

Concluding Remarks of Comrade Pepper.

Relative to the statements of the comrades: A great number of good suggestions were made here. In general the comrades realise the absolute necessity of the Information Department, the necessity of good contact between the Executive and the Sections. We also agree on the point that organs for establishing connections must be created. Even as to the form of these organs I see no differences of opinion.

Now as to the suggestions: Comrade Neumann proposed that the Information Department should issue regular monthly reports on the general situation. This is certainly a good suggestion and necessary, as is proved by the statements of other comrades, for instance, those who desire a bulletin.

The question of putting this suggestion into practice must be studied.

Another suggestion which I also mentioned before: the organisation of Information Departments by the Parties. And not only in the Central Committees, but down to the smallest unit, to the nucleus. Neumann drew our attention to the fact that the German Party has already put this into practice.

The statements of Comrade Neumann on this question in his booklet "Was ist Bolschewisierung?" (What is Bolshevisation?) I endorse completely. On Page 147 he writes:

"The Central Committee needs a special Information Bureau for this purpose, which follows the entire press of all the Parties and classes at home and abroad, investigates the economic situation and regularly puts the digested material at the disposal of the Polbureau. Such an Information Bureau is needed on a small scale by every local group and every nucleus. This does not necessarily mean that this Information Bureau must possess a special "apparatus" with employees and co-workers. It might consist of one or two comrades. But in every nucleus the four most important hostile papers — "Vorwärts", "D. A. Z.", "Deutsche Zeitung", "Deutsche Tageszeitung" — and the hostile local press must be read."

This formulation might apply for the further activity of our German Party. We know that many of our Parties are too weak to have a larger apparatus. But individual comrades could be found for this work.

The suggestion of Comrade Fried, that the Information Department must not only work in coordination with Agitprop but

also with the Organisation Department — I consider that very necessary on a national and international scale.

Relative to the desire for a schema of work, I must say that we have already done something about this question. We have already worked out a schema, but it is not yet complete. Our schema should not only apply to Moscow, but for all centres of information in the Section, and must even be adjusted on a smaller scale to the concrete conditions of the smallest unit.

We have sent out a detailed questionnaire to all the Sections, which has unfortunately not yet been returned by all the Parties.

The question of the centre for fighting Social Democracy: Comrade Bobinski said that this work cannot be separated from general Party work. Of course it can't. But the very fact that this work forms the most important factor of our whole work makes the organisation of such a centre extremely necessary. This centre must not be a substitute, but a basis for the general Party work. In just such countries as Poland, with a Social Democracy which has an old and dangerous tradition, the best comrades must be entrusted with this work.

Larkin is absolutely right when he says that the Information Department in Moscow will fulfil its task if it becomes an international clearing-house. It must absorb all material from the Sections, must systematise it, must digest it from a political standpoint, get it ready for use by the Comintern, and send it on to the Sections. Correct political leadership does not only require a concrete political policy, but also reliable information.

And now as to the last problem. The Information Department has the following tasks hitherto:

1. To inform the Executive and its organs on the activity of the Parties;
2. To inform the Sections of the C. I. on the Executive and on the other Sections;
3. To direct the attention of the Executive to new problems as they arise.

The Department must enrich its circle of tasks with a new departure.

From now on the Information Department ought to control the Information activity of the various sections, of the various Central Committees, just as the Agitprop and Org Departments

control their respective work in the Sections. Why did not our Information Department do this work before? 1. because the Department is still very young, 2. because in the various Sections of the C. I. no regular information activity has been carried on hitherto. The Department is better organised now, however, with many shortcomings, it is true, but the work has nevertheless been begun. The purpose of today's discussion is to overcome the second shortcoming, to crystallise our actual organs in the various Sections, which can carry on the information service. And thus I come back to the proposals I made at the beginning. In this respect the Parties have the following tasks:

1. To appoint reporters in the Central Committees who must send information regularly to the Executive.
2. To organise Information Departments in the various Sections as a basis for the political information of the Parties.
3. To see to it that the reporting is carried on regularly and well.

We will work out an international schema of work.

Today we want merely to draw the attention of the Parties to these tasks, to which must still be added the following:

To entrust a comrade in the largest Parties with the task of collecting all material against the Social Democrats, and to put it at the disposal of the Central Committee and of the E.C.C.I.

We propose these very modest tasks and hope that they will be carried out.

In conclusion I propose that a commission be chosen to summarise the suggestions and digest them, and to draw up a resolution in the name of the conference to be submitted either at a future meeting of this conference, or, since many comrades will be leaving, to turn it over to the Presidium and send it to the Sections after a decision has been reached.

The last proposal of Comrade Pepper was discussed and the following decided:

The Sub-commission will be composed of the following comrades:

Sauvage (France), Bell (Great Britain), Neumann (Germany), Sillen (Sweden), Powers (United States), Bobinski (Poland), Volk (Agitprop), Fried (Org Department), to draw up the resolution together with Comrade Pepper.