himself was most considerate towards people and attended to the letters that he received. The documents published in *Lenin Miscellany XXIV* illustrate this.

Ilyich received a mass of complaints and he dealt with them himself.

On February 22, 1919, he sent the following telegram to the Yaroslavl Gubernia Executive Committee:

"Soviet employee Danilov complains that the Cheka has confiscated from him three poods of flour and other products purchased during eighteen months on his work earnings for a family of four. Check most carefully. Wire me the results. Chairman, Council of People's Commissars, Lenin."

In another telegram, this time to the Cherepovets Gubernia Executive Committee, Ilyich wired:

"Check complaint of Yefrosinya Andreyevna Yefimova, soldier's wife, of the village of Novoselo, Pokrov Volost, Byelozyorsk Uyezd, concerning confiscation of her grain for com-



mon granary, although her husband has been a war prisoner for over four years, and she has a family of three and no farm help. Let me know the results of the investigation and the measures taken by you. Chairman, Council of People's Commissars, Lenin."

Such instances could be cited by the hundred. I refer to those kept in the Archives of the Lenin Institute, but how many more were there that have been lost! In June 1919, when I went away for a two months' trip on the steamboat *Krasnaya Zvezda* that was conducting a propaganda campaign on the Volga and the Kama, Ilyich wrote to me: "I read the letters addressed to you asking for assistance and try to do what I can about it."

When a person's mind is preoccupied with some important problem, it is extremely difficult and exhausting for him to keep switching over in the course of the day to all kinds of petty matters. The only time Ilyich could concentrate his thoughts wholly on any problem was when he took walks or went out shooting. Comrades recollect how in such cases Ilyich would unexpectedly drop some word or phrase which showed what absorbed his mind at the moment.

Recollecting how Ilyich concerned himself with "trifles", some comrades say: "We did not look after Ilyich properly, and allowed him to be swamped by trivial matters; we should not have troubled him with all those trivial affairs." That may be so, but Ilyich believed that attention to trivial details was extremely important and that only such attention could make the Soviet administrative apparatus really democratic, not in a formal way, but in a proletarian democratic way.

And as he had previously done when building up the Party, when he had endeavoured, by personal example, to teach the comrades a right approach to the problems of agitation, propaganda and organisation, so too now, as head of the Soviet state, he endeavoured to show how the machinery of state should be run, how bureaucracy in every shape and form should be stamped out and the state machine brought closer

to the masses, to win their confidence. His telegram to the Novgorod Gubernia Executive Committee in June 1919 is characteristic of him:

"Apparently Bulatov has been arrested for complaining to me. I hereby warn you that I shall have the chairmen of the gubernia executive committees, the Cheka and members of the executive committee arrested for this and shot. Why did you not answer my question immediately? Chairman, Council of People's Commissars, Lenin."

Ilyich considered it essential to purge the apparatus of bureaucracy; he demanded a considerate attitude towards every person on the staff, demanded that those in charge should know their staffs, should help them in their work and create the necessary facilities for work. I was working in the Extra-Mural Department of the Commissariat of Education. Ilyich constantly questioned me about the members of my own staff and got to know them; he advised me how to make better use of one or another worker. He constantly inquired what I was doing for them, how they were off for food, and how their children were getting on. He took an interest in the members of my staff, whom he had never set eyes on, and I was sometimes surprised to find that he knew them better than I did.

### FROM MAXIM GORKY'S REMINISCENCES

A man of amazing will power, Lenin possessed to a supreme degree the qualities characteristic of the finest revolutionary intellectuals—self-restraint that often verged on self-immolation, on the self-torture of Rakhmetov,<sup>1</sup> on the reasoning of one of Leonid Andreyev's heroes:

"People live badly, therefore I have no moral right to live any better."

---

<sup>1</sup> A character from N. G. Chernyshevsky's novel *What Is To Be Done?*  
—Ed.

In the grim famine year of 1919 Lenin was ashamed to eat the food which comrades, soldiers or peasants sent him from the provinces. When food parcels were delivered to his comfortless flat he would frown in displeasure and hasten to have the flour, sugar or butter sent to sick comrades. Inviting me to dinner once he said:

"I'll treat you to fish sent from Astrakhan," and added, a deep frown furrowing his Socratic forehead:

"They send me things as though I were a *barin*. How can one put a stop to this? If you refuse they feel hurt. And there are people starving all around."

Unpretentious, a stranger to wine and tobacco, engrossed day and night in difficult, complicated work, Lenin was utterly negligent of himself, but took watchful care of others. Dropping into his office one day I found him busy writing at his desk.

"Excuse me for a minute," he greeted me, continuing to write. "I'll soon be through. I am writing to a comrade in the provinces," he explained. "He sounds dispirited, tired, no doubt. I want to cheer him up. Good spirits are very important."

"Have you had your dinner?" he asked me one day when I came to see him in Moscow.

"Yes."

"You're not telling me a story, are you?"

"I have witnesses who saw me in the Kremlin dining-room."

"I hear that the food there is pretty bad."

"Well, I would not say that, but it could be better."

He began to discuss how to go about improving matters, and crossly remarked:

"Can't they find a good cook? People literally work themselves to death. They should be given tasty dishes. I realise, of course, that there are not enough provisions, and that they are of poor quality. What is needed here is an expert cook." And Lenin quoted a dietician about the importance of savoury dishes for the digestion. I asked him:

"How do you manage to think about such things?"

"About a balanced diet?"

And from the tone of his voice I realised that my question had been out of place.

An old Sormovo acquaintance of mine, P. A. Skorokhodov, a man of gentle disposition, once complained to me that he found his work in the Cheka very trying.

"I too should think that it is hardly the kind of work you should be doing, considering your nature," I remarked.

He gloomily agreed, but after a while said:

"But when I think that Ilyich also most probably has to steel his heart quite often, I feel downright ashamed of my weakness."

I know of many workers who had to, and still have, with teeth clenched "to steel their hearts"—to suppress their organic "social idealism" for the sake of the triumph of the cause they are serving.

Were there times when Lenin had "to steel his heart"?

Unmindful of himself, he never spoke about his person. No one else could be so silent about his innermost thoughts. But one day in Gorki, sitting in the park with some children he said to me:

"They will live better than we are living. They will not have to endure many of the things we had to. Their life will not be as harsh as ours has been."

And gazing into the distance where the village nestled on the hill, he added reflectively:

"Still, I do not envy them. It has been the lot of our generation to carry out a task magnificent in its historical significance. The harshness of our life forced upon us by realities will be understood and appreciated. Everything will be seen in its proper light eventually."

He continued to caress the children tenderly, with a light, protective touch.

## COMRADELY SOLICITUDE

From the recollections of S. B. Brichkina

In the spring of 1919 I joined the staff of the Secretariat of the Council of People's Commissars. I shall never forget that period, the best in my life. I want to acquaint our younger generation with some pages from the life and work of Lenin that will give a deeper insight into the qualities of this truly colossal personality.

Nobody who has not come in close touch with Lenin can really appreciate his extraordinary consideration for others in matters big and small. He was thoughtful of all who needed his help, whether it was a member of his staff or a comrade heading a People's Commissariat. Many was the time when discussing some business matter with me he would suddenly say, in a worried voice:

"The comrade looks very poorly. She must be sent for a cure and properly fed. Please make the necessary arrangements."

Nothing escaped Ilyich's vigilant eye. If a comrade was looking tired and worn out, he would at once see to it that a decision was taken to give the comrade a month's rest. And it was no use his objecting on grounds of urgent business. Ilyich was simply inexorable in such cases.

His solicitude for people was truly amazing. When he noticed that one of the members of the C.C. was wearing torn shoes, he gave orders that a new pair be sent to his house, warning, however, that it should be done tactfully, otherwise the comrade might refuse to take them.

When he learnt that a foreign comrade who was visiting us had not been provided with a warm enough coat for the winter, which happened to be a bitterly cold one that particular year, he gave instructions that he be given a good fur coat to prevent him from catching a cold.

When Inessa Armand, a prominent Bolshevik, died, Vladimir Ilyich was full of concern to see that her children were taken good care of. He asked Maria Ilyinichna to phone me

and ask me on his behalf to make arrangements for Armand's children to get their meals in the Luxe Hotel. When I phoned Lenin, as I had promised, to let him know that the necessary arrangements had been made, he was very pleased.

