



Central Organ of the
Communist Party of Turkey

WORKER'S VOICE

November 1995

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE! WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE! WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE! WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE!

Our votes are for the independent candidates who are on the side of labour

Turkey is again entering into another periodical crisis of not being able to govern. The country is on a threshold of a new revolutionary situation. All the people, workers, white colour workers, Kurds, Turks, Alevites, women, men, are spilling on to the streets.

Under these circumstances all bourgeois parties (including Republican Peoples Party) have become even more aggressive, ever more shameless.

Sush are the circumstances that take us into the 24th December elections.

We wish to know, what sort of elections this hastily organised 24th December elections will be?

It is perfectly clear that, bourgeois politics are having these elections by breaking the rules of the legal and constitutional framework that they have themselves constructed for their own benefit.

Young people who have reached the age of 18 are prevented from participating in these elections: While the changes made to the Constitution by their own accord presupposes the participation of the 18 year old youth and the state itself should have reorganised the electoral register to accommodate this the task of enrolling on to the register have been left to the young people themselves.

While the migration from Turkish Kurdistan and the issue of the 18-year-olds needed primarily a new population census, this census has not been conducted, and the elections will take place with the results of 1990 census. As a result of this, approximately 10 million electorate will be unable to take part in the elections.

While Article 67 of the Constitution, has given

the right to vote to the citizens who live and work abroad, and secured this right openly, the 24th December elections is not including this right in its application.

Kurdish electorate have been prevented from participating in the elections. Kurds who have been forced to migrate to places like Adana, Mersin, Diyarbakir due to their villages being burned and evacuated have been prevented from applying to enrol on to the electoral registrar. While birth certificates should be adequate in enrolling they are asked to produce their certificates of residence.

Constitutional conformity laws which must be officialised before the elections, which are Constitutionally required, and even by bourgeois standards necessary for having healthy election, have not been introduced.

The articles of the electoral law which govern the independent parliamentary membership are against the Constitution.

Bourgeois politics, despite all their irregularities against the constitutional and legal framework, have, just in case, voted at parliament to have early elections in order to avoid the Constitutional Court's stopping the elections. Consequently, since the electoral laws could not be investigated by the Constitutional Court the elections were forced through.

It has become obvious that, the secret cooperation between True Path Party and Nationalist Movement Party, which has been going on for the last few years, will turn into a coalition after the elections. This means that fascism is being forced

upon our people step by step.

We are having the 24th December elections under these conditions. This elections, are one of the most anti-democratic elections that Turkey has ever seen. And all the bourgeois parties are equally responsible for this situation. In the 24th December elections, **NO VOTES SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ANY OF THE BOURGEOIS PARTIES!**

On the other hand, gathering together of various progressive, revolutionary and democratic forces in ranks of "Peace and Democracy Front" for the elections, and the coming forward of independent candidates who are on the side of labour in various parts of the country, is a very encouraging development. (Here we should distinguish between the independent candidates who are on the side of democracy and labour with those "independents of representatives assembly" who are paving the way for tomorrows "Alevite Party") **WE HAVE TO WORK FOR THE VICTORY OF CANDIDATES OF THE FRONT AND INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES WHO ARE ON THE SIDE OF LABOUR, wherever we are!**

**NO VOTES FOR BOURGEOIS PARTIES!
NO VOTES FOR THE "INDEPENDENT" OF THE REPRESENTATIVES ASSEMBLY!**

OUR VOTES ARE FOR THE CANDIDATES OF THE FRONT! OUR VOTES ARE FOR THE INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES WHO ARE ON THE SIDE OF LABOUR!

Communist Party of Turkey

In the meeting, the activities of the preceding period was evaluated in the light of the 9th Congress resolutions and the resolutions of the last CC meeting. Party's targets of the coming working period were discussed.

It was agreed that, one of the most important achievements of the last period was the initiation of very productive relationships between the world communist movement and our party. The process which was enhanced with our parties 75th Anniversary, has further progressed by the invitation of TCP, with our Secretary General Veli Dursun accompanied by a delegation to the 16th Congress of the Communist Party of India, advancing the relations of TCP within the international communist movement. It was also pointed out that these developments were the welcomed signs of the recovery and revival for the communist parties in the last years who went through a period of retardation, following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the disintegration of the socialist system.

Having evaluated the organisational work the CC concluded that the second important achievement of the last period was the fact that work amongst the youth have shown vigour and great potential for development in line with the



Announcement

*Turkish Communist Party's
Central Committee which was elected
on its 9th Congress has recently held its
ordinary general meeting*

resolutions of the 9th Congress. It has noted that, as was the case in the past history of the Turkish youth movement, it also is possible today to raise the youth activities to an international level, and stressed that the work done must also have this emphasis. It has been targeted to clear the way of youth work for a style of work "not afraid of making mistakes but stubbornly striving to follow the party line".

