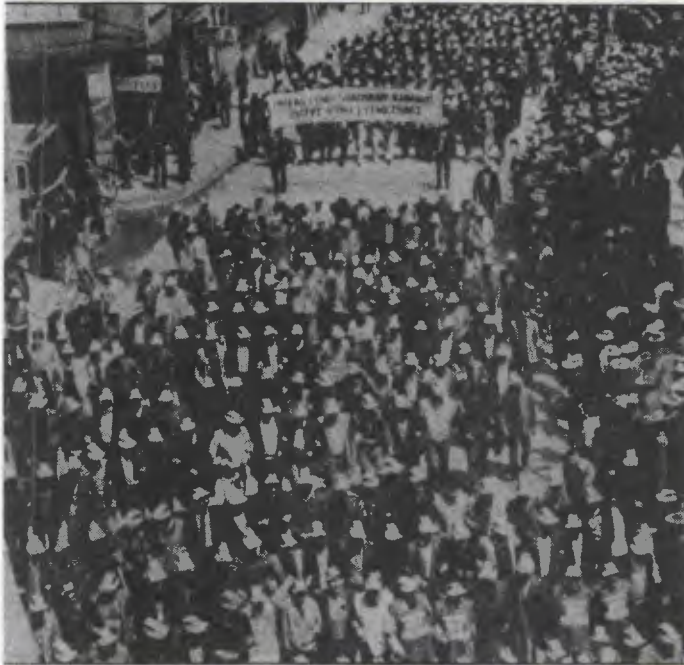


# TURKEY NEWSLETTER



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

Issue 74-75 July-August 1987



35,000 workers demonstrate in Izmit for bread and democracy.



3,000 take part in first demonstration on women's issues since coup.

## ATTACK ON THE NETAS WORKERS

Almost 2 months after the end of the victorious strike at the Netas telecommunications factory in Istanbul, the management has sacked 158 workers.

This vindictive act by the management of Netas, (jointly operated by the Canadian multi-national Northern Telecom and the Turkish state), has been directed at 158 of the most active trade unionists in the plant. Every indication is that the regime has directly encouraged the Netas management to carry out this reprisal.

The Netas strike, which lasted from late 1986 to February 1987 affected 3150 workers and was the largest strike since the 1980 coup. It ended in victory with the management agreeing to most of the workers' demands. This victory inspired thousands of other workers to begin a wave of strikes for better wages and trade union freedom. At the time of going to press some 11,000 workers are on strike throughout Turkey.

Fearful of the continuing example of the Netas strike —

which in large part owed its success to international solidarity — the authorities are seeking to take revenge on the most active rank and file members of the Otomobil-Is trade union in the plant.

The employers are trying to carry out their reprisals with the minimum of international publicity. Don't let them! The Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey calls for messages of protest at the sackings and support for the workers' struggle for reinstatement to be sent to the national headquarters of their trade union:

I. Dalkilic  
General Secretary,  
OTOMOBIL-IS  
Kirtasiyeci Sok. 21  
Kadikoy — Istanbul  
Turkey

If possible, the CDDRT would appreciate copies of any messages sent.

# WOMEN

## 3,000 MARCH OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS



An historic demonstration took place in the Kadikoy district of Istanbul on the 18th May.

In the first demonstration focused on women's issues since the 1980 coup, over 3,000 people marched in protest at women's repression and the sanctioning of wife-beating.

The march which was organised by a new coalition of "unofficial" women's groups and centres, came as a reaction to a recent divorce case, where a woman applied on the grounds that her husband beat her. The judge, Mustafa Durmus stated that, "A stick against a woman's back and a baby in her womb is never amiss". He added that, in his view, women "should be beaten regularly".

Amongst the 3,000 demonstrators were 500 men. The organisers called on trade unionists, politicians and the press to show their solidarity.

As the marchers passed, people cheered and clapped from their windows. The marchers shouted slogans, "Protest against the Beatings!", "There is no justified beating!", "Enough!", "Women in Parliament".

There was a large police presence at the march, including security police who used video cameras to film the event and took photographs of the participants.

A leaflet distributed by the organisers said, "Beating which represses women economically, politically, culturally and sexually is still legal in Turkey... Violence towards women is seen as a domestic issue and beating is not a crime. This means the only way of escape for a woman who is beaten is through death... We will continue to fight against women's oppression and all violence against women".

