

TURKEY NEWSLETTER

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



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MAY DAY 1985



THE BATTLE DRAWS CLOSER

PARTY GAMES

The season of Party Congresses (of the legal Parties) is well under way in Turkey. The frantic activity around these Congresses reflects the growing political crisis.

The failure of the Özal government is becoming more clear every day. The press is openly speaking in terms of not if Özal will go but *when*. At the heart of the crisis lies the economic failure of the regime. Despite much vaunted monetarist policies and the effort put into penetrating Middle East markets the economy remains shaky. Even Turkey's great export industry — construction — is finding itself in increasing difficulty as high inflation and galloping rates of interest leave them under-financed to ride out delays in customers paying-up. At home the rocketing cost of living was given another boost when the regime introduced VAT at 10% on virtually every necessity, while the minimum official wage remains at \$35 per month (Middle East Magazine, March 1985)

That the writing is on the wall for Özal was clearly shown at the recent congress of TUSIAD (Chambers of Industry and Commerce). The Kocman group of monopolists — the section most closely associated with Özal suffered a resounding defeat in leadership elections and resolutions. This has led many to see Özal's departure as an objective fact. The only question remaining is will he survive until the scheduled elections in 1988. TUSIAD called for the abolition of article 84 of the constitution and the lifting of the ban on pre-coup politicians participating in political life before 1992. TUSIAD called for changes so that "parties not in parliament can participate in an early general election."

The call to lift the 'temporary articles' in the constitution (which restrict political life) is even being raised in the Presidency Council 'President' Evren's personal power centre. Evren himself after coming out strongly against lifting the bans is now distancing himself from the whole issue.

Two of the parties established by the junta are on the road to disappearance. The MDP (National Democracy Party) is fading away, the HP (Populist Party) is exploding into factions. In the ruling ANAP (Motherland Party) a bitter struggle is under way between "Liberals" and former members of the pre-coup fascist National Action Party (of 'Grey Wolf' fame). The NAP is trying to build a party within a party. Özal's trips to Saudi Arabia and the USA, while reflecting the needs of Turkish capital, must also be seen in the context of his struggle to recover his waning popularity.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATS DIVIDED

The "official" Social Democratic Party — SODEP — is itself facing difficulties under the leadership of İnönü, son of Atatürk's close collaborator. Having won significant gains in local elections its opposition has been notable only for its weakness. İnönü has failed to gain the support of banned politician and former Prime Minister Ecevit. Ecevit is following the tendency of the leading groups of all the pre coup political parties in trying to establish or take over the new, legal parties. He is widely recognised as being the real force behind the recent establishment of the "Democratic Left Party" which is led by his wife Raşan Ecevit. The party claims to already have 30,000 members and has adopted many of the slogans of Ecevit's Republican People's Party of the 1970s. The DLP is struggling with SODEP to gain the recognition of the Socialist International.

These two parties are seen by many politicians in Turkey as a possible last line of defence between 'controlled democracy' and the re-emergence of revolutionary forces. That these

parties are permitted at all is a graphic reflection of the disintegration of the regime.

"ONCE THE LEFT COMES, THE LEFT WILL NOT EASILY GO"

The Right too has been far from inactive. As the crisis in the Motherland Party grows, the Right is trying to unite around the DYP (Correct Way Party).

Mehmet Yazar, notable critic of Özal's economic policies, has resigned as President of the Chambers of Industry and Commerce in order to enter politics. On the eve of joining the DYP he sent an open letter calling for unity of the "nationalist right" in order to win power in the next general election, he said; "Being in government means giving everyone their rights... the 16 Turkish states in history were destroyed by Turks fighting each other rather than attack from outside... The Right is dispersed today in the Correct Way Party, National Democracy Party, Welfare Party and ANAP... We have enemies all around, inside the country the enemies are not wasting time... our people are waiting for events". Yazar went on to remind the Right that Turkey will have 100 million people by the year 2000, the need to build a 'powerful state' and "once the Left comes, the Left will not easily go... the Correct Way Party should gather in the whole of the Right".