One day Vladimir Ilyich called me into his private office where I found Nadezhda Konstantinovna, and sorrowfully informed me that a very fine comrade who had worked in the illegal Bolshevik organisation had been killed at the front. It was necessary to send his orphaned children to a children's home. Vladimir Ilyich asked me to attend to the matter and said that if need be he himself would phone to the comrade who decided such matters. I was not only to see to it that the children were accommodated but also to check that they were properly cared for.

In conclusion I would like to say:

Lenin was not only a man of genius. He was also a man of generous heart, receptive to the sufferings of the oppressed and who with every fibre of his being believed in the inexhaustible forces of the proletariat and in its ultimate triumph. This harmonious combination of genius and humaneness is a wonderful quality.

## **FIVE YEARS WITH LENIN**

**Y. N. Lakova-Abramova, telephone operator in the  
Council of People's Commissars**

That snowy February day in 1919 when I came to the Kremlin, where a pass had been ordered for me, I raced up the stairs to the second floor where Vladimir Ilyich had his private office. L. A. Fotiyeva, Lenin's secretary, received me and said that she would let Comrade Lenin know that I had come.

The ensuing five minutes seemed like eternity to me. I was terribly excited at the thought that I was going to see the leader of the revolution, that I would be talking with him.

Presently Vladimir Ilyich entered the room and cordially greeted me, putting me at my ease immediately.

"So you have been sent by the telephone exchange," he said. "Very good. You can start right away."

I worked next to Vladimir Ilyich for nearly five years. A door from his private office led to the switchboard where six telephone operators worked round the clock, taking turns.

Vladimir Ilyich would come into our room every morning to greet us and never failed to wish us good night when he went home after giving us some small assignments. He never forgot to thank you for a service rendered. He had a high regard for our work and made us feel that we were doing a very responsible job.

Vladimir Ilyich's letters to members of the C.C. R.C.P.(B.) and the Government were usually sent through our "booth". These letters were delivered by bicycle messengers whom we would ring for. Lenin required that the addressee sign receipt on the envelope and indicate time of receipt. When the messengers returned it was the practice to hand the envelope acknowledging receipt to Vladimir Ilyich.

It was also our duty to ring up different people and arrange their appointments with Lenin. At first Vladimir Ilyich used to give verbal orders whom to ring up, but afterwards at his request a blackboard was hung over the switchboard on which we noted the next day's business. Sometimes Vladimir Ilyich himself would chalk on the board: "Admit comrade (name) at such an hour." "Have comrade . . . come to see me at 2.10 p.m." When he would come into our room in the morning he would ask: "Well, what appointments have you made for me today? Have you notified everybody? Please remind the sentry on duty at the entrance to tell the comrade how to find his way and not to keep him waiting."

Lenin was extremely attentive to everyone, irrespective of the post the person held. He valued another's time.

Unfortunately, we did not know any foreign language, and that made things embarrassing at times when Communists from abroad phoned Lenin. We'd go into the office and give the name of the comrade asking to speak to Vladimir Ilyich. Lenin would look at us thoughtfully and quietly say:

"I don't know who it is. Please go back and get the name right."

When we eventually did, we would report back.

"Ah, that's quite a different matter. I certainly know the comrade. Please put him through."

Lenin patiently and tactfully taught us to be accurate and efficient in our work. He was most exacting when it came to discipline, making no allowances for himself. But his strictness went hand in hand with a warm sympathy and solicitude for people.

Vladimir Ilyich would occasionally ask us to do something for him. He called me into his office once and said: "Would you please take these papers to Nadezhda Konstantinovna who is not feeling well. So as not to disturb her by ringing the door bell, please open the door yourself," and saying this he gave me the key to the flat. When I stepped into the flat I was surprised to see how modestly furnished it was: an ordinary cloth carpet on the corridor floor, plain pieces of furniture in the dining-room, in the middle of which was a table covered with a tablecloth.

I recall the time when there was to be a party for the students of the Kremlin military school. Lenin was to address the party. I had never heard Lenin as a speaker. My co-worker Yagunova and I wanted to go but we had no tickets. I asked Vladimir Ilyich to help us:

"I have no tickets, but I'll give you a note," said Ilyich, and tearing out a page from his notebook, he wrote:

"Please give a pass to the concert in the Kremlin to Comrades Abramova and Yagunova, telephone operators in my private office.

Chairman, C.P.C., V. Ulyanov (Lenin)"

The original is preserved in the Institute of Marxism-Leninism.

Lenin combined great wisdom with great humaneness and that is how our unforgettable Ilyich will be remembered over the ages.



## HE TAUGHT US TO SEE THE FUTURE

Recollections of N. N. Kolesnikova

Nobody who has had the good fortune to know Lenin personally can without emotion describe their meetings with Vladimir Ilyich, recreate a portrait of that singular personality.

I first met Lenin in the summer of 1919 when I came to Moscow for medical treatment. I had arrived from Astrakhan where I had been Chairman of the Gubernia Party Committee. Friends arranged for me to meet Nadezhda Konstantinovna Krupskaya whom they had told of my terrible distress at the execution of the Baku commissars, among them my husband, Yakov Zevin. I could see that she was a warm and sympathetic person, who not only understood your feelings without words but was ready to help you. Nadezhda Konstantinovna suggested that I work in the Extra-Mural Department of the People's Commissariat of Education, and soon after I was appointed her second assistant.

My first meeting with Vladimir Ilyich was quite unexpected. There was no city transport to speak of in Moscow at the time. I was living in the National Hotel, then called the First House of Soviets. Every morning I walked to Prechistenka (now Kropotkin Street) where the Extra-Mural Department was housed. After work a car would be sent for Nadezhda Konstantinovna and she would invariably take the three of us, Krzhizhanovskaya, Meshcheryakova and myself, home.

Once, after we had finished the day's work one of the comrades came into the room and said:

"Nadezhda Konstantinovna, Vladimir Ilyich has come for you. He is waiting for you in the car."

Embarrassed, I went back to my room. Krzhizhanovskaya and Meshcheryakova were acquainted with Vladimir Ilyich, but he did not know me at all. What is more, I reflected, there would be no room in the car for me and I decided to walk

home after they had left. But my reflections were interrupted by the same comrade coming to tell me that they were waiting for me in the car. When I came out I saw that a place had been left for me opposite Vladimir Ilyich. Nadezhda Konstantinovna introduced us:

"Volodya, this is Nadezhda Nikolayevna whom I have told you about."

"Glad to meet you," replied Vladimir Ilyich, smiling and cordially shaking my hand.

An animated conversation ensued on the subject of the average age of the older generation of Party members. I was silent and Vladimir Ilyich, evidently wanting to draw me into the conversation, asked:

"And how old are you, Nadezhda Nikolayevna?"

"Thirty-seven."

"You are still of the younger generation . . . compared with us; you will witness many events which we shall not live to see. . . ."

I came to be a frequent visitor to the Kremlin flat of the Ulyanovs. Nadezhda Konstantinovna sometimes took me there straight from work and I would spend several hours with them. We would go straight to the dining-room where the table was already laid. Vladimir Ilyich and Maria Ilyinichna would join us. The conversation at the table was always lively, everyone relating some interesting event of the day—meetings with people, letters received, and many other things.

After dinner everybody would retire to their respective rooms. Nadezhda Konstantinovna and I would remain in her room discussing work and occasionally personal matters. Nadezhda Konstantinovna would ask me about my children, about their health and whether they had all they needed. I would assure her that they were fine and wanted for nothing, but she evidently did not quite believe me. There was an acute food shortage in Moscow at the time and everybody was living on short rations. From time to time Gil, Lenin's chauffeur, would bring me a small bag of flour or some butter and sugar and say:

"Vladimir Ilyich and Nadezhda Konstantinovna have sent this for the children."

During the discussions at the dinner table I always marvelled how Vladimir Ilyich, though preoccupied with affairs of state, would take such a lively interest in seemingly unimportant matters, how he was able to show that they were anything but unimportant. I particularly remember the discussion on wiping out illiteracy. When Denikin began to roll back southward under the onslaught of the Red Army we sent our instructors to the Tambov, Voronezh, Orel, Tula and other gubernias. Upon their return they related that only old folk, women and children had remained in the villages, the men having gone to the front. The adult population of the villages were practically entirely illiterate and were eager to learn to read and write.

"We want to be able to read the papers ourselves, to know what Lenin writes about the life of the peasant: we want to know about the decrees of the Soviet power," was the cry of the old folk.