It has been stated that the previous CC's "Call to the Old CPT Members" has got positive

response and that this effort should continue.

It has also been noted that, as was pointed out in the previous CC "the influence of Turk-Is's resolutions for action upon the political movement of the coming period and upon our organisational situation would be of paramount importance" has been proven correct by the passing period. As a result of these developments, the class had revolted and the working class has toppled the government. One of the most important theses of the party which was "the unity in Turk-Is" has been proven correct once again by life itself. Furthermore, the working class has shown its determination to change and revolutionise Turk-Is, and had a living experience of what united force can do.

It is said that, to further develop this militant spirit within Turk-Is, it was necessary to win over militant workers to the ranks of the party at an higher rate than presently done. The most crucial task of the coming period is to organise lasting party cells in the factories.

It was also emphasized that, one of the points which needs special attention in the political turmoil of the coming period is that the committees which will be established in factories

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CPT

DECLARATION

On Friday 6th October, 150 members of the Turkish Special Police Force raided the office of the legal newspaper Kervan in Gazi - a working class district of Istanbul.

They carried away all contents of the office and later detained three journalists of the newspaper, Oruc Coban, Cemal Kucuksahin and Dogan who were taken from their homes. Friends and relatives of the three were repeatedly told by the police that there had been no detentions and that the police had no knowledge of the whereabouts of the three.

All Turkey knows of the pattern of detention, disappearance, denial and then discovery of the body or bodies some time later.

Consequently efforts to locate the three continued until friends found them in detention in Aksaray Anti-Terror Police Department.

To date in 1995 alone, over 300 prominent writers, lawyers, peace workers, social workers, journalists, revolutionaries and other political activists have been snatched from their homes or offices by the special police and found dead three to four weeks later.

All Turkish people who speak out, or work for social, political or economic justice are in peril.

The Turkish regime is also responsible for the savage repression of the Kurdish people's desire and struggle for self determination.

No one will ever know exactly how many Kurds have been murdered. Thousands have died at the hands of the Turkish military this year alone.

The Communist Party of Turkey (CPT) calls for:

- The immediate release of the journalists



Oruc Coban, Cemal Kucuksahin and Dogan and others who are kept in illegal detention

- No detention without trial
- Immediate release of all political prisoners
- A halt to the dirty war in Kurdistan
- Self-determination for the Kurdish people.

The TKP will continue to organise and struggle for social, political and economic justice, for freedom of political expression and for solidarity with the Kurdish people and for democracy and socialism.

We invite your expression of solidarity with these demands and pledges, and with the working class and toiling masses of Turkey in their struggle by signing this statement.

Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkey

Also signed by:

Peter Symon, General Secretary, Socialist

Party of Australia
Mucahid-ul Islam Selim, General Secretary, C.P. of Bangladesh,
J.Crockett, Memb. of National Exec. Cmtee, C.P. of Britain,
Lutz Scherling, Memb. of Nat. Exec. Cmtee, Party of Democratic Socialism of Germany,
Sitaram Yechury, Head of Intl. Dept, Mem. of Politbureau, C.P. of India (Marxist),
H.Ayoub, Memb. of Central Cmtee, Iraqi Communist Party,
Youssef Mohamedy, TUDEH Party of Iran
Sergio Ricaldone, Intl. Foreign Dep, Rejfoundation C.P. of Italy,
Ganesh Shah, Deputy General Secretary, C.P. of Nepal (United),
Alan Ware, National Secretary, Socialist Unity Party of New Zealand,
Pedro P.Baguira, General Secretary, Philippine Communist Party,
Henrique J. Carvalho d'Sousa, Memb. of Secretariat of Central Cmtee., Portuguese C.P.
Oleg Shenin, Memb. of Co-ordinating Council, UCP-CPSU,
Raja Collure, General Secretary, C.P. of Sri Lanka,
K.H.Eltom, Repr. of C.P. of Sudan,
Abdulwahab Rachwani, Memb. of Political Bureau, Syrian Communist Party,
Isomiddin Sajokhiddinov, Memb. of Presidium, General Secr. of Dushmabec Party Cmtee, C.P. of Tacikistan,
Dr. Nguyen Xuan Son, International Department C.P. of Vietnam,
Alexander Vulin, General Secretary, League of Communist Movement for Yugoslavia,
Rolf Hagel Party Chairman, Communist Party of Sweden.

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and districts, should also act as life protecting units for the people.

The Central Committee stressed that, early elections will not save the bourgeoisie, especially at this stage of bourgeois ruling crisis aggravated by the toppling down of the government by the working class. The Central Committee has come to a conclusion that, holding the elections in contradiction to the their own Constitution and Election Law, just for the sake of staying a little longer in their "grabbed seats" is the proof of the anti-democratic nature of these elections.

