

TURKEY NEWSLETTER

Monthly publication of the Committee for Defence of
Democratic Rights in Turkey

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Turkish Army invades Iraq

4,000 men in two brigades of Turkey's armed forces crossed the border with Iraq on the night of 26th May, 1983. According to a Turkish government spokesman the invasion was carried out, "With the knowledge of Iraq's government", busy with its war against Iran. The purpose of the invasion is stated to be, "to punish Kurdish guerrillas and Iraq's Communist Party."

This blatant intervention in Iraq's internal affairs must be greeted by the protests of world democratic opinion.

International Solidarity Messages at the 2nd Congress

"My colleagues and I value and appreciate very much your activities in defence of democracy and human rights in Turkey. Your solidarity gives us further strength in resisting, together with the people of Turkey, the evil practices of the fascists and their future designs..."

"Thanking you again for all you have done and are doing in defence of democracy and the working people in Turkey and wishing you success in your activities."

Gültekin Gazioğlu, President of TÖB-DER

"...Since the 1980 military coup, which brought to power this fascist junta, there has been a dramatic rise in suppression of democratic rights in Turkey.

"The detention and trial of the 52 DİSK executives is the highlight of that suppression, along with a clamp down on students and other worker movements as a whole.

"Women in Turkey have had their share of suffering in the hands of these fascists.

"In Kurdistan, a bloody policy is implemented and aimed at the sole existence of the Kurdish people in every way of life..."

"Long live the unity of the Kurdish and Turkish people."

**Kurdistan Students' Society in Europe,
U.K. Branch**

"...I would point to a few involvements by my Union on behalf of our Turkish brothers and sisters on whose behalf we have been fighting the battle since before 1972, when the World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists was held in İstanbul and the opportunity taken to visit journalists in jail.

"Since the IFJ Congress in Lugano last year we have been endeavouring to reach satisfactory arrangements for a fact-finding mission to Turkey and a decision on this will be taken shortly. In the meantime, my National Executive Council is to give consideration to responding to the TUC appeal for funds to maintain relief to the families of the DİSK trade unionists on trial."

**Kenneth B. Ashton, General Secretary,
National Union of Journalists**

"...We are sure that greater support for CDDRT in generating further solidarity with Turkey's working people will emerge from this Congress. It is certainly necessary if we are to do our utmost in helping to bring down Turkey's fascist military junta. Please be assured of our continuing support and solidarity in the struggles to come."

Barnet Borough Trades Union Council

"We wholeheartedly support the work you are doing to strengthen the opposition to the savage repression of the regime in Turkey and to expose, both in Britain and internationally, the brutal, fascist nature of the Turkish military junta.

"In view of the continuing tortures, mounting deaths in custody, executions, and the trials of trade unionists, peace activists and progressives we are firmly committed to continue to give you the greatest possible support in your struggle for peace, justice and humanity..."

Tony Gilbert, General Secretary of the Liberation

"Our society takes this opportunity to reaffirm its stands of support and solidarity with the people and students of Turkey and expresses deep admiration for the work that has been carried out by CDDRT, while we are confident of its contribution to the struggle of the Turkish people."

Iraqi Students' Society in UK

"...I pledge my strongest support for the fight on behalf of trade unionists and peace activists in Turkey, to see that their human rights are not violated, to see that the Turkish junta is not allowed to persecute them in the way that they would wish, and to say that it lies in the hands of trade unionists here in Britain, and peace activists here also, to rally to their support."

James Lamond MP, JP, Vice President of the World Peace Council

"...I would wish to extend the Union's best wishes for a successful Congress and to express solidarity with our Turkish comrades against the Fascist Government of Turkey."

**Ken Cameron, General Secretary,
Fire Brigades Union**

"We are convinced that the resolutions of your congress will reinforce the feeling of solidarity with the anti-fascist fight of the Kurdish and Turkish people."

KOMKAR

"Friendly greetings and best wishes for your second congress and for the future."

Socialist Left Party-Norway

ICFTU Probation for Türk-İş

At its meeting on 19 May 1983 the Executive Board of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) lifted the suspension of Türk-İş, but with very heavy qualification. Originally, Türk-İş was suspended from ICFTU membership because its Secretary-General, Sadık Şide, is a minister in the fascist junta's government; he has been given leave of absence by Türk-İş to allay international criticism.

