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This translation of Eisenstein's OCTOBER is based on a 35mm print from Eastman House. This print was made in 1967 on the occasion of 50th anniversary of revolution; it is sound version with Shostakovich score, and has an introductory narration, added for the anniversary.

This translation was done by Anna Muza, Berkeley faculty, and with some editorial comments and suggestions by Edith Kramer.

[The opening from 1967]

1. Mosfilm [Studio]

2. [Voice over:] [showing contemporary posters for "October"]

This film was made in 1927. It was created by the masters of the young Soviet cinema led by Sergei Eisenstein to mark the 10th anniversary of the Soviet power.

The events of 1917 were recreated with the utmost accuracy. Many participants of the revolution acted in front of the camera: Red Guards, soldiers, sailors, including Nikolai Podvoisky, one of the leaders of the armed rebellion.

In the year when the film was shot Leningrad, its streets, buildings, halls of the Winter Palace, corridors of the Smolny Institute, streetcars, autos, weapons remained the same as they had been in the historic year of fighting for the Soviet power.

Thus the film "October" comes to us from the remote past into the jubilee year 1967 as a truthful and exact eyewitness of the fiery origin of our state. At the same time it preserves its significance as a superb work of Soviet art and a remarkable creation of one of the greatest film directors in the world.

The film was made during the epoch of silent cinema. Director Grigory Aleksandrov, Eisenstein's collaborator, worked on converting it into a sound film. It is accompanied by the music of Dmitry Shostakovich.

3. [Credit Intertitle]

Sound version was created by
composer Dmitry Shostakovich
Writer B. Agapov

4. [Unreadable list of credits, not important]

[the original film]

1. OCTOBER. Sovkino Production. 1927

2. To the Petrograd proletariat, the original creator of October, we dedicate our film.
3. Commissioned by the October Jubilee Commission of the Presidium, Central Executive Committee of the USSR. Head N. I. Podvoisky
4. Screenplay and production S. M. Eisenstein, G. V. Aleksandrov
5. Chief Cameraman Eduard Tisse
6. Art design V. Kovrogov
Assistants to the director: M. Gomorov, M. Shtrauch, I. Trauberg
7. We have the right to be proud that we have been destined to start the construction of the Soviet state and with it, a new epoch of world history.
V. Ulyanov (Lenin)
8. [Inscription on the monument]
To our pious, autocratic, and great ruler Emperor Aleksandr Aleksandrovich, of all Russia 1881-1894
9. February. Proletariat's first victory on its great path to socialism.
- 10 To all! To all! To all!
11. To all!
12. To all!
13. Long live the Provisional Government!
14. To all! To all! To all!
15. To all?
16. That means:
17. Brother!
18. Buddy!
19. "The Provisional Government...
20. ... will fully observe all commitments undertaken in relation to our allies."
21. A pound.

- 22 Half-pound.
- 23 One fourth.
- 24 One eighth.
- 25 The same old story....
- 26 Hunger and War.
27. BUT --
28. At the Finland Station.
29. The 3rd of April.
30. -- That's him
31. Ulyanov
32. Lenin.
33. Glory to the revolutionary workers and soldiers who have overthrown the monarchy!
34. No support to the Provisional Government!
35. Hurray to the Socialist Revolution!
36. The Socialist revolution and not the bourgeois one...
37. It will soon be five months of the bourgeois government,
38. yet there is no peace,
39. no bread,
40. NO LAND.
41. The "July Days" – days of people's wrath
- 41a. [Banners in image read] "Down with..." "Down with..."
42. Down with the capitalist ministers!
43. Down with the Provisional Government!

44. Manifestations went on continually at the Kshesinsky Palace.
45. Revolt is premature!
46. The enemy is planning provocations!
47. Calm and restraint!
48. The sailors from Kronstadt.
49. At the proper time the Party will lead you.
- 49a.[Slogans in image read] “Workers’ control over production”; “All power to the Soviets”.
50. At the corner of the Sadovaya street and Nevsky prospect (square).
51. Where the den of the ultra-reactionary press is...
- 51a. [The sign in image reads] The editorial offices of the newspaper “Evening Time”
52. Saving the banner...
53. A Bolshevik!
54. The Government ordered
55. to raise the bridges...
56. to cut off the workers’ districts from the center.
57. The victors drowned the Bolshevik [newspaper] “Pravda”.
58. Counter-revolution had won.
59. The First Machine-Gun Regiment.
60. For their solidarity with the workers...
61. “Turncoats”
62. “Traitors”
63. -- Bolsheviks!