School-teachers were prepared to teach them, but there were no ABC books, no paper, pencils or pens. In some villages they had compiled the alphabet with letters cut out from newspapers and old books. But what about paper on which to write? In one of the villages paper for wrapping caramel was found in an old shop. The next problem was what to write with. A sharpened splinter, dipped in soot diluted with water served the purpose. Our instructors took the matter up with the uyezd department of public education but were informed that there were not enough books and paper even for the schools. We wondered how best to go about the job. Nadezhda Konstantinovna suggested going home with her and thinking things over together. At the dinner table we told Vladimir Ilyich the whole story.

"That's interesting, indeed," said Vladimir Ilyich. "In other words, a cultural revolution is imminent in the countryside. And how do you people propose to tackle the tasks facing you? As old Party functionaries you should know how impor-

tant it is to organise things properly. There are many illiterate people, especially among women workers, not only in the countryside but also in the town. But the towns have a strong organisation that can push things forward—the trade unions which have their cultural and educational departments and the wherewithal: we have given them clubs and people's houses. Let them carry on the necessary cultural and educational work, including the wiping out of illiteracy, in the towns, you helping them with methods. But you must focus attention on the countryside. It is very important to have a base for cultural work there. What do your instructors report—where do the peasants gather to learn to read and write?"

"Sometimes in a school, sometimes in their huts by turns."

"That's good that they get together in their huts. It means that the village supports the idea of learning to read and write," Vladimir Ilyich continued. "But it is necessary to have a permanent place, a cultural centre, so to speak, a kind of village reading-room, where pamphlets and posters can be sent, where the peasant can go in his free time to read a peasant paper, or a book, or simply to have a chat. It is true, we cannot at present afford to build a network of village reading-rooms. But there are neglected huts practically in every village whose owners have long since left for the towns. Take over these huts with the permission of the Village Soviet. The peasants will gladly renovate them. It is also necessary to find a person in the village who would agree to take charge of such a reading-room; it can be a teacher, Red Army invalid, or a literate boy or girl. . . ."

After dinner Nadezhda Konstantinovna and I got down to work: we drew up a memo and an itinerary for our instructors. Soon reports started coming in where and how many village reading-rooms had been organised, how the work was proceeding. We began to correspond with the village librarians. Vladimir Ilyich was keenly interested in the progress of cultural and educational work in the countryside, and we kept him informed of our ups and downs. With the advent of winter came disturbing letters from the village librarians: the village



V. I. Lenin taking a stroll in Gorki. 1922

reading-rooms had to be closed down for lack of lighting. There was no paraffin in the village. The tapers used by the peasants to furnish light in their huts certainly could not be used in reading-rooms. We told Vladimir Ilyich about our troubles.

"Paraffin is scarce, of course," was his only comment.

But some days later Nadezhda Konstantinovna told me that Vladimir Ilyich was calling a meeting of business executives who handled the country's paraffin supplies. And a few days after that meeting she brought an extract from a decision of the Minor Council of People's Commissars to supply every village reading-room with three gallons of paraffin monthly.

I have tried to tell how clearly Lenin saw the future advance of culture. These talks with Vladimir Ilyich were an education in themselves; they taught me to see the radiant future in seemingly minor matters.

## AN EPISODE

From the recollections of D. M. Dolzhenko, worker,  
Chairman of the Alchevsk organisation of the R.C.P.(B.)

At the Eighth Party Congress which I attended as a delegate I had occasion to see Lenin's extreme humanity. The following episode will serve as an example.

Among the delegates from the Donbas was Comrade Fedorenko (from the Bryanks colliery, now the Lugansk Region). He had only recently returned from a German war prisoners' camp where he had been after the first imperialist war, and was still wearing his shabby war prisoner's suit. Fedorenko naturally felt uncomfortable in it and suggested one day in the hostel for Congress delegates that we ask Vladimir Ilyich whether it would be possible to get a suit in Moscow, it being impossible to buy one anywhere else.

We, of course, said that we would do nothing of the kind.

About two days later, during an interval between Congress

sessions, Lenin strolled among the delegates, engaging in conversation. When he learnt that we were from the Donbas he began to ask us questions about the mood of the workers and their conditions, whether there was enough food, whether the workers were prepared to stand by the Party, whether there still were Mensheviks and anarchists in the factories and collieries, what contact the workers had with the peasants, and so on.

I replied on behalf of our delegation.

"Vladimir Ilyich, the mood of the workers is a militant one, and though we are short of food and life is hard we shall surrender the Soviet power to no one, we are prepared to stand by the Party to the last ditch. There are no Mensheviks or anarchists who openly come out against Soviet rule, but we must not be caught napping. The Donbas workers cooperate with the peasants, we have peasants in the Soviet and we help one another."

To this Vladimir Ilyich said:

"You are doing the right thing. If the workers and peasants will always act together nobody will ever be able to defeat us."

At the end of our talk Fedorenko decided on his own to address Lenin.

"Vladimir Ilyich, I have a favour to ask you."

"Certainly. What is it?"

Frankly speaking, we all felt very embarrassed, knowing what he was going to say.

"Please excuse me for troubling you, Vladimir Ilyich. I have just returned from captivity. I am still wearing my shabby war prisoner's suit and must admit that I feel ashamed to be seen in it. But it is impossible to buy a new suit."

Vladimir Ilyich right away said:

"Comrade Fedorenko, tomorrow Congress starts to work in the evening. Phone me at 11 a.m."

Fedorenko wrote down the number. Meanwhile delegates from other regions had come over and began conversing with Vladimir Ilyich.

In the hostel that evening we got into a heated argument and, of course, gave Fedorenko a piece of our minds.

He left first thing in the morning, and we were sure it was because he wanted to avoid any fresh arguments.

Imagine our surprise when at 2 in the afternoon the door was flung open and Fedorenko appeared, carrying a package. This time he gave us a piece of his mind in a jocular tone, and then told us what had happened. He was at the Kremlin at 10.50 a.m. and promptly at 11 phoned the number he had written down. Before he had time to state his business, the voice at the other end of the line replied: "Please go to Room 6, in the commandant's office where a coupon for a suit will be given to you."

We were simply astounded. We could not get over the fact that Lenin found the time in the midst of the countless affairs he had to attend to, to give thought to others, to satisfy the request of an ordinary delegate to the Congress.

I am now 65, I have been in the Party 40 years. But to this day this episode remains indelibly impressed on my memory.

### **IN A MILITARY HOSPITAL**

**A. S. Semyonov, worker, commissar of a military hospital  
in Moscow**

It was the autumn of 1919. The position of the young Soviet Republic was grave to the extreme. The country was starving, typhus was rampant. Denikin's whiteguard hordes were approaching Tula; Yudenich was sweeping towards Petrograd, the cradle of the revolution.

The Party mustered all the forces of the people to beat back the furious attacks of the counter-revolution. The entire country was turned into a military camp, the factories sending their best people to the front. We were determined to a man, to stand fast, to defend the gains of the October Revolution at all costs.



At that time I was commissar of an army engineers' school which participated, as a section of the Seventh Army, in the fighting against Yudenich. I was wounded in one of the battles (and on top of that fell ill with typhus) and was sent to Moscow, to the 151st military hospital, one of the biggest in the city.

When I began to recuperate I was given two months' leave, but since I had nowhere to go I remained with the convalescent squad. Later I was appointed commissar of the hospital.

Our medical personnel did everything to put their patients on their feet as quickly as possible notwithstanding the lack of medicines and the food shortage. They were actively helped by the many Communists among the hospital's patients. Our Party group would regularly meet and discuss various questions, such as providing the hospital with fuel, better food, clothes for the convalescent Red Army men, etc. We would also discuss the complaints contained in the letters received by the Red Army men about the high-handed methods of the local authorities. Kulaks still managed to get into some of the Soviets in those years.

But there were many problems we could not settle. We therefore decided at one of our Party bureau meetings to ask Vladimir Ilyich Lenin to visit us and to tell him about our difficulties and to ask him for advice.

It was decided that Petya, a convalescing young Red Army man, should take the bureau's decision to the Kremlin.

When he returned several hours later he told us that he had been received at first by Lenin's secretary, who, after reading the letter, took it in to Vladimir Ilyich. Shortly after Lenin himself asked him into his private office.

"Lenin received me cordially and shook hands with me," Petya related. "He asked me to tell the wounded Red Army men that he would come to see them without fail."

To tell you the truth we did not believe Petya at first. We all knew how busy Vladimir Ilyich was and that it

was hardly likely that he would find the time to come and see us.

But a few days later Comrade Semashko, People's Commissar of Health, came to the hospital and informed us that Lenin would be visiting us that day.