After a future period of probation during which Türk-İş will be restored to full ICFTU membership, including sending a delegation to the ICFTU Congress in June 1983, "the situation would have to be reviewed," according to Len Murray, TUC General Secretary.

During four hours of intense discussion and questioning of the Türk-İş President, Yılmaz, the Executive Board members from Britain, Italy, the Netherlands and Sweden were to the point in examining the role of Türk-İş, past and future.

Sweden's LO representative said, concerning the continuing trial of DİSK leaders facing death sentences, "The trials are a violation of human rights. Türk-İş has had the chance to prove itself over the last eleven months. What is its view now? And what is it doing now?"

In reply Yılmaz, the Türk-İş representative, said, "We cannot make public statements. It could constitute a crime and it could be very dangerous. However, we have made it clear in Turkey that we think it is a political trial and we have made representations to solve practical problems."



South African Congress of Trade Unions

Dear Comrades and Friends,

SACTU brings greetings from the Black workers in South Africa. We, like you, know what it means to live under a fascist regime where trade union rights are denied at every turn. Our fraternal contacts with DİSK reinforce us in the knowledge that change can and will be forced on our oppressors.

The current DİSK trial of trade unionists — 67 of the 78 are facing death — and the prosecution of 300 leaders of DİSK-affiliated unions; the denial of the most basic human rights, freedom to collective wage bargaining, arrest, torture and death, are those we share in common with the fighting people in Turkey.

The Evren junta, like the South African Apartheid regime, depends on those imperialist forces in the West whose only interest is to infiltrate, divert, destabilise the workers and Black trade union movement in South Africa.

We too face with you the CIA, who through the notorious Asia Africa Free Labour Institute, has suppressed DİSK, and in Africa operates through its puppet the AFL-CIO, whose work in Southern Africa has the intention of imposing upon the workers, unions along the lines of the Türk-İş in Turkey.

In South Africa, Black workers and the community together with White democrats are advancing, and the day of our liberation draws ever closer. The principles of democratic trade union organisation which evolved during the fifties are at the heart of the strong and militant trade union movement. Trade union membership is increasing and workers are more conscious than ever of their power. In spite of intense repression by the regime, strikes are a daily occurrence.

Predictably, our victories have brought new problems, many of which have echoes of your own struggle. The forces of imperialism have dramatically increased their efforts to divert and crush our revolution. These activities have been particularly aimed at the trade union movement in South Africa.

Through organisation such as the AFL-CIO the imperialists are mobilising the financing elements within the trade union movement so as to win away from the liberation movement, led by the African National Congress, the mass support it has in South Africa and internationally. Under the guise of aid, they are trying to mislead not only the South African workers but also the members of their affiliates in different parts of the world. We cannot allow this to happen.

Just as the capitalist monopolies and their representatives in government are sparing no efforts to undermine the Turkish workers, so they are exerting themselves in our country. Led by the Reagan-Thatcher alliance, these forces are determined to support the apartheid regime. Increased investment and trade with South Africa not only bolsters the apartheid regime's economy, but has a direct bearing on the struggles against unemployment in all capitalist countries. The transfer of information and technology, together with the supply of arms to the regime, has strengthened the apartheid military apparatus.

The racist troops use their military strength not only against the South African people, but continue the illegal

occupation of Namibia and to destabilise the independent countries along South Africa's borders. Apartheid is a threat to world peace and must be destroyed.

We, like you, suffer from the ills of unemployment, of a lack of health and safety care, of poverty and inadequate housing and many other problems. These problems have solutions, and we must fight for them. Through our history and yours, we have learnt that without unity little is possible. To create this unity is not easy. International reaction works against us, and saboteurs hinder us from within. But this unity is being built, broadened and strengthened. Together we will win!

SACTU expresses its full solidarity to the struggle of the Turkish workers, and the Turkish trade union movement under the democratic leadership of DİSK. SACTU knows that it is a long and bitter struggle, with continuous brutal treatment which both SACTU & DİSK do and have experienced in the continuing struggle against the terrorist dictatorships which rule our countries. In the same way in which our people are determined to continue our struggle to overthrow the apartheid regime, and establish a peoples' democratic order, so too we know that the working class and the people of Turkey will continue to fight to this end.

