



Committee for the Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey

NEWSLETTER

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CRIME

AGAINST CYPRUS PEOPLES

It has been seven years since the invasion of Northern Cyprus was carried out in July 1974 by the Turkish Army. Since then Turkey's finance capital has settled down firmly on the island.

The invasion took place under the slogan of "bringing peace to the island and protecting the rights of 'blood brothers' ". The meaning of this protection has come more into the open in the past seven years. Finance-capital of Turkey, in need of expansion to solve its socio-economic problems, chose Cyprus as an important, strategic country to colonise. And nowadays Northern Cyprus is almost a colony of Turkey.

Today 35-40% of the island is still under occupation. Almost all of the Greek Cypriot population have become refugees in Southern Cyprus. The land and houses have been rehabilitated by the forced immigrants from Turkey. Their numbers are almost equal to the Turkish Cypriot population of the island.

But, above all, there is the presence of the Turkish bourgeoisie on the island. The very next day after the invasion, holding companies from Turkey took control of the economy of this occupied land. Even the problem of currency was solved at one go: the Cyprus pound has been replaced by the Turkish Lira, with postage stamps following suit. Nowadays all communications (both air and sea), telecommunications, banking and post offices are controlled by the Turkish State authorities, while Koç, Sabancı holdings reached into the more profitable sectors of the economy. Not forgetting, of course, their own banks and airlines.

After the fascist coup in Turkey the situation has developed for the worse. At

a time when expansionism is openly state policy Evren could say nothing more than that "Cyprus is and has always been a part of Turkey".

For Turkey's finance-capital today, Cyprus is not enough to solve their problems. They have taken "the rights of blood brothers in Kerkuk and Musul" (in Iraq) onto their agenda. But with an unsuitable international situation for another occupation the crisis in Turkey is deepening every day. Thus the fascist junta has to take more and more repressive measures in Turkey itself.

The inner colony Kurdistan is under military occupation. Thousands of villagers have been forced to leave their homes; even in the censored press reports of torture and killings have

reached the level of genocide.

With all human and democratic rights of the people of Turkey abandoned it is more important than ever to show our solidarity against the fascist junta in Turkey. The Turkish and Greek peoples of Cyprus have one common enemy to fight: Finance-capital of Turkey, whose imperialist aspirations are represented by the fascist junta headed by General Kenan Evren.

On the 7 anniversary of the occupation of Cyprus we call upon all democratic progressive forces to raise their voice against the fascist junta in Turkey and to demand troops out of Cyprus.

Down with the fascist junta in Turkey!
All troops out of Cyprus!



CDDRT CONGRESS 1981

Cyprus Demo Supported

Cyprus Resolution

This Congress of CDDRT condemns the continued Turkish military occupation of Northern Cyprus.

Now that there is a fascist junta in Turkey finance capital aims to fully colonise Northern Cyprus by armed, economic and political force. Already the currency in use is the Turkish lira and Turkey's banks and companies operate freely within the puppet Turkish Federated State of Cyprus.

In its attempts to solve Turkey's economic problems and consolidate fascism, the fascist junta longs for colonies and to become an imperialist country. As part of its strategy for the Middle East, the fascist junta is preparing to export fascism to Northern Cyprus, bound ever-closer to Turkey as its colony. The inalienable right of the Greek and Turkish Cypriot peoples to self-determination must be vigorously supported. We demand the withdrawal of Turkey's armed forces from Cyprus and thus end the divisionism which it fosters.

We fully support all efforts to foil the scheme of imperialism and finance-capital in Cyprus. This Congress therefore calls for the widest mobilisation for the march on Sunday 19 July 1981 called to protest the 1974 invasion of Cyprus by Turkey's armed forces.

Down with imperialism!

All foreign troops out of Cyprus!

Main Congress Resolution

This Congress of the CDDRT:

1. Considers that
 - a) The fascist military junta is attempting to consolidate fascism in Turkey by means of massive repression and terror.
 - b) The fascist military junta is attacking the real trade union confederation DISK and all democratic and revolutionary organisations.
 - c) The Kurds in Turkey are experiencing ever greater oppression to a degree approaching genocide.
 - d) Torture of detainees and prisoners is now systematic and widespread.
 - e) Expansionism, reflecting the imperialist aspirations of Turkey's finance-capital, has now properly become state policy and represents a threat to peace in the region.
2. Resolves to
 - a) Make our main area of work the building of solidarity in the struggle against repression of working class democratic and revolutionary organisations and the oppression of the Kurdish nation.
 - b) Campaign vigorously within the labour and trade union and student movements on this basis, encouraging the formation of local CDDRT Branches wherever possible.
 - c) Organise demonstrations and public meetings whenever possible, including on the anniversary of the fascist coup, in order to inform, influence and mobilise wider sections of public opinion.
 - d) Work closely with parliamentarians to expose the fascist junta's manoeuvrings abroad, including any attempt at harassment of its opponents outside Turkey.
 - e) Expand contacts with journalists and lawyers, and counter the black and grey propaganda of the fascist junta.