Sure enough, at six in the evening Vladimir Ilyich drove up with Nadezhda Konstantinovna. We met them at the door and accompanied them over the hospital.

Vladimir Ilyich and Nadezhda Konstantinovna wanted to know how the sick and wounded were being cared for. Lenin asked a host of questions: how did the Red Army men feel, were there many wounded Red Army commanders, how were the patients fed, where did the hospital procure its provisions, what clothes were the men given when discharged from the hospital, where were the clothes kept, etc. Vladimir Ilyich then asked several questions about our Communist group. After he had acquainted himself in detail with hospital conditions he said he would like to talk with the wounded men. It being the supper hour we suggested getting together right after supper in the recreation and reading-room. Lenin readily agreed.

We then all went to the dining-room where Lenin sat down at the table together with the patients and asked to be served the same supper. I remember that that evening we had a barley porridge with sugar, instead of butter of which there was a shortage. During supper Lenin asked Semashko how he liked the porridge. Comrade Semashko said that he did not think it was particularly tasty. Nadezhda Konstantinovna wanted to know how we fed the patients who were still very weak, and in this connection gave us some very good advice.

A general discussion began at the table. Lenin listened attentively to what we had to say, advised us on a number of matters and promised to help in every possible way. He suggested that it would be a good idea to start a journal which would reflect the needs and requirements of the wounded men.

We took Vladimir Ilyich's advice and soon the 151st military hospital began to put out the monthly, *Wounded Red Army Man*. Later the Political Department of the Red Army took over publication and the journal acquired national significance.

After supper all the men who were able to walk gathered in the recreation room. There were also several men on stretchers who had insisted on being present. Lenin was received with stormy, prolonged applause.

Opening the meeting, I said that Vladimir Ilyich had made us happy by coming. I then gave him the floor. There was a fresh thunder of prolonged applause. When it died down Vladimir Ilyich stepped forward and said:

"Dear comrades, your commissar has not put it quite correctly: it is not I who have made you happy by coming, but you who have made me happy. I am happy at the opportunity to be with you today, to be able to talk with you, to learn about your needs, to tell you about the state of affairs in our Republic."

Lenin spoke for one and a half hours. He told the men about the victories of our army at the front, about the defeat of Yudenich on the approaches to Petrograd and the first victories over Denikin's troops.

Speaking of the country's difficulties Lenin said that our heroic people were undergoing severe privations, that the Red Army had to be given priority in everything to ensure victory and our hard-won freedom, but that as soon as we will have done with the counter-revolution and the Entente, and that time was not far distant, our people would be the happiest in the world. He explained that the hardships we were enduring now were part of the struggle for the happiness and freedom of our people.

After his speech Lenin took warm leave of the sick and wounded Red Army men, and wished them a speedy recovery. But he did not leave the hospital right away. He asked to see the list of serious cases. Glancing at his watch he said that

although there was little time left he would nonetheless like to visit them and made the rounds of the wards.

The entire medical staff saw Lenin off. In the vestibule, already dressed in his overcoat, he said to us:

"You are performing a most important job—you are curing the defenders of the revolution and freedom. Help them to get well as quickly as possible and to leave the hospital. In this way you will be making your big contribution to the revolution. The Soviet state and also the Red Army men and commanders will be grateful to you."

Vladimir Ilyich then left with Nadezhda Konstantinovna and Comrade Semashko. Soon after that visit the Council of People's Commissars issued a special decree, on Lenin's initiative, to set up an Extraordinary Sanitary Commission of the Revolutionary Council of the Republic to inspect conditions in military hospitals and improve the conditions of the sick and wounded.

Thanks to the personal interest shown by Lenin we were able to solve all our difficult problems in good time.

### **A NOTE WRITTEN BY LENIN**

#### **Recollections of P. Okhrimenko**

It was the late autumn of 1919. I had arrived in Moscow from Kamenka which was occupied by the Whites. I was staying with a distant relative who shared his meagre rations with me and also his clothes for I had left everything behind in the Ukraine.

It was in those grim and memorable days that I translated from the English one of Edward Carpenter's revolutionary poems which I took to *Pravda*. Maria Ilyinichna Ulyanova, who was the editorial board secretary at the time, sent me to the editor. The poem was accepted and on November 7, 1919, it was published.

A few days later when I came to the editorial office to get the money for the translation Maria Ilyinichna told me that Vladimir Ilyich had asked for more particulars about me. I told Maria Ilyinichna all about my straitened circumstances. After hearing my story she asked me to come back the following day.

It was with a feeling of intense excitement that I entered the editorial office on the next day at the appointed hour. You can imagine my joy when Maria Ilyinichna gave me a note, written in Lenin's hand. The note, addressed to the appropriate organisation, stated:

"Please see what you can do to help the bearer

*Comrade Pyotr Okhrimenko,*

with clothing, accommodation and food.

"If you meet with any difficulties in the matter please phone me.

12.XI.1919

V. Ulyanov (Lenin)"

Soon after this I was provided with everything necessary.

Nearly 37 years have passed since then, but the passage of time can never blunt my feeling of inexpressible gratitude to the great leader of the working people who, though terribly busy himself, gave thoughtful attention to a person utterly unknown to him, and took a truly paternal interest in his future.

### **A LETTER FROM A PEASANT**

By I. Zalamayev, peasant from Kasplya Volost,  
Smolensk Gubernia

In 1919 the Kasplya Volost Poor Peasants' Committee which consisted of kulaks, about whom I had often written to the papers, confiscated my cow and gave it to a deserter. This confiscation was clearly illegal.

At first I was sorry about the cow, but as time passed I began to forget about it.

It was only several months later, in September 1919 to be exact, that suddenly I decided to write to Vladimir Ilyich Lenin and tell him all about my troubles.

When my neighbours and acquaintances learnt about this they made fun of me and said that my letter would not reach Lenin and even if it did he would pay no attention to it. What's more they tried to frighten me, saying that I had done a very foolish thing. I myself began to regret that I had troubled Lenin about such a trifle when he had more important things to worry about.

And then on November 26 I received a message from the Volost Executive Committee asking me to come over post-haste, which I did.

"Well," says I to the Chairman of the Committee, "what do you want to see me about?"

"You've certainly kicked up a fuss, haven't you," he replied. "We have received an urgent paper from Moscow ordering us to return the cow to you."

Saying which he showed me my letter on which the following order was written in Vladimir Ilyich's hand in red pencil:

"Immediately return the cow to Zalamayev, which was illegally confiscated from him."

Upon reading this, I burst into tears like a child.

That same day I got my cow back.

## **ON GUARD DUTY IN THE KREMLIN**

By A. F. Kolobyakov, student of the Kremlin Courses for  
Machine-Gunners

At the end of 1919 and the beginning of 1920 I was a student of the First Moscow Courses for Machine-Gunners.

The civil war was at its height. Moscow was in a ring of enemy fire. The country was in the grip of famine and economic dislocation. Under Lenin's leadership the working

class, in alliance with the working peasantry, was heroically fighting the armies of the invaders and our own counter-revolutionaries.

The students of our courses did guard duty at the Kremlin, and at congresses and conferences, and we had occasion to see at what high pressure Vladimir Ilyich worked. Long past midnight, passing down the corridor from his office with his hurried step, he would suddenly stop in front of the guard on duty and exchange a few friendly words with him.

I often had to be on duty at Lenin's flat. I shall never forget that period. What more honourable task for a Red Army man than to guard the life of the country's leader!

Lenin was a man of simple tastes; he had no love for luxury. He always dressed simply, liked simple, comfortable furniture. Many was the time I saw Nadezhda Konstantinovna Krupskaya return from the Kremlin kitchen carrying some bread wrapped up in paper and soup in a dinner-pan for Vladimir Ilyich, who wholly engrossed in work, often forgot about his meals.

A never-ending stream of people came to see Lenin in his private office at the Council of People's Commissars: officials from the localities and delegations from the fronts, peasant representatives and representatives of factories. Lenin talked with them in his private office, but very often simply in the corridor.

Lenin never forgot anything, never left anything undone. He was thoughtful and attentive to all who approached him. One of the men studying with me, Nikolsky by name, happened to tell Lenin that the local authorities had refused to help his family. Lenin asked him to put the matter in writing, and to prevent it being mislaid sent the Commandant of the Kremlin the following note:

"To the Commandant of the Kremlin  
29.X.1919

"Today you will receive a paper from Red Army man (here at the Kremlin courses)

"Grigory Ivanovich Nikolsky

"Ryazan Gubernia.

"Please see that it is forwarded to me personally the same day.

