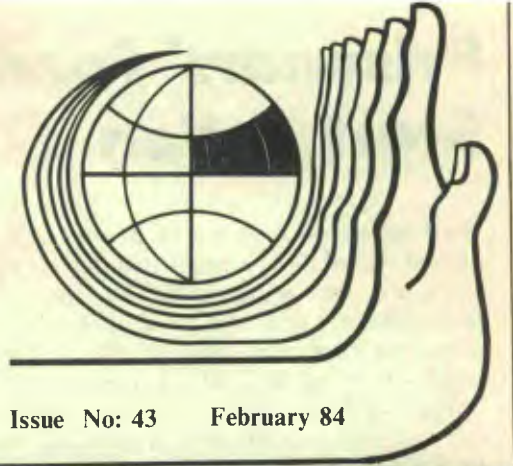
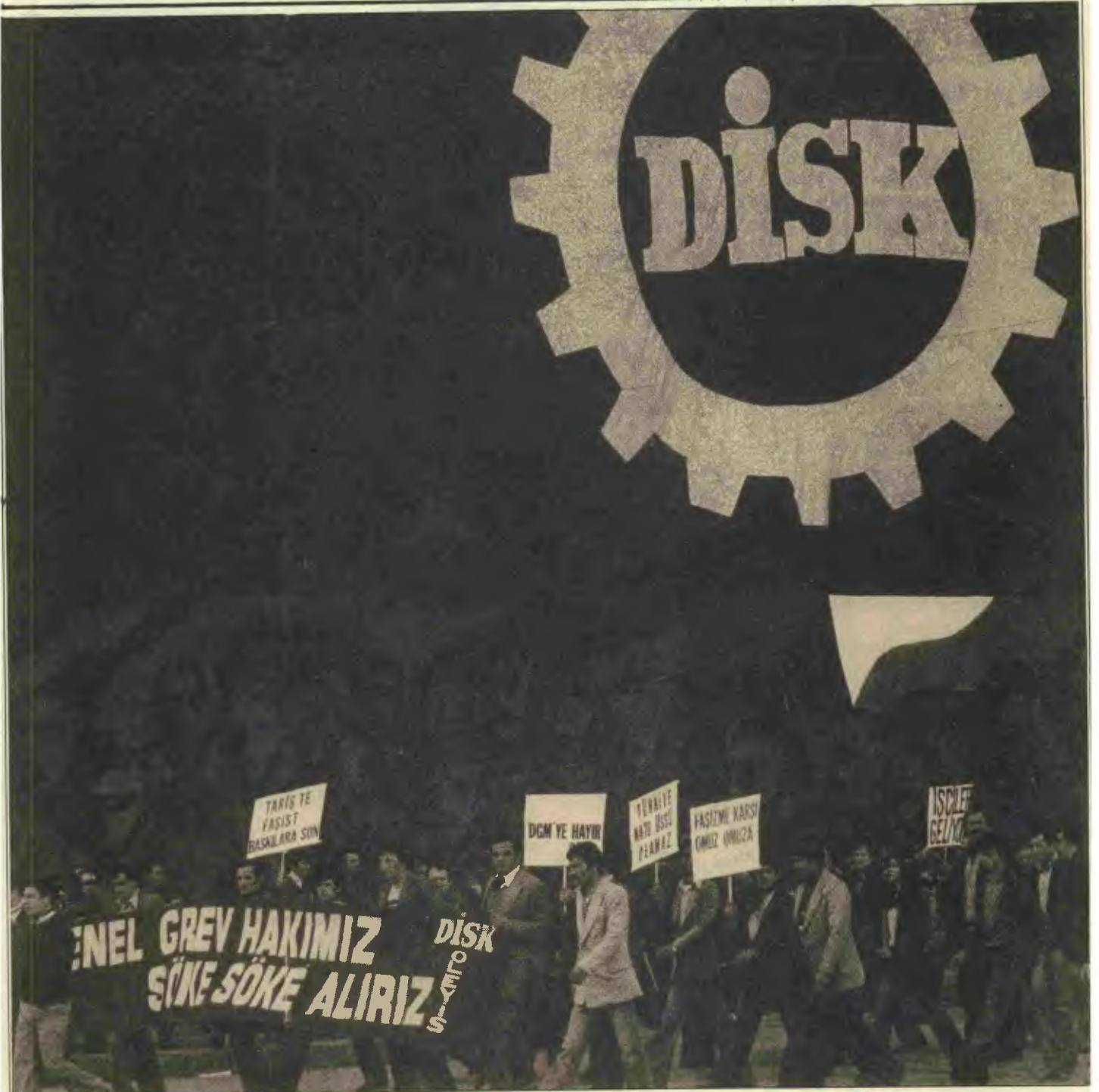


TURKEY NEWSLETTER



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

Issue No: 43 February 84



TRADİTİ NS F STRUGGLE CONTINUE...