Yazar has immediately entered into a struggle with Y. Avcı for leadership of DYP. Again the role of the banned politicians figures largely, for while Yazar has the blessing of Evren, Avcı is backed by Demirel the conservative Prime Minister in the 1970s. The Correct Way Party is clearly being built up into the favoured alternative to the ANAP government.

The significance of these party games is that it demonstrates the temporary and unstable nature of the present regime in Turkey. A situation where even given the limits imposed on the 'permitted' political parties (those who gained 46% of the popular vote in the 1984 local elections are not represented at all in parliament) is fraught with potential crisis.

While thousands continue to suffer as political prisoners and the labour movement remains gagged, no amount of demagoguery and manoeuvring by 'permitted' politicians can substitute for real democracy.



NEWS IN BRIEF

TRIALS

The trial of the leadership of the Workers' and Peasants' Party of Turkey has ended with the release of Party President Doğu Perçuk and four other leaders by the Military Court of Appeal.

The trial of members of the Writers' Union which has been dragging on for two years has also ended with the release of the defendants.

In a mass trial 228 people have been sentenced to up to 17 years imprisonment for membership of the Communist Party of Turkey.

ATTACK ON KURDISTAN

According to reports in the *Guardian* the Ankara regime is preparing for a new offensive against the Kurdish people along the Turkey-Iraq border. Large numbers of troops and 15 helicopter gunships have been brought up to the border in the area near the town of Sirnak, near the Iraq-Turkey oil pipeline and the main road to Iraq.

KURDISH RESISTANCE

On 6th April Turkish newspapers carried reports of an ambush by Kurdish guerillas in which 5 including a gendarme major and a police officer were killed. The attack took place on the road between Cizre and Sirnak.

The continuous repression by the Ankara regime in Kurdish areas has led to an increase in acts of armed resistance.

HUMAN RIGHTS OBSTRUCTION

Attempts by the European Commission of Human Rights to speed-up the process whereby allegations of violations of Human Rights are heard and decided upon by the Commission are being obstructed by, among others, Turkey.

The Evren-Özal regime is delaying signing the new protocol in an effort to pressurise both the European Commission and the European Parliamentary Assembly. Both these bodies are preparing reports on accusations of torture and suppression of free speech in Turkey. In connection with this, the General Director of Information at the Turkish

Foreign Ministry launched a violent attack on "leaks" of part of the report by a delegation from the European Human Rights Commission. The delegation visited Turkey and was not pleased with all that it saw. The Director accused those criticising the "slow return to democracy" in Turkey of being "politically motivated", of making "anti-Turkish" statements and of using the European Human Rights Commission for their "own ulterior motives".

MARTIAL LAW

On 21st March the regime announced the lifting of martial law in 11 provinces and its replacement by a 'State of Emergency'. Eight provinces already under a State of Emergency have had it lifted. However, in 23 provinces Martial Law has been extended for a further 4 months. The Minister of the Interior while making these announcements stated that 'operations' were continuing against 'terror nuclei' — a blanket term for any opponents of the regime.

US TRIP

On the 17th March Özal began a ten day visit to the USA. His trip was preceded by a 'task force' composed of three Turkish MPs representing the Motherland Party, Populist Party and National Democracy Party. The aim of this group was to lobby US Congress in favour of increased military and economic assistance and to combat the 'Greek Lobby' over the Cyprus and Aegean issues.

As is to be expected, Özal was given the full red carpet treatment by Reagan. Özal spent a considerable portion of his visit indulging in a propaganda war with Greece. However, the key aspect of the trip was revealed by the fact that his entourage included representatives of the major Turkish monopolies including ENKA, Çap etc... Özal was out to persuade the US to give even more aid to Turkey and to lift import restrictions on textiles, steel and iron from Turkey. He even managed to get Reagan's backing in discussions with the US Commerce Secretary over import quotas.

Reagan accepted an invitation to visit Turkey. However an attempt by Özal to get the Americans to invite President Evren to visit the USA next year ended with a US spokesman saying that they would make a decision on that only after the Greek elections.

GERMAN REPORT

The West German parliament has decreed that the government of the FRG should submit an annual report on Turkey to the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Bundestag.