Congress Lays It On The Line

A lively Congress of the CDDRT was held at NUFTO Hall in London on Saturday 6th June 1981. 56 delegates representing national and local trade union, labour and progressive organisations as well as individual affiliates actively participated. Contributors to discussions in a busy agenda represented a wide range of affiliated bodies, and included the CPGB, trade union bodies like the Cities of London and Westminster Trades Council, student unions and branches of the CDDRT. Discussion was augmented by many messages brought to Congress by solidarity groups from Cyprus, Ethiopia, Greece, Iran Iraq, Kurdistan and Palestine.

The tone for the ensuing debates was set earlier on in the day by keynote speeches from Richard Balfe, MEP and Ernie Roberts, MP who are both sponsors of the CDDRT.

Richard Balfe gave the experiences of Socialist Members of the European Parliament in attempting to "isolate the fascist junta in Turkey" and of Turkey's intention of joining the EEC. Mr. Balfe made clear that the delegation from the European Parliament then in Turkey, and headed by that infamous friend of reaction worldwide Jim Spicer, had gone "against the wishes, and against the votes of the Socialist Group". Any attempt to receive a report-back will be opposed by the Socialist Group.

Ernie Roberts recalled his long associations with the fight for democracy in Turkey. He gave delegates useful insights into the workings of the British labour movement, with suggestions that will be considered by the new General Council. His statement that only socialism could follow fascism in Turkey was well received by the delegates.

Congress passed unanimously the Main Resolution, a Cyprus Resolution and the Constitution. Its final business was the election of a General Council, as the CDDRT governing body, having many prominent individuals as members (see below).

General Council

Richard BALFE, MEP

John BOWDEN

Alf LOMAS, MEP

Stan Newens, MP (PRESIDENT)

Gerry POCOCK

Ernie ROBERTS, MP

Alan SAPPER

Marion SARAFI

Bob WRIGHT

Jim Moody (General Secretary)

A representative of the Turkish Students' Federation

A representative of the Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain

A representative of the Union of Turkish Workers

LETTERS FROM TURKEY

As is the case in the whole of Turkey, the tyranny of the fascist junta has also increased in Izmir. An attempt is being made to establish the domination of a fascist bureaucratic discipline at workplaces. For many years the slogan "Labour is the most exalted value" was on the factory walls of the Taris Margarine Combine. Now, however, this has been replaced with: "Turk, be proud: trust and work". Recently, at the same factory, money for the Army was forcibly collected from the workers. This is what happened: each shopfloor manager of a work group was handed a list and they then asked every worker whose name was on the list for money. Those workers who refused to "make a donation" were questioned by the fascist management; "don't you like Army? Maybe you are siding with the anarchists" etc.

At police stations revolutionaries are facing heavy torture; those revolutionaries, that is, who in spite of the heavy pressure applied by the fascist junta neither become traitors nor collaborators. In April a revolutionary was taken back to his house for a search after he had been tortured. The local people saw that his shoes had been turned red from the blood of his feet.

Tyranny and arrests are also common in the counties and villages. One of these counties is Aliaga. The Marshall law commander, a fascist colonel whom the local people call "grave-digger Mahmut" is applying very heavy oppression of the Kurdish people living there. Each day youths are being beaten up by him. This person, or rather this blood-thirsty fascist, asks captured revolutionaries which sports they like and tortures them according to the answer he gets. A reliable source has provided another piece of information: in the village of Akşehir, the soldiers have picked up all the villagers after the slogan "Fascist Evren" appeared on the walls.

İZMİR

The shadow of the fascist dictator Evren hangs over the whole country. While news of the destruction (!) of all "divisionist, communist organisations" occupy the headlines in the press, television programs speak of the harm (!) these same organisations have done to the Turkish people. They tell of the blessing of the fascist dictatorship and that only the junta could stop the terror on the streets. However, the ongoing state terror cannot be hidden from the public view by this propaganda.

Fascism is trying to consolidate itself. Military officers known for their loyalty to Evren are being brought to responsible positions in state departments, the public sector and economic establishment. These appointments will go on. According to a recent decision of the Supreme Military Council, no military personnel will resign this year. I think they must have found the Army's present position good enough for its new duties.