Prisoners' Families Start Action

The families of a group of prisoners in Mamak Prison, Ankara visited the chairperson of the National Assembly and demanded an improvement in prison conditions. A delegation of 6 from the group of 50 spent 25 minutes with *Necmettin Karaduman* who promised to "assist as much as he could within the limits of the legislation."

The families who had visited Prime Minister *Özal*, also said that they will take up their grievances with the Ministry of Justice. (*Hürriyet*, 6 January 1983)



The families of a group of prisoners in Mamak Prison, Ankara started action.

NEW TRIAL

Dev Maden-Sen: The trial of the 16 leaders of *Dev Maden-Sen* (Revolutionary Union of Mine Exploring and Processing Workers) which is affiliated to DİSK, started on 5 January 1984 at the Military Court Number 2 of the Istanbul Martial Law Commander. Prison sentences ranging from 6 years 8 months to 20 years are demanded for the defendants.

PRISONERS

TO WEAR UNIFORMS

Prisoners in Mamak Special Military Prison and Remand Centre will have to wear uniforms.

This practice will be applied to only male prisoners for the time being. Uniforms will consist of dark blue jacket and trousers and the prisoners will have to wear them at the trials as well. (*Milliyet*, 10 January 1983)

Earthquake Victims' Suffering and Anger Grows

In the earthquake area the atmosphere is about to explode. A sharp conflict exists between the people and the authorities.

Former Minister of Building, *Samsunlu* shamelessly "complained" about and denounced people who were angry at the fact that the 3,5 billion Turkish Lira aid which came from abroad and the 1 billion Turkish Lira collected inside Turkey were not distributed to the victims. He said "Certainly it will not be distributed, it will be spent by the state for that region". However the state did not even send a sufficient number of tents to the region. Since insufficient numbers of tents were sent to Erzurum, people protested outside the Town Hall. Immediately 10.000 tents were sent to the area.

Milliyet reported that in one of the villages of *Horasan* in *Erzurum* province, families set up small tents measuring 3 square meters inside the tents which had been given by Red Crescent. They go to bed in their clothes. One person has to stay awake over night in order to keep a fire burning and prevent the family from freezing to death since the temperature goes down to -20 C at night. They worry about the coming days of January and February during which the temperature goes down to -45 C.

"There is a problem of wolves also" the newspaper said "The latest incident took place two nights ago during which a wolf broke the tent of an earthquake victim to pieces. In another neighbouring village packs of wolves went into the tents. The villagers had to drive them away with the help of sticks and dogs since they had to hand over their arms after 12 September 1980 coup. They are defenceless against the attacks of packs of wolves which will be inevitable after a heavy snowfall". (28 December 1983)

One victim said that "Those who died escaped from all this. Those who survived are dying every day." (*Milliyet*, 28



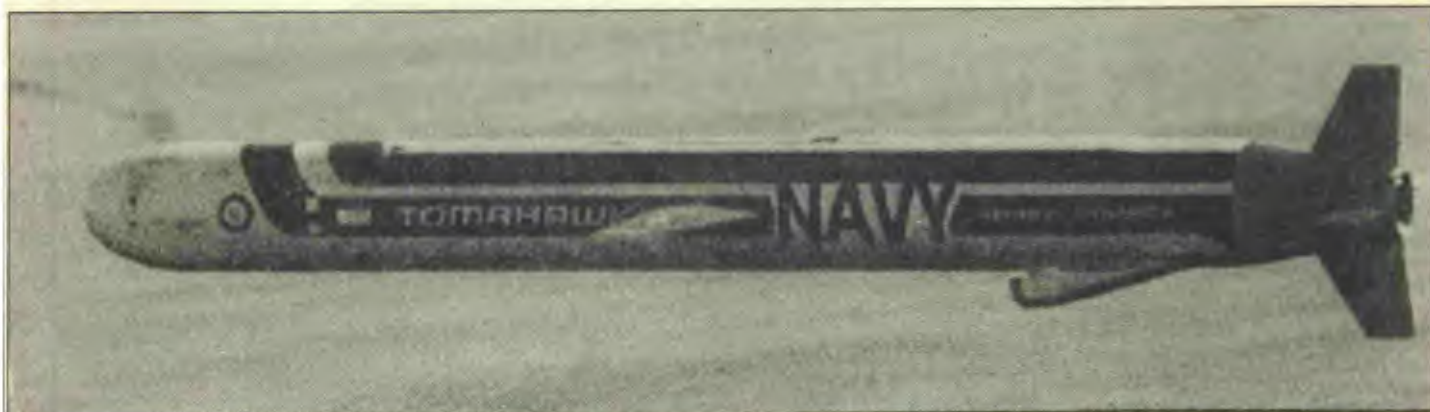
Families are facing the danger of freezing to death as well as being torn to pieces by wolves at any time.

December 1983)

As the people's anger grows the authorities are increasing their repression through the martial law institutions. The 9th Army Corps and the Martial Law Commander of the provinces of *Erzurum*, *Ağrı*, *Kars*, *Artvin* issued a statement reminding everyone to carry an identity card, those without one will be given prison sentences ranging from 3 months to one year.