An Injury To One Is An Injury To All.

OPEN FASCIST DICTATORSHIP

YCL message

Comrades,

I bring fraternal greetings and best wishes for the success of your Second Congress from the Young Communist League the youth organisation of the Communist Party of Great Britain.

The events witnessed in Turkey are of great significance to progressive workers movements in all nations — for it signals a warning to us all.

In its drive to maximize profits, the capitalist class cannot afford to recognise national boundaries. For the Turkish people this has meant double exploitation, by American imperialism and its own bourgeoisie. The effects of this super exploitation of an already impoverished people quickly led the profound social-economic and political differences to reach crises proportions and open revolt. There can be no doubt that Turkey represents to the United States an important strategic NATO ally in its anti-Soviet war drive. Therefore a revolutionary situation in Turkey had to be crushed at all costs.

In order to consolidate its weakening position, the Turkish bourgeoisie enrolled the coercive forces of the state — to bring about counter-revolution in an open fascist dictatorship. The words of freedom and democracy mean nothing to the capitalist class when their freedom to exploit is endangered.

In the recent referendum far from legitimizing the fascists' rule — it has condemned itself in the eyes of progressive world opinion.

The junta is not committed to democracy but to the murder of democracy, this it has proved with every beating, with every murder, torture and imprisonment. This barbarous regime and its supporters in the West, especially in Britain and America has only succeeded in temporarily suppressing the revolutionary situation that existed in Turkey. The crises in capital still exists and the people desire freedom, justice and democracy. We can plainly see that demand here today.

2nd CONGRESS OF CDDRT

The 2nd Congress of CDDRT was held at County Hall in London on Sunday 15 May 1983. The Congress was a decisive act of solidarity. Nearly 100 delegates representing national and local trade union, labour and progressive organisations as well as individual affiliates participated. Discussion was interspersed with messages brought or read to Congress by solidarity groups from Iraq, Kurdistan; KOMKAR, KSSE, the Labour Party, Socialist Left Party of Norway, Liberation, Gültekin Gazioglu, President of TÖB-DER, Barnet Trades Council, James Lamond MP, Vice President of the World Peace Council and many others.



Bob Wright

Unity is the Overall Challenge

Bob Wright, AUEW Assistant General Secretary and CDDRT General Council member, Chaired the Congress. He set the tone in his opening remarks by emphasizing the importance of unity in the fight for democratic rights in Turkey. He said, "...The overall challenge is one that is very deep and very strong and one that will continue to grow. I believe that we will succeed as long as we are able to maintain the unity of our purpose and are able to unite all the elements who are opposed to the present regime and not allow divisions to develop in separatist movements that will always be a threat and will create more confusion than they will create unity."

We Can Succeed

Bob Wright went on to stress the demand of our movement for success stating, "...We can succeed by pressure — by campaigning and by using those friends of ours in the British Parliament who are prepared to make the challenge... We can roll back the forces who want to eliminate the development of Turkish solidarity — Turkish unity outside of Turkey and inside Turkey because it has an effect inside Turkey to the people who are struggling there."

Unite to Succeed

Bob Wright charged the Second CDDRT Congress with a great duty. He stated, "Let's unite, comrades! Let's unite to succeed! Let's unite to carry forward the banner of freedom for the Turkish people, for the Kurdish people and for all those who indeed wish to see the restoration of democratic rights in Turkey and for the Turkish people to have the right to the kind of political and economical system that they want within those freedoms... We will succeed."

Biennial Report

Jim Moody, General Secretary of CDDRT, gave a full and exacting report of the work of the Committee over the past two years. He pointed out the exhibition displayed at the front of the hall and declared that, "The Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey has made a very important impact on the Labour and progressive movement in this country."

Jim Moody stressed the highlights of the Committee's activities. This has included organising meetings in support of the DİSK trade union, most importantly culminating in the *Stop The Trials* meeting with Tony Benn MP as the finale of anti-trials activities before the Second Congress. CDDRT attended 1981 and 1982 Labour Party and TUC Conferences and organised very successful fringe meetings. Since the First Congress 22 issues of *Turkey*

Newsletter have been published; in the two year period 3,000 copies of each issue were distributed, a total of 68,000.