- 63a. [The broken sign in image reads] “Headquarters of the military organization”
64. The Petrograd Committee of the Bolshevik Party.
65. The dictator.
66. Minister of the Army
67. Minister of the Navy
68. Prime Minister. [note there is suggestion of endless list of ministers, and there might be an extra such title not translated so if you find more titles in this sequence than translated, just read “Minister of....”]
69. And so on, and so on, and so on.
70. The hope of the Motherland and of the Revolution –
71. A. F. Kerensky.
72. Tsarist lackeys.
73. Ah, what a democrat!
74. The democrat at the Tsar’s gates.
75. “Turncoats”
76. “Traitors”.
77. On July 6 the Provisional Government
78. issued an order for Lenin’s arrest.
79. Lenin had already gone underground.
80. From here he led the 6th Party Congress, which adopted the course towards an armed rebellion.
81. And in the rooms of the Empress Aleksandra Fedorovna,
82. Aleksandr Fedorovich Kerensky.
83. In the rooms of Aleksandr III,
84. Aleksandr IV?

85. Decree on the reinstatement of death penalty at the front.

86. Bonaparte? Emperor?

87. The revolution is in danger!

88. General

89. Kornilov

90. is approaching.

91. Kornilov is approaching!

92. Everyone to the defense of Petrograd!

93. Kornilov is approaching!

94. In the name of God and Motherland.

95. In the name of

96. God.

97. In the name of

98. the Motherland.

99. Hurrah!

100. Hurrah!

101. Hurrah!

102. General Kornilov.

103. Two Bonapartes

104. Which one of the two?

105. Kornilov is approaching.

106. With the Savage Division

107. With English tanks.

108. And the Government?
109. The Government is powerless.
110. We won't let the General through!
111. Locks are knocked off the prison doors.
112. The "turncoats".
113. "Traitors".
114. Bolsheviks.
115. The arsenal is in the people's hands.
116. The Petrograd proletariat...
117. took the defense into its own hands.
118. Defense headquarters.
119. The Smolny [Institute]
120. The "turncoats".
121. "Traitors".
122. Bolsheviks.
123. The Savage Division.
124. The Bolshevik leaflet...
125. spoke the language that was their own.
126. For bread!
127. For peace!
128. For land!
129. For brotherhood!
130. They fraternized

131. and

132. General Kornilov was arrested.

133. [Slogan in image reads] Proletariat, learn how to use a rifle!

134. Bolsheviks must seize power.

135. It is going to be our last and decisive battle!

136. The battle is near.

137. The 10th of October.

138. The Central Committee of the Bolsheviks was deciding the question of the armed rebellion.

139. Trotsky demanded (or argued): Let us wait.

140. Either wait till Rodzianko & Co strangle the revolution or – start a rebellion. There is no middle ground.

141. Waiting any longer is lethal.

142. In favor of Lenin's proposal.

143. In favor of Lenin's proposal!!!

143a.[The slogan in the image background]: All power to the Soviets

144. The Party organized the rebellion's Headquarters.

144a.[The sign on the door]: Military-Revolutionary Committee

145. The 24th of October.

146. After four months in the underground, Lenin is -- in the Smolny!

147. On the eve of October 25th Lenin assumed leadership over the rebellion.

148. A proclamation had been printed in advance

149. [Proclamation text in image]:

To the Citizens of Russia. The Provisional Government has been overthrown. State power has passed to the Petrograd Soviet [Council] of workers' and soldiers' deputies...

150. 25 October 1917. 10:00 in the morning.

151. Answering the appeal of the Military-Revolutionary Committee, from the remote districts to the Smolny.

152. [The sign in image reads] Instructress [note it is repeated in subsequent shots]

153. The Mensheviks

154. The commissars.

155. To the telegraph (offices) ...

156. To the telephone...

157. In position!

158. There came the morning of the 25th of October.

159. Summoned by the Military-Revolutionary Committee.

160. According to the plan of the rebellion, she came in....

160a. [Image of the ship and its name]: "AURORA" (or you can say "the ship Aurora")

161. Once again in the city the bridges are raised.

162. Again the workers' quarters are cut off from the center.

163. The bridges are in the rebels' hands.

164. The Kronstadt sailors are coming!

165. "The United Cossack Regiment!"

166. War Minister is speaking.

167. "Why aren't the Cossacks here?"

168. "They're already saddling the horses."

169. Neutrality.

170. [Image of proclamation] "To the Citizens of Russia. ..."

171. Hurry to the front, in order to lead the loyal troops back and
172. ... crush the Bolsheviks.
173. Gentlemen!
174. Cadets marched to defend the deposed government.
175. Help is near!
176. Warriors of the female battalion.
177. To the last drop of blood.
178. On the billiard table of Nicholas II.
179. Barricades of the counter-revolution.
180. At the Second Congress of the Soviets
181. the delegates were gathering.
182. [image of written note] Menshevik faction is meeting in room 16
183. [image of written note] Comrade Delegates! The S-R (socialist revolutionaries) faction is meeting in room 20.
184. ... from the front...
185. ... from the east...
186. ... from Kronstadt...
187. ... from the Ukraine...
188. ... from Siberia...
189. The provisional Government (had) lost all power but it still continued to exist.
190. The head
191. the members...
192. composed an address to the people.
193. The Constituent Assembly is the only single lawful master of the Russian land.