For the people who lost their families and relatives in the earthquake, are facing the danger of freezing to death as well as being torn to pieces by wolves at any time, such a measure as compulsory carrying of identity cards means nothing less than a form of mass torture.

TURKEY – A NUCLEAR DECOY



Turkey's politicians express their willingness and readiness to have nuclear cruise missiles in Turkey and calling for an American nuclear umbrella

As the voices against the deployment of cruise missiles are raised in all the countries of Europe, Turkey's fascist rulers have repeatedly expressed their willingness and readiness to have nuclear cruise missiles in Turkey. At the same time they are strengthening their military links with the United States.

The Sunday Times of 18th December 1983 reported that "the United States is considering an ambitious plan for a new set of mobile launchers of cruise missiles like those at Greenham Common. In this plan Turkey is one of the possible sites.

The report says:

"The missiles fired from the launchers would be armed with conventional high explosives, but the launchers could also be used to fire nuclear cruise missiles. Defence sources in Washington have confirmed that the plan, prepared by the Washington think tank, Science Application Inc, is one of several under official consideration. It would offer two advantages to Nato:

- The system is designed to act as a nuclear decoy. Because it would be identical in appearance to the nuclear cruise missiles and their launchers, it would confuse Soviet strategists about the number and whereabouts of Nato's nuclear weapons. The system's mobility would make it 'difficult to locate and difficult to destroy, except by large scale attack'.

- The missiles would guard narrow sea passages through which the Soviet navy has to pass. One of these lies between the north of Scotland, Greenland and Iceland. The system would provide a

relatively cheap and effective way to counter what US joint chiefs of staff see as the growing threat of the Soviet navy to Nato sealanes in the North Atlantic:

Examining 10 possible sites for the system in the world, the study concludes that it would be most useful in Turkey, Japan, Denmark and West Germany, Iceland, Scotland and Norway. Thurso in Scotland and Keflavik, Iceland, are described as 'obvious basing sites'.

(...)

The report concludes that the system is technically feasible, cheap, and would offer 'unique capabilities' to theatre or area commanders — highly effective control of important sea lanes, the release of surface and submarine units to other duties, and a high degree of 'survivability' because of its mobility.

(...)

The report also sounds a cautionary note on the numbers of units envisaged. The 10 suggested for Europe, each consisting of four launchers and 16 missiles, would not be enough to act as an effective nuclear decoy unless they were sometimes mingled with nuclear cruise units, it says.

The report is now being considered by the Pentagon's Defence Advance Research Projects Agency, the department responsible for future developments."

Turkey is in the process of strengthening its military links with the United States disregarding the existing treaties with its neighbours namely the Soviet Union.

On 21st December, *The Times* reported that;

"The Soviet Army newspaper *Krasnaya Zvezda* yesterday warned Turkey against strengthening its military links with the United States and said that Moscow would not accept American nuclear missiles on Turkish territory.

The newspaper said that Ankara was ignoring past agreements with Moscow which pledged both sides to avoid the use or threat of force.

Leading Turkish politicians were now calling for an American 'nuclear umbrella' over their territory and trying to condition the public to the idea of deploying weapons there, the newspaper said.

It added that this would be a breach of the treaties and that Moscow would retaliate.

It also reminded Ankara that Moscow had forced the removal of United States Jupiter missiles deployed in Turkey in 1959 within nine months of their arrival."

While this is happening the deep economic problems remain unsolved, real wages of the workers fell by 51% in the last five years, 3 million workers receive the minimum wages of 10.687 Turkish Lira (£35) per month and with the existing market prices face starvation, Turkey is involved in a process of modernising the Turkish Army that is the biggest in the Nato. (see January 1984, *Turkey Newsletter*)

The first stage is to re-equip Turkey's Nato airforce with F-16 bomber aircraft. The contract will be with the General Dynamics Corporation and this is the largest single investment with 4,3 billion Dollars in Turkey's history and has been dubbed as the "arms sale of the decade".

AN INTERVIEW WITH AYDIN MERİÇ, the FORMER ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY OF DİSK

13 February is the anniversary of the establishment of DİSK (Revolutionary Trade Union Confederation of Turkey) whose 78 leaders have been on trial since December 1981, 68 of them for their lives, for their trade union activities. Even now, new trials of trade unions affiliated to DİSK are commenced every day (see page 2). Turkey Newsletter interviewed Aydın Meriç, the former Assistant General Secretary of DİSK.

Turkey Newsletter: *Recently, Türk-İş held its General Council Meeting (Congress). In view of the outcome of this meeting, how do you see the position of the trade union movement in Turkey?*

Aydın Meriç: The junta which came to power in a coup on 12 September 1980, closed down DİSK and many other trade unions. Therefore from then onwards, it was impossible for the workers to organise democratic trade unions. Türk-İş is the only serious trade union centre left. As such, its existence and the attitude it adopts is of great significance.