The General Secretary reported that sponsoring MP's have doubled to 56 since the last Congress, as have also MEP sponsors. Labour movement bodies now affiliated to the CDDRT include ASLEF, NUPE, FBU and NUM nationally as well as area organisations of ASTMS, AUEW, AUEW-TASS, COHSE, GMWU, NALGO, NATFHE, SOGAT'82, and UCATT.

Finance Report

Max Hiron the CDDRT Finance Officer emphasized the increasing and pressing need for more funds. The sales of the new pamphlet *Stop the Trials* and subscriptions to the *Newsletter* should bring in much more finance. The CDDRT has kept its head above water but as the organisation grows in strength and influence the need for increasing finance has become crucial to our existence. Bulk order quantities of the *Newsletter* by some Trades Councils and a few trade unions has helped noticeably. We expect to develop this in the future.

Appeals sent out met with very good responses including a recent donation of £100 from the TSSA.

Following an appeal for finance to the assembled delegates the collection resulted in a magnificent £225 which will help in our great task of toppling the fascist junta.



Marion Sarafi



New General Council

Bedir AYDEMİR
Richard BALFE, MEP
John BLOOM
Philip BRAY
Sandra HODGSON

Alf LOMAS MEP
Aydın MERİÇ
Jim MOODY
Stan NEWENS
Ernie ROBERTS

Alan SAPPER
Marion SARAFI
Faik SİNKİL
Tijen UĞURİŞ
Martin UPHAM
Bob WRIGHT

and one representative each from: Turkish Students' Federation in UK, Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain, Union of Turkish Women in Britain, Union of Turkish Workers.

A DANGEROUS FASCIST JUNTA

As we approach the first anniversary of the start of the trial of the Peace Committee Association on 24th June, 1983, *Turkey Newsletter* interviewed James Lamond MP JP, in the House of Commons. James Lamond is a Vice President of the World Peace Council.

Q. There has been a fascist junta in Turkey since September 1980. What dangers do you see it presenting to peace in the region?

JL: It is very obvious that this junta regards as its main enemy anyone on the left, with radical ideas. In that category they include trade unionists, peace activists, and we have seen the trials of both of these groups. ...I have seen that one of the facts used by the prosecution against the peace activists including Ambassador Dikerdem has been their alleged association with the World Peace Council. And I have done my best to point out to the court, in a document I prepared, the true nature of the World Peace Council.

...If in the West countries which are in NATO feel that any support for peace is an attack on them, then they must search their own consciences. So the existence within NATO of a fascist junta must be dangerous for the rest of the members and for world peace as a whole.

Q: I understand you are attending the coming peace meeting in Prague as Vice-President of the World Peace Council, and you have already mentioned the World Peace Council. I wonder if you would like to say a few more words about how that meeting may help the working people of Turkey?

JL: The World Peace Council certainly will do everything it can to help the working people in Turkey... We can bring world public opinion to bear on the Turkish government and I don't say that lightly because we muster 130 countries to our support. ...

But the real key to it is, I believe, not so much pressure on the Turkish government but pressure on them at second-hand. That is pressure on the American government to say to the Turkish government there will be no more economic aid and so on unless there is a lifting of these attacks on ordinary working people, trade unionists and peace activists.

Q: On the question of DİSK, the indictment against the DİSK leaders suggests that amongst their greatest crimes are the crimes of wanting peace



and wanting an end to the occupation of parts of Cyprus. How do you feel about that?

JL: Well of course I support these as trade unionists everywhere would. ...I call without qualification for the immediate withdrawal of the Turkish troops from northern Cyprus. And of course I want to see those Turkish Cypriots who believe that they were oppressed by the Greek Cypriots to feel secure in their own homes. I am quite sure there is a possibility of working out a way of doing that. But as long as Turkish troops are there then that is impossible...

Q. Could you tell us your views on the European response to what is happening in Turkey and the closer relations between Turkey and the United States?

JL: The European response has not been as great as I would have liked. Although for instance, Bob Edwards MP here in Britain is also a member of the Council of Europe, has undertaken quite considerable studies on behalf of the Council of Europe of the situation in Turkey and has made a report which condemns the present Turkish government absolutely as any unbiased report is bound to do.

...To believe that the present Turkish government is moving towards democracy is naivety in the extreme.