Chairman, C.P.C., V. Ulyanov (Lenin)"

That was on October 29. On the next day, October 30, Vladimir Ilyich sent the following telegram to Nikolsky's home town:

"Ryazan. To Gubernia Executive Committee. Copy to Mikhailov Executive Committee, Ryazan Gubernia [October 30, 1919]

"Immediately investigate complaint of student Grigory Nikolsky. Is the Pechernikovo Volost Executive Committee giving his family the relief they are entitled to? If there is any friction between Nikolsky and the Volost Executive Committee because his brother, a priest, refused to give up the crop, look into the matter. Inform me of measures taken.

Chairman, Council of People's Commissars,  
Lenin"

I could quote any number of similar facts showing Lenin's solicitude for the Red Army men.

## IN THE KREMLIN

From the recollections of I. Shulzhenko, student of the First Moscow Courses for Machine-Gunners

Lenin liked to talk with the students. He took a lively interest in their war service, in their life and studies, familiarised himself with the curriculum, and made valuable observations.

Once he visited the school's barracks late at night. All were already sound asleep except the men on duty. Lenin carefully



examined the bedding and uniforms. As he passed between the row of beds he noticed that one of the men had, in his sleep, thrown off the blanket from his bed. Softly stepping over to the sleeping man Lenin picked up the blanket and carefully covered him.

Ilyich had a deep sensitiveness to people, to their needs.

At the beginning of 1920 my father, a peasant of the village of Stary Saltov, Kharkov Gubernia, wrote me that our family was having a very hard time. Denikin's bands, after capturing the village, had brutally beaten him up when they found out that his sons were in the Red Army. The Whites pillaged all we had and, most important of all, had taken our horse without which the family could not subsist. My father asked me to see what could be done to help him.

I wrote an application and when I met Lenin in the Kremlin I told him about the troubles of my family. Ilyich listened to me attentively, asked me about conditions in the village and about my three brothers who were in the Red Army. He then took my application and said: "Write to your father that the Soviet government will help the family of Red Army men, and tell him not to worry any more." Shortly after I received a letter from my father containing wonderful news: on Lenin's orders the Volchansk Uyezd Executive Committee had given my family a horse, a sack of flour and a grant.

### **I. D. PUTINTSEV VISITS LENIN**

**By A. V. Shotman, worker, Chairman of the Siberia Council  
of National Economy**

In the spring of 1920 business took me to Semipalatinsk. I made the trip from Omsk by steamboat down the Irtysh. On deck my attention was drawn to a bent old man, about 75, with a flowing white beard, dressed in a loose kind of overall and wearing a creased cap with a red ribbon drawn

across it. Getting into conversation with him I learnt that he was a Communist, that he was returning from Omsk, where he had attended Party courses, to his native stanitsa of Urlyutunskaya. He was a Cossack by birth, had a big family of sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. One of his sons and several grandchildren were Communists.

"I have not very much longer to live," he said to me, "but my one wish before I die is to see Vladimir Ilyich Lenin. I can then die in peace."

I decided to arrange a meeting with Vladimir Ilyich.

A few days later I put Comrade Putintsev on the Omsk-Moscow train, giving him the address of a comrade in Moscow who would put him up. Two days later I made one of my regular business trips to Moscow and shortly after my arrival I got in touch with Comrade Putintsev.

When I went to see Vladimir Ilyich by appointment in the Kremlin I took Comrade Putintsev along with me. After discussing Siberian affairs I asked Vladimir Ilyich to receive an interesting old Cossack. Lenin readily agreed.

When I showed Comrade Putintsev into the office, Comrade Lenin got up from his desk and came forward to meet the old Cossack who became quite flustered.

"How do you do, Ilya Danilovich," said Lenin taking his hand in both of his own.

At these words Ilya Danilovich became even more agitated.

"Greetings to you from Siberia, esteemed comrade," he replied in a barely audible voice.

Seating the old Cossack in a chair opposite himself, Lenin began to ask him about the life of the Cossacks in Siberia.

Ilya Danilovich answered in great detail. He bluntly criticised the shortcomings in the work of the Soviet government, but had words of praise for the decrees that were good. Vladimir Ilyich must have taken a liking to the old man for he conversed with him as with an old acquaintance, told him about his life in Siberia.

I repeatedly tried to interrupt the prolonged meeting for I knew that every minute of Vladimir Ilyich's working day

was precious. But they were so engrossed that they did not notice the passage of time. Finally, after an hour I managed to interrupt them. Before taking leave Comrade Putintsev turned to Vladimir Ilyich and said:

"Esteemed comrade, allow us to put up a monument to you in our stanitsa in your lifetime."

Smiling, Vladimir Ilyich strongly dissuaded him from doing this.

"In that case allow us to open a kindergarten in the stanitsa and name it after you."

"That's a much better idea," said Vladimir Ilyich.

"The only trouble is that it will be difficult to get paint, nails and boards for trellises. Everything has been nationalised," deplored the old Cossack.

"I think that will not be difficult to arrange. Why not ask Shotman. After all he is the Chairman of the Council of National Economy there," Vladimir Ilyich replied.

"But you, esteemed comrade, write him a note to that effect," Ilya Danilovich suggested with a sly smile.

Laughing, Lenin took one of his forms and wrote: "To Siberian Soviet institutions: Please give every assistance to the bearer *Putintsev*, Ilya Danilovich to organise a kindergarten and other similar undertakings in his locality, Semipalatinsk Gubernia, Pavlodar Uyezd. Chairman, Council of Labour and Defence, V. Ulyanov (Lenin)."

"Thank you, esteemed comrade," said the practical old man. "And now would you please write another note, this time to the Cheka that they allow me to leave Moscow, otherwise there may be some delay."

Vladimir Ilyich complied with this request as well, addressing a note to the Cheka not to detain Comrade I. D. Putintsev.

"And now, esteemed comrade, allow me to kiss you and convey your greetings to our Cossacks."

Vladimir Ilyich warmly embraced the old man and kissed him.

When we passed through the reception office the secretaries

shot angry looks at us, highly annoyed for having taken up so much of Ilyich's time.

But Ilya Danilovich was oblivious to their angry looks. Carefully holding the two notes written in Lenin's hand, he proceeded on his way, a blissful smile on his lips.

## FROM THE REMINISCENCES OF S. K. GIL,

### Lenin's chauffeur

On Sundays Vladimir Ilyich liked to go motoring out of town, to visit new places and get into conversation with peasants he met on the way. That is exactly what happened that Sunday when we drove to Bogdanikha, a village some ten kilometres from Gorki.

Alighting from the car Vladimir Ilyich strolled in the direction of the village and, as might have been expected, he ran into a group of poor peasants. One of them immediately recognised Ilyich, having visited him in the Kremlin as a representative of the village community. He informed his companions of this and they right away crowded round Lenin and began a lively conversation.

Soon a fairly big crowd of peasants had gathered, eager to see Vladimir Ilyich, to hear him speak and to ask questions. Ilyich listened attentively to what they had to say and readily answered all their questions.

In the midst of the conversation one of the peasants, an old, grey-bearded man, stepped forward and addressing his fellow villagers said: "Listen, since the chief of the Bolsheviks, Lenin, is here, let us tell him about our trouble. Who, if not he, can help us."

There was a babel of voices, everyone trying to tell Lenin what it was all about. Vladimir Ilyich stopped them.

"This will not do, comrades. I won't understand a word if you're all going to talk at once. Elect one of your number to tell me coherently what it's all about. You listen to what

he says, and if he misses anything or doesn't put it properly, set him right."

They elected the grey-bearded peasant. He told Vladimir Ilyich about the abuses in the village. It appeared that the Village Soviet, using the law on the tax in kind as a pretext, had confiscated all the grain from the poor peasants and seed for sowing.

Vladimir Ilyich listened with strained attention. When the peasant had finished telling his story, he requested that everything be put down in writing and that not a single fact, not a single name be omitted.

"This is the doings of enemies who are out to cause discontent among the peasants. We will investigate the matter and those responsible will get a dressing-down," said Vladimir Ilyich, using a favourite expression of his.

Three hours later, on our way back we again stopped at Bogdanikha. The letter was ready. Lenin carefully put it in his pocket and took leave of the peasants. The next day he sent the letter with his remarks to the All-Russian Cheka.

Vladimir Ilyich was right in assuming that enemies of the Soviet power were operating in the village. The nest of kulaks and criminals was discovered and smashed.