194. That night at the Smolny
195. [The banner slogan in image reads]: Hail to the All-Russian congress of the workers', sailors', and soldiers' deputies
196. The Menshevik/S-R (Socialist Revolutionary) Central Executive Committee opened the Congress.
197. Comrades!
198. Before us is one question.
199. This question –
200. – is the question of power.
201. The Provisional Government is the only lawful power.
- 201a. [the sign on the image of door]: “Military-Revolutionary Committee”
202. Yet the people decided otherwise.
203. Russia's capital was controlled entirely by the revolutionary workers and soldiers.
204. The Bolsheviks have organized a military coup against the lawful power.
205. Instead of bread, hunger and destruction lie in store for us!
206. In destruction, the Bolsheviks will perish!
207. – But the revolution will perish too!
208. Down with –
209. Down with –
210. Down with the lackeys of the bourgeoisie!
211. Elections for the Congress's Presidium.
212. The list of the Mensheviks and S-R's (Social Revolutionaries).
213. Not much (many)...
214. I'm voting the list of the Bolsheviks.

214a.[repeated slogans in image]: “All power to the Soviets!”

215. The Winter Palace is surrounded by a ring of steel.

216. [written note in image]: “To avoid the shedding of blood we suggest you surrender.

217. [image of note continued]: 20 minutes to think it over. – Military-Revolutionary Committee.”

218. Negotiators.

219. Mister?

220. Ma’am?

221. Compatriot!

222. The last (final) ultimatum to your Government.

223. Waiting for an answer.

224. Waiting.

225. [written on the image of statue]: “Rodin. The Spring”

226. One by one warriors surrendered.

227. Time is running out.

228. Agitators from the Smolny made their way inside the Winter Palace to the Cossack artillery.

229. Through the cellars of the Hermitage.

230. [image of museum label]: “First floor. Egyptian and Assyrian antiquities”

231. There are more than 1100 rooms in the Winter Palace.

232. In the central courtyard where the Cossack artillery was stationed.

233. The agitators were doing their work.

234. The officer!

235. How dare you leave your post?

236. Cadet! Screw your mother! (or You Mother...!) [The Russian original is explicit although without the f*** word and can also be read as “Motherf***er”]

237. (You) Mother...!

238. [inscription on the statue in image]: “First steps”

239. Cadets!

240. We have been presented with an ultimatum.

241. We won’t give up the Motherland to the Bolsheviks -- German spies.

242. But one floor above

243. The agitators have done their job.

244. How do you propose to take power?

245. Gentlemen!

246. Bolsheviks!

247. The army...

248. is not with you.

249. The front...

250. is not with you.

251. You’re lying!

252. You’re lying!

253. You’re speaking for the Headquarters.

254. The Twelfth Army...

255. – is with the Bolsheviks.

256. Comrades!

257. Comrades!

258. The cyclists!
259. are for the Soviets!
260. It surrendered!
261. The Cossack artillery...
262. changed sides...
263. Still no answer.
264. No answer.
265. But at the Congress the conciliators were “singing”.
266. We need to settle this sad misunderstanding through peaceful means.
267. Without violence... Without blood...
268. The Bolsheviks are forcing historical processes.
269. There will be no peace.
270. There will be no bread.
271. The time for words has passed.
272. For peace!
273. For bread!
274. For land!
275. The signal
276. The canons of the fortress of Peter and Paul.
277. Committee for the salvation of the Motherland and the revolution.
278. To save the Provisional Government
279. To save the Government?!
280. But that's ...

281. the head of the city himself.

282. We!

283. We categorically protest!

284. Give it to them!

285. The bedroom of the Tsarina.

286. Give it to Kerensky!

287. Gentlemen, let us meet them with dignity.

288. All are arrested.

289. In the name of the Military-Revolutionary Committee

289a.[written signature in image]: Antonov-Ovseenko

290. I proclaim the Provisional Government deposed.

290a.[image of clocks labeled] Saint Petersburg

290b[image of second clock labeled] Moscow

290c[image of both clocks together] Saint Petersburg and Moscow

290d[image sequence of more clocks labeled] New York

Berlin

London

Paris

291. Comrades! The workers' and peasants' revolution that the Bolsheviks have urged has occurred!

292. 1917. October 25 / November 7 Wednesday

(the reference is to Soviet Russia's adaptation of the Western calendar 13 days "faster" than the old Russian one)

293. 1917 October 26 / 8 November Thursday

294. [image of document's title]: Decree on Peace

295. [image of document's title]: Decree on Land

296. Now we must start building a proletarian socialist state in Russia.
V. Ulyanov (Lenin)

297. The end.