Q: The role of the solidarity movement with Turkey's working people is obviously very important in their struggle against this junta. How do you see the role of the Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey developing the necessary solidarity work in the British labour movement?

JL: Solidarity is traditionally associated with the trade union movement in Britain and there is a growing awareness of this situation in Turkey here in the British trade union movement... It takes a bit of doing to get them (the British TUC — TN) behind you... But if you can get them interested, and I think that has been achieved to some extent, on the basis that it is fellow trade unionists, not necessarily peace activists or even ordinary working people, but fellow trade unionists who are being harassed, put on trial and threatened with thirty years' imprisonment and so on, then they begin to move...

In the branches of the trade unions affiliated to the TUC you will find a more eager response. Many branches, many Trades Councils, many regional committees of unions, they will take up the call, pass resolutions and so on, and perhaps even offer economic assistance, the presence at these trials of legally qualified observers from Britain, and so on. This sort of thing is just to let the Turkish government know that they cannot get away with treating trade unionists behind closed doors, without the rest of the world knowing about it. Therefore the work of solidarity here in Britain I should think would be along these lines: to try and get the information across to trade unionists through trade union organisations and to try and rally some financial support, of course, and to try and let people see the true nature of the Turkish junta.

2nd Congress Resolution: Peace in the Region

The USA, in parallel with the economic and political terror of the fascist junta toward the people of Turkey, has increased its efforts aimed at placing Pershing missiles expanding airfields in Turkey all of which are targeted towards the Middle East and the Soviet Union. This is an attack directed to the socialist countries and against peace in the region.

This Congress resolves to campaign to expose the aggressive face of the USA and the fascist junta of Turkey and against the danger to world peace presented by these developments.

SOLIDARITY DEMANDS UNITY

by Jim MOODY, General Secretary of CDDRT

This year marks the successful completion of five years' work by the Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey. Our Second Congress heartily endorsed the General Council's initiatives and set it new tasks. The mid-April public meeting with Tony Benn was indeed a fitting climax to a very active and involved two years since the First Congress.

Since the CDDRT was founded it has drawn in ever widening circles of supporters. The current list of sponsors, updated each month for *Turkey Newsletter*, bears potent witness to this fact. Four national trade unions have affiliated, as well as numerous local and regional labour movement bodies. Most of this support has been gathered since the First Congress.

Occasionally, small political groups have attempted to establish bodies to rival the CDDRT. But by the very nature of the CDDRT's broad, democratic work these attempts were doomed to failure. Our General Council and its Executive have always stated categorically that all who share the CDDRT's aims are most welcome to join us. **No-one opposed to Turkey's junta has ever objected to our aims, or to any other part of our constitution.**

In May this year yet another separate body was set up by a few Turkish individuals in London. Its name is Solidarity Committee for Trade Union Rights and Democracy in Turkey (SCTURDT). I wrote to its secretary inviting it to affiliate and to send delegates to our Second Congress on

15th May 1983. A reply was still awaited as we went to press.

In order to make CDDRT's position plain, the Second Congress unanimously agreed the following resolution:

Congress restates its firm commitment to the unity of the solidarity movement opposed to Turkey's military fascist junta.

Congress calls on all opponents of the junta to join with the Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey in its democratic demands, hand in hand with the struggling people of Turkey.

Congress considers any effort which would weaken this unity as harmful and endorses the action of the Executive Committee in inviting the newly-formed Solidarity Committee for Trade Union Rights and Democracy in Turkey (SCTURDT) to affiliate and to be represented at this Congress. We express the hope that although SCTURDT was not represented on this occasion this should not hinder our determined united struggle against fascism in Turkey.

I issue a challenge on behalf of the CDDRT to all who want an end to Turkey's junta yet support a rival body: **tell us your objection to the CDDRT's aims, constitution or activities!** If you are unable to object, **why not join us?** To persist in remaining separate and divided from us is to invite the obvious question, **'What then is your ulterior motive?'**

Solidarity with Turkey's tortured and oppressed working people cannot afford sectarianism. The labour movement has made and will make its thundering call: **Solidarity demands unity!**



CDDRT'S General Secretary delivers the invitation below.

CDDRT'S letter to SCTURDT

Dear Cahit Baylav,
The Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey recently learned that your Committee had been set up.