The march ended in a rally addressed by women activists in which the "two-faced" policy of the state towards women was denounced. Strong calls were also made for the building of a genuine women's movement and for a strong fight against attempts by Islamic fundamentalist elements to increase the oppression of women by undermining even such rights as they now have.

### IN THE FRONT LINE



Today in Turkey women are playing an increasingly prominent role in all aspects of the battle against the present regime and for democracy and a better life.

Police confront women blocking a street in Istinye in protest at the death of 15 people through inadequate protection for pedestrians from traffic.

● Yılın anneleri seçildi... Cezaevlerinde açık görüşme vardı... Feministler eylem yaptı

## ANNELERİMİZİ KUTLADIK



● Küçük, büyük herkes "Anneler Günü" nedeniyle, annelerinin elini öperek, onlara saygılarını yineledi. Yılın annesi seçilen Semra Özal, kutlamaları kabul etti. Cezaevlerindeki açık görüşmelerde anneler, tutuklu çocuklarıyla kucaklaştı. Ankara'da bir grup feminist, kadınların dövülmesini kınayan gösteri yaptı. (HABERİ 10. SAYFADA)



### CONTRASTS

On the 11th May, "Mothers Day" in Turkey was marked by the rich with junketings, false sentiment and the presentation of a silver dish to the mother of Prime Minister Ozal. For others, the day meant something different; the authorities

allowed mothers to visit their children held in Sagmalcilar prison — many of whom have been held for years and tortured for political "offences". On the other hand feminists distributed rosettes bearing the slogans "Don't beat mothers" and "Freedom for Women".

## MAY DAY 1987



This year, as for the previous 8 years, May Day marches remained banned in Turkey.

Yet despite all attempts by the regime to suppress the great day of international working class celebration, the demand for its open celebration grows in Turkey.

This year large indoor rallies organised by various legal socialist groups were held. Even on Taksim Square (known as May Day Square among workers) in Istanbul which was ringed with armoured cars and military units to prevent demonstrations, an 'action' took place. A housewife waiting at a bus stop on the square suddenly held up a kerchief with the words "Long Live May Day" written in lipstick. She was quickly arrested and held for two days. It was another sign that the spirit of May Day lives on in Turkey.

## IRANIAN REFUGEES IN DANGER

Amnesty International said that Turkish authorities were sending hundreds of Iranian men and women seeking political asylum back into Iran where they risked torture, execution or imprisonment as prisoners of conscience. It said that in the past six months it has received reports of 400 Iranians being summarily returned to Iran.

This report follows a series of incidents including one where an Iranian refugee in Turkey set fire to himself after his plea for asylum was refused.

## REFERENDUM

As part of a new constitutional package to improve Turkey's chances of being accepted by the EEC, the regime is to hold a referendum on whether the 7 year ban from politics on some pre-coup politicians should be lifted or not. If the ban is lifted the main beneficiaries will be former Prime Ministers Ecevit and Demirel. Though officially banned both have been increasingly active in political life. If the bans were lifted they would be able to officially lead their respective

political parties — the Democratic Left Party (DSP) and the True Path Party (DYP).

The proposed referendum is fuelling speculation of an early general election in Turkey.

## RIOT



A football match in the historic town of Konya on 25th May ended in a riot. Football supporters rampaged through the centre of the city burning cars and stoning the offices of the ruling Motherland Party (ANAP). They also attacked the offices of newspapers. Police had great difficulty regaining control.

## LOCAL ELECTIONS

On June 7-8 elections were held in Turkey for 84 mayors. The ruling Motherland Party won 55 of these with 45% of votes cast.

The elections were a disaster for opposition social democratic parties whose share of the vote fell. This is seen as a result both of widespread dissatisfaction with their failure to confront the regime firmly and also the result of ANAP's policy of buying votes. This is done by promising massive aid to towns which return an ANAP mayor and little or nothing for those who don't.

## INJUSTICE

On 6th May *Gunaydin* reported that Huseyin Yagıt with his wife and 2 children had renounced their Turkish citizenship. The reason they gave was that they didn't want to be citizens of a country "full of injustice". Huseyin said that he would prefer to live anywhere rather than Turkey "even Greece or Russia".

