

TURKEY NEWSLETTER



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

Issue 72-73 May — June 1987

MAY DAY 1987



Workers...



Students...

CONTENTS: Turkey applies to join EEC p.2; News in Brief pp.3-4; Crisis in Aegean p.5; Students Protest pp.6-7; May Day in Turkey pp.8-9; Trade Union News p.10; Torture, Trials and Prisons pp.11-12; CDDRT Congress pp.13-14-15; Reviews p.16.



AN EMBARRASSMENT FOR EUROPE

As has been expected for some time, Turkey has finally handed in its official application to join the European Economic Community (EEC) in Brussels on April 14.

The application has generally been greeted with embarrassment by EEC members. As William Dawkins pointed out in the *Financial Times*: "Turkey's bid to join the EEC was greeted yesterday with polite resignation by most member states.

"The obvious exceptions are Greece, with its long-standing animosity towards Ankara, and Belgium, which is extending a courteous hand towards Turkey in its capacity as chairman of the Council of Ministers.

"Despite anxieties over human rights and doubts over the wisdom of starting new membership talks so soon after the admission of Spain and Portugal, all the members know they are honour-bound by the Treaty of Rome to consider any membership application from a European state. Moreover, the EEC association agreement signed with Turkey in 1963 stipulates that Ankara can apply.

"Nonetheless, there was widespread agreement that Ankara's timing was not right, and that the application would pose a dilemma for those countries who would not want to be seen rejecting it for political reasons but felt nonetheless that it was premature. ...

"Most member states were yesterday keeping a low official profile on how they will handle Turkey's overture, though Denmark, the Netherlands, Britain and West Germany have all expressed doubts for different reasons. None, apart from Greece, wants to offend a key strategic neighbour and important member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, yet the practical problems posed by Turkish membership are horrendous. British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe yesterday made clear that the UK expected progress on human rights before it would back the application."

There is little doubt that the necessary number of countries will support the second step towards Turkey's membership — that of instructing the European Commission to draw up its opinion on the application. This stage of the process can, however, be made to take a very long time.

The over-riding reason for the EEC's reluctance to allow Turkey in at this stage is the far from stable state of Turkey's economy. Turkey has a large but inefficient agricultural sector. In addition, Turkey's ability to flood Europe with cheap textiles and some machine-building products pose a problem. As does the fact that Turkey, — which is experiencing a population explosion, will have the largest population of any West European country within the next decade.

For democrats, as the Committee for the Defence of Democratic Rights has pointed out on many occasions, the degree of improved relations between Europe and Turkey must be firmly tied to improvements in the area of democracy and human rights in Turkey. Even Cindoruk, leader of the centre-right opposition True Path Party (DYP) in Turkey is reported as saying that Turkey did not meet certain pre-conditions for membership of the EEC in view of the position on human rights, free elections, and the bans on former politicians.

There are also 'other questions'; the torture of political prisoners, the Turkish army occupation of 40% of the territory of another EEC Associate — Cyprus, the bloody war being waged against the Kurdish people not to mention the continued

'supervision' of legal political life in Turkey by the military.

The fact that Turkey has the most restrictive laws governing Trade Unions and press freedom, and the near-war between Turkey and an EEC member Greece, last month, should do nothing for the present regime's chances of joining the EEC.

The present regime in Turkey may try to blackmail the EEC by saying that if Turkey which "defends Europe on the battlefield" is not good enough for EEC membership then Turkey will 'look elsewhere'. All EEC states should know that this is a bluff and to use it as an excuse to give in to the Ozal regime would be dishonest and shameful.

The present Turkish regime's application to join the EEC has been greeted by progressive forces in the European Parliament with justified scorn. The *Morning Star* of April 15 reported that: "The British Labour Party's European parliament leader, Alf Lomas described the application as 'colossal impudence'.

"'So long as Turkey continues with its widespread arrests of trade unionists and people in the peace movement, subjecting them to detention and torture, there cannot even be any possibility of considering their application,' Mr. Lomas declared.

"West German Euro MP Rudi Arndt, leader of the 172-strong Socialist Group, ruled out Turkish EEC membership 'into the next century.'

"Richard Balfe, London South Inner Euro MP, and author of a parliamentary report on Turkey, stressed that major changes would have to take place in Turkey before 'they come anywhere near qualification.'

" 'There would have to be a lot of changes in Turkey — especially in the field of human rights, trade union rights and civil liberty.' "

The CDDRT's position remains that until the systematic abuse of human rights ends and a recognisable form of democracy is established in Turkey the EEC cannot allow Turkey into its midst.

PATIENCE

Turkey's Prime Minister, Mr Turgut Ozal, yesterday said that his country could be a full member of the European Community within ten years, but he warned Turks that they must be prepared to hear unwelcome things said about their country during the months ahead.

Amidst a mood which many foreign diplomats lobbying to delay the application regard as somewhat out of touch with the Community realities, the Government began to spell out to the public some of the implications of joining.

Mr Ozal said he had no doubts that Turkey's industry would be able to compete inside the Community and that Turkey would offer an important new market for the EEC.

He sidestepped questions about whether Turkey's legal and constitutional situation make it eligible to sign the Treaty of Rome at present, hinting that some changes might be made. Mr Ozal said these changes should be submitted to the Turkish people in a referendum.

It is assumed here that Turkey may have to decriminalise Communist and fundamentalist Islamic movements and ease its strict controls on the press, unions, and the right to form private associations..

From the *Financial Times*, April 15.



Feminists sue judge

A STICK FOR HER BACK!

The revolting brutality of the present social system in Turkey's attitude to women was illustrated by a court case reported in *Milliyet* (April 5). A judge sitting on a case where a woman was applying for divorce on the grounds that her husband beat her said: "A woman should not be left without a stick on her back and food in her stomach". He went on to add that in his view women "should be beaten regularly".

However, this display of unbelievable chauvinism has not gone unanswered. For the first time in Turkish history a group of 20 feminists have managed to start proceedings to sue the judge for his criminal remarks.

WOMEN'S SECTION

In the latest attempt to get round laws which forbid political parties from establishing women's sections, the True Path Party (DYP) have established a DY Vounteers organisation which happens to consist entirely of women. At its inaugural meeting party leader Cindoruk accused the Ozal regime of setting up a "Phillipines-style democracy in Turkey".

BURNT HIMSELF

The despair of many small businessmen who are being ruined by the Ozal regime's policy of encouraging the monopolies at the expense of everything else was illustrated on April 11.

Mehmet Burgac, a small businessman doused himself in petrol and set fire to himself in front of the old Prime Ministry building in Ankara. In a letter addressed to the prime minister found near him he had written: "You are working only to save the big companies... This means it is necessary for us not to live but to die... so I have chosen this way."

HUNGER

Hunger has come on to the curriculum at the Fen Lycee (High School). On March 4th *Hurriyet* reported that the state only gave the school 350 TL per pupil each day for the school to provide meals for

the pupils. In fact the absolute minimum to feed a child is now 930 TL. 350 TL will only buy one piece of toast and a can of coca cola.

DESPERATION

The high level of unemployment in Turkey was illustrated by an item appearing in *Milliyet* 3 March 87. Unemployed people flooded into the city of Erzurum after reports that the trade minister had said people from East Anatolia would be employed building a new Soviet-Turkish gas pipeline. In one week 15,000 men arrived in Erzurum to register for work.

Government officials hastily denied that there was any definite prospect for jobs on the pipeline but thousands of jobless are still flooding into the city.