In this, the 13th General Council Meeting (Congress) of Türk-İş, the discontent of the grassroots was apparent. Their demands and the demands of ordinary workers never got as far as the executive level or the leadership and were therefore never properly canvassed for consideration at the Congress. Instead their discontent were reflected upon as various bourgeois views. As a result, nothing positive was achieved at this Congress and at its conclusion, the same reactionary leadership remained intact. The only difference is that the 29-member Executive Committee has now

been replaced by a 5-member committee which backs the junta. At the Congress it was clear that the junta are satisfied with the loyalty that the Türk-İş leadership has so far shown to them. Proof of this fact emerges from Kenan Evren's message to the Congress, from the speech by Turgut Özal and the respect shown by the junta's "parliamentarians" at the Congress. However, all these factors seem not to have diminished the role and image of Türk-İş in the eyes of the workers and the trade union

movement in general in Turkey. The workers cannot carry out their struggle without their unions and Türk-İş is the only existing trade union centre for them.

Turkey Newsletter: *What is the current situation with respect to the organisation of DİSK and what is the position of your colleagues who were its leaders? What are the options for a former DİSK worker-member?*



We must continue our determined struggle on behalf of our colleagues in re-gaining their freedom. At the same time, our duty first and foremost, must be to stand as protectors of traditions of DİSK.

The second important heritage of DİSK is its former worker-members. Today, these brothers and sisters are still unorganised. They must be organised within Türk-İş and wage their struggle from there.

The third and most important heritage of DİSK are the traditions it has always upheld. The traditions of the struggle pursued by DİSK benefitted the working class of Turkey. One of our most important duties in the trade union movement today, is to make the working class aware of these traditions, these traditions being the common property of all the workers of DİSK, Türk-İş and Turkey as a whole. In particular, we should aim to spread these traditions within Türk-İş itself because for each day that passes with former DİSK members being segregated and distinguishing themselves from Türk-İş members, the transfer of these traditions over to the ranks of Türk-İş is postponed.

I consider the following 3 points to be the corner-stones of the 14-year struggle of DİSK.

1. That DİSK solely defended the class interests of the workers in daily trade union practice, was opposed to class compromise and openly declared that the social liberation of the workers and society, are only possible through socialism.

2. That DİSK developed and innovated tactics for advancing the struggle for trade union rights depending on what was necessary to be done in the class struggle of the day in the country.

3. That DİSK took up the question of internal democracy within the unions on the principle that workers as "the base should have the right to speak and decide". This was its guide and was put into practice.

Turkey Newsletter: How should we carry out our solidarity work with the trade union movement of Turkey? In your opinion, what factors should the solidarity movements abroad take into consideration?

Aydın Meriç: Today, the workers are continuing their struggle in various ways. Re-gaining their trade union rights constitutes one of the most important aspects of the struggle. Therefore we must increase our solidarity with this trade union struggle that is going on. In particular, it is necessary to improve relations with the trade unions, trade unionists and progressive tendencies within Türk-İş, so that we help these organisations and individuals strengthen their relations



Evren and the President of Türk-İş Şevket Yılmaz hand in hand.

Aydın Meriç: We will be commemorating the 17th anniversary of the establishment of DİSK on 13 February 1984. During the period from 13 February 1967 to 12 September 1980, it is undeniable that DİSK held an important and honoured place. However, today, we must be frank in admitting the fact and point out that there is no longer in existence, a DİSK organisation in its own right, or for that matter, an organisation called "DİSK". What there is, are the remnants of a 14-year struggle by DİSK. Our duty first and foremost, must be to stand as protectors of certain traditions of DİSK.

We can list what remains of DİSK as follows:

First of all, there are the middle and top level leaders of the last period of DİSK. Some of these people are still in the jails of the fascist junta. We must continue our determined struggle on behalf of our colleagues in re-gaining their freedom. Some of our trade unionist friends became political refugees to escape the junta's terror.

We must support such friends in solving their problems, problems which are part of the dilemma faced by political refugees in general. Both our colleagues in the prisons and the former leaders, now political refugees, represent nothing more than history for they can no longer function within the existing trade union movement in Turkey.



We should aim to spread traditions of struggle within Türk-İş

with trade union centres in other countries.

We must prevent the solidarity work with DİSK from being exploited or being made abstract. We can and must express our solidarity in concrete ways like going to the rescue of imprisoned DİSK members, solving the problems of political refugees and tackling the problem of organising former DİSK members under the roof of Türk-İş.

Solidarity work with DİSK must address itself to such concrete issues otherwise solidarity based upon an abstract concept of "DİSK" which only survives in the minds of political refugees abroad, when in fact, DİSK is non-existent in Turkey, will not do. And above all, political groups and individuals should avoid and desist from making such abstract propaganda their way of life.