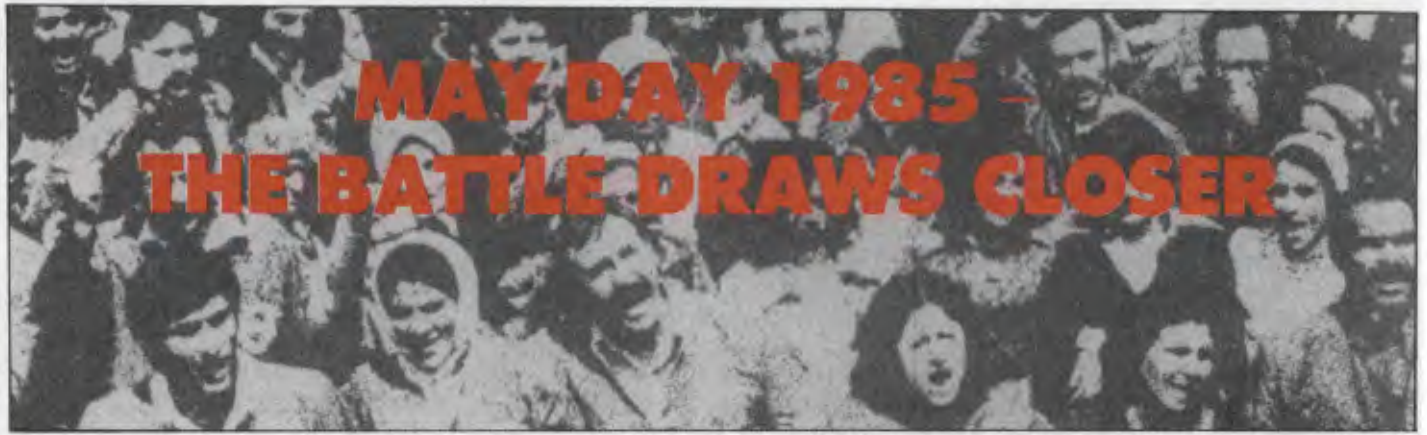
This year's report comes down in favour of the Özal-Evren regime — but with reservations.

It says "we should not use our own democratic criteria when assessing developments in Turkey". However "obedience to the principles of human rights is unfortunately developing at a slower tempo than democratisation. This is due to the use of Military Courts to deal with political crimes". The new Peace Association trial, investigations against those who signed the 'Intellectuals Charter' are "casting shadows over the democratisation process." The freedom of the press is limited by the press censor and self censorship. In the section dealing with torture the Report claims that there is no systematic torture under direct government control, but acknowledges that representations against the death penalty and for an amnesty for political prisoners have "not created any positive developments." The same emerged on the Kurdish question which the regime made clear it regarded as "an internal matter" and was not prepared to discuss with anyone.

That the compliers of this report can put such reservations (and many more) in their report and yet still come down in favour of Evren, Özal and Co says a lot about their understanding of democracy!

TERROR

Nokta 3.2.1985, reported that an "International Symposium on the Rehabilitation of Terrorists in Turkey" had been held in Istanbul. The symposium took place under tight security accompanied by a press blackout. No names of participants were given and the programme was not supposed to be disclosed. However, it is known that General R.L. Clutterbuck (a British 'expert' on terrorism) and Paul Henze, a known CIA Station Chief, took part. Henze presented two papers one on "The special treatment against leaders who resist rehabilitation" and the other on "Are Internationally known rehabilitation processes in prisons applicable to Turkey". The symposium lasted three days.



Five May Days have passed since the working class of Turkey were plunged into a period of total oppression and denial of rights.

For two years after the 1980 coup the generals' junta forced society into a state of suspended animation and tried to imprison it within a monolithic and corporate fascist state.

They suppressed the revolutionary situation that had existed in the 1970s and robbed the working class of their rights, but they were unable to solve Turkey's underlying economic and political crisis rooted in the country's level of development.

Step by reluctant step the junta was forced away from its goal, fascism disintegrated. Faced by 'real conditions' in the world including disintegrated. Faced by 'real conditions' in the world including European pressure and unable to build any kind of mass support in Turkey as a base, monolithicism gave way to a restricted multi-party system. This has led to the development of different centres of power and the gradual break-down of the unity of all sections of the ruling class.