POVERTY



When a Social Aid centre opened in the city of Mersin to give ration cards for high protein food to the poor, 300 people were already waiting outside. The human cost of the regime's economic miracle grows every day.

RABITA SCANDAL

The pose of 'President' Evren as a staunch defender of Turkey as a secular state has been damaged in recent weeks. This follows the discovery that while head of the post-1980 fascist junta in Turkey, Evren signed a decree whereby the Saudi Arabian financed Muslim World League (RABITA) paid Turkish clergy sent abroad to 'serve' the Turkish migrant communities between 1982 and 1985.

Muslim clergy in Turkey are paid by the state and considered part of the civil service.

The link between the regime and avowedly fundamentalist organisations such as RABITA is an example of how Islamic fundamentalism is being encouraged by the regime as a potential ally in the struggle against the democratic forces in Turkey.

Following the revelations the General Secretary of the opposition Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) called on Evren to resign.

HITLER WORSHIPPER GETS OFF LIGHTLY

The mass trial of members of the pre-1980 neo fascist National Action Party (NAP) ended on April 8.

A military court handed down prison sentences to 200 defendants and death sentences for 5.

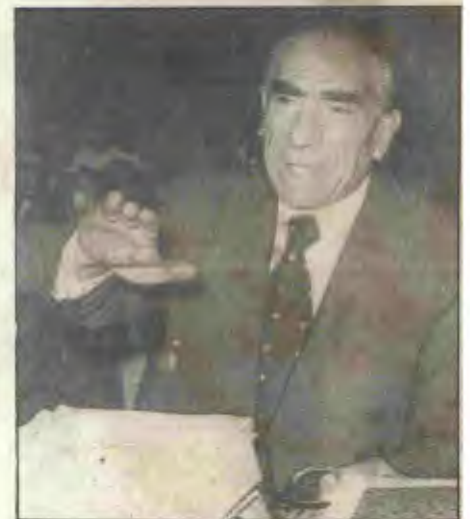
The NAP and its notorious youth wing the 'Grey Wolves' were responsible for numerous killings and terrorist outrages in the 1970s. Their victims were progressive teachers, students, trade unionists and others. NAP's most famous 'exploits' were a gun-attack on the 1977 Istanbul May Day demonstration and a religious-based pogrom known as the Kahramanmaras massacre in 1978.

Despite the overwhelming evidence against the NAP, most of the defendants escaped lightly. The 5 sentenced to death were small fry in the organisation and in reality will serve life imprisonment.

Ex-colonel Alparlan Turkes, leader of NAP and a former deputy prime minister received an 11 year sentence. Under current provisions in the law this admirer of Adolf Hitler will only serve *one day* in prison.

Turkes is already active in politics again — though officially banned from it. He is the real leader of the legal Nationalist Work Party and his ex NAP members constitute one of the two wings of the ruling Motherland Party (ANAP).

The sympathy for Turkey in ANAP was graphically demonstrated during an ANAP fund raising banquet on April 12. The Secretary General of ANAP grabbed the microphone in the middle of a performance by a well-known singer. Fitting new words to an old Turkish song he crooned "... O honourable flag of the Turks, fire of Turkistan how could you do it to Turkes, Turkes...".



A butcher goes free

NEWS IN BRIEF

US AID

Despite being the most 'pro-American' regime in Turkish history, the Ozal regime is continuing to have problems with its 'special relationship' with the US administration. On April 16, writing in the *Financial Times*, David Barchard reported:

"Turkey and the US are again at loggerheads a month after the sending of a letter intended to resolve longstanding disputes between the two.

"We have decided not to bring the Additional Letter to the Council of Ministers for ratification pending the solution of our problems in the American Congress', Mr Vahit Halefoglu, Turkish foreign minister, said yesterday.

"The Defence and Economic Co-operation Agreement is suspended. This means the 1980 Treaty agreement is in force and the Additional Letter and its provisions are suspended until we see the outcome in Congress.'

"Turkey is objecting to US Congressional attempts to link supplies of arms and aid to the Cyprus situation and to tie military aid to a seven to ten ratio between Greece and Turkey.'"

DEPORTATION OF KURDISH VILLAGERS

A new repressive measure aimed at Kurdish people was reported in the daily *Cumhuriyet* of February 15, 1987: Deportation of 50,000 villagers of Tunceli (Dersim) to the western provinces of Turkey. Pretext: To provide them with lands to be opened to agriculture in the provinces of Antalya, Mersin, Mugla and Izmir.

Dersim has been the centre of many Kurdish uprisings in the course of the Republic's history and thousands of Kurdish villagers have been massacred by the Turkish Army. Since the last military coup, most repressive practices have been carried out in this province. Even after the foundation of civilian government, the governor of the province dismissed all public servants of Kurdish origin, by claiming that all of them were connected with outlawed Kurdish organizations.

PILOT FLEES TO TURKEY

Ankara (Reuter) — An Iranian Air Force squadron leader is reported to have fled to Turkey on April 2 with his wife, two children and two others in a stolen

helicopter.

The semi-official Anatolian and independent *Hurriyet* news agencies said that the helicopter landed near the town of Van, close to the Iranian border. *Hurriyet* said that the squadron leader and his family had requested asylum but the two others on board, a pilot officer and a non-commissioned officer, discovered only after landing that they were in Turkey and were expected to return to Iran.