Our Committee has, since its inception five years ago, worked hard to bring together all who desire democratic rights in Turkey. Foremost in exposing the vicious face of the junta have been its attempts to destroy DİSK and real trade unionism in Turkey: for this reason the defence of DİSK has always been at the forefront of our solidarity work. Indeed we have been successful in uniting broad sections of the British labour movement and representative organisations from the Turkish community in Britain.

We are sure that you share with us the desire of preventing any weakening of the movement of solidarity with Turkey's working people. Any splitting of forces due to the separate operation of several solidarity organisations can only lead to a weakening of the necessary solidarity.

On Sunday 15 May 1983 we shall hold our Second Congress in County Hall, London SE1. We cordially invite your Committee to affiliate to the CDDRT and to be represented at this Congress. We earnestly look forward to your reply.

In the event that you insist on organising separately from the CDDRT we shall still seek forms of uniting the solidarity movement in Britain, including participation in your activities.

However, we feel sure that your sense of responsibility to Turkey's working people and imprisoned trade union activists will ensure your affiliation to the CDDRT.

Yours fraternally,

Jim Moody, General Secretary

MAY DAY

The CDDRT and its affiliated Turkish organisations was very well represented on the 1983 May Day march in London. Behind the banners of the Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain, the Union of Turkish Workers, the Turkish Students' Federation in the UK, and the Union of Turkish Women in Britain marched our contingent chanting slogans against the fascist junta and singing songs. Red scarves and red aprons for the children made up a tremendous show of solidarity. It was the finest effort of the CDDRT so far on any MAY DAY march!

May Day 1983 was the third May Day the working class of Turkey has spent under fascism. Fascism is keeping May Day Square empty by force. But



the working class of Turkey is keeping its glorious tradition. Here in Britain we marched following that tradition as one with our comrades in Turkey and in Britain!

CONSTITUTION OF CDDRT

1. The name of the organisation shall be the Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey (CDDRT)

2. The aims of CDDRT are as follows:
End military rule, martial law, torture and executions.

Release of political prisoners.
Freedom for all democratic organisations.
End national oppression of the Kurds and national minorities.

Stop expansionism; end the occupation of Cyprus.

Withdraw Turkey from NATO and close all NATO bases.

No military, political or economic support for the fascist junta.

Totally oppose junta harassment of overseas opponents.

Organise solidarity on the basis of the foregoing utilising every means at our disposal.

3. Organisations and individuals accepting the aims of CDDRT can apply to affiliate. Such applications are subject to the approval of the General Council. Affiliation fees shall be set by the General Council and become payable from 1 January each year.

4. Congress is the highest body of CDDRT and shall meet every two years. It shall consist of delegates from Branches and affiliated organisations, and individual affiliates. Congress shall elect the General Council and consider reports and motions. The conduct of business shall be on the basis of Standing Orders approved by Congress. Pre-Congress arrangements are the responsibility of the retiring General Council. Each Congress shall decide the size of the General Council.

5. The General Council is the continuing body of Congress and shall meet quarterly. It shall appoint the Executive Committee which is responsible to it. The General Council shall have the right to co-option.

6. The Executive Committee shall consist of the General Secretary and such other members as the General Council may decide. The Executive Committee shall meet at least fortnightly and be responsible for the day to day work of CDDRT.

7. Local Branches of CDDRT are formed with the approval of the General Council.

8. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority at a Congress.

9. The General Council may call, or upon request by two-thirds of affiliated national organisations shall call, a Special Congress.



Democrats' Pamphlet

This is the new CDDRT
STOP THE TRIALS IN TURKEY
pamphlet with the text of the
speeches by Tony Benn, Emin Bozarslan,
and Aydin Meriç
on 16 April 1983 in Conway Hall

As Alf Lomas MEP says in the FOREWORD
*"When you have read this pamphlet,
please tell your friends to buy it and get your
organisation to order copies."*

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STOP THE TRIALS IN TURKEY

*Tony Benn MP
M Emin Bozarslan
Aydin Meriç*

Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey

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AUEW — Sheffield District
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GMWU Pendle 122 Branch
GMWU Warrington Branch

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NUM Yorkshire
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NUPE Northern Ireland Div.
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NUR — Manchester
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UCATT — London Region
UCATT — NW Region
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GEC Openshaw ISSC

