

From Report in Zhizn Natsionalnostei ✓

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The Congress of revolutionary organizations of the East opened its sessions on September 1. By that date 1,823 delegates had arrived from Turkestan, Turkey, China, Hindustan, Khiva, Bokhara, Daghestan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Tartar Republic, the Kalmyk Republic, Georgia, Persia, India, etc.

The sessions were conducted in five languages; Russian, Turk, Azerbaijanian, Turko-Uzbek, and Persian.

Upon the agreement of the Communist and the non-party groups, a Presidium was elected unanimously. ✓. Narimanov was the first to deliver a speech of welcome.

✓ For the list of members of the Presidium see below pp.000.

Comrade Zinoviev, who spoke on behalf of the Communist International and its Executive Committee, said in concluding his speech:

"The Communist International calls upon the peoples of the East and of all the colonies to put an end to their enslavers by force of arms. The Communist International stretches out to the Eastern proletariat the fraternal hand of the Western proletariat. Heretofore the ruling classes have often called their own predatory wars "holy wars"; the time has now come for a real holy war of all the oppressed both in the West and the East against their oppressors; and let us declare this kind of war first

of all on Britain and let us wage it to total victory over our foes."

Upon hearing these concluding words, the thousands of delegates and all those who were present were seized by an indescribable enthusiasm. Hundreds of daggers and swords were lifted on all sides. All rose to their feet and vowed that they would not stop fighting until the enemy had been defeated. In scores of different languages curses were hurled at the oppressors. The band played the "Internationale" several times.

At the mention of the Entente the participants of the Congress rose to their feet; also whenever the names of Lloyd George and Millerand were mentioned there were outbursts of fierce hatred on all sides. Everybody seemed to understand these names and the very sound of them was capable of transforming the flame of hatred into conflagration.

There was no oriental calm anywhere in sight; all faces were lit up and the general feeling of strain rose to a climax; when at the end of his speech Zinoviev on behalf of the Communist International ^{called upon all the} toilers of the East to wage a holy war against all exploiters and oppressors, against all the imperialists, all henchmen of the toilers, the Orient could no longer restrain itself. On the Presidium's rostrum and down in the audience in the rows of participants of the Congress, the Turkish curved sabres and Mountaineers' daggers were raised; among the different type of weapons several mausers and Brownings were also in evidence. The Participants of the Congress were already standing on their chairs.

After a considerable effort, Comrade Zinoviev was able to proceed with his speech, which he concluded with words on the unification of the West and the East within the Communist International.