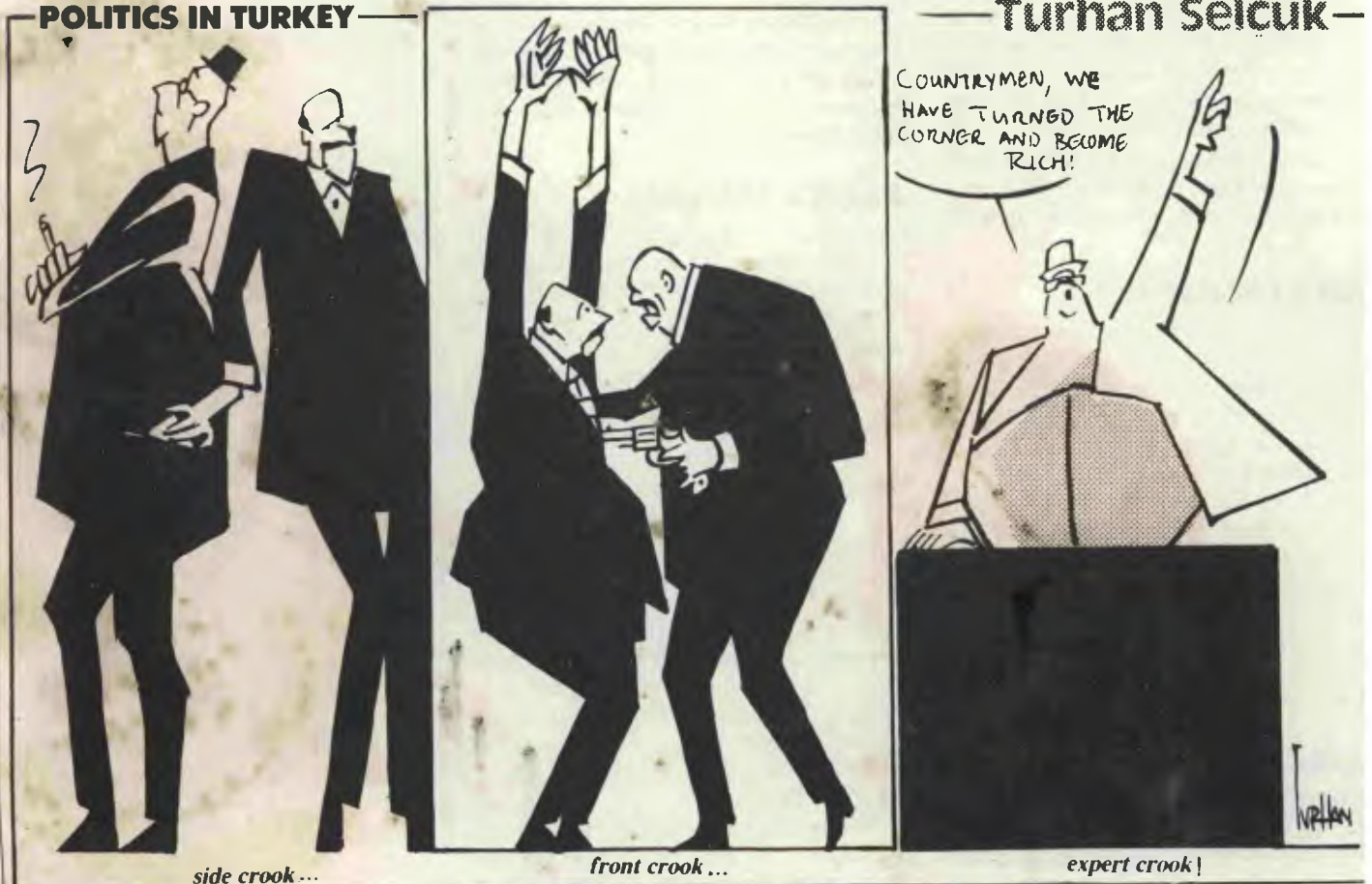
PLOT FOILED

Ankara: Police have foiled a plot by alleged members of the Islamic Jihad to attack US targets in Turkey, the authorities reported yesterday.

Police said they had taken into custody one Iranian, one Lebanese, and two Turks, and seized a cache of explosives in the Syrian border province of Hatay.

Bulent Orakoglu, a police official in Hatay, said that the group's initial aim was to kidnap American and Israeli hostages living in Izmir, on the Aegean coast, who would be exchanged for 200 Islamic Jihad militants in Israeli prisons, he said. — AP.

POLITICS IN TURKEY



(side crook and front crook are Turkish expressions for pickpocket and stick-up man respectively)

AEGEAN CRISIS: THE BRINK OF WAR



Tension is still high after events earlier in April which again brought the governments of Turkey and Greece to the brink of war over territorial disputes in the Aegean Sea.

The dispute this time centred on the question of the extent of Greece's territorial waters around Greek islands near the Turkish coast and the right to drill for oil in those waters.

As we reported in the last issue of *Turkey Newsletter*, when the international consortium, the North Aegean Petroleum Company announced its intention to drill for oil in waters disputed between Greece and Turkey, the Greek government began steps to nationalise the NAPC and thus prevent an accidental clash with Turkey. This however did not appease the Turkish regime which, accusing the Greek government of preparing to look for oil itself in the area, sent a research vessel *Sismik 1* under armed escort towards the area. Military forces went into readiness on both sides while the Greek government declared it would stop *Sismik 1* by force.

It can be said that the accompanying war hysteria was useful to both governments in distracting attention from 'domestic difficulties'.

In the end — almost at the last minute — the Turkish regime stepped back and the vessel did not enter areas claimed by the Greek government. Secret negotiations have begun between the two governments.

Many feel that apart from other issues involved, a main reason for the latest flare-up was the desire by the Reagan administration in the US to put pressure on the Greek government over the question of US bases and NATO. This gave the Turkish regime the change to show its super-loyalty to the USA.

Owing to lack of space we are not able to report the Aegean crisis and its implications in full in this issue of *Turkey Newsletter*. In the July issue of the *Newsletter* there will be a special feature on Turkish-Greek relations and the implications of the recent events.

DANGER PERSISTS

On April 11 Mario Modiano writing in the *Times*, reported that:

"While Greece and Turkey are haggling over the scope and nature of a dialogue to reduce bilateral friction, the risk of a sudden war in the Aegean has increased perceptibly since the recent crisis.

Young Greek and Turkish fighter pilots confront each other several times a day in the Aegean skies as Turkey challenges the breadth of the Greek air space, and its fighter aircraft enter the Aegean without notifying the Athens flight information region (FIR) which has control over air traffic in the area.

Greek jets, acting on peace-time standing orders, scramble to intercept, identify and turn back the intruders. The Turkish pilots often defy them and engage in mock dogfights. "Sometimes they get so close that they can read each other's maps," said a source in Athens.

There is growing anxiety among the Western allies of Greece and Turkey that an accident could happen easily through miscalculation, over-reaction, or plain machismo. The Greek authorities issued no denial to an extremely detailed account, published in an Athens daily newspaper, of how war was avoided on March 30, three days after the Aegean crisis was defused.

It appears that an order to a Greek air patrol to force a Turkish naval reconnaissance plane inside the Athens FIR to land on a Greek airfield, or shoot it down if it refused, was countermanded by a junior staff officer with split-second reflexes.

The Greeks maintain that Turkish air violations — Turkish complaints of Greek violations are infrequent — have increased since the crisis. Last week the Turkish Foreign Ministry notified Greece that it would refuse to consider any protests for air violations other than those relating to the "six-mile Greek air space" in the Aegean. Greece decreed a 10-mile air space beyond its coastlines in 1931.

Turkey's limits-testing may be intended to impress on the Greek Government that, beyond the problem of their conflicting oil claims in the Aegean which brought them close to armed conflict on March 27, there are many other equally dangerous problems that need to be tackled through bilateral negotiations.

However, in the current exchange of messages between the prime ministers of Greece and Turkey, Greece insists that the only object of Greek-Turkish talks should be to draft a document jointly requesting the International Court of Justice in The Hague to solve the seabed dispute by drawing their common boundary on the Aegean.



War hysteria in the Turkish press

STUDENTS

NEW WAVE OF STUDENT PROTESTS: REGIME RETREATS

Thousands of students in Turkey's largest universities began a new campaign of mass protests in April.

The new wave of protests has been sparked-off by further drastic restrictions on students' rights by the university authorities and the state. Most important of these was a Bill on student associations being pushed through the Turkish Grand National Assembly (parliament). This would in effect crush the 'Student Centres'. Which are the nearest thing to student unions permitted by the regime. They emerged as the main form of student organisation during the December 1986-January 1987 hunger strikes and demonstrations against the reactionary education system. Despite harassment by the authorities which has forced many Student Centres to operate in virtual underground conditions, they have been increasingly effective in representing students and linking-up on a nationwide basis. In addition to the Bill on student associations, YOK (Higher Education Council) has introduced more rules and regulations aimed at preventing students from organising or even reading 'unauthorised' books. An example of this is the new rule at Hacettepe University where a new list of offences for which a student can be expelled from university has been drawn up (March 24). Among normal expelleable offences such as theft and drug-taking the authorities have introduced others such as "swearing", "belittling another student", "reading or possessing banned publications", "spending an evening outside the campus and hostels without permission", "staging protests against the campus management", "carrying out ideological activities".

The latest round of student protests began with scattered actions such as that at Istanbul University, on April 8 when students presented the Rector with a petition saying they "cannot study on empty stomachs" and asking for larger portions of food in the university canteens. 500 students gathered in front of the Rector's office, security police arrived to disperse the crowd and the Student Centre's press officer was arrested. She was released much later.