A former worker, Huseyin Yagıt's desperation boiled over when he attempted to open a bakery. The police arrived and told him he would get a licence to open his business provided he gave them a 'donation' and became a member of the ruling Motherland Party

(ANAP). When he refused and said that ANAP party membership was not compatible with human dignity, life became difficult. The authorities began to harrass him and his family, their phone was cut off without reason.

## THE COST OF LIVING

The continuing high inflation and low standard of living is hitting at most people in Turkey. Pensioners in particular are suffering.

On May 22nd the Turkish press reported that a retired army officer Albay Celal Atak, staged a one man picket in Taksim Square, Istanbul in protest at the way price rises were making it impossible to live on a pension.



On 19th May the arrest of a 66 year old retired worker for begging was reported. He said he had to beg to find enough to eat.

On the 22nd April a small photo appeared in *Tercuman* of a retired teacher begging in Samsun. She had been a teacher for 28 years and had been retired for 11 years. Her pension is not enough to pay for food and housing so she has to hide her face in a shawl and beg on the streets.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## HOUSING



Ali Izdas has been a civil servant in Turkey for 12 years and has a 14 year old son. He had lived with his parents who were caretakers for an apartment block. When they died he was evicted. He earns less than 500,000 TL per month and could not even find a room for a rent under 50,000 TL. Because he is a wage earner no charity would even give him a tent. Finally his employers, the state railways, gave him a tent on a piece of waste land.

On 24th April, the Istanbul municipal authorities issued orders for the demolition of 29,000 gecekondü (shanty) homes because "they were against the rules". No provision has been made for the families to be made homeless.

## CHILD LABOUR

National Children's Day in Turkey on 23rd April was marked by contrasts. One Turkish newspaper carried two reports on its front page. In the first, the Minister of Education is shown addressing a group of flower bedecked, well groomed children. The second report is of the death of Mustafa Kartal, a 14-year old quarry worker. He died when the block of marble he was moving slipped and



crushed him to death.

In Istanbul alone it was calculated (in 1985) that there were 250,000 children working for a living.

A survey reported on May 9th indicated that as the standard of living continues to decline in Turkey, the



amount of child labour is rising. In the towns of Bafra and Samsun there is even a children's Hire Market where parents hire their children out on a monthly or seasonal basis. The hiring usually begins in May each year. The parents receive between £20 and £40 monthly per child. During the period of hire the children have to stay with their employer or in 'accommodation' they provide.

The survey reports that the child labourers suffer from acute strain and mental anguish as a result of being separated from their families.

## TRADE UNION NEWS

### PROTESTS GROWING

As part of its continuing struggle for trade union freedom, Turk-Is (Turkish Trade Union Confederation) held two massive demonstrations on April 27th and May 17th.



In the April demonstration, 15,000 workers — mainly women — marched through the city of Samsun on the Black Sea coast. At the end of the march Turk-Is President Sevket Yilmaz told a rally that "the government's biggest fear is democracy" but that "obstacles put in our way, oppression and violence will not stop us".

The May demonstration took place in the industrial city of Izmit. 35,000 workers marched through the streets

calling for workers rights, jobs and food.

### LIVING STANDARDS

Petrol-Is announced in April that wage-earners have lost 57% of their purchasing power since the military coup of 1980.

While the monthly food expenditures of a 4-person family (parents and two children) is reaching 120,000 TL (£120) and the rent of a shanty town dwelling 100,000 TL (£100) at the end of April 1987, a petroleum worker having a 20-year length of service receives only 73,000 TL (£73).

As for the legal minimum wage, paid at least to half a million workers, it is in one word ridiculous: 28,086 TL (£28). With this wage, a worker has to work for 1 hour and 28 minutes to buy 1 kg bread, 18 hours and 54 minutes for 1 kg meat and 180 hours and 17 minutes for a pair of shoes.

### HUNGER STRIKE

Workers went on hunger strike at a car plant owned by the Ziraat bank following the failure of the company to pay 600 workers their wages for 2 months. Some workers (who belong to a union affiliated to the pro-islamic trade union centre Hak-Is) even threatened to commit suicide in protest.

### STRIKE CONTINUING

The strike by 9,500 petroleum workers belonging to the Petrol-Is trade union at 56 plants is continuing. Despite all intimidatory actions by the regime and employers — which have included "home visits" to workers by both the police and bosses — the strike remains solid.