## **A MAN WITH A GREAT HEART**

S. Y. Kokorev, student of the Kremlin Courses for  
Machine-Gunners

I would like to tell you about Ilyich's thoughtful attention to others, about his warm-heartedness and simplicity.

I still remember the long corridor that connected Comrade Lenin's flat with his private office in the Kremlin. I often saw Lenin when I was on duty at my post there, saw the super-human burden of work he shouldered. But this did not prevent him from finding the time to respond to a complaint, a letter or a request for help.

Somehow Ilyich learnt that the Kremlin students were not being properly fed and provided for.

On the following day he came into the dining-room at the lunch hour. After greeting the students he walked into the kitchen and said that he would like to sample the first and second dishes. "Why are you skimming the top for me? Stir the food properly," he said to the cook. He then gave orders to send a sample of the lunch to the chief of the courses and to the Kremlin commandant.

Several hours later we read an order that the supplies manager had been dismissed. Our meals substantially improved.

Once when I was at my post Lenin's housekeeper came into the corridor to clean his suit.

"Just think of it," she complained to me. "He manages the whole country but cannot manage to get himself a suit. All I know is that I am perpetually mending and patching..."

There was a burst of laughter behind us. We turned round. Ilyich had stepped out of his office unnoticed by us.

"Never mind, never mind," he said affectionately patting her on the shoulder and laughing all the while. "When we grow rich I will buy myself a new suit and you will have less trouble."

## HE WAS ATTENTIVE TO PEOPLE

Recollections of K. S. Ovsyannikova, woman worker at the Tryokhgornaya Mill named after Dzerzhinsky

Vladimir Ilyich very often addressed meetings of the Tryokhgornaya workers, which were held in what was known as the "Big Kitchen", the very same one where the fighting squads had had their quarters in 1905.

I was living in a women's hostel in those years. One evening I heard somebody shouting in the corridor, "Lenin has

come!" Hastily throwing on a kerchief I dashed into the corridor which was already a moving sea of people. . . . Lenin had arrived unexpectedly, without warning, but in a matter of minutes the place was packed. Ilyich did not make a speech, but simply conversed with the workers informally. He was in every way one of us, in his manner of speech, behaviour, and simplicity.

I remember how attentively Ilyich listened to what the workers had to say. The man from whom the whole world learnt the truth, himself learnt from the people.

Ilyich was very attentive to people. Once he spoke to me. If I remember rightly it was on the third anniversary of the October Revolution. That morning we had gone to a *Subbotnik*<sup>1</sup> to Khoroshovo, on the outskirts of Moscow. In the evening we gathered in the "Big Kitchen". Ilyich had come earlier but said he was not to be announced until the workers had rested and had had a bite.

I sat in the front row with my small boy. Ilyich asked the workers all about the *Subbotnik*. Suddenly he addressed me: "Did you also go to the *Subbotnik*, comrade?"

"Yes," I replied.

Ilyich wanted to know whether I had been fed there. I said I had. Ilyich then turned to the audience and said:

"This woman, the mother of a small child, and who is soon expecting another, walked 8 versts to help the state. With working folk like her we will soon overcome the devastation in our country."

I did not expect such high praise for my part in the *Subbotnik*. I have treasured it all my life.

In his speeches Lenin told us a great deal about the tremendous task then facing the country—to rehabilitate the national economy—and expressed his confidence that we would be victorious on the labour front just as we had been on the fronts of the civil war.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Subbotnik*—day of voluntary, unpaid work.—Ed.

## HEART-TO-HEART CHAT

From the recollections of V. A. Karpinsky, editor of the peasant newspaper *Bednota*

Vladimir Ilyich's consideration for people was particularly evident on reception days. (I sometimes had occasion to be present.) He had a special day when he received peasant representatives.

I remember the time when two peasants, an old man, and a young fellow, came to see him. Both were in home-spun coats and bast-shoes. At the door they paused irresolutely.

"Come in, comrades, come in!" Vladimir Ilyich cordially invited, getting up from his desk.

But they still hung back, shifting from one foot to another. Vladimir Ilyich went up to them, shaking hands with each one.

"What is the matter, comrades? You are delegated peasants, aren't you, and there you stand at the door. Please come in!"

The peasants irresolutely made two steps forward.

"What is your name?" Vladimir Ilyich asked turning to the older of the two.

"Lavrenty."

"And your patronymic?"

"What do you want to know that for? Lavrenty will do. All my life I have been known as Lavrenty and nothing else."

"All your life is one thing, and now it is another thing. Now there is another government. So, what is the name?"

"Well, in that case Ivanovich," said the peasant heaving a sigh of relief.

"Fine, Lavrenty Ivanovich. Please take a seat in the armchair here. And you, comrade, next to him, in that chair."

Little by little they fell into easy conversation. The peasants had come, it appeared, to lodge a complaint about their Village Soviet which had confiscated the bricks the peasants had stored up for building a church. By the end of their talk the question was settled to their mutual satisfaction: Lenin would give instructions to the Village Soviet to



return the bricks to the peasants and the latter would use it to build . . . a school!

Vladimir Ilyich's attitude to the people was very aptly expressed by Nadezhda Konstantinovna:

"His heart throbbed with a warm love for all working folk."

This love was to be felt in his relations with the people, in his friendly smile, in his deep and lively interest in whatever concerned them, in his constant solicitude for the individual.

Vladimir Ilyich was a most tactful and courteous person. He never addressed his subordinates or workers and peasants as "ty" (the Russian for "thou"). He used this form in conversation with people older than himself whom he would sometimes address as: "thou, father", or "thou, grandfather" as was customary among common folk.

Take the way he greeted people. Slightly bending forward, he would hold out his hand, arm slightly crooked at the elbow looking at you with a friendly smile, and you would happily smile back, having the feeling that you had met a friend.

### **DAGHESTAN BOLSHEVIKS VISIT LENIN**

From the recollections of A. A. Takho-Godi, peasant,  
member of the Daghestan Revolutionary Committee

I would not have remembered the date of our visit to Ilyich, for I did not make a note of it; but it is in the records of the Lenin Institute for 1928, Vol. III, p. 124, where it is stated that on February 12, 1921, from 12 to 12.45 a Daghestan delegation was received and discussed the situation in Daghestan.

It is quite understandable that we delegates from Daghestan, finding ourselves in Moscow for the first time since the revolution and after a long civil war, very much wanted to see Ilyich in person and to tell him all about Daghestan, about

the civil war in the mountains, about the heroic struggle the working people of Daghestan had waged against the counter-revolution, the famine, and countless other hardships. It was only in 1920 that we managed to smash the blockade that had hemmed in Red Daghestan since 1917: at first it was the White government set up there in alliance with the Cossack South-East Union, then (in 1918) Bicherakhov, a hireling of the British, who was followed by the Turks, then came the British and their colonial troops, and, finally, the volunteer army of General Denikin. Daghestan was cleared of the last white-guard detachments in April 1920 when Denikin's army, falling back under the powerful onslaught of the Red Army advancing from the north, and the blows of the Daghestan partisans, fled to the Caspian Sea. We wanted to tell Ilyich about all this. There were three of us: D. Korkmasov, M. Khizroyev and myself. We were immediately shown into Ilyich's private office. The first thing that struck us about Ilyich was his cordiality, his brisk and lively manner. He did not at all resemble the well-known portraits or busts of him. One is inclined, evidently, to visualise personalities known only from their portraits or sculptures in the monumental aspect. But before us was an ordinary person of average height with a small reddish beard and moustache who cordially welcomed us. After exchanging greetings he seated us and we got into conversation. We told him all about Daghestan, about its struggle against the whiteguards, about our present difficulties. Ilyich was an extraordinary listener, absorbing everything that we told him. Every now and again he would throw in a remark or a question, helping the narrator to unfold his story. Before settling down to talk Comrade Korkmasov pulled out a map to give Ilyich an idea of Daghestan's geographic position. Ilyich smiled and wanted to know why the map. When Comrade Korkmasov explained that we had brought it along to avoid the same thing happening that had occurred with a certain comrade who had confused Daghestan with Turkestan, Ilyich burst out laughing. His laughter was so infectious that we could not help but

join in. Still, he examined the map and was particularly interested in the Avaro-Kakhetia road that ran from Daghestan to Georgia, from where the Mensheviks (Georgia was still in the hands of the Mensheviks) supplied the Daghestan counter-revolutionaries with arms and instructors. Lenin wanted to know about the practicability of the road in the different seasons of the year, about means of conveyance, etc.