The protests really accelerated on the weekend of April 11-12. Students at Istanbul, Ankara, Adana and Bursa universities staged canteen boycotts and sit-down demonstrations. The biggest and most violent confrontation took place in front of the Architectural Faculty of the Middle East Technical University in Ankara. During a sit-down protest, paramilitary gendarmes waded into the students lashing out with the butts of their guns as they arrested student Ismail Aksoy and several others on the accusation of "singing a revolutionary march".

The reaction of the regime to protests at the Middle East Technical University are particularly harsh. They have not forgotten the 'outrage' caused at that university almost on the eve of the 1980 military coup when, at the university's opening ceremony students drowned out the playing of the Turkish National Anthem by singing the 'Internationale'.

At all affected universities students handed out leaflets and at Istanbul students posted-up placards saying "Student organisations will not be shut down", "No to YOK".

The struggle dramatically accelerated on April 15th when 2,000 students in Istanbul took the police by surprise and began to march from the Aksaray district to Beyazit Square. Police calls to disperse were ignored and students continued to march forward. In the square students sang songs including ones by banned poet Nazim Hikmet and according to the police also

the "Revolutionary March" and the "Internationale". When the police chief again called on students to disperse one shouted back "let the police disperse first, then we will". He was promptly arrested. In the words of a Turkish press report: "Despite the police giving full warning the resistance continued so the police hit out at girl and boy students with batons and dragged them by the hair to police vans. A general melee continued as units of riot and political police lashed-out indiscriminately.

Students shouted slogans such as "An end to being a slave YOK", and "We will defeat torture".

Police took 100 arrested students to the notorious Gayrettepe Political Branch Interrogation Centre. At the time of going to press 66 are still detained there. The march through the centre of Istanbul was the first 'unauthorised' march since the 1980 coup.

Following the demonstration, the regime announced that the Student Associations Bill had been withdrawn for "further consideration".

Despite this climbdown student protests, hunger strikes and marches are continuing.

DISAPPEARED

Various protest marches and other actions in the provinces were stopped by police and the participants detained. There is also growing concern for the fate of several students who have 'disappeared' in police hands. The Social Democratic Populist Party has demanded the missing students be produced.

In an open letter to the government, student leaders said: "The recent incidents which have exploded in the universities have been building up for a long time. The undemocratic way being used to close our centres has been the last straw..."

"The student centres where students can go to seek their rights are being threatened with closure"... The letter went on to accuse the regime of having "an aristocratic understanding of democracy".

The crisis in Turkish education has come to a head. After years of being subjected to a system of brutal military discipline with hardly any more rights than prisoners and a deeply reactionary, anti-scientific education system students have had enough. They have pledged to continue a struggle on a nation-wide basis to fight on for their rights and democracy no matter what the cost.

This, coupled with the growing strike wave by the workers promises a long, hot summer for the reactionary Ozal regime.



Students demand food



Gendarmes brutally attack students in the Middle East Technical University



In Izmir



Crowds watch with growing anger as police manhandle protestors



Polisler gruba daldı Yürüyüş yapan öğrenciler önlerine direnişlerini yere oturarak sürdürüyor. Bu sırada Çevik Kuvvet'e bağlı polisler oturan grubun arasına dalarak bazı öğrencileri almaya çalışıyor. Bunun üzerine polis-öğrenci grupları birbirine girdi ve keçi kovalamalar başladı... Olayın ciddetli karşı taraftan seyreden yayalar 12 Eylül öncesini hatırlatan bu karışıklığı ibretle izlediler. Vatandaşlar arasında telaşlı keşifler ve olayların büyümesinden korkularla hemen yan sokaqlara saparak olay yerinden hızla uzaklaşıyor.



Police clash with students on the streets of Istanbul



Direnen öğrencilere cop

"Önce polis değilim, sonra biz" diyen bir öğrenciyi almak isteyen polis gelirken, öğrenci grubu arasına dalması üzerine olaylar başladı. Çevik Kuvvet'e mensup polisler daha önceden belirlediği bazı öğrencileri yakalamaya giriştiler. Bu sırada bazı kız öğrencilerin sivil ve rasmi görevlilere kollarından yakalayıp okta arabasına sürüklendiği görüldü. Direnen öğrenciler coplandılar. Güvenlik güçleri, direnen öğrencilerden öz gözetimine aldılar. Emniyet Müdürlüğü'nde Siyasi Şube'ye götürülen öğrencilerin ilade edilir...

THE SPIRIT OF MAY DAY LIVES ON A GLORIOUS TRADITION



May Day 1977

In Turkey it was only in 1946-47, sixty years after the first workers' May Day that the ban on some class organisations was lifted and the establishment of trade unions was permitted.

In 1952 various unions that had been established in the previous years came together and established the *Türk-İş* trade union confederation. Throughout the 1950's slow but steady industrialisation and capitalist development were paralleled by a similar growth in the number of trade unions and trade union members.

However, the real explosion came in the 1960's when trade union membership leapt from 295,710 in 1963 to 1,193,908 in 1960 and the number of strikes rose from eight in 1963 to 86 in 1969.

This development, combined with the establishment of the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions (DISK) in 1967, laid the basis for the militant working class struggles of the 1970's which included the mass May Day demonstrations of 1976, 1977, 1978 and 1979.

It was in 1976 that the international tradition of May Day, which until then had only been celebrated in small, scattered and secret ways, merged with the rising working class movement, which had already produced a mass uprising against government attempts to repress it in June 1970.

Its significance was not lost on the ruling bourgeoisie. May Day 1976 showed that the militant mass working class movement was firmly convinced that its demands could only be met by a revolutionary change in the "fundamental economic and social orders established within the country".

May Day 1976 was thus a major turning point for both the working class and the country as a whole. Until that point, the working class movement had not gone beyond the defence of its existing rights which had been granted in 1946-47 and extended in 1963.

It was clear that the state and the working class movement were on a collision course and that May Day would henceforth be a test of strength between the two. And so it was.

May Day 1977 began as a magnificent reaffirmation of both the international May Day tradition of working class struggle and internationalism and the adoption of a course of revolutionary struggle by the leading sections of the working class of Turkey. It ended with dozens lying dead in Istanbul's Taksim Square after the state resolved to show its "strength" through an armed attack by fascist assassins on the roof of the municipal water administration building and military panzer units on the ground.

From 1977 onwards the state security forces, especially the Counter-Guerrilla organisation, the army and the civilian fascists conducted a campaign of terror against working class leaders, organisations and activities and against progressives and revolutionaries in all walks of life.

Nevertheless, despite the 1977 May Day massacre and the fact that by the end of the year the death toll had risen to over 100 a month, May Day 1978 was celebrated by a third mass march and rally in Istanbul's Taksim Square. This time DISK and other trade unions set up a cordon of 50,000 of their own security forces to protect the rally. A significant feature of the 1978 rally were the slogans and banners calling for the legalisation of the Communist Party of Turkey. Another slogan declared: "An account will be demanded for May Day 1977".

1978 was the last mass May Day demonstration in Istanbul. As the year progressed, attacks on the working class movement intensified. As the fascist murder squads continued their campaign of terror, the government took steps to reinforce and rearm the urban police and rural gendarmes. In April of 1979 martial law was extended to another six provinces and the May Day rally in Istanbul was banned. On the eve of May Day more than 500 people were arrested, including six leaders of

DISK.

Despite the grim conditions more than 100,000 people gathered for the May Day rally in Izmir which was protected by police and military support.