On Christmas Eve last year, CDDRT members together with a group of women from its affiliates, the Union of Turkish Women in Britain and the Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain visited the women's camp at Greenham Common. The women pledged their support for their sisters and also exchanged views on the struggle here in Britain and that being waged in Turkey. Plans were made to visit the camp again in the near future. The following are extracts from an interview given by the Greenham women.

Question: *You have been here for over 2 years now. How did all start?*

Myra: It started with a gang of Welsh women getting together. They were so horrified at the thought of first strike nuclear weapons being brought into Britain, that something simply had to be done about it. It was quite simple, there was no politics in it. It was just mothers and grandmothers who decided it was time they did something about it and give the young ones a lead if they could. Because these weapons are horrific. Of course, being first strike weapons, that makes us first targets. I don't believe Russia would ever want to attack. What the hell would they want a nuclear waste for? It's such a ludicrous argument. We have it with these soldiers round the fence. "We must protect ourselves against Russia". So you stand there and you take all this abuse from them. First you get, "Oh, smellies are back", and really vulgar language. And we just stand there and look at them, and they get embarrassed. They try to excuse themselves by saying, "You're here and you're a bloody nuisance, you've made us miss our Christmas leave" etc., etc.. So we say, we're very sorry about that. We don't want you to miss your Xmas leave. In fact we would very much like to go home ourselves this Xmas, but we can't...

(...)

On Sunday afternoon I was pulled nearly limb from limb, between the American soldiers who had hold of that arm dragging me out that way, and British paras the other way. I was like a rag doll in the middle of three of them. I was bruised, I was knocked unconcious. About 2 o'clock in the morning a friend and I went round to the fence to talk to them. Now this they couldn't understand, couldn't comprehend. "We knocked hell out of you lot this afternoon, and now you've come to talk to us." They just freak out, they do not know how to deal with non-violence. They are indoctrinated and one of them in particular, who had been very abusive, I said to him, "You know you are really institutionalised." "I am not. I am a free man", he said. I said, you are free to walk with your gun between those two rows of barbed wire. That is your freedom Take your uniform off. Come over to this side and talk to us and see how much freedom you've got...

(...)

Then this young boy walked down... he said, "I don't like the army. My parents are talking about getting money together to buy me out because I hate it. Then I thought again, what would I do if I got out? I'd have to join the dole

WOMEN FROM TURKI



queue"... Then another one came down, I think he was a corporal or a sargeant... He was talking to me and all of a sudden he stopped in mid-sentence and he turned to this young one and he said "shut your bloody trap, I'll deal with you later."

Question: *Reactionary governments spread the idea that the threat comes from the Soviet Union. But the Soviet Union has declared openly that they want to dismantle all nuclear weapons.*

Myra: I'm really disgusted about it. We've got to be fair. For two years Russia has bent over backwards. They can't afford it. It's ironic, you know... You've got Russia still having to import grain from America. They don't want bombs, they want grain... When you explain to them, turn yourselves round, imagine that we are Russia. Now Reagan went into Grenada, is playing a very dangerous game in the Lebanon, if he attacks Syria he's soon on the borders of Russia. Now if we were Russians what would we do. We would say, "you must get their first strike bases." They could



It was too embarrassing that women had been in the base for hours and nobody knew they were there

KEY VISIT GREENHAM COMMON WOMEN



see that point. But what amazes me is that so many people don't even realise that Britain and America will not count the missiles in Britain and France... It's always covered up.

(...)

I write to our local press in Wrexham 12 months ago I'd write a whole lot of letters and I'd ring up about a month later and say "why didn't you print my letter?" "I couldn't print that! You'll have us closed down". But in the last six months they print every word I write...

For instance, my last letter was about Cruise and at the end of it I'd gone on about "no mandate" and I put,... it's about time that we demanded either a general election or a general strike and get rid of all this filth." And they printed every word, and they were the most liberal paper.

Question: *After deployment the Greenham Common Women said that they would now try to physically prevent Cruise missiles being employed. But what do you see as the long term solution to the arms race, and to preserve peace?*



"We are not going away, determined to stay at all costs"

Myra: At the moment our only concern is that when they try to bring those missiles out, we stop them. People say, well they brought them in in parts, they can bring them out in parts. But they can't. Haseltine's ego wouldn't allow this. He has promised the Americans that they will come out of that gate before the 30th of December... They're going to come through that gate, there is no doubt about it, and we have our plans then. We just want to prove that it's going to be absolutely impossible if they get what they call their "6 minute warning", they are not going to go any where in 6 minutes from here. They are just not going to take them out without one hell of a fight. We want roads blocked. We want peace groups everywhere, throwing old fridges, anything they can muster up, mass civil disobedience.

(Long term answer to the question of peace-T.N.) can only come through the pressure of the people. All right, we're here, but it's so important that people in their own localities bring pressure to bear and especially on the government, through trade union groups,... any sort of pressure. Civil disobedience all over the country. Block roads, block anything, but do it. But this is the only way it's going to come about, to bring the government toppling. There are more people than politicians.