FASCISM HAS GONE — TERROR REMAINS

The Evren-Özal regime is not fascist neither is it democratic, it is transitional and authoritarian. The limited freedoms it has ushered in are not intended to apply to the working class or its organisations. The police and army continue to mount 'operations' in the working class districts of every city, thousands of political prisoners still suffer in the prisons exposed to the use or threat of torture every day. The assault on the standards of living and working conditions of the working class continues. Unemployment is running somewhere between 4 and 5 million, rent rises (İstanbul rents increased by 87% in 1984), food price rises (55-58% in 1985) and decline of real wages to far below those of 1977, all this not to mention galloping inflation demonstrates the continuing bankruptcy of the regime in Turkey.

In *Turkey Newsletter* of last May we maintained that a new period for the working class was beginning; events since then have demonstrated this. In the year since May 1984 Turkey has seen strikes and open discontent come to the surface.

These developments have put the leadership of Türk-İş (the largest legal trade union centre) in a difficult position. Many of these leaders owe their position to their role as collaborators with the junta after 1980. Now they face an increasingly effective opposition inside their unions fighting to transform Türk-İş into a democratic, fighting body. The discontent of the membership is rising rapidly. All this means that S. Yılmaz (Türk-İş President) and his supporters are having to walk an increasingly shaky tight-rope — between appearing to do something for their members and confronting the regime's punitive labour laws. These laws ban general strikes, sympathy strikes, occupations, go slows,

'deliberate falls in productivity', political strikes and strikes counter to the interests of the state. In addition strikes are banned outright in the civil service (which includes large numbers of factory workers and teachers), banks, transport and energy including coal mines. The laws make it difficult to form a union at all and ban industry-wide collective bargaining.

At the moment 500,000 workers are waiting for collective bargaining to begin. As a protest at the restrictions on them Türk-İş have refused to sit down at the negotiating table before 15th April. These sort of 'protests' however are cosmetic. While refusing to negotiate, Türk-İş also refuses to organise any strike action or even protest rally! When pressed on this point earlier in the year, in a *Nokta* interview, Yılmaz said "With regard to a hard line response we have done it. But if you mean to take some action during a period when even the right to strike is doubtful in Turkey then only illegal actions occur to mind". When social democratic trade union leader H. Tunç at a Türk-İş General Council meeting proposed that they organise a protest rally it was dismissed amid stormy scenes and walk-outs by the more 'radical' unions.

The truth is that the situation is so strained and explosive that once workers are brought onto the streets by the unions there is no knowing where it would end. This is the preoccupation that haunts both Yılmaz and Co and the regime.

Despite the continued repression at all levels the signs of the growing strength of working class opposition to the regime on all fronts are there. Whether it is in the form of the demonstrations at the Türk-İş meeting last June in which thousands of workers called for the right to strike or the TV pirate broadcast this January with its call; "Rights are not given, but taken. Let us meet on the field of battle in strikes and in marches to take our rights". The message is clear, the men and women who fought on the barricades at the TARIŞ factory and who marched half a million strong in İstanbul on May Days in the 1970s are again preparing to reach out for their rights.

For anybody who wishes to see real democracy come to Turkey, the special tasks of this time are clear. That is to mount a massive campaign internationally for an amnesty for all political prisoners in Turkey, to work to establish links and contact between labour movement organisations in the West and those of Turkey.

At the same time we should support the fight to end all repression in Turkey and Kurdistan in Turkey.

May Day has always had particular significance for the working class in Turkey. The great international day of labour when both friend and foe can measure working class strength. In 1985 May Day remains banned in Turkey. It is therefore our duty to celebrate it for them by raising the level of solidarity with them and thus help to accelerate the march towards a genuine democracy in Turkey.

STUDENT UNREST GROWS

The following article is reprinted from 'Turkey Today', March 1985.

The socio-economic and political tensions and crises in a society are very often felt first and most deeply among youth.

In Turkey, youth in general and students in particular were hit hard by the 12th September 1980 coup and the reign of terror it inaugurated.

Approximately 5,700 teachers and professors were sacked and tens of thousands of students arrested and expelled from school or university.

In 1981 the junta established the Council for Higher Education (known as YÖK) to supervise and control all the activities of universities, effectively ending university autonomy. Of the 25 YÖK members, only 8 are appointed by the University Council. The rest are appointed by the state.