Although a 29-hour strike was called in Istanbul which ended in military occupation, there were still May Day gatherings in various cities. Approximately 1,200 people gathered in Ankara. Another 665 people were arrested there were May Day demonstrations in other cities.

In the early months of 1979 preparations were under way for the dictatorship in Turkey under the leadership of the military and the retreat and May Day was celebrated by the Demirel government.

Despite no proper support from workers still managed to hold demonstrations in several towns.

Since the 1980 coup the workers have celebrated in secret. The growing militancy of the workers' demands for workers' great day.

The growing strike movement is to restore full trade union rights and again be May Day Square.

MAY DAY

By Tim

Now the days are bright
blood

But this won't go on, ex
My country's happy day
come.

My country's sunny day
come.

May Day, May Day,

Festival of the people
revolution.

A new sun will rise from
A happy life will flow
My country's happy day
come.

My country's sunny day
come.

(Refrain)

Don't let the people be
Give the masses the
rights.

The bright days to come
The bright days to come

(Refrain)

TURK-IS MARCH BLOCKED

The Turkish Trade Union Federation (Turk-Is) is stepping up its new policy of open struggle for trade union rights and democracy in Turkey. As a result of this, the leadership is presently facing trial.

On the 25th of March a march was to be organised by Turk-Is from their headquarters in Ankara to the Grand National Assembly (Parliament), but was prevented from taking place by the authorities. The trade unionists were to carry open letters to ministers protesting at bad working conditions and the lack of trade union rights. The leaderships of all the Turk-Is unions and their Branch Chairs were represented.

A meeting was held at the Turk-Is headquarters

As a result of the attempt to march, the 5 members of the Turk-Is leadership are being prosecuted. The State Prosecutor is asking for approximately 3 years imprisonment for each member of the management committee. Minute-books were seized and statements obtained from the leadership. The investigation lasted over 5 hours. It was announced at the end that a case would be brought against Turk-Is.

The CDDRT calls for solidarity with Turk-Is, who are leading the renewed struggle for trade union rights and democracy. Send messages of support to: Turk-Is, No.10 Bayindir Sokak, Kizilay/Ankara, Turkey.



Police surround the leaderships of Turkey's trade unions

where workers shouted "Workers hand in hand for a general strike!". Outside, police surrounded the building, linked arm in arm to form a barrier and would not allow anyone out. They used vehicles and equipment to block all roads out of the area. The restrictions were to prevent the crowd from taking the protest letters to Parliament.

The crowd gathered outside grew and began to protest and burn the letters in front of the police. The police called on the crowd to disperse but they refused and the police took no action.

Plain clothes political police arrived, followed by agents of the Ministry of Labour & Social Security, who took notes of the event. Police said during the confrontation, "You can't march in mass, it's against the law".

Sevket Yilmaz, President of Turk-Is, made a defiant speech, declaring that the demonstrators were using their rights under Article 74 of the Constitution. He declared that wherever there is a strike or lock-out, they would hold protest meetings as part of Turk-Is's new action plan to accelerate the struggle for trade union rights and democracy.

PROTEST

In response to the threat to prosecute the Turk-Is leadership, A.D. Dubbins, General Secretary of the print workers' union — the National Graphical Association — sent the following letter to the Turkish Embassy in London:

*Dear Sir,
On behalf of the National Graphical Association, a printing trade union in Great Britain and the Republic of Ireland, I am writing to express my deep concern at the prosecutions taking place against the five members of the leadership of Turk-Is.*

In addition, we wish to emphasise and demand that no action is taken against the trade union and that all documentation belonging to the union which has been seized by the authorities is returned.

Yours sincerely,

A.D. Dubbins

MARCH

elcuk

only repression and

tion will not continue.

le in the days sure to

e in the days sure to

al of worker and toiler

the glorious road to

mountain peaks

ne horizon of struggle

e in the days sure to

e in the days sure to

ved and suppressed

business to take their

in our hands.

in our hands.

TRADE UNION NEWS

ANGER

Angry members of Tek Gida-Is (Food workers union) besieged the Istanbul offices of the union when Tek Gida-Is called off a threatened strike. The workers say the union has reached a poor settlement with employers and they still won't have enough wages to live on.

Security police eventually arrived and dispersed the demonstration.

MASSIVE STRIKE CONTINUES

Some 9,000 members of the petrochemical workers' union Petrol-Is remain on strike at the workplaces.

Despite police harrassment the strike which is over wages and conditions remains solid.

Petrol-Is General Secretary Cevdet Selvi has announced that the union will stage a series of protest meetings and marches in Izmit, Adana and Istanbul despite government restrictions. He said "Once the knife touches the bone workers don't bother with restrictions".

DERBY STRIKE ENDS IN VICTORY

The strike by rubber workers at the Derby factory in Istanbul has ended in victory. The union announced that the management had agreed to a 45% rise.

Since the victory of the Netas workers in February there has been marked increase both in strikes and successful wage negotiations.

STRIKE

Workers at the Hebas medical supplies factory in Istanbul came out on strike on the April 4 over wages and conditions.

WILD ÖZAL

On his return from expensive surgery in Houston, Texas, Prime Minister Ozal launched into a bitter attack on Turk-Is (Turkish Trade Union Confederation). Frightened by the recent trade union protest actions he claimed that there was "no difference between Turk-Is and the terrorists (Kurdish guerillas) in the South East — both are breaking the law".

STRIKE WAVE

By mid-April, (our time of going to print), approximately 11,000 workers are on strike in Turkey. This is the greatest number since 1980.



Angry workers in front of Tek Gida-Is's offices



Strikers of the Aegean Chemical works

HUNGER STRIKE

4 workers from the Ereğli Steel Works have gone on hunger strike to protest at the unjust sacking of 8 workers by the management. They are fully supported by their trade union — Otomobil-Is.

Inonu, leader of the Social Democratic Populist Party visited the workers and tried to persuade them to end their fast. But the workers refused, saying they intend to carry on until the sackings are discussed in parliament and the workers are able to hold a press conference with TV coverage.

When the local SHP MP made a cheap offer to go on hunger strike for a while if they would agree to give up, one of the hunger strikers replied: "Don't worry, workers don't die so easily from hunger. With the support we are receiving we will shame those who have sentenced us to hunger".



TORTURE, TRIALS AND PRISONS

HUNGER STRIKE



A defendant in a trial of Dev-Sol (Revolutionary Left) members, the poet Nevzat Celik, announced he was going on hunger strike in protest at physical and psychological torture. N. Celik told the Istanbul No.2 Military Court that he and other defendants had been tortured while in detention and that now their correspondence with their families had been blocked.

Celik announced to the packed court which was attended by many of Turkey's leading literary figures, that "in order to condemn these oppressions I am going on hunger strike".

YET ANOTHER HUNGER STRIKE

11 former political prisoners have begun a protest hunger strike in Sultanahmet Park in Istanbul. The ex-prisoners are protesting at continued police harassment and unemployment.

Though they have served their sentences, the prisoners' spokesperson said that "the police come and detain us from time-to-time... Whenever there is an 'incident'... whenever some one puts up a poster or writes a slogan on a wall, they take us in for questioning".

As ex-prisoners, employers are afraid to give them jobs lest they too are visited by the political police.



EX-PRISONER EXPOSES TORTURE

On the 6th April, the Turkish daily *Hurriyet* carried a long interview with former prisoner Aydin Caner who was sent to prison for the murder of a man in 1977 and was released in September 1986. Since his release Aydin Caner has tried to expose conditions in various prisons — particularly the

habitual use of torture and ill-treatment by the authorities. He himself lost his foot as a result of ill-treatment followed by deliberate medical neglect.