He was deeply impressed by our story about the hardships of the mountain peasants, and particularly of the womenfolk who, owing to the shortage of textiles, literally had nothing to wear and because of this were ashamed to go to the wells for water when anybody was abroad. On hearing of this Ilyich immediately gave instructions that we be supplied with textiles; two months later when I left Moscow I took back with me by express goods train one and a half million arshins<sup>1</sup> of textiles, as a present to Red Daghestan. Ilyich wanted to know about the struggle we were waging against the mullahs and when he learnt that we were actively fighting them and that we had actually confiscated their lands, he remarked: "That's simply splendid!" He wanted to know how the Red Army units, which had come to Daghestan from Russia, were conducting themselves, whether there were many Red partisans, and whether they had enough arms. He also inquired who was the stronger numerically, the mullahs or the partisans, apparently taking the gauge of the enemy's forces. I remember him also asking the question: "And do the Daghestanians still hate the Russians?" as though wanting to check to what extent the hatred for the dominant-nation colonisers had automatically spread to all Russians. When we told him that the Daghestanian poor peasants and Red partisans had eagerly awaited the arrival of the Red Army Lenin was extremely pleased. He wanted to know about the state of medical service in the mountains, asked our opinion regarding the organisation of two autonomous republics—the

---

<sup>1</sup> 1 arshin = 28 inches.—*Ed.*

Mountain and the Daghestan republics, the advisability of organising one republic or two separate ones. When we expressed the view that we favoured two separate republics he said that he too was of the opinion that that would be more advisable for the time being.

So engrossed were we in the conversation that we almost forgot to give Ilyich the small handicraft gifts we had brought him from Daghestan: an inkstand, candlesticks, a paper cutter, a paper weight, a cigarette case, if I remember aright, and some other trifles. When we lay all these articles out on Lenin's desk he admired them and was full of praise for the artistic work of our handicraftsmen whom he said we should give every encouragement to continue their craft. He did not want to accept our gifts, however. "It would be unfair for me to admire them alone," was his argument. "Everybody should have a chance to admire them; send them to a museum." He agreed to accept them only after we assured him that we would send similar exhibits of our handicrafts to a museum.

We invited Ilyich to visit Daghestan and he promised to do so at the first opportunity. He asked us to write to him, even if only a few lines a month, and keep him posted on the state of affairs in Daghestan. He repeated his request when we were about to leave. We did not do so, however, thinking that by writing to him we would be wasting his valuable time. We did not take into consideration that it was through such direct contact with people on the spot that Ilyich derived the multitudinous minute details which he drew upon so skilfully when summing up a situation.

For our part, we asked Ilyich to give us a signed photograph of himself as a keepsake of our visit. He promised to do so. A few days later, after I had brought him a large portrait showing him standing in the Kremlin courtyard, I received it back through Comrade Fotiyeva, with the inscription in Lenin's hand: "For Red Daghestan".

## AN UNFORGETTABLE VISIT

From the recollections of S. A. Korichev, peasant, Deputy Chairman of the Chuvash Regional Executive Committee

I shall always retain the memory of my visit to V. I. Lenin. The brief chat we had in his office is the most momentous and treasured event in my life.

The circumstances that brought me to Moscow, to Ilyich in March 1921, shortly after the establishment of the Chuvash Autonomous Republic were as follows: the imperialist war, and then the civil war, had completely undermined the economy of Chuvashia which had already been drained of its resources by tsarism's colonial policy. The crop yields, especially of the poor and middle peasants, had sharply decreased, exchange between town and country had practically ceased and hunger was rife.

The working people of Chuvashia who had completely identified themselves with Soviet power which they had fought for during the civil war, had applied to the Soviet authorities to be provided with more industrial goods.

The question had been discussed beforehand at a bureau meeting of the Party Regional Committee which decided to ask the Council of People's Commissars and Comrade Lenin to help us. I was instructed to draw up the application and submit it for approval to the Presidium of the Regional Executive Committee. It was with this application that I was sent to Moscow.

Upon my arrival in the capital I went straight to the Kremlin. The secretary of the Council of People's Commissars took my application, read it carefully and then took it in to Lenin. A few minutes later she returned and said: "Lenin will receive you at 6 p.m."

I was so happy and elated at the news that I do not even remember how I left the building. All I recall is that I went to the offices of the Chuvash Representative on the Presidium of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee, which had

just been established, and began to think over my report to Vladimir Ilyich. I was not worried on that score for I had the contents of the memorandum at my fingers' ends. What did bother me was the questions Lenin might ask.

Five minutes before the appointed time I raced up to the third floor and sat down on the bench outside Lenin's reception office. Promptly at 6 p.m. Vladimir Ilyich stepped out of the lift. He moved so quickly that before I had time to say "good evening" he was already opening the door of his office.

Just as I was thinking how awkward I had been I heard the secretary's voice say: "Please go in, Comrade Korichev." The room I entered was simply furnished: a writing-desk standing practically in the middle of the room at which Ilyich was working; to the right of the desk were several telephones, to the left—folders with papers, an ordinary table drawn up alongside the desk, and several bookcases taking up the free wall space.

Ilyich raised his head, got up from his desk, and looking at me very attentively, with eyes slightly screwed up, cordially shook hands with me, greeting me like an old acquaintance: "How do you do, Comrade Korichev, please take a seat, and tell me what it's all about." I gave him the application thinking it would be better that way, but Vladimir Ilyich put it on the table and asked me to tell him the essence of the matter in my own words. When I finished my brief report he asked:

"What is the mood of the Chuvash peasants?"

The question was put so informally that I immediately forgot about all my prepared answers and said:

"The poor and middle peasants support Soviet power; they regard it as their power. But they are grumbling at the shortage of goods. The kulaks, incidentally, cashed in on the acute shortage of goods this winter. They succeeded in winning over even a part of the working peasantry who, it is true, realised their mistake before long and drew away from the kulaks."

"We will do the best we can for you," said Vladimir Ilyich, and wrote on the memorandum of the Regional Party Committee and Regional Executive Committee: "Comrade Bryukhanov, please prepare a report on the matter for tomorrow's meeting of the Council of Labour and Defence." He then wrote something down in his writing-pad.

Elated, I went to the People's Commissariat of Food, where People's Commissar Comrade Bryukhanov received me without delay. He phoned to the Red Army Commissariat and arranged that a memorandum be prepared for the C.L.D. which met the day after.

Vladimir Ilyich did not attend the meeting. After hearing a brief report by a Red Army Commissariat representative the Council of Labour and Defence decided to send Chuvashia by way of relief over 200,000 yards of textiles and other goods, and also to increase the exchange of goods.

By present standards this relief may seem inconsiderable. But at that time when the country was completely ruined it meant a great deal to the Chuvash people.

When I returned to Cheboksary I reported on my trip to the Regional Party Committee, the Regional Executive Committee and to meetings of working people. There was also a full report in our paper *Kanash*.

Many years have passed since then. Great socialist transformations have taken place in the country. But the passage of time has not effaced the memory of the brief visit to Lenin.

## WHILE ON DUTY

From the recollections of K. O. Lipatov, student of the military school of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee

I had the good fortune to speak with the great Lenin and that meeting with Vladimir Ilyich is still vivid in my mind. It was in 1921. At that time I was studying in the military

school of the A.R.C.E.C. where I had been sent by the command of the Red Army unit in which I was serving.

While I was on duty one day Lenin walked rapidly by. Suddenly he stopped short, came up to me and with a friendly smile began to ask me about myself. On learning that I was from Nizhni-Novgorod Gubernia Ilyich asked me about conditions there, the mood of the peasants. He also inquired whether I had parents and how they were making out on their farm. It so happened that I had just received a letter from my mother in which she wrote that our house could do with repairs but that it was impossible to procure the necessary timber.

I mentioned the fact to Vladimir Ilyich who was attentively listening to me.

"We must see what can be done about that," he remarked.

On the following day I was summoned to the teaching department.

"Your request, student Lipatov, will be satisfied," I was informed.

"My request?" I was puzzled.

"Here is a certificate that you are to be given the needed timber in your village."

Frankly speaking I had clean forgotten about the timber. But Lenin had not.

That is the kind of man Lenin was. He was never too busy to take a warm interest in others.

### ON LENIN'S ORDERS

From the recollections of T. S. Krivov, member of the  
Central Control Commission of the R.C.P.(B.)

To mention still another of Lenin's distinctive traits about which much has been written, and about which one never tires of speaking.

Regard for the individual. . . .