We explained Myra and Sarah how actively women participated in political life during the period of the revolutionary situation in Turkey and that there are a great number of women in prisons there today.

Sarah: There are many women in prison here too. There's one woman who is back in prison over Xmas, who has just finished a month in prison. She was fasting, not on hunger strike, but just not eating as a personal protest. She's about 58 and very small built. She lost a lot of weight in that time. She just came out and she's going back in over Xmas.

Myra: I will not recognise any authority that upholds genocide. I've got some cases coming up in January. I will not pay a fine, I will not be bound over, because I don't recognise their authority. This I shall tell them. There will be a lot of us there.

(...)

You've read about the Halloween party. We invited all the women to come, there were about 2000 of them and we said bring your own boltcutters. And it was really funny, because in the afternoon they realised something was going to happen, because there was a little old lady, dressed as though she was going to chapel, handbag and a carrier bag on her arm. Two policemen stopped her. "Excuse me madam. We have reason to believe that you have in your possession a pair of wire cutters." "Who me constable?", she said. "Yes you madam, they're hanging out of the bottom of your carrier bag." ...So they knew definitely then that something was going to

(Cont. on p.8)



There is no way that I am going to stay at home by the fire and let them carry on with the business of destroying my children and grandchildren. I don't want to see my kids blown up, I don't want to see anybody's kids blown up. They haven't got that moral right.

- Myra

happen. I was standing almost next to the police constable at the gate and he turned his back to me to speak into his little walkie-talkie and I heard him say something about back-up for later. "Oh no, not yet. It's Halloween, it'll be 12 o'clock the action will start". The last thing in the world that they expected was that it would be attacked in broad daylight.

(...)

Question: *You've proved that you can get through the fence almost at will and enter the base. How far are you prepared to go if necessary. You're obviously not doing as much as you could do, or you've got potential to do more. Is that a conscious decision?*

Myra: I have one fear. Myself, I have no compunction in taking sticks of dynamite and blowing those silos to hell. But there are people in there and I wouldn't harm a person. So this makes it very very difficult. We're here to preserve life, not to destroy it. This is the problem. We do go in. We were in the watch tower the other night. We were in the base for three hours. We got so cold and bored we gave ourselves up. They handcuffed us and took us in, and the following morning just before daylight, they put us in a van and took us to the gate and said go away. It was too embarrassing that women had been in the base for hours and nobody knew they were there.

My main reason when I first came here I thought, there is no way that I am going to stay at home by the fire and let them carry on with the business of destroying my four children and my two grandchildren. That was my idea when I came, that I would do everything possible so that they would have a future. I don't want to see my kids blown up, I don't want to see anybody's kids blown up, what the hell right has anyone to say that they are going to be blown up. They haven't got that moral right.

(...)

It is spreading. We get letters from all over the world, beautiful letters.

(...)

We've got a van over there with 4 boxes of mail which have got to be answered. All year we've been answering letters, which is very very important.

Sarah: (Financial support-TN) Mostly from people's donations. They either pass by in the car and give five pounds or pensioners send a pound. MPs may send three hundred pounds. That changes with our popularity in the public eye. The more popular, the more money comes in. There was one time in the summer when we had hardly any.

(...)

Question: *Reading the papers, you get the impression that everybody hate the GC women. But I have the distinct feeling that except for the journalists who write the rubbish and their editors, there's an incredible amount of good will towards you.*

Myra: O there is. We've got names and addresses of people in Newbury where we can go for baths, have a meal, and if you don't feel well, you can go and sleep in their houses instead of staying here, we've got some very good support. It's very interesting that 70% of Newbury inhabitants don't want Cruise. Of course the press only play on the adverse opinion. Outside a pub they've got this notice: "Anyone who supports the women of Greenham will not be served on these premises".

We've also had attacks from outside... One night we were sitting round the fire here and a stone came past my head. So we immediately about six of us got up, dived down to the road

WOMEN FROM TURKEY

VISIT GREENHAM COMMON WOMEN

and got to their car before them. And it turned out they were 17-18-19 year olds. We said, "Do you feel very brave throwing stones at women in the dark, why don't you come and do it in the daylight, let's see your faces. ...We wouldn't let them get back in the car and talk to us in the rain. They were there for 1½ hrs. and the end product of it was that they wanted to come for a game of cards and a plate of beans the following day. And they would fix Xmas lights for us from the Americans' lights. So it's not that they're really bad people. They're on the dole, they've got nothing to do... But one of the women did nearly have her bender destroyed. ...But if more boys come and throw stones and we don't let them get away, we talk to them. It makes them start to think differently.

Question: *You're determined to stay?*

Myra: Oh, we're not going away.

Question: *At all costs?*

Myra: At all costs. We'll get extra plastic. They can't stop us wrapping ourselves in plastic. Or getting Gortex sleeping bags and hammocking ourselves into the trees. There's no law against that. We're just not going to go away.