Caner said that as soon as a prisoner arrives "in most prisons you are given a good beating with a club. They do this, they say, to teach you to obey without question". He knew several prisoners personally who were beaten to death.

He named warders in many prisons well-known as torturers. He also exposed the government's claim that government inspectors ensure that such ill-treatment can be ended. In 9 years in prison during which Caner spent time in 7 prisons he never once saw an inspector. Friends who had been in prisons visited by inspectors told him that the inspector always gave several days notice of a visit and never spoke to prisoners in private.

Aydin Caner also spoke of the psychological torture endured by prisoners and their families when the Ozal regime dangled the promise of an amnesty. Asked what the prisoners thought of the Ozal government, Caner replied: "Nobody likes them. Because they conned us with a small drop in sentences. This government will not get the votes of the families of prisoners. In our families there are 500,000 people. Ozal went on TV and said he hoped there would be no more amnesties ever in Turkey. We heard this with our own ears..."

Bir yeraltı sığınağı ortaya çıkarıldı

Mardin'de 3 bölücü öldürüldü



5 hainin

Amman terapist verdiler
Mardin'in Derik ilçesine bağlı Atlı köyünde yer altındaki sığınakta sıkıştırılan teröristler güvenlik kuvvetlerinin teslim ol çağısına ateşle karşılık verdiler

The Turkish media gloats over the deaths of suspected Kurdish militants at the hands of the security forces.

SOUTHWARK NALGO PROTESTS

Southwark branch of the National and Local Government Officers Association wrote the following protest to the Turkish Embassy:

We wish to protest at the unjust treatment of Mr. Aydan Bulutgil.

On the 11th February 1987, the Supreme Military Court of Appeal in Ankara heard an appeal against the 16 year prison sentence passed on prisoner of conscience Aydan Bulutgil in 1981.

Despite the fact that Aydan Bulutgil was sentenced to a longer term of imprisonment than Turkish law prescribes for his "offence" and the State Prosecutor was prepared to acknowledge this, the military court has delayed its verdict until 28th October 1987.

In the meantime, Aydan Bulutgil, who is ill, remains in the Mamak military prison. The military court gave no reason for the delay in reaching a decision.

In view of this flagrant breach of human rights we call for the immediate release of Aydan Bulutgil.

Yours sincerely,

*Fred Haynes
Branch Secretary*

TORTURE, TRIALS AND PRISONS

The following items were reported in the Brussels-based bulletin *Info-Turk*.

FORMER MAYOR SENTENCED

The military Court of Cassation ratified on February 24, 1987, a 15-year prison term pronounced earlier by a military tribunal against Mr. Mehdi Zana, former mayor of Diyarbakir.

Zana, aged 47, was imprisoned following the military coup of 1980 and tortured for 32 days. In May 1981 Zana was tried by a military court in Diyarbakir with 90 other defendants charged with membership of the Socialist Party of Turkey Kurdistan (TKSP). In October 1983 he was convicted and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment.

In May 1984 he was sentenced by a military court in Diyarbakir to a further seven years and eight months' imprisonment for shouting "Long live Kurdish people's democratic struggle" during the announcement of his sentence in 1983.

A mission of the International Human Rights Federation was present at the Military Court of Cassation during the announcement of the ratification.

FAMOUS FOLK SINGERS' TRIAL

On February 24, 1987, famous folk singer Ibrahim Tatlis was indicted by public prosecutor for having sung two Kurdish ballads at a cultural soiree organized in Sweden. Facing a prison terms of up to 5 years for "harmful propaganda" abroad, he will be tried at the State Security Court in Istanbul.

FAMILIES' MARCH TO GENERAL STAFF

A group of parents marched from Kizilay Square to the General Staff Building on January 21, 1987, in order to submit a petition to the Army Chief of staff demanding their children have separate cells in the Mamak Military Prison from those who disagree with their political views. They said that both right-wing and left-wing prisoners at Mamak Military Prison were kept in the same cells together and that frequent clashes take place because of opposing political views. During a confrontation taking place on January 15, one of the inmates, Erdogan Genc, was seriously injured during a fight.

HUNGER STRIKE AT ADANA PRISON

61 detainees in the Adana Prison went on a hunger strike on February 17 protesting against ill-treatment. They complain of restrictions on family visits, bad conditions of living in cells and bans on recreation.

Prisoners of Kurdish origin say that their parents, despite the fact that they do not know Turkish, are not allowed to speak in Kurdish during their visit.

DIED UNDER TORTURE

On February 21, in the village of Kupas in the province of Diyarbakir, Mr. Zulfikar Bayram was killed under torture. His wife announced that all the members of Bayram family had been detained for getting information on the whereabouts of her son, wanted by the security forces, and tortured until fainting. Mr. Bayram passed away when he was being taken to the State Hospital.

'PROPAGANDA'

On February 19, in Izmir, a cafe-keeper, Memis Yildiz, and his son were detained by police for showing to their clients a video-film of famous actor Kemal Sunal. They face prison

terms of up to 15 years for "communist propaganda" because of a scene in which some leftist slogans appear on the wall.

BOOK PULPING

According to the daily *Cumhuriyet* of February 19, 1987, since the transition to civilian rule, within a 3,5-year period, 240 publications have been the object of legal proceeding and all their copies confiscated. All copies of those publications of which legal proceedings ended in condemnation have been sent to the paper mill in Izmir for destruction.

The last operation of destruction occurred on December 18, 1986. That day, five lorries transported books of 39,028 kg in total to the paper mill which immediately used them as raw material for producing paper.

Among the confiscated publications are also "Map of the World" and "Map of Europe" published by Penguin; "Academic American Encyclopedia" by the Grolier International Inc.; "National Geographic Atlas of the World"; "Atlas de Poche-Larousse"; the Turkish edition of the "Encyclopedia Britannica" and "Nouveau Petit Larousse Illustré". All of them are declared "means of separatist propaganda" by the Turkish authorities for containing articles or maps related to the history of the Armenians and the Kurds.

Even the copies of socialist reviews published 15 years ago such as *ANT*, *Turk-Solu*, *Aydinlik* were also confiscated and destroyed.

NESIN TAKES ON EVREN

Famous author Aziz Nesin sued "President of the Republic" Kenan Evren at a civil court in Ankara on February 5, 1987, claiming the head of state had insulted him as "traitor" during a speech in 1984.

General Evren, in that speech, described intellectuals who had presented him with a petition on May 15, 1984, as "traitors". The group which included Nesin, Chairman of the Turkish Writers' Union, called for improvement in Turkey's human rights.

Nesin demanded that General Evren should pay him compensation worth TL 500,100 (£625) and that the decision of the court be broadcast on radio and TV.

However, the tribunal immediately refused to deal with the case on the pretext that the "President of the Republic" has constitutional immunity.

POLITICAL PRISONERS

The CDDRT has begun a Solidarity with Political Prisoners in Turkey Campaign. You can help. You or a group you are a member of can 'adopt' a political prisoner in Turkey. This means writing to the prisoner and maintaining contact. This helps both to raise the particular prisoner and her/his fellow prisoners' morale and put pressure on the regime to release prisoners.

Your help can bring great pressure to bear.

Many of these prisoners while still very young sacrificed everything to struggle for a better society in Turkey. Many of them have endured torture and ill-treatment. Help ensure there are no forgotten political prisoners in Turkey!

If you wish to receive more details of the political prisoners campaign, write to Political Prisoners Campaign, CDDRT, 129 Newington Green Rd., London N1 4RD, Britain.