Working class, with the political struggle that it has conducted has shown its lack of confidence to all bourgeois institutions, and even damned them. With all this rubbish of "Early elections", the elections are in fact being snatched away from the Kurdish people. The Central Committee, considering the political situation in Turkey, is proposing that, in every locality, all the revolutionary, progressive,

democratic votes should go to pre-determined candidates who are on the side of labour. No votes for bourgeois parties!

Central Committee, has brought forward that, in the coming political working period, the relations with the revolutionary and democratic organisations should be improved and the party units should organise militant actions on the basis of "local problems" and in the light of 9th Congress Resolutions.

Central Committee has touched on the point that our party has carried a successful work in unmasking the "Alevite Party" con-trick. With the help of this work too, the circles which support this idea, have been forced retreat, at least for now.

Our party's understanding of putting the central organ at the heart of organisational work, has been re-emphasized with the republication of Workers Voice.

Today all the developments in Turkey are calling for the party. Our problem is the merging of the working class and the CPT. For this our

party membership must be increased. When accepting members to the party, the doors of the party widens or narrows according to the level of class struggle in the country. It is not far before the present crises bourgeoisie not being able to govern to go beyond the scope of governments. The working class is in a high level of activity, so is the youth. The dirty war in Kurdistan knows no bounds. All the sections of the society is in an high level of activity. In short, Turkey is edging towards a revolutionary situation. The level of politicisation of the society is very high. Under these conditions, what Marxism-Leninism teaches us is that the doors of the party should be wide open. The number of party members and the comrades who are tested in IMG's should be increased rapidly today.

Comrades, lets work hard in this coming intense period.

Communist Party of Turkey
Central Committee
November 1995

Joint Declaration of the Communist Party of Bangladesh and the Communist Party of Turkey

Following a meeting between the general secretaries of our parties at the Marx Memorial Library in London on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Communist Party of Turkey it was decided to publish this declaration.



The history of class struggle is presently going through a period of trying circumstances. How the world communist movement will come out of this test will determine to what extent the progressive forces of the world will stamp their landmark on the struggle for democracy, freedom and socialism.

Already the communist and working class parties the world over are seeking to establish common grounds upon which effective and purposeful international cooperation can fur-

ther develop. These encouraging signs are warmly welcomed by our parties and shows that each defeat and setback suffered by the working and toiling masses is followed by more profound and determined action by the cadres of Marxism-Leninism and scientific communism. This also underlines the premise that 'final victory of communism is necessary and inevitable' is not just a utopic dream but a scientific fact historically derived from the concrete social, political and economical processes of human

existence.

The tilting of the balance of forces towards imperialism, following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the world socialist system, while making the forces of reaction ever more aggressive and arrogant, does little to solve the deep and structural crises of capitalism. As competition between the imperialist powers intensifies the very conditions which are necessary for the survival of capitalism are becoming hindrances for its further development. Capitalism further develops the objective prerequisites of socialism with its every desperate move and every solution it finds for each socio-economic problem.

Capitalist imperialism in its attempts to consolidate its global domination is systematically aggravating anti-communism, national hatred and all kinds of chauvinism. It is daily doing away with the hard earned rights of the working people. It is manipulating the barbaric fervours of religious fundamentalism. In short it is waging a savage war with all the means at its disposal against the masses and champions of the future society in order to prolong its unjust existence.

We, the communist cadres of the world must now, more than ever, raise the banner of proletarian internationalism. Communists and progressive forces of the world must unite and organise against this global onslaught of the reactionary forces. We must today, more than ever, put aside the differences and strive to come up with a global strategy and organise to counter this global barbarism. Such is the historical responsibility placed on the shoulders of the world communist movement today.

Long live communism.

*Communist Party of Bangladesh
Communist Party of Turkey*



LETTER FROM COMUNIST PARTY OF SWEDEN

Dear Comrades,

Thank you very much for the documents you have sent.

We received with interest your Statement on the terror in Turkey, the repression of the Communists and other progressives and the national oppression of the Kurdish nation living in your country. Our Party Chairman, Comrade Rolf Hagel, arranged your Statement to be translated. This will be printed in our party newspaper "Richtpunkt" together with our comments and further information. We expect it will be further publicised by the left press of our country. (We send you a copy of the translation.) To support your struggle and the struggle of the Kurdish nation has been a mainstay of our party work for a very long time.



On 4 and 5 of November we will hold our 31st Party Congress that will also be the reformation congress of the Communist Party of

Sweden. Our party is reassuming this traditional and glorious name that was the name it was used in founding period. Due to political circumstance our party was called Workers Party-Communists between 1977 and 1995.

While our party re-assume its name as CPS, we, as your party, follow the line of Marxism-Leninism that bridges today with the working class movement's glorious days of 1917.

Further information on the Party Congress, our Programme and other congress documents will be forwarded to you, when they are translated to English or German.