About the same time, a law was passed stipulating that only one students' association could be established at any educational institution. Students can only join these associations if they are granted permission by the rector of the institution.

In recent months there have been indications that students are responding to the rapid changes and the growing politicisation in the country by engaging in a massive resistance to the YÖK regime. A campaign has begun to withhold fees and it is now estimated that approximately 60% of university students have done so. (*Cumhuriyet*, 10 January 1985)

Faced with such wide-scale and unprecedented disobedience, the Council for Higher Education has adopted a wait-and-see policy and no students have yet been expelled or

otherwise punished.

The Council's position is made all the more more difficult by the fact that critical voices have begun to be raised even in parliament. Recently, a Popular Party MP declared: "The Law on Higher Education is a severe slap in the face to the personnel at Turkey's universities." Meanwhile ever a member of the ruling Motherland Party described the achievements of the past 3 years as "total confusion, inefficiency and failure". (*Cumhuriyet*, 22 Dec. 1984)

Having taken a "flexible" attitude in regard to the holding back of students' fees, the Higher Education Council began to show its teeth in another direction. It sent a circular to university rectors instructing them to keep "information files" on university staff and students. The circular asks the university administrations to constantly monitor students in places where they come together, such as halls of residence, cafeterias, restaurants, common rooms etc., to make sure that activities do not go beyond sports or cultural activities, to closely follow the position of staff members and students who in the previous period were mixed up in ideological actions, and to report those who do engage in ideological actions to the regional security directorate and to the HEC. (*Cumhuriyet*, 18 Dec. 1984)

The situation on the campuses has rather spoiled the regime's plans to use International Youth Year as an occasion for organising activities and ceremonies to create a "bond" with youth. A small indication of the type of disappointments to be expected came

when Education Minister Dinçerler recently spoke at the Middle East Technical University, one of the fortresses of student resistance to fascism in the pre-coup years.

Dinçerler declared that the universities were places where "all shades of opinion were debated", and gave false promises about raising the student residence capacity to 40,000, etc. When the youths, who had been carefully selected by university rectors to attend the celebrations in Ankara, were touring the Higher Education Council building and accidentally met up with HEC president İhsan Doğramacı, they put him in a tight spot. Doğramacı is said to have replied. "If we are once bitten, we are twice shy today, forgive us." (*Cumhuriyet*, 24 Dec. 1984).

In addition to the withholding of fees, reports are coming from the universities of petitions and canteen boycotts.

Even more significant is the fact that students actions are not limited only to the universities. At the moment several students in their last year at the Science High School in Ankara are being investigated for having "loudly" sung the *Internationale* and organised a cafeteria boycott. (*Cumhuriyet*, 23 Nov. 1984)