CDDRT HOLDS FOURTH BIENNIAL CONGRESS



The Fourth Biennial Congress of the Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey was held on March 28 in Islington Town Hall, London.

The Congress opened with a powerful call for unity and redoubled effort in the struggle for democracy in Turkey.

Stan Newens MEP then brought the greetings of members of the British Labour Group in the European Parliament and Liberation of which he is chair. He pointed out that: "Despite the fact that the present Turkish government is trying very hard indeed to re-establish its respectability in the eyes of the world, it is apparent to everybody who has studied the situation, that freedom exists only for those who are prepared to accept the present establishment. But nonetheless a very sustained campaign is being waged at the present time trying to convince people in the West that Turkey has returned to democracy of a western basis and therefore we can resume our relations that existed previously.

"I am particularly aware of that because in the European Parliament where I sit, a tremendous effort is being made to bring pressure to bear on members of the European Parliament of all parties to accept this point of view."

Stan Newens went on to describe the pressures and debates whenever something that effects the interest of the Turkish regime is raised in the European Parliament.

He particularly mentioned the case of a recent European Parliament report on the Armenian question and the lobbying activities the regime indulged in to combat this report which merely asked for recognition of the 1915 genocide against the Armenian people.

Stan Newens ended his talk by saying: "I hope you will forgive me for saying that those who are opposed to the present Turkish regime and believe in progress, liberty and ultimately, like myself, in a Socialist solution to the problems of Turkey and of the workers in those areas, we cannot afford the luxury of quarrelling between ourselves. I believe there should be a united struggle to maintain international solidarity of all progressive forces and foreign labour movements in maintaining their pressure on the Turkish military domination of the Turkish establishment.

On this basis, I bring you greetings from Liberation, from the British Labour Group and I would like to uphold that our goal is of a free and progressive Turkey, recognising the full rights of all its neighbours and minorities, and also bringing up the standard of living of the Turkish people to what it really could be, if it was not being devoted to the aims, not only of Turkish monopolies but frankly of western Imperialism."

THE SITUATION IN TURKEY TODAY

In Turkey today the struggle for democracy is almost continuously intensifying. Open opposition to the anti-democratic regime has become the order of the day.

GROWING DEMOCRACY STRUGGLE

The main feature of the present period has been the re-emergence of the trade union and workers' movement as the key force in the struggle for democracy. This has been shown by the large workers' demonstrations and the increasing number of strikes and boycotts. It is also demonstrated by the process whereby Turk-Is (Turkish Trade Union Confederation) is being transformed into a real, free and active trade union centre. Which in turn has led to the development of trade union unity around Turk-Is as the single centre.

Today in Turkey we are witnessing a growing strike wave which will pay an important part in the fight to win trade union rights and freedoms and thus strike a major blow for democracy.

The present period is also marked by the revival of the student movement. After six years of being subjected to a brutal and reactionary education system the recent protests and hunger strikes are once more drawing students into a nation-wide fight for democracy.

In all areas of the struggle for freedom, women are playing an important role.

On the political level many legal opposition parties and groups are functioning. Despite laws which are supposed to ban them from politics until the 1990s, many pre-1980 coup politicians are also once more active in political life.

REPRESSION CONTINUES

Despite changes in Turkey, the regime remains authoritarian and profoundly anti-democratic. Oppressive laws remain as does the apparatus to enforce them. What has changed is that thanks to the growing popular movement for democracy, the regime is no longer able to enforce its laws in all circumstances.

At least 15,000 political prisoners are still held by the regime. In addition torture and ill-treatment of those the authorities consider 'subversive' remains commonplace. Mass trials of people for their trade union, peace or political activities prior to the 1980 coup are not over. The threat of imprisonment still hangs over many people.

Cosmetic changes have not altered the essence of Turkey's Mussolini-based Penal Code which outlaws much of what are considered normal political activities and points of view in Western Europe.

The Kurdish people remain brutally oppressed and denied all national rights.

The Turkish regime's military build-up in North Cyprus, disputes with Greece and Syria and military involvement in Iraq pose a real threat of war.

A great threat to the democratic forces in Turkey is posed by the attempt to establish an Islamic fundamentalist movement backed by big Turkish monopolies. This is nothing more than an attempt to divert the democratic struggle and create a reactionary even fascist alternative for the enemies of democracy in Turkey to fall back on should the present regime fail.

THE CHIEF CHARACTERISTICS

The chief characteristics of the present situation in Turkey is one of an anti-democratic regime forced to give some concessions but trying to preserve and strengthen a structure based on repression and a strictly curtailed, second class democracy, facing a growing struggle embracing wide sections of the population for a real and permanent democracy.

The CDDRT therefore resolves to:

- Increase real solidarity with the democratic forces in Turkey — particularly the trade union movement by publicising their struggle, helping them establish direct links with democratic and trade union bodies and individuals in Britain, and carrying out other forms of practical solidarity.
- Campaign against all violations of human rights in Turkey and particularly to work for the freedom of all political prisoners.

Immediately after Stan Newens, another long-standing supporter of the CDDRT and democracy in Turkey spoke. Jeremy Corbyn MP a member of the CDDRT's General Council and also well known for his support for the Turkish community in London.

Jeremy Corbyn outlined the importance of the role of NATO in propping up the repressive regime in Turkey. He also spoke of the fact that despite the years of terror it is not possible to permanently crush the working class and progressive movements. He said: "... You can shoot the leaders, you can assassinate their individual activists, but you can never ever defeat the ideal of collective action of a Socialist society, of workers banding together to oppose employers to demand better living standards for themselves. And what's happened in Turkey, even after all the imprisonment and all the killings and

CDDRT NEWS

all the destruction of trade union and Socialist organisation, is once again a growth of trade unionism. The Netas strike was just one example of that. And I think it's a matter of great pride to the CDDRT that so much money was raised for that strike and the strike was so successfully prosecuted and it's formed the basis for international support with action in Turkey in the future. I think everyone in this room can take some pride in whatever part they played in that particular support..."

POLITICAL PRISONERS AND TORTURE

Today in Turkey there are at least 15,000 political prisoners and probably more. Most were sentenced by military courts or the special state security courts. Many are in prison for 'offences' which would not be punishable in a democratic society.

Nearly all political prisoners have experienced ill-treatment and/or torture. This has been well documented by such bodies as Amnesty International.

Today, it is important that political prisoners in Turkey are not forgotten by international public opinion.

In view of this we call for:

- An end to all torture and ill-treatment of prisoners and detainees
- The punishment of all those involved in the torture of political prisoners and detainees
- The unconditional release of political prisoners
- Until this is accomplished, the transfer of prisoners in military prisons to civilian prisons.

CDDRT will therefore establish a specific campaign of solidarity with political prisoners. This will:

1. Publicise the plight of political prisoners individually and collectively.
2. Lead a campaign to persuade groups and individuals to 'adopt' a political prisoner and correspond regularly with her or him.
3. Organise the sale of handicrafts made by political prisoners to raise funds for the prisoners and their dependents.
4. Produce posters, post-cards, petitions and guidelines for use in this work.

Jeremy Corbyn spoke about the situation in Cyprus and Kurdistan, then dealt at length with the serious threat to political refugees posed by new legislation in Britain. If passed, the Immigration Carriers' Liability Bill will make it virtually impossible for genuine political refugees to escape from oppression and possible death via Britain.