During one of the intervals between sessions at the Eleventh Congress of the Party Lenin's secretary Maria Ignatyevna Glyasser came up to me and said:

"Timofei Stepanovich, will you please step into the room over there."

"What's the matter?"

"These are Vladimir Ilyich's orders. . . ."

That being the case I went to the room indicated. As I opened the door I ran into Dzerzhinsky. He was buttoning his tunic.

"Aha, so you're also being overhauled!"

There were three men in white smocks in the room: two elderly men and a young one. The younger one, who was an interpreter, asked me to undress so that the Herren professors might examine me. I knew that two eminent physicians, Klemperer of Berlin and Verster of Vienna, following a decision of the Political Bureau, had been invited to see Lenin. But what I did not know was that Ilyich had asked them to examine a group of Party functionaries who had at one time been sentenced to hard labour under tsarism. Since I had fallen into the clutches of the doctors I had no choice but to submit to a thorough examination, in the course of which the famous Herren professors kept writing something.

After the medical examination we were each given a special chart indicating the regime we were ordered to observe strictly, and which we, of course, did not observe. When Lenin learnt of this he emphatically insisted that we follow the doctors' orders.

I still have my regime chart which states: "Not to work for more than two hours without a break. No evening work and meetings. To go to bed early and get up early. Daily walks in the fresh air. Keep away from smoke-filled rooms. No public speaking." And I was expected to perform all this just as though it was my Party duty.

## RECOLLECTIONS OF A NURSE

By Y. A. Nechkina, nurse at the Soldatenkov (now Botkin) Hospital

In the evening of April 22, 1922, Professor Rozanov asked me an unusual question:

"Who will be on duty tomorrow, Yekaterina Alexeyevna?"

I replied that I would be, a little surprised at the professor's interest.

On the following morning Professor Rozanov asked me to prepare an isolation ward for a patient. He did not say who the patient would be, but the entire personnel working in the 2nd wing of the hospital was on tenterhooks.

Soon a car drove up, and from the window I saw Vladimir Ilyich alight with a group of people and enter the building. After removing his coat in the hall below he rapidly walked upstairs where he was taken to the operating theatre to remove the bullet still embedded in his body following the dastardly attempt on his life in 1918 by Kaplan.

After the operation Vladimir Ilyich was put in Ward No. 44 which was furnished like any other ward in the hospital—a bed, small table and armchair. The only extra piece of furniture was a table lamp.

As the nurse on duty I attended to Vladimir Ilyich the twenty-four hours he was in the hospital. I was terribly nervous in the beginning. But Vladimir Ilyich soon put me at my ease by his simple manner, his delicacy and thoughtful consideration.

There was only one pillow on the bed. I noticed that Ilyich was not feeling very comfortable and brought him a second one. At first he flatly refused to take it fearing that he was depriving another patient of his pillow. It was only when Professor Rozanov assured him that this was not so that he allowed me to add the second pillow.

In the evening when his room was being aired Vladimir Ilyich came into the neighbouring room where I was working.

Sitting down on a chair Comrade Lenin got into conversation with me, asking me about the hospital's patients and the medical personnel.

"Why are you looking so poorly, nurse?" he suddenly asked me. I was taken aback and did not know what to say.

The next morning Vladimir Ilyich asked Professor Rozanov why the nurses had such long hours, why they were overtaxed with work. Rozanov explained that we were fully compensated for all extra hours and had regular rest days.

Vladimir Ilyich then inquired of Professor Rozanov how he could best thank the nurse who had looked after him.

"But there is no need for that, Vladimir Ilyich. She did no more for you than she would have done for any of the other patients."

But Ilyich insisted and Professor Rozanov then turned to me with the same question.

I was too flustered to say anything. The professor decided to speak for me.

"The best thing would be to send her to a health resort."

Before he left that day Vladimir Ilyich thanked us for the attention and care we had taken of him and said he hoped he had not been too much trouble. He thanked me, too, saying:

"Your wish will be granted."

About five days later a phone call came through from the People's Commissariat of Health, asking nurse Nechkina to come over.

I went to the People's Commissariat, wondering why they wanted to see me. When I got there I was informed that arrangements had been made for me to go to the Crimea. I was simply staggered. Vladimir Ilyich, himself still convalescing and burdened down with work, had not forgotten about me.

## AN ACQUAINTANCE OF LENIN'S

An item that appeared in *Pravda* No. 21, January 26, 1924

As the columns of mourners wound slowly through the streets around Trade Union House, a peasant in a shaggy sheepskin hat approached now one organisation, now another, begging:

"Comrades, eh, comrades, won't you take me along?"

But no one seemed willing to take along a stranger; and the mounted militia inexorably blocked the way. Evidently accustomed to such refusals, the peasant moved aside with a regretful sigh and bent over one of the smoky fires that had been lit along the pavement. When he pulled off his huge, clumsy mittens and held out his chilled hands to the warmth, a faint haze rose from his knotty fingers.

Just then a Red Army man left his place in the lines to squat a moment by the fire. Looking around at the circle of faces, he smiled sudden recognition.

"Hullo there," he said to the peasant. "Weren't you here yesterday?"

"I surely was," the peasant replied. "Yesterday, and today, and tomorrow, and every day till it's all over."

"Why? Didn't you get in?"

"I got in all right. But they only let you stay a minute, and I couldn't get my thoughts straight that fast."

He was silent a moment, chewing at his lips, then continued gravely:

"I was an acquaintance of the dear deceased."

The Red Army man's eyes widened. A smile passed from face to face as the people around the fire turned to stare at this strange claimer of acquaintance with the head of the Russian state.

Deliberately, Lenin's "acquaintance" blew his nose and cleared his throat. Then, with much detail, he told his story.

He comes from a village away off in the forests around Bryansk. He made a trip to Moscow three years or so ago

to get something done about a public mill, because the villagers were having trouble milling their grain. Well, and it turned out to be no simple matter. Wherever he went, he'd be sent somewhere else. First they sent him to the Supreme Council of National Economy and then they sent him to the Commissariat of Food, and then to the Commissariat of Agriculture, and then here, and then there, and nothing doing anywhere. Running around that way, he wore out his felt boots, and his bast-shoes too, and so, besides the problem of the mill, he had the problem of boots to settle. Barefoot, in the winter, it's not much going about a man can do. But boots turned out to be no easier to get than the mill affairs to settle. Again they started sending him around. Someone said to try the Social Maintenance Office, and the latter sent him on to the Leather Board, and the Leather Board said it wasn't up to them and he must go back again to the Social Maintenance, or maybe it was some different name they said this time. Running around from one of those places to another, and nothing left in his pack to eat—a person was liable to take sick and die!

Well, and there was this son the peasant had, living in Moscow and working at the Bromley factory. He said there was going to be a meeting in the factory district, and Comrade Lenin himself would be there, and the best thing would be to catch Comrade Lenin after the meeting and tell him all about the village troubles, because he was *the right sort*, you see, and he'd understand.

Such a great man for such a small need? Millions of mills there must be in the country, and only one Lenin!

The peasant had his doubts. But he waited, just the same, and caught Lenin in the doorway of the factory club and asked him to help out in the village troubles.

And there in a little room at the workers' club, the air all heavy with tobacco smoke, the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars studied the peasant's papers and shook his head over the way he'd been sent from one office to another, and another, and no end of others. And he wrote

something across the top corner of the papers, for help to be given right away.

And then the talk turned to other village affairs. Lenin wanted to know all sorts of things: had the villagers lost much of their cattle; and how the winter wheat was coming on; and how much grain the surplus-requisitioning left the peasants; and how much support the church had in the countryside; and what the peasantry were most in need of. And he heard out the story of the boots, and laughed, and wrote a little note about that too.

When the talk was over, and the peasant began to apologise for the time he'd taken, and tried to bow his gratitude, Lenin stopped him and said:

*"Don't apologise, comrade. It's our duty to look into every trouble. You have every right to help."*

His story told, the peasant got out his tobacco pouch and from it produced a yellowed bit of paper. The writing on it had been badly rubbed by the crumbs of rough tobacco in the pouch, but if you knew the story you could still make out the words:

*"To the adm. office. Comrades, do help the bearer get a pair of boots."*

V. Lenin"

Lenin had many such acquaintances.

TO THE READER

*Progress Publishers would be glad to have your opinion on this book, its translation and design and any suggestions you may have for future publications.*

*Please send your comments to 21, Zubovsky Boulevard, Moscow, U.S.S.R.*

(15)



ЛЕНИН —  
ТОВАРИЩ, ЧЕЛОВЕК

*На английской языке*