(...)

Some of the police are very sympathetic and helpful. We had two helped us pull down the fence. But even if they widen the road and bulldoze the benders, we'd stay in the woods...

Myra was asked whether she had any message to revolutionary women and in particular women prisoners in Turkey.



Myra: I will not recognise any authority that upholds genocide.

Myra: I think the most wonderful thing is happening with women. They are coming out of the darkness. They realise now that their place is not at the kitchen sink and the cooking and the washing, that there is something else to life. And it's amazing that they are not allowing men to hold them back. My husband used to say to me, "You can't go to work". He would rather I sat in the house and we starved than let people know that I was going to work, because we needed money. It was such a dark outlook he had on life. It was understandable, the background he'd come from.

(...)

I think it's sad that women have never been allowed to use their potential, but they are thank goodness, starting to use it now.



List of jobs needing to be done at Greenham Common.

LETTERS OF PROTEST AGAINST IMPRISONMENT OF PEACE LEADERS

What appears below is a model letter which we ask our readers to send to both Kenan Evren and to the Turkish Ambassador in London. We would be obliged if you could inform us of your action and/or any replies you may receive.

TO: President Kenan Evren,
Ankara, Turkey

and/or

H.E. the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey,
43 Belgrave Square,
London, SW1

I/We strongly protest the imprisonment of the leaders of Turkey's Peace Association and express our deep concern for those who stand accused for campaigning for peace and against imperialism, militarism, chauvinism.

Name

Organisation

Violation of Human Rights in Turkey

From Dr David Seddon

Sir, In your second leader (of December 14) you rightly observe, regarding the continuing violation of human rights in Turkey, that "over time, the true character of an ally's government will inevitably be judged by its ability to do away with and do without repressive methods". Opposite this, you publish a letter, signed by several eminent British academics, deploring the savage sentences passed last month on a group of Turkish intellectuals, academics, artists and members of the liberal professions who have been prominent in the Turkish peace movement.

On November 14, 23 members of the banned Turkish Peace Association were sentenced to terms of imprisonment with hard labour of between five and eight years, for "crimes of thought", simply for belonging to the equivalent

of the CND and for working for peace.

The letter signed by Professor Worsley and colleagues mentioned by name a number of those involved. May I, in addition, express deep concern about the plight of Mr Orhan Apaydin, President of the Istanbul Bar Association, Mr Mahmut Dikerdem, President of the Turkish Peace Association and former Ambassador to India, and Mr Orhan Taylan, a well-known artist, who was tortured while in prison prior to the trial in order to force a "confession" of membership of the banned Turkish Communist Party.

Torture, "thought crimes", appalling sentences for involvement in the peace movement — these are only some of the Orwellian features of the contemporary Turkish state; others include martial law, massive control of the press, the banning of so-called "left"

trade unions and the imprisonment of their leadership, and vicious attempts to eliminate the Kurdish identity.

Throughout 1984 those who value democratic and human rights and peace will be watching and judging Mr Ozal's new "civilian" government and looking for an indication of a genuine return to democracy. One such indication would be the freeing of the imprisoned members of the Turkish Peace Association.

Yours,
DAVID SEDDON,
School of Development Studies,
University of East Anglia,
Norwich,
Norfolk.

December 15.

THE TIMES
21 December 1983

TURKISH EMBASSY LETTER to ALF LOMAS MEP

We publish the reply Alf Lomas MEP recently received from the Turkish Embassy about the fate of the peace leaders after their trial.

Dear Mr. Lomas,

With reference to your letter dated 29th November 1983, I would like to inform you of the following:

The trial of the Turkish Peace Association which has been continuing at a Military Court of the Istanbul Martial Law Command ended on 14 November 1983. The 30 leaders of the T.P.A. were brought before the court for violating Articles 31, 33, 74, 141/1 and 173 of the Turkish Penal Code and Article 16/1 of the Martial Law, being accused of conducting activities outside of its declared objective, which include such activities as the

ones directed against the established democratic regime, making pro-Soviet Communist propaganda in all its meetings, carrying out secessionist propaganda detrimental to national unity, encouraging criminal activities by praising such acts, and violating Martial Law regulations by distributing propaganda leaflets and brochures. Although at one stage those under trial were remanded in custody, after December 1982 the trial continued without any of the accused being held in prison. At the conclusion of the trial the accused received sentences ranging from five to eight years imprisonment and five were acquitted. Banning of the Association from any activities and confiscation of its property were also decided.

However, it has been decided by the

court that an appeal against this decision could be allowed at a higher court within 7 days, this being duly made by the defence.

May I also draw your attention to the fact that the accused in this case were brought before the court not because they were 'prisoners of conscience', but on account of their activities which were believed to be in contravention to the association's law of Turkey and that they used the Association as a cover to disguise their illegal activities.

I am sure you will agree with me that it would be inappropriate to further elaborate on the case at this stage as it is now before the High Court.