In concluding, Jeremy Corbyn said:

"I know the work the CDDRT has done in defence of the people in Turkey. I think we've got a lot to look forward to in the coming year. I congratulate you on the work you've done. I look forward to being with you on the picket lines outside the Turkish Embassy..."



CDDRT General Secretary, Max Hiron delivered a report outlining the work of the committee since the last congress. Particular emphasis was put on the great increase in activities involving the trade union movement.

The morning session of Congress ended with messages of greetings from CDDRT Ireland, Campaign Against Repression in Iran, Rahekargar (Iran), Organisation of Iranian People's Fedaiyan, the mayor of Islington and others.

The afternoon session centred on lively and informed discussion and voting on resolutions which will form the guide for CDDRT's work until the next congress.

The session was also marked by greetings from Chris Smith

MP. He warned that there was still remarkably little democracy in Turkey and as in Jeremy Corbyn's speech highlighted the dangers posed to refugees and asylum seekers by new legislation in Britain.

Chris Smith said:

"We also have to recognise there are very positive developments going on within Turk-Is. The growth of what used to be a 'bosses' trade union organisation into being potentially a real voice for the workers, I think is a very positive development.

"Finally, I think we have a major opportunity to bring international pressure to bear on Turk-Is. It's no accident that Ozal is in London because Turkey is very anxious to put in its application to join the European Economic Community. I will fight very hard to stop it becoming a member, so long as it suppresses workers, trade-unions and human rights. But that application gives the international community a very real chance to bring intense pressure to bear on the Turkish government and Turkish regime to change its ways. We're not going to get that pressure from our present Government in Britain, but hopefully in the near future we're going to get a Government to bring it and we can start to bring that pressure to bear to make sure real change occurs, to bring real benefits to the Turkish people who at the moment are still struggling under a very great and real oppression."

Richard Balfe MEP, who has played a considerable role in the struggle in the European Parliament to help bring about democratic change in Turkey spoke to the Congress. Recognising the changes that have taken place in Turkey, Richard Balfe emphasised the work that still has to be done to bring about a more democratic Turkey. In particular, he spoke of the challenge posed by the regime's application for Turkey to join the EEC.

Concluding, Richard Balfe said: "... I do not think the path to democracy in Turkey is even now going to be easy. We still have to have free elections there. That is something I hope will come sooner rather than waiting right until the end of this Government's term of office at the end of 1988. We do really need it at a sooner point and again I make the point I made while I was there, that this would be a demonstration of a return to some form of democracy. After all, those referred to deputies on the Grand National Assembly are now sitting for political parties which they were not elected to. There has been such a large amount of changing around that it is now legitimate to say that all that exists of the last election are the human beings that were elected because the parties that they stood for and policies which they stood on have in many cases been jettisoned a long time ago..."

"I'm pleased that Turk-Is have been making moves towards joining the European TUC and have been more outward-looking. I met the leaders of both DISK and Turk-Is and pressed upon them our hope and wish that they would manage to work together much more closely in the future than had been possible in the past..."

"I do hope that you have a successful day and I wish you the best ahead. I hope everybody will take firmly on board the need for unity on the left. That applies not only in Turkey but also to those organisations outside Turkey who are fighting for the restoration of democratic rights."

The unwavering support of the CDDRT over the years for all those oppressed by the reactionary regimes in Turkey was demonstrated by the support shown by representatives of Armenian and Kurdish organisations in Britain. This included a message from a representative of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan which read:

CDDRT NEWS

"The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan in Britain congratulate CDDRT on your 4th biennial congress and send warm solidarity greetings to CDDRT and all the progressive forces in Turkey.

"We believe that without the solidarity amongst the democratic and revolutionary movements in our region we cannot fulfill the dreams and the hopes of the suffering masses of our peoples. We have the duty and responsibility not to disappoint those hopes.

The Kurdish nation like any other on earth has the right to self-determination. This is a test of real progressiveness and for those who believe in democracy. Without the Kurdish nation enjoying that right progressiveness and democracy fails.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan is struggling against the racist and fascist Baathist regime in Iraq which is collaborating with the reactionary regime in Turkey. These regimes will not achieve their inhuman goals because we are dedicated to the struggle.

"Thank you for inviting us to your congress.

"Long live the solidarity of the struggling peoples of our region!

"We shall win!"

Messages of support were also received from a wide range of trade union organisations and Members of Parliament.

The congress concluded with a showing of a video of a workers' rally held during the Netas strike in Istanbul earlier this year.

COMMITTEE FOR DEFENCE OF
DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS IN TURKEY

FOURTH CONGRESS
1987

REPORTS & DOCUMENTS



A full report of the Congress is available price £1 including postage, from the CDDRT address.

CONSTITUTION OF THE CDDRT

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

2. The aims of the CDDRT are as follows:

End all vestiges of 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 anti-democratic regime.

Totally oppose the regime's 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 one year. 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 ADDRESSES

BRITAIN 129 Newington Green Rd.
London N1 4RD

FRANCE 7 Rue Laclerc,
75014 Paris

IRELAND 9 Cavendish Row,
Dublin 1

USA Box 90, 924 W
Belmont Ave., Chicago,
Ill 60657

WEST GERMANY 271 Internationaler
Jugendverein,
Germansstr. 89
6000 Frankfurt am Main 60

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**

Return to the appropriate CDDRT addresses.

Subscribe to **TURKEY NEWSLETTER**

Subscription rates are:

Britain & Ireland £3.00pa

Europe & Mideast £4.00pa

Rest of World £7.00pa

Bulk rates per issues:

50 — £5.00, 100 — £8.50

200 — £15.50, 400 — £28.

All inclusive of postage.

I wish to subscribe to *Turkey Newsletter* for one
year and enclose a cheque/PO for £

Name

Address

Subscription to commence on

Return to the CDDRT, 129 Newington Green Road,
London N1. Tel: 01-226 2668.

**Support the just struggle of the
students in Turkey
Protest the oppression and arrest of
many students by the police
Express your solidarity with the
students' struggle and their just
demands**

**Join the picket of the Turkish
Educational Councillorship and
raise your voice in solidarity with the
students in Turkey**

**DATE 8th May 1987 FRIDAY
TIME 3pm-4pm
VENUE Camelot House
76 Brompton Road
LONDON SW3**

TURKISH AND KURDISH REFUGEES IN CANADA

Owing to the problem of space in this issue of *Turkey Newsletter*, we have had to delay to the next issue a report on the serious crisis being faced by refugees in Canada and the need for progressive organisation of the refugees themselves and for the establishing of the CDDRT in Canada.

In the meantime anyone interested in more information on these subjects should contact:

R. Yves Breton,
C.P.95, Stn. Place D'Arme, Montreal, P.Q.H2Y3E9,
Canada.

A REMARKABLE PERFORMANCE

by R. Robins

On April 18, The Union of Turkish Women in Britain and the Union of Turkish Workers presented a gripping performance of a musical drama — *Pir Sultan* at the Hackney Empire Theatre. The play was performed by the West Berlin-based theatre company Tiyatrom. Tiyatrom gave a powerful and energetic performance of this epic story centred on the life and death of Pir Sultan — a 16th century Alevi poet and teacher whose words inspired Turkish and Kurdish peasantry in their struggle against Ottoman oppression.

The fine performances by the actors were accompanied by remarkable music arranged or composed by Tahsin Incirci. This fine Turkish composer who is already known in Germany must be brought to a wider international audience in the near future.

The enthusiastic response by the large audience in the theatre — we hope — means we will be seeing Tiyatrom again in Britain.



**TURKEY
NEWSLETTER**



129 Newington Green Road,
London N1, England