With communist greetings,

Rolf Hagel Party Chairman, Comunist Party of Sweden

*Message received from the Communist Party of Canada on the occasion of
75th anniversary of the Communist Party of Turkey*



Comrade Miguel Figueroa

Dear comrades,

On behalf of the Central Committee and the membership of the Communist Party of Canada, we are very pleased to express our solidarity and best wishes to the Communist Party of Turkey – its leadership and members – on the occasion of your party's 75th anniversary.

While conditions differ in our respective countries, we are both struggling for social advance in the same global environment, in conditions of a world increasingly dominated by international finance capital – the common enemy of all humanity. Everywhere, imperialism is imposing its economic policies with a vengeance: free trade, privatisation, government "down-sizing", mass cutbacks and even wholesale elimination of public health care, education, and other programmes and services for the people.

But this offensive, stemming from the new world balance of forces, is also helping to unite the working class and democratic forces, and in

particular the revolutionary forces, on a new international basis. In its own way, the actions of imperialism are helping to clear away ideological confusion and disorientation, and to re-affirm the validity of scientific socialism.

We are aware that your party has reached similar conclusions from your analysis of the contemporary situation, and we have every confidence that your party continue to struggle for democracy and for socialism from a principled positions, based on the theory and practise of scientific socialism.

Once again, please accept our congratulations on this important milestone in the history of your party and the whole working class of Turkey, and our best wishes for your continuing struggle. Our two parties have always maintained comradely relations for many years, and we hope that our relations will continue and expand in the future.

*Miguel Figueroa Central Executive
Committee, Communist Party of Canada*

*Message received from Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia on the occasion of
75th anniversary of the Communist Party of Turkey*

Dear Comrades

With a great delay we have received your kind invitation to the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Communist Party of Turkey held on September 10th 1995. Thus, unfortunately we have had no possibility to visit your celebration meeting. At present time we are living in intensive preparation of our 4th Party Congress and several mass meetings (e.g. protest against the entrance of Czech Republic into the NATO).

Despite the fact that we have not participated in your celebration, we have great respect to the experience of your party, which has lived many

years in extreme conditions of military and dictatorial regimes, fighting for social progress and equality, for human rights and the dignity of man.

The Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia is working in very difficult conditions as well. It has to resist greatest pressure – political, juridical and economic, sharp attacks both from outside, and inside. But we have succeeded in maintaining a mass character of the party with approximately 220,000 members and organisational structure in all districts of the country (7,500 basic organisations).

Dear comrades,

We would be very happy if you would be able to transmit our warmest greetings to your party members: we highly appreciate their struggle for modern, human, advanced Turkey. This struggle has cost many victims and losses of good comrades, but, we are all deeply convinced that your fight will be crowned with success. Accept, please, our sincere congratulation to the 75th anniversary of the Communist Party of Turkey. We assure you with our solidarity and wish you many successes and prospects.

*Miloslav Ransdorf, Deputy Chairman of the
CC of CP of Bohemia and Moravia*

*Message received from Communist Party of the Peoples of Spain on the occasion of
75th anniversary of the Communist Party of Turkey*

Comrades,

We regret the delay in replying to your letter inviting us to take part in the meeting to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Communist Party of Turkey.

Regrettably, the cost of the journey prevented us from going to London, as we would have wished, to share the 75th anniversary celebration with you.

We Spanish Communists have always alternatively followed your struggle, convinced that the advance of communist opinion in another country is an important help for our own fight against capitalism.

In Spain, the process of deterioration of the



bourgeois democratic system is being followed by new cases of state terrorism and corruption, which will surely lead to an important increase

in abstentions and spoilt ballot paper in popular districts in the next elections.

On the other hand, the struggles of wage-workers of different branches of production to stand up to the impositions of neoliberalism coming from the European Union and to hold on to their jobs, have increased, although regrettably the leaderships of the big trade unions do not measure up to what is needed and do nothing to co-ordinate major protest movements.

We wish you much success in your work and greet you in the name of the PCPE Central Committee.

*Quim Boix, Responsible for International
Relations*

**Communist Part of Turkey
75th Anniversary**

The CPI's 16th Congress was a concrete indication of the marked recovery made by the communist parties for the last couple of years

Communists from all over the world have got together in India

The CPI's 16th Congress, which had the two main messages "secularism-democracy-socialism" and "unity of the left", was well organised and successful. We are confident that their successes will continue in their future struggles.



M. GIRAY



The 16th Congress of the Community Party of India (CPI), who send a fraternal message to 75th Anniversary of Communist Party of Turkey (CPT), has successfully ended. Delegates from twenty six communist parties attended the congress, and there were many fraternal messages received from the communist parties which could not attend. Our party, CPT, was represented by a delegation under the leadership of our General Secretary Comrade R. Yurukoglu. Our delegation handed the message of the Central Committee of CPT to the 16th Congress of CPI.