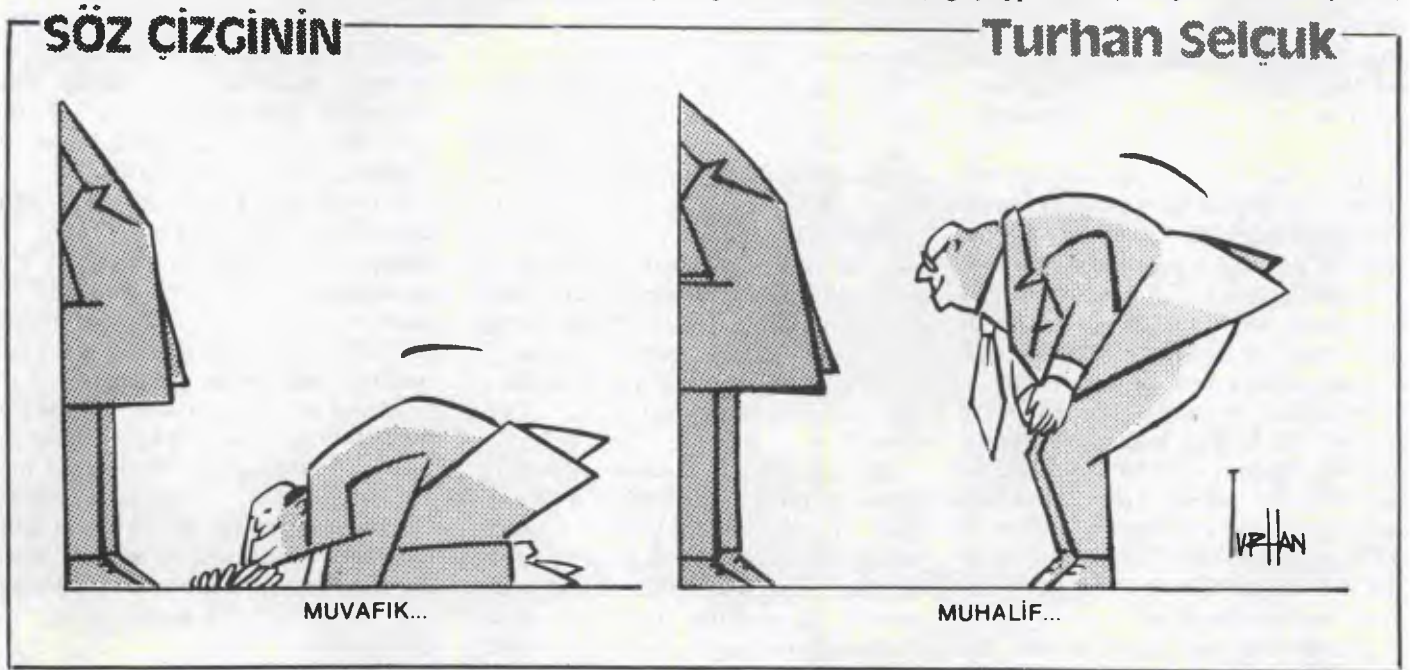
All of these indicate that the International Year of Youth will not pass uneventfully in Turkey and that the youth will be in the forefront of popular repudiation of all the repressive councils, decrees and bans imposed with such brutality and bloodshed after 12th September 1980.



Arrest and imprisonment remain the lot of many young people who oppose the Evren-Özal regime.

FROM THE PRESS

A cartoon that says it all. The difference between supporters of the government and the (legal) opposition. (Milliyet, 16 February 1985)



ÖZAL'S PARTY PROBLEMS

This article reprinted from *The Middle East Magazine*, February 1985 illustrates the instability of the present regime.

Turgut Ozal's government suffered yet another in a series of setbacks in the first week of the new year, writes **Ronnie Margulies** from Istanbul. The resignation of minister without portfolio Ismail Ozdaglar, and the setting up of a parliamentary investigation to look into charges of corruption during his term of office, have thrown the Motherland Party (ANAP) into disarray.

Ozdaglar is alleged to have received huge bribes from a marine transport company. One newspaper puts the figure at 1,500 million Turkish lira (\$3.3mn).

Ozdaglar's resignation came barely two weeks after that of Turkan Arikan, a well respected MP. In her letter of resignation Arikan, attacked Ozal for continuing "to present all the fruits of our teamwork as his own. His favoured MPs are those who are blindfold, deaf and dumb. Tolerance, discussion and loyalty are totally absent inside the party"

Arikan also cited disagreement with the two assistant general-secretaries of the party as a reason for leaving. It is widely known that one of these, Halil Sivgin was closely associated with the now-banned fascist National Action Party (MHP). The other, Mehmet Kececiler, was a follower of the Islamic fundamentalist National Salvation Party (MSP).

"It is impossible that I could ever see eye to eye with such people," said Arikan. It is a matter of widespread speculation that both these individuals are leading substantial factions within the party.

Each resignation is seen as a casualty of the inner power struggle. Ozdaglar was known as a sympathiser of the MSP faction. His resignation may indicate that the MHP group has been gaining the upper hand.

Ozal's problems are not only internal. There are two parties which are without representation in parliament as a result of the military veto in the general elections. Barely disguised

extensions of the old conservative and social democratic parties, the Correct Road Party (DYP) and the Social Democrat Party (SODEP) have both been doing well.

A recent municipal election in the small western town of Koycegiz attracted great attention as an opinion poll. Leading politicians flooded into the town for a week.