The contradictions are blatant. On the one hand, workers' bonuses are cut as part of a tightening-of-belts policy and in order to strengthen the state. On the other hand, existing tax-laws are being rearranged in such a manner as will allow the bourgeoisie not to pay the taxes which are due. The petty producers and small farmer are being hit as if by a steam-roller by these new tax laws. Even the bourgeoisie press cannot refrain from writing about it, even if only on inside pages and with small headlines, it is announced that "the farmers are not satisfied".

In time, the fascist character of the junta will become clear even to those who cannot recognize it today. The footprints of lies about being "against both left and right" are disappearing. The fascist dictatorship will not be able to save Turkey from being the weak link of imperialism, this only our working class can achieve.

İZMİR

International Solidarity Messages at Congress

...The Portuguese Communist Party, the party of the Portuguese working class, is specially aware of the repressive measures in Turkey against trade unionists and other sons and daughters of the Turkish working people who have consistently fought for their just class interests and rights, and who have suffered imprisonment, torture and murder at the hands of the present regime in Turkey.

The CGTP-Intersindical, the central trade union organization in Portugal which has the support of over 80% of the Portuguese unionised labour, has expressed its solidarity with DİSK's imprisoned trade unionists and has pledged its full support for a campaign in their favour and for the restoration of true trade union rights in Turkey...

Organization in Britain of the Portuguese Communist Party

... The fascist junta in Turkey is today organising a fierce propaganda campaign to direct world public attention away from its role as the destroyer of working class organizations, the Kurdish nation and other minorities in Turkey.

Friends, we are confident that the Turkish people will emerge victorious from their struggle against the fascist military junta as the Iranian people did in their long struggle against the deposed Shah...

Long live the struggle of Turkish people against the fascist junta!

Long live the anti-imperialist and popular revolution of the Iranian people!

Down with the fascist junta in Turkey!

Committee for the Defence of the Iranian Revolution

... Together with the second mid-year of the ruling of the junta new steps are taken for the institutionalization of the fascist regime, and the fascist state terror is made to escalate rapidly. Every day hundreds of opponents are jailed. One by one trade unionists and political activists are prosecuted. The number of demands of death sentences nearly reached to a thousand. Every day new cases of torture are revealed. All the organizations and militants of the left in Turkey are taken under the fascist oppression without discrimination...

As the Britain Committee of the Union for Democracy in Turkey, we would like to express our most sincere wishes of success to this congress which we believe will play an important role in gaining the active solidarity of the British Labour Movement and progressive opinion in our struggle for democracy in Turkey, and in realization of a lasting unity of action of our democratic forces in Britain.

Smash fascism in Turkey!

Long live the unity of action of democratic forces!

Long live international solidarity against fascism!

Britain Committee of the Union for Democracy in Turkey

... I am happy to tell you that the Association of Progressive Ethiopians in Britain will always be with you and will give you its total and unflinching support and solidarity to the struggle waged by our Turkish brothers...

Long live the Turkish People!

Long live Proletarian Internationalism!

Association of Progressive Ethiopians in Britain

Death Demanded For Trade Unionists

At the end of June the prosecution demanded the death penalty for 52 leaders of DISK (Revolutionary Trade Union Confederation), Turkey's second-largest union confederation, who face trial shortly.

They are charged under Articles 141 and 142 for trying to "establish the domination of a social class over other social classes" (lifted straight from Mussolini's Penal Code). The defendants include the DISK Secretary-General, Fehmi Işıklar, and its President, Abdullah Baştürk (a former Republican People's Party MP).

CDDRT calls on all trade unionists to follow the lead of the Scottish Area of the National Union of Mineworkers, which has already protested against this latest attack on basic trade union rights by Turkey's fascist junta. Demands for the dropping of all charges and release of the DISK leaders should go to:

H E The Embassidor
Embassy of the Republic of Turkey
43 Belgrave Sq. London SW1.

General Kenan Evren
Head of State
Cankaya
Ankara—Turkey

Other action which can be taken include calls for Emergency Motions on this issue at both the TUC Congress and the Labour Party Conference in September.

Teachers Sacked

4,000 teachers accused of involvement in political activities are being questioned: 70 have already lost their jobs as a result. The accused in the TOB-DER (teachers' union) trial face a prosecution demand for sentences of from 5 to 15 years.

Kurdistan

The ex-mayor of Diyarbakir and 7 other members of the municipal are standing trial under Article 125 on charges of trying to "divide Turkey". The prosecution in this trial, which forms part of a series of trials of members of the clandestine Socialist Party of Turkish Kurdistan, is calling for sentences of from 8 to 15 years.

Fascist Evren at the Royal Wedding?