The majority of the fraternal communist parties were represented either by general secretary or central committee level. The CPT's delegation had very positive and productive meetings with both, CPI and other communist parties. Naturally, the main topic on the agenda was the collapse of the Soviet Union. "Living Socialism", which was written by Comrade Yurukoglu in 1982 has gathered a lot of interest amongst the international delegates. A comrade from one of the fraternal parties said that: "Now many people agree with these ideas, but the most striking point about this book is that it was written in 1982."

On the evening of 7th October, during the opening ceremony of the Congress, international delegates have been introduced to thousands of people who were attending the rally. The delegates greeted the participants in the traditional manner. This introductory section of the opening session, received big and warm interest from the public, and was a symbol of international solidarity amongst the communist parties.

There were tight security measures in the square where the rally was held and in Talkatora Indoor Stadium where the congress took place.

The majority of Delhi was decorated with red because of the 16th Congress of CPI. There were red flags alongside the major roads and huge hammer and sickle's in parks where people gathered.

The Stadium, was named after Comrade Bahal Singh, founding member of Communist Party in Delhi. Delhi Party committee was formed in 1939, while the party was still illegal, with 25 communists. They organised the "Red Flag" movement of textile workers. Today Delhi Party organisation consists of 3000 people which is considered to be one of the "small" organisations of CPI. It is rather difficult to get organised in the north of the country, where the majority of the population is under the influence of fundamentalism.

On the first day of the Congress, honourable comrade M Farooqi, who is one of the founder members of Delhi party committee and who has gathered invaluable experience through the years of struggle, has addressed the Congress as the Chairman of the Reception Committee. He gave a brief account of the foundation and the struggle of Delhi Party organisation and the history of the anti-imperialist struggle of the City of Delhi.

Then there was the inaugural speech of Comrade Indrajit Gupta, General Secretary of CPI. Comrade Gupta criticised the economic policies of the present government, and stressed the necessity of raising the struggle against divisive communal, fundamentalist and secessionist forces. And stated that the representative of these forces, BJP, is the main enemy. He said that the main objective of CPI is secular-democracy and socialism and the struggle for the unification of the left was of paramount importance to achieve this aim. He said that even in those dark days of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the disintegration of the

socialist system, they have never lost their faith in the teachings of Marxism-Leninism, the scientific principles, objectives and noble ideals of socialism. They have in fact strengthened their believes.

After his speech, comrade general secretary, introduced the fraternal communist party representatives to the congress. One of the things we have noticed with interest was that the leaders of all the other left parties were also invited. In India, there are at least 5 left-wing parties who have a considerable organisational strength. All the top leaders of at least 5 left wing and communist parties made a speech in the first day of the Congress.

Especially Comrade Surjeet's speech, who is the general secretary of CPI-M, the largest communist party in India, received the most enthusiastic response accompanied with the slogans calling for communist unity.

A representative of TCP met with Comrade Surjeet and later we had an official meeting with CPI-M in their party centre. The results of the meeting were very positive.

Another interesting aspect was that the documents of the congress and speeches were delivered in English. With India's 700 million strong population there are many different languages spoken. Fourteen of them are used most commonly. The speeches made in the congress were simultaneously translated into those languages.

On the 8th and 9th of October, reports and resolutions were discussed.

After the reports given by the representatives of the state party organisations and the speeches by the delegates on these two days, on 10th October, meetings of commissions took place.

After very lively sessions, and approval of final documents and the elections the congress came to a conclusion on 11th October.

Marxism-Leninism must be combined with the concrete conditions of each country. We say "Marxism-Leninism and Ho Shi Minh's Thoughts"

Our common objective is international unity

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam we greet the people of Vietnam who together with Cuba proudly held the banner of socialism high after the collapse of the Soviet Union. This article is taken from the recording of a meeting between the Communist Party of Vietnam and the Communist Party of Turkey.



Com. Nguyen Duc Binh, Member of Polit Bureau, Secretary of the Central Committee of Communist Party of Vietnam

Marxism-Leninism and Ho Shi Minh Thought

Our party, Communist Party of Vietnam, has been in activities for the last 60 years. One of the biggest lesson we draw is that we should be independent and self-reliant. We are not influenced by outsiders. Whenever we are independent our revolution goes ahead. Whenever we are dependent, the revolution meets difficulties and set-backs.

Every country has its own historical characteristic conditions such as tradition, culture, level of development. If you are far from these conditions the revolution should be difficult.

That is a lesson we saw in our own experience. We say that Marxism-Leninism and Ho Shi Minh thoughts. Ho Shi Minh thought is highly combined condition of fundamental Marxism with the complete conditions of Vietnam. It can be said that Ho Shi Minh has Vietnamised Marxism-Leninism. Not only in content but even in the language of nation. I think that is the lesson we draw from our experience.