The result did not augur well for ANAP. Despite all its arrogance and bravado, it was beaten into second place by the DYP. The two parties without parliamentary representation received 60 per cent of the vote.

Ozal's ANAP is not the only party beset by problems. The second party allowed by the military to contest the general elections is also in deep trouble. The Populist Party (HP) received one per cent of the vote in Koycegiz, compared to the 13 per cent it had received in the local election 9 months ago.

The party has been rent by internal dissent and constantly poor electoral performance. Five of its MPs were recently disciplined on trumped-up charges after signing a petition critical of the party leadership. It seems clear that the HP is unlikely to survive for long in its present form.

The third party sponsored by the military, the National Democratic Party, has long been totally ineffective. Here too, 25 MPs signed a petition expressing their discontent in early January. Rumours abound of the party merging with the DYP.

It is clearly too early to predict a serious crisis for Ozal. He is still riding high on the early success of his economic policies. However, the military's attempt to impose a three-party parliamentary system with a docile opposition has not worked out.

While calls for an early general election on the part of the DYP and SODEP are unlikely to be heeded, time appears to be very much on their side.

CDDRT NEWS

LONDON MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS

Owing to an expansion in the work of the CDDRT, we need more volunteers at the Committees office both to help with the work and also to participate in

meetings of the Executive Committee. This invitation is open to all members and supporters of the CDDRT. Phone, write or call at the office and help the fight for democracy in Turkey.

CONGRESS

The bi-annual Congress of the CDDRT will take place in November 1985.

This will be the CDDRT's third such Congress and is likely to mark an important turning point in the work of the committee. Its decisions will be especially significant in the light of the new developments in Turkey. Every affiliated organisation has the right to send delegates and also every paid-up individual member has the right to attend and vote.

CONSTITUTION OF THE CDDRT

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

7. Local Branches of the 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

Bedir AYDEMİR
Richard BALFE, MEP
John M BLOOM
Philip BRAY
Sandra HODGSON
Aif LOMAS, MEP
Aydn MERİÇ
Stan NEWENS, MEP
Ernie ROBERTS, MP
Alan SAPPER
Marion SARAFI
Faik SİNKİL
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

Peter Archer QC MP
Joe Ashton MP
Norman Atkinson MP
Tony Banks MP
Guy Barnett MP
Margaret Beckett MP
Tony Benn MP
Andrew Bennett MP
Syd Bidwell MP
Roland Boyes MP
Ron Brown MP
Richard Caborn MP
Dennis Canavan MP
Alex Carlisle MP
Lewis Carter-Jones MP
Bob Clay MP
Harry Cohen MP
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Roy Hughes MP
Robert Kilroy-Silk MP
Neil Kinnock MP
James Lamond MP
R. Leighton MP
Bob Litherland MP
Allen McKay MP
William McKelvey MP
Kevin McNamara MP
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J Maxton MP
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Terry Patechett MP
Jo Richardson MP
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Clare Short MP
Dennis Skinner MP
Clive Soley MP
Jack Straw MP
Stan Thorne MP
Robert Wareing
Dafydd Wigley MP
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Brian Key MEP

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Stan Newens MEP
Dr Barry Seal MEP
Ken Brett, AGS AUEW
Colin Barnett, Sec. NW TUC
Ken Brett, AGS AUEW
Stan Cole AUEW NC
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E.V. Hughes, NW TUC
Alex Kitson: TGWU
Mick McGahey, NUM
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Bob Wright, AGS AUEW
ACTSS Central London Branch
APEX Holborn Branch
ASLEF
ASTMS Divisional Council 8
ASTMS Manchester HS Branch
AUEW Kingston District
AUEW N. Manchester District
AUEW Sheffield District
AUEW (TASS) Div Council 9
COHSE Caterham Branch
Fire Brigades Union
GMWU Burnley Branch
GMWU 22 Bury Branch
GMWU 115 Manchester Branch
GMWU Pendle 122 Branch
GMWU Warrington Branch
NALGO Met Dist Council
NALGO Hackney Branch
NALGO Southwark