The workers are demanding a wide range of improved conditions and wages plus greater trade union freedom.

In a strong gesture of solidarity Sevket Yilmaz, President of Turk-Is, pledged the material support of both Turk-Is and his own union Teksif to Cevdet Selvi, president of Petrol-Is and the striking workers.

### SACKED



58 miners have been sacked in Havza for joining a trade union (Maden-Is).

# TORTURE, TRIALS AND PRISONS

## RELEASED

Ismail Besikci, a fearless defender of scientific truth has finally been released from prison in Turkey after serving over 5 years of a 10 year sentence for writing a private letter to the President of the Swiss Writers Association during a previous period of imprisonment. In the letter he expressed the opinion that the Turkish state denied Kurds their rights as a separate national group. When prison officials found draft notes for this letter he was brought before a military court for "Communist and Kurdish propaganda".

Ismail Besikci is a distinguished sociologist. Though not Kurdish himself he became interested in the Kurdish question in Turkey. He served in a Kurdish area while in the army and later went back to research Kurdish culture and economic conditions. All Turkish regimes have denied the existence of the Kurdish people so when Besikci continued to research the question despite warnings from cowardly fellow scientists he was arrested in 1972 and sentenced to 13 years imprisonment for Kurdish propaganda. Released in a government amnesty in 1974 he was rearrested on the same charge in 1979 and given 3 years jail. It was on his release from that sentence that he was again arrested in 1981.

Ismail Besikci was released on May 25th this year.

## TORTURERS ACCUSED



**Following publicity and public pressure the trial has begun of 4 police officers for torturing to death Hakkı Erdogan, a member of TIKKO (Turkish Workers' and Peasants' Liberation Army) in 1984.**

**A key witness is Deniz Yilmaz. She was in detention at the same time and was tortured by the same interrogation team. On the 24th April she identified the torturers in court.**

## DETAINEES FREED

Police have been forced to release 18 young people in Istanbul who had been

brought before the State Security Court accused of being members of Dev Sol (Revolutionary Left). Despite subjecting the defendants to several days of torture, the political police were unable to manufacture any evidence.

One of the victims, publisher Ahmet Zengin held a press conference and declared that the police had staged the operation in order to discredit left-wing people and intimidate young people of interested in socialist ideas. Parents of detainees said their children had been tortured.

Another detainee, Yalcin Kucuk, accused the Turkish press of publishing in a sensational way police lies about the detainees.

## PEACE CAMPAIGNERS SENTENCED

**Writing in the Guardian, David Bamford reported on May 2nd:**

Defendants in the long-running Turkish Peace Association trial in Istanbul, which ended this week, have been assessing the implications of sentences passed on 12 of the association's members.

TPA leaders said they would appeal against both the sentences and the court order confiscating the association's assets.

The TPA, set up in 1977 to monitor the provisions of the Helsinki Human Rights Agreement, was accused after the 1980 military coup of serving the interests of the Soviet Union, creating Communist propaganda, and trying to overthrow the constitutional system of government.

Two TPA executive members, the former diplomat, Mr Mahmut Dikerden, and Mrs Reha Isvan, wife of the former Istanbul mayor, were each sentenced to four years and two months in prison respectively. Eight other defendants were given 18-month sentences and two were given six months. Fifteen others, including the writer, Aziz Nesin, were acquitted on a legal technicality.

A court decision on the four cases of the theatre director, Ali Taygun, and three other defendants, will await the outcome of another trial in which they are involved over alleged membership of the Turkish Communist Party.

Many of the defendants have already spent a longer time in detention than the final sentences awarded, and they will

## TEACHERS SENTENCED

**In Ankara, 46 teachers were sentenced in March to 2 months imprisonment each for taking part in protest demonstrations in 1978.**



**Istanbul State Security Court on the opening day of the mass trial of students who staged an 'illegal' march in April.**

not return to prison. Only two defendants, Erol Saracoglu and Ataman Tangor, will have to go to gaol if the appeal fails.

But a journalist, Mr Niyazi Dalyanci — who received a six-month sentence — said that it was irrelevant whether any of the defendants went to prison again. He described the sentences as being without logic.