In 1956-57 when Krushov was in power, he advised us not to make revolution. At that time our country was divided into two parts. Krushov advisors advocated peaceful co-existence between the two parts of the country. And Chinese Xang, that time advised us not to carry out a big

struggle, a big fight.

But we were independent, we carried out our own line, our tactics. We build the socialism in the North. Brought forward revolution in South Vietnam. Many comrades from outside advised us differently but we were united in our own policy, and self-reliance.

Internationalism

Even self-reliance in internationalism. Our party always stands for proletarian-internationalism. And we understand that proletarian internationalism is not contradictory to self-reliance. It supports each other. They agree to each other.

On that spirit we consistently considered importance the relation with Soviet Union and other communist parties. We always mention the Great October Revolution, and thanks to that revolution we had our August Revolution. And the contributions of Soviet Union to the World

Revolution in the last many decades has been very deep and valuable. So we are very conscious of October Revolution and Soviet Unions role in international communist movement.

Collapse of Soviet Union

But until 1985, when Gorbachev was in power, he raised openness, perestroika, we were hopeful. We, for two years we were hopeful, in 1986-1987. But perestroika went far away from Marxism-Leninism. And then came the decentralisation. It hurt, that event hurt us very much, and also the Leninist people. Because it meant very much to our society, to our people. It created difficulties, great difficulties to our society.

And as you have known that when Soviet Union was disintegrated, imperialists concentrated their attacks on the communists and on socialism. They wanted to bury socialism among which Vietnam was one. In that situation, the construction of socialism in our country is in difficulties, great difficulties. Both economically, politically and also ideologically. It effected us very much. But our party maintained our plans and policies. Our hopes also.

We are persistent in our path to socialism. Our party and the people defended our

objectives, and for that we defended our revolution. That is why we have overcome our difficulties. We have not only overcome our difficulties but we get some advances in our revolution which is based on Marxism-Leninism's fundamentals.

The future is bright

I think the situation in our country is better, and getting better. We mainly got out of social crisis as far as the economy concerned. We have very good growth in economy, for the last four years now. The growth rate is 8.1 for the last two years. Other things like culture, education, has been developed very good. Inflation came down from 600-700% to 13-14% this year. The life of the people gets back much better, and the belief of the people in the society, in the party, in the state had increased. All that creates good, favourable conditions for us to carry out our activities.

Now we have maintained, established relations with 56 parties and organisations in the world. Even US established relations with us. In short, the situation concerning our society and our economy has been fairly bright. That is because of we are independent and self-reliant, we get these achievements. Our objective is "national independence and socialism". Nothing can take us away from this objective. But the tactics, strategy and measures must be flexible depending on the situation.

Unity is very necessary

I understand that Turkish Communist Party has followed our struggle closely. I am deeply moved when I heard the activities in support of Vietnam in the past in your country. I also sympathise with Turkish communists with the difficulties they face in their struggle for socialism. I also express our admiration for your belief in our objective, in our ideal. And that ideal is the core for our unity. That makes us become comrades in the struggle, in the common fight. We should do everything to unite the communists. That is very necessary for the communists in the world to meet each other. Our movement has been going through eventful period. To get out of this period successfully, we have to find our way to unite, to reunite.

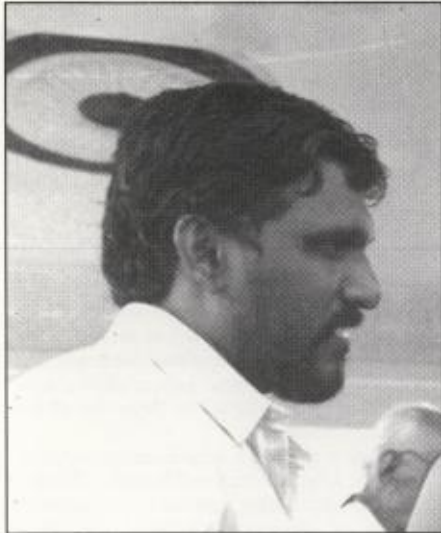
We also need the assistance, the solidarity from you, from different communist parties.

Each party has their own opinions, its natural. Because each party has to find the concrete conditions of theirs. And international communist movement has been facing very difficult period. So the differences are natural. The important thing is to unite. This is the common ideal, our common objective, and our common principle. And we never see this taken away from us. So we must discuss to unite, to bring our revolution forward.

Turkish delegation in India met the General Secretary of All India Students Federation (AISF)

The struggle is continuing

We AISF, will give support and solidarity in future and we hope that the Turkish Youth and Students will be able to achieve their aims and goals for the sake of their people and for the development of their society and country.



Soni Thengamom General Secretary of All India Students Federation

AISF is a student movement of India. It is the first national student organisation. And it played an important role in the freedom movement of our country. It was formed in 1936. It was inaugurated by Mr Nehru, the first prime minister of India.

