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Russian Daily News, Petrograd November 3, 1917

he "October Revolution", which as we all know actually happened in November, thanks to the different calendar followed at the time in Russia and in the rest of the world, did not come as a big surprise to the readers of the Russian Daily News, a tabloid-size English language newspaper for the expatriate community in Petrograd, the old czarist capital of the Russian Empire.

The Czar himself had gone into exile following his overthrown in March of 1917 and would be executed in the summer of 1918 in the Siberian town of Yekaterinburg. Russia was in turmoil, with the 1st World War taking a terrible toll on economic resources and human lives. That only exacerbated the precarious situation in which the working class and most of the rest of the population were finding themselves, with basic food scarce and appalling living conditions.

Soon to be silenced like all the "bourgeois" and independent newspapers under the implementation of the Bolshevik dictatorship, the Russian Daily News was now reporting on a warning by the

Bolsheviks of a seizure of power, five days before the revolution.

The paper published an interview with one of the Bolshevik leaders in Petrograd, identified as Mr. Volodarsky, who explained the group's intentions very clearly. "There is no use denying that we are striving to seize control through the Soviets. We expect the workers and soldiers to be ready to come out for this seizure as soon as we summon them". He also explained that the Bolshevik masses were very well organized and announced stern measures against disorders provoked by other parties once they gained power in Russia.

Soon there would be plenty of "enemies of the people" to be discarded from the political system. And all those "escaping worker's control" would be dealt with severely. As Lenin –at the time only a political agitator- also warned: "once we seize power we are not going to abandon

Perhaps that's why the same paper reported an order issued by the authorities in Petrograd "to have Lenin arrested immediately".