Yours sincerely,
Rahmi Gümrukçüoğlu
Ambassador

**HUMAN RIGHTS
IN TURKEY**
through the eyes of
European Parliamentarians

Introduction
by Ernie Roberts, MP
Reports by
Chris Smith, MP
Jeremy Corbyn, MP

New Pamphlet of the CDDRT

HUMAN RIGHTS IN TURKEY Through the eyes of European Parliamentarians

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CONSTITUTION OF THE CDDRT

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

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.

CDDRT General Council

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John M BLOOM
Philip BRAY
Sandra HODGSON
Aif LOMAS, MEP
Aydn MERİÇ
Stan NEWENS
Ernie ROBERTS MP
Alan SAPPER
Marion SARAFI
Faik SİNKİLİ
Tijen UĞURİŞ
Martin UPHAM
Bob WRIGHT
and one representative each from:
Turkish Students' Federation in the UK
Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain
Union of Turkish Women in Britain
Union of Turkish Workers

Sponsors include

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Annual affiliation fees are: national organisation £25, local organisation £10, individual £6.

To the Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey.

I/we* wish to affiliate to CDDRT and enclose a cheque/PO for £

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MILITARY CENSORS AMNESTY



Two and a half months after the sham elections in Turkey, "the military has banned the publication of all comment and interviews on a general amnesty for political prisoners making its weight felt indisputably in the country's affairs."

"The ban, communicated in telex messages and telephone calls to the Turkish press." However "the press did not carry the news of the ban as this would also constitute a violation of the martial law order." (*The Guardian*, 14 January 1984)

In the recent weeks in Turkey, increasing numbers of articles were appearing in papers, quoting figures in favour of an amnesty.

Despite the new president of the Istanbul Bar Association Prof. Dr. Selahattin Sulhi Tekinay who said "we are vehemently against an amnesty", the majority's view was in favour of a general amnesty for political prisoners.

Sadık Albayrak writer for the newspaper *Milli Gazete* said "An amnesty is on the agenda. I believe it is necessary."

Prof. Dr. Çetin Özek said; "The practices of past in Turkey and the expectations of the public on this issue

made an amnesty absolutely necessary."

Lawyer, Ziya Nur Erün said that "Especially after an extraordinary period... an amnesty has become absolutely necessary to eliminate the effects of judicial mistakes that might have been done."

Lawyer Kemal Kumkumoğlu said; "...Today an amnesty whose context is determined by the National Assembly and which will also ban capital punishment is absolutely necessary."

Güney Dinç, the former President of Istanbul Bar Association said, "An amnesty is high on the agenda and an urgent issue. I believe in the necessity of an amnesty to add love and liveliness to the social life which became quiet and stagnated."

İskender Özturanlı the former President of İzmir Bar Association said; "An amnesty became inevitable."

Public opinion and hope for an amnesty has taken great dimensions as the statements in the press appeared in particular the sentimental letters sent by children to their mothers and fathers in prison.

The conditions in the prisons is a

burning question for both the prisoners and their families. Overcrowding is one of the problems. The capacity of existing prisons is 65.000, whereas the number of prisoners they have in a year does not drop from 200.000. State Planning Institute reported that 66 of the prisons are not suitable for the health of the people despite the alterations made. They were threatening the health of the people let alone to facilitate rehabilitation. Prisoners have to share beds, the workshops built for rehabilitation and education are turned to wards. "Alarmingly, most of those imprisoned in such conditions are between 16 and 35 years old."

"The heads of the parliamentary committees of justice and internal affairs have announced their support for a limited amnesty and the abolishment of capital punishment." (*The Guardian*, 14 January 1984)

"Millions are waiting for an amnesty" said the weekly magazine *Nokta* and soon came the censor of the military on discussion about amnesty reminding once more that with the recent elections fascism only dressed itself in civilian clothes.

These two recent incidents are neither accidental nor surprising. They are the parts of the economical and political repression that people of Turkey have been exposed to under fascist dictatorship in the last 3,5 years.



All the workers poisoned were young children who were also not insured.

YOUNG WORKERS POISONED

18 workers out of 35 in a garment factory were poisoned by gas leaking from the tank of a steam iron and were taken to hospital.

It was found out at the hospital that all the workers were young children who were also not insured. They tried to hide their faces from the press at the hospital. (*Milliyet*, 12 January 1984)

Job-accidents in Turkey are in fact job-murders, since the employers (which in many cases the state) do not provide the most basic protection and control at work places.

Most workers do not have any insurance and are deprived of trade

union and democratic rights to defend their basic rights in many cases means their lives.

300 ORPHANS POISONED

300 orphans were poisoned by stale Turkey which was left over from the New Year and given to Bakırköy Children's Home.

Half of them had to have their stomachs pumped at the hospital. 30 of them are in a very critical condition.

Since there was no one at the hospital supervising, nurses had difficulty in finding out whose stomach was to be pumped and whose was not. (*Tercüman*, 6 January 1984)