Now we have units all over India. In India we have 25 states and 7 union territories. In almost all the states except 2-3 states we have our unions. We have units in universities, colleges, technical institutions and even in high schools. We have 201 universities in India, we have about 7,000 colleges all over India. And a lot of technical and professional institutions are also here. We organise students high school, college level as well as the university level.

Our student population at the university level is 5 million. Actually only the 5% of the young people at the age group of 18-23. So first of all there is no access for education. So we are fighting for it. Our main fight is to right to education. That is a fundamental thing. In our constitution its included in the directive principles.

Recently, there was a supreme court verdict, the highest court of the country has given a verdict, a historic verdict, excepting the democratic student movement's slogan, that education is a fundamental right. Students, we are continuing, we will fight. We are getting good response students as well as from public.

So now they are cumble to do certain things regarding this, now the government is also raising the slogan "education for all". But our constitution has said this 1950, in 45 years have passed, even then most of our people are illiterate. The students, the people are not getting the chance of getting education. So the fight is continuing. And now, there is a serious policies introducing the free education. It is the part of the new economic policy introduced by the government. As part of the globalisation process, they are starting privatisation in the

education. So it means in the future most the young people belonging to the poorer families will not be able to get a chance for higher education.

So if you take total student population at the higher education level, only 22-30% of the students are coming from the poorer and weakest sections of our society. The remaining 70-80%, are from the affluent families.

So due to this policy, they are introducing a new principle of self financing principle, it means the financial expenditure in the educational institution must be mobilised through some internal mobilisation method. That is known as the self-financial policy. We are totally opposing that. Because we feel that the government has the responsibility to provide education for its citizens. So we are fighting against this particular policy and we are demanding to scrap this self-financing policy. And also we are fighting against the privatisation and homolisation of education throughout the country.

And the student have given a big response. Not only the students, we have formed a form of mass organisation along with trade unions and women organisations and youth organisation. There were big demonstrations all over the country. Historic march was also conducted in last year, April 1994. Tens of thousands of young people, students, workers, women participated in that rally. And the fight is continuing. In the coming days we hope that, because the government is proceeding with all this anti-people, anti-student policies.

And it is the part of the international process of globalisation. Most of the people in the 3rd world contries are facing it. In India it is a little bit more, when compared with some other countries. So the fight should be continued. And we are cooperating with the like-minded, democratic, left student organisations of our country. There is a united platform of student organisations. We are making some programme for the coming academic year also. We are going for a national demands week, and there will be some students march in November, as part of the programme of the national platform of mass organisations.

1986, our government introduced a new education policy. This policy is also an elitist policy. And they want to make some modern inten? citizens for the next century, that was their claim. But actually, their policy is for the rich people. So they are undermining to provide education to the poor people of our country. So since its exception in 1986, we are fighting against this policy.

Now I would like to tell something about our organisational structure. Our highest body is our National Conference. Every three years we conduct our National Conference. In between this period the highest body is National Council. National Council is the leading of our organisation at national level. And there is an executive secretariat. And the secretariat is the body dealing with the day to day affairs. There are

11 members in the secretariat. And three of them are working from the centre. We have an office secretary and our central office is in our capital New Delhi. We have state level committees. That is provincial or regional level committees. And they have also the same structure like state committee, executive have secretarial. Mainly the president and the secretary of the state committees have the main functional state. After state committees there are district level committees. It is also led by its president and secretary and other office members. Then we have local level committees. Then the basic unit is school, college and university level units. So this is the structure of our organisation.

Every year we conduct membership campaign. We have a membership of 2.2 million last year. This year membership campaign is working on it. And we collect membership fees.

Our other sources finances are: One is publishing and selling our pamphlet. Secondly we are collecting money from our former activist as well as from public.

We are also conducting cultural programmes and selling tickets for those programmes. So these are the main sources for our organisation.

Communist Party is providing some sort help for our main functions. They are giving some sort of financial help for the main functions at national level, state level, and district level. And we have a student department for our party. And Student Department is consists of 9 members, and one secretary is there, and one senior member of the national executive is also in charge of this Student Department of the Party. And Student Federation's General Secretary is the secretary to the department.

And regularly we conduct our meetings. Every three months we are holding our National Council Meeting. And every two months our state committees have their meetings. And district and university meetings are regular. Here we discuss the student problem as a social problem. And also if there is any need of any help from the party we discuss it through the Department of the Party.

AISF is an independent student organisation, but we accept the political leadership of the Communist Party of India. It does not mean that each and every member of the AISF is a member of the communist party. AISF is a mass organisation of the party. And we try to get party cadres through the AISF. And the Student Department of the Party is doing this job inside this organisation.