The following Early Day Motion appeared on the House of Commons Order Paper on June 25 1981, signed by Ernie Roberts, MP (a member of CDDRT's General Council) and other 16 MP's:

"That this House regrets the invitation of General Kenan Evren, the Turkish Head of State, to the Royal Wedding on 29th July, believing that such an invitation could be misinterpreted as sanctioning the measures employed by General Kenan Evren in Turkey, including detention without trial, torture, murder, and especially the suppression of the Turkish Parliament and political parties; and requests that the invitation be withdrawn in view of the lack of basic human rights and democratic freedoms in Turkey."

International Day Against Fascism

CDDRT joins hands with solidarity groups from Chile and El Salvador together with other anti-fascists on Sunday 13 September 1981 in an International Day Against Fascism in London.

The Day's events will include a March from the Turkish Embassy, via

other Embassies to the Camden Centre. 5pm sees the start of a Rally Against Fascism in the Camden Centre, which will be addressed by leading figures in the labour, trade union and solidarity movements.

In the evening there will be a

Solidarity Concert, also at the Camden Centre, from 7pm. The artists booked to appear include the Chilean group Pueblo and the Turkish singer Melika Demirag. Tickets are £2.00 each. Further details, orders for Concert tickets, etc from CDDRT.

Sponsors to date include

Frank Allaun, MP
Joe Ashton, MP
Tony Benn, MP
Andrew Bennett, MP
Sid Bidwell, MP
Bob Cryer, MP
Ken Eastham, MP
Geoffrey Edge, MP
Bob Edwards, MP
Fred Evans, MP
Martin Flannery, MP
John Golding, MP
Les Huckfield, MP
Bob Hughes, MP
Roy Hughes, MP
James Lamond, MP
Bob Litherland, MP
William McKelvey, MP
Jim Marshall, MP
Joan Maynard, MP
George Morton, MP
Stan Newens, MP
Stan Orme, MP
Reg Race, MP
Jo Richardson, MP
Ernie Roberts, MP

Ernie Ross, MP
Dennis Skinner, MP
Richard Balfe, MEP
Roland Boyes, MEP
Richard Caborn, MEP
Brian Key, MEP
Alf Lomas, MEP
Dave Aaronovitch, Pres. NUS
Colin Barnett, Sec., NW TUC
Stan Cole, AUEW NEC
Harry Conroy, Pres. NUJ
Lawrence Daly, NUM
J. Davidson, NW Dist. Sec. FTAT
Beryl Huffinley, Sec.,
Yorks and Humberside TUC
E.V. Hughes, Vice Pres. NW TUC
Alex Kitson, TGWU
Mick McGahey, NUM
Alan Sapper, ACTT
Bob Wright, AUEW
APEX — Holborn Branch
ASTMS — Manchester HS Branch
AUEW — Kingston District
AUEW — N. Manch. District
AUEW — Sheffield District
GMWU 115 Manch. Branch

NALGO — Hackney Branch
NUM — Derbyshire
NUM — Kent
NUM — Lancashire
NUM — Yorkshire
NUPE
NUR — Manchester
TGWU
TGWU Reg. No.1
UCATT — NW Region
Hackney Trades Council
Leeds Trades Council
Cities of London & Westminster Trades Council
Rotherham Trades Council
Stockport Trades Council
GEC Openshaw JSSC
Ardwick CLP
Hazelgrove CLP
Runcorn CLP
St. Helens CLP
Wavertree CLP
LPYS
NOLS
Communist Party of Great Britain
Association of Cypriot Women in Britain
KNE — Communist Youth of Greece

(org. in Britain)
Portuguese Communist Party
(org. in Britain)
Cyprus Students' Soc. — Man. Univ.
Organisation of Supporters of Iranian
People's Fedaii (Maj) — Britain
Committee for the Defence of
the Iranian Revolution
Iraqi Student's Society — UK
(Branch of GUSIR)
Kurdish Students' Society
in Europe (UK)
City of London Polytechnic
Students' Union
UMIST — Students' Union
Man. Poly Students' Union
Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation
London Co-op Political Committee
Lord Fenner Brockway
Mgr. Bruce Kent
Arthur Latham
Robert J. Longuet
William Pomeroy
Marion Sarafi
Gordon Schaffer
E.P. Thompson

Affiliation to CDDRT

Help fight the barbaric regime in Turkey. Affiliate to the Committee for the Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey (CDDRT). Cost of affiliation or one year: national organisations £20 (can be negotiated), local organisations £5, individuals £2.

Name
Address
Send to: CDDRT, 29 Parkfield St., London, N1 Tel: 01-226 3401 (Make cheques or postal orders payable to CDDRT).