Union of Turkish Workers
Ardwick CLP
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(Branch of GUS IR)
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Greece (org. in Britain)
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Students' Union
Cyprus Students Society —
Manchester University
Leeds University Union
UMIST — Students' Union
Manchester Poly Students' Union
Manchester University Students'
Union
Teesside Polytechnic Students'
Union
Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation
Demokrat Norway
Haldane Society of Socialist
Lawyers
London CRS Political Committee
Lurd Fenner Brockway
Alan Bush
Lurd Jenkins of Putney
Mgr. Bruce Kent
Arthur Latham
Ken Livingston
Robert J. Longuet
Lurd Mallow
John Platts-Mills QC
William Pomeroy
Andrew Rothstein
Marion Sarifi
Gordon Schaffer
E.P. Thompson

Young Communists Affiliated to CDDRT

At its Congress earlier this year, Britain's Young Communist League agreed unanimously the following resolution:

For the last 18 months in Turkey 74 members of the DİSK trade union have been on trial, 64 of which are facing the death sentence. The situation has since worsened as on the 2nd of March 1983 supplementary charges were introduced against all those on trial — these charges are of bringing Turkish Communist Party politics into the Trade Union movement.

Therefore, as part of the world communist movement Congress notes the continuing fascist repression in Turkey. Despite recent attempts by the junta to legitimise its rule with stage-managed "referendums", the fascist nature of the regime is obvious to all democrats and socialists the world

over.

Congress express its solidarity with the Turkish people, particularly the many young women and men held prisoner in the Junta's barbaric jails and resolves to:

(i) Affiliate to the Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey (CDDRT), the broad-based solidarity campaign in Britain sponsored by many MPs.

(ii) Encourage local YCL branches to have education classes on the situation in Turkey with invited speakers from the CDDRT.

(iii) To aid in any way possible the struggle for democracy in Turkey and to encourage a more detailed general awareness of the nature of the Turkish regime and the forces struggling for democratic and socialist change.

ELECTION QUERY

CDDRT sent letters to the Conservative, Labour, Liberal, Social Democrat, Communist, Ecology, Cooperative and Workers Revolutionary Parties in anticipation of the General Election.

Each party was questioned regarding their views on future relations with Turkey's junta. They were asked to send CDDRT a copy of any statement their highest bodies have made on the current relations between Britain and Turkey and how these relations might change if their party is in government after the election.

Conservative Party

Through the Atlantic Alliance, Britain and Turkey have forged a close friendship. The present leaders of Turkey have stated publicly that they intend to return the country to democracy by 1984, and we have no reason to doubt this.

When General Evren came to power 2½ years ago, the country, was faced with political terrorism, a break down in law and order and an ailing economy. Since then the regime has gradually brought some normality to the country and the economy is now in a far less precarious position.

In anticipation of the first general election, due to be held on October 16th 1983, the Generals are striving, behind the scenes, to create a broad Centrist Party embracing moderate elements of the old right and left.

Communist Party of Great Britain

The formal statement we adopted in September 1980 called for action in solidarity with the democratic forces of Turkey. We condemned the coup and urged the British Government to take action to secure the release of arrested democrats, the restoration of full democratic rights to the trade unions and the immediate return to civilian rule.

We are aware that Turkey is now a main ally and instrument of US strategy, hence the vast military and other aid provided. We are against any cooperation by the British Government and the West European institutions of which it is a member.

The Labour Party

As you will be aware, the Party has consistently opposed the Turkish junta and provided support to the Turkish people in their fight to end the repression by the military and for a return to democracy.

The Turkish dictatorship is of special concern to Britain, given Turkish membership of NATO and its status in Europe. We deplore the constitution imposed upon the Turkish people and will work for the restoration of freedom and democracy. Until this is achieved we shall oppose assistance to the Turkish junta."

Affiliate to CDDRT

Organisations and individuals accepting the aims of CDDRT (see Constitution) are eligible for affiliation. Annual affiliation fees are: national organisation £25, local organisation £10, individual £6.

I/we* wish to continue*/apply for* affiliation to CDDRT and enclose a cheque/PO for £

Name

Address

*Delete as applicable.

Return to CDDRT, 29 Parkfield St, London N1 OPS. Tel:01-226 2668.

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