And also we regularly conduct political and ideological classes for our cadres at national level, state level, regional level, as well as the university level. Some times we can make one month classes. Sometimes one week classes. And also we are holding regular camps, 3-4 days camps at district and state level camps. So through these we are select certain cadres and train and then we give them party membership later on. This is the process which we work with the party.

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Monopoly Control of Newspaper Distribution Bad for Democracy

This article was sent to the Workers Voice by Morning Star, the central daily organ of the Communist Party of Britain.



Experience of recent changes in the newspaper distribution and wholesale system highlights the fact that for there to be a functioning democracy with an informed population it is not sufficient to be able to publish what you want. You must also be able to get your product to a wide readership.

Over the past few months Morning Star readers in many areas of the country have been experiencing problems getting their paper regularly. This has been especially acute in Scotland and the Midlands.

The Morning Star has not been alone in suffering this problem. All the minor titles with which we are distributed are affected similarly. These include Lloyds List, The Polish Daily, International Herald Tribune and the Daily Jang.

To understand what is happening it is necessary to go back a few years to the Wapping dispute. As well as sacking many of its workers in an attempt to reduce the power of the print trade unions Rupert Murdoch's News International withdrew from the rail distribution

network. Robert Maxwell's Mirror Group rapidly joined N.I. in moving into road distribution contracts controlled by major publishers.

Prior to this British Raid and the newspaper wholesalers operated a national distribution system from rail head to newsagent which was available to all publications - large or small. No single publisher could impose changes to the detriment of others.

For a while British Raid maintained its service but eventually the rest of the major newspapers withdrew making the system

workable.

Fortunately the Morning Star and the other minor titles printed in London were able to form a consortium to maintain ongoing distribution on the back of other newspapers including the Guardian and Financial Times.

We were of course grateful for this while at the same time paying a commercial rate for the service but were always aware that such agreements could be ended at any time by these publishers. Quite understandably they take decisions in what they perceive to be their best interests.

Some of the more recent problems have arisen in exactly this way because the Financial Times decided to change to two centre printing in London and the North of England. The immediate effect of this was to eliminate our Scottish distribution system along with our contract for distribution in the North of England and the Midlands.

We have with mainly short term disruption

been able to establish alternative contracts for Scotland and the North of England. We still have only temporary and somewhat satisfactory arrangements in place for the Midlands but are actively seeking permanent ones.

This brings us full circle with the latest changes being triggered once again by News International. News International have created enormous distribution areas for which wholesalers have to bid. If they fail in such bids, by and large they cannot continue economically. This has led to many wholesalers closing over the last few weeks including three out of the thirteen in London.

In addition the main wholesale monopolies, WH Smith, John Menzies and Surridge Dawson have consolidated their position by a process of exchange of territories affected by these changes.

In some parts of the country the effect of all this has been chaos. We are doing our best to minimise the impact on our readers but must of it is beyond our control.

Apart from the immediate disruption it is also clear that increasing monopolisation of newspaper distribution controlled directly or indirectly by major publishers poses a serious threat to democracy.

Alongside this is a further worrying attack on the survival of street corner newsagents who provide a diverse range of newspapers and magazines on display or to order.

More and more newspapers and magazines are being sold through petrol stations and supermarkets. Huge profits can be made from stacks of the Sun and Mirror and Womens Own but where does that leave the rest of us.

The Morning Star and other small titles have enough difficulty finding space at the newsagents. We have little or no chance of getting into petrol stations or supermarkets.

There is a growing campaign against any one company or individual owning more than a couple of newspapers as well as TV and radio stations. It is important that the issue of monopoly control of newspaper distribution and sales gains greater prominence in the debate about democracy in the media.

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About the international relations: AISF is the founder of the International Union of Students and the World Federation of Democratic Youth. We have played a very important role in the leadership of this two organisation. Until now we are giving all sort of help and assistance to these organisations. And we are playing very vital role in the international student and youth movement. We have also sent big delegations to the congress of WFDY and we are regularly participating conferences and programmes of other fraternal organisations and we are also inviting fraternal organisations for our pro-

grammes as well as students festivals.

So regularly there is a contact between our fraternal organisations and our organisations. So sometimes they will help us to remind and analyse the problems of students as well as people. We find out our common problems as well as our specific problems. And even we help for the fight to solve and find answers for these problems.

We know that our biggest problem we are facing is human rights violation. AISF always fight against the violation of human rights not only in India all over the world.

We have wholly supported the struggle

against apartheid in South Africa. And we firmly give our solidarity to the democratic and student movements of various countries. Now we have already started a campaign, for the freedom of An-San-Sujo of Burma. Now still this solidarity campaign is continuing for the restoration of democracy in Burma. Like that all over the world. Wherever the human rights violations are held we are raising our voice against that.

So we would like to have good relations with Turkish Youth and Student Movement also. For that we have several of struggle of human rights violations and for their democratic rights.

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