NATFHE Leek
NUM
NUM Derbyshire
NUM Scotland
NUM Yorkshire
NUPE
NUPE Northern Ireland Div
NUPE West Midlands Div
NUR Manchester
Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance
SOGAT '82 LCA & EP Branch
TGWU
TGWU Reg. No.1
UCATT London Region
UCATT NW Region
Greater London Association of Trades Councils
Croydon Trades Council
Cambridge & Dist Trades Council
Gloucester Trades Council
Greenwich Trades Council
Hackney Trades Council
Kingston & Dist Trades Council
Leeds Trades Council
Cities of London & Westminster Trades Council
Preston Trades Council
Rotherham Trades Council
Stockport Trades Council
Waltham Forest Trades Council
GEC Openshaw JSSC
Union of Turkish Workers
Beckenham CLP

Bermondsey CLP
Chelmsford CLP
Greenwich CLP
Hazelgrove CLP
High Peak CLP
Keighley CLP
Walthamstow CLP
Wigan CLP
Labour Party Young Socialists
National Organisation of Labour Students
Forening For Progressive Fr Tyrkia
Iraqi Students' Society UK (Branch of GUSIR)
KNE (Communist Youth of Greece) org. in Britain
Kurdish Students Society in Europe (UK)
Communist Party of Portugal (org. in Britain)
Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain
Turkish Students' Federation in the UK
City of London Polytechnic Students' Union
Cyprus Students' Society — Manchester University
Leeds University Union
UMIST Students' Union
Manchester Poly Students' Union
Manchester University SU
Teesside Polytechnic Students' Union

Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation
Demokrat Norway
Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers
London CRS Political Committee
Frank Allau
Lord Fenner Brockway
Alan Bush
Bob Cryer
Arthur Davidson QC
Frank Hooley
Les Huckfield
Lord Jenkins of Putney
Mgr. Bruce Kent
Arthur Latham
Ken Livingstone
Robert J. Longuet
Jim Marshall
Lord Molloy
John Platts-Mills QC
George Morton
William Pomeroiy
Reg Race
Andrew Rothstein
Marion Sarafi
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E.P. Thompson
John Tilley
David Watkins
Philip Whitehead
Sheila Wright

Affiliate to the CDDRT

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 the CDDRT and enclose a cheque/PO for £

Name
Address
Date of Affiliation

*Delete as applicable. Includes subscription to **TURKEY NEWSLETTER**

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SYSTEMATIC TORTURE IN TURKEY ALLEGED

The following item appeared in the Guardian, 25.3.85.

By Liz Thurgood

The human rights situation in Turkey was condemned yesterday as "appalling" by two playwrights who conducted their own investigation.

Mr Harold Pinter who went to Turkey with the American, Arthur Miller, said in London yesterday that torture there was systematic, not accidental, as the military regime maintained. He put the number of political prisoners at 20,000.

Mr Pinter was speaking after a week-long visit, sponsored by the international writers association, Pen, during which he met writers, academics and intellectuals. The two men presented their conclusions to a press conference in Istanbul of Friday, before flying out.

The Turkish Government reacted angrily to the visit. All reference to the press conference in the Turkish media was banned by military decree and an investigation into their conduct while in Turkey is believed to have begun.

While in Turkey both men urged their respective

ambassadors to press their governments to take action. A report, yet to be written, will be sent to Amnesty International and the British and US governments, Mr Pinter said.

Central to the two men's visit were trials now underway involving 1,400 trade unionists and members of the Turkish Peace Association. Mr Pinter described prison conditions as "very bad".

The two playwrights were particularly critical of the Turkish legal system, under which people may be held 45 days incommunicado. It was during such periods that "torture is systematically practised," Mr Pinter claimed.

A method favoured by the Turks, Mr Pinter said, was electric torture of the genitals. Prisoners are hung upside-down for long periods and vicious beatings are commonplace, he claimed.

The two men condemned the US attitude to Turkey. Strategically important to Nato. Turkey receives more than \$750 million from Washington annually.

PLAYWRIGHTS ATTEND PEACE TRIAL

On 19 March the well known playwrights Arthur Miller (USA) and Harold Pinter (UK) attended a sitting of the second peace trial in an Istanbul Military Court. This is the second mass trial of members of Turkey's Peace Association. The

playwrights were accompanied by the US and UK Consuls and by Peace Association President M. Dikerdem (released after an earlier trial).



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