"... How can the executive members be found guilty — as they have in the court ruling — of supporting an illegal organisation? The TPA was perfectly legal, officially established and had the support before the coup of the Government. I would hardly say that this shows any improvements in the human rights situation in Turkey since the military period," he said.

Mr Dalyanci said it was still uncertain whether any of the defendants would have their passports returned. "That is up to the Interior Ministry and there is no telling what they will decide," he said.

Last month, Turkey announced that its citizens could appeal to the European Court of Human Rights for a decision on cases of individual freedom. But Turkish legal experts say that various conditions on applications composed by the Turkish Government mean that in practice the TPA and Disk defendants would never have an opportunity to lodge an appeal in Strasbourg.

Meanwhile, Turkey has banned a group called Doctors Against Nuclear War on the grounds that the issue is for experts, the Anatolia news agency said yesterday.

It said police had written to the 53-member group, founded this year, saying that any statements it might make could alarm the public. The issue was the responsibility of the Atomic Energy Authority and the Interior Ministry's civil defence department.

## UNHAPPY ANNIVERSARY

This July marks the 13th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974.

Following a coup in which the Cypriot government of Archbishop Makarios was toppled on the instigation of the Junta then ruling Greece, the Turkish army invaded on the pretext of saving the Turkish Cypriot people from annihilation. Even after a ceasefire had been agreed the Turkish army continued to advance until 40% of the island was occupied. Over 30,000 people had to flee their homes, many civilians were killed. Even today some 1,619 Greek Cypriots remain listed as 'missing' with no explanation as to their fate.

Despite the then Turkish government's official excuse, it soon became clear that the invasion of Cyprus had been planned for a long time and that the real aim was to turn part of Cyprus into a colony. Hard on the heels of the Turkish army came veritable carpet-baggers representing Turkish big business. They seized all the banks, transferring currency reserves to the 'mainland'. At the same time Turkish big business took over many enterprises abandoned by their Greek Cypriot owners who had been forced to flee.

The invasion of Cyprus was carried out in the interests of Turkish finance capital which needed to expand into overseas markets but could not compete with the more developed countries. Therefore Turkish finance capital seized the opportunity to capture a small but significant foreign market by force.

In 1985 the puppet North Cyprus Turkish administration led by Denktas declared itself the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus. So far only Turkey has given the 'Republic' official recognition.

### THE ATTITUDE OF NATO

At the time of the invasion of Cyprus, 3 countries had treaty obligations to guarantee the independence of Cyprus. All were NATO countries: Greece, whose junta staged the coup to overthrow the Cyprus government; Turkey, whose government sent in its army to grab part of the island and Britain — whose government, despite having a huge military presence on the island did nothing to stop coup and invasion.

At the time the attitude of NATO countries was mixed. They did not like the idea of Turkey indulging in old-fashioned imperialist expansion without permission. At the same time, NATO countries saw the advantage of having part of the island under the control of a loyal member who would ensure that NATO and US could use the north for bases and other facilities.

Today this is more so than ever.

In April this year, President Kyprianou of Cyprus asked the UN Secretary-General to convene an international conference on Cyprus

under UN auspices, to discuss the withdrawal of foreign troops from the island and new international guarantees. In his reply, the UN Secretary-General revealed that members of the UN Security Council had rejected the idea. It was clear that the members opposed to such an initiative were those who happen to be NATO allies.

As long as there are foreign troops on Cyprus, a settlement between Greek and Turkish people remains impossible.

### A GREAT DANGER

Talks between Greek and Turkish Cypriot administrations under UN auspices have still failed to take place.

We pointed out last year that the apparent support of the Denktas administration and its Turkish masters for UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's proposals was not genuine. It was based on the assumption that they were unacceptable to the Greek Cypriot side. This has been proved by recent events. As soon as the Greek Cypriots began to make concessions, Denktas adopted a more hardline approach. Meanwhile a dangerous situation continues to exist in Cyprus. In June, de Cuellar called the build-up of Turkish military forces in the northern sector a provocation to the Greek Cypriots, and he urged both sides to submit to UN verification procedures to ease escalating tensions on the island. In a report to the Security Council, he depicts the situation on Cyprus in its gravest light, saying that efforts to resume negotiations over unifying the island appeared deadlocked, fuelling mutual distrust and setting the stage for an outbreak of violence.



*Denktas with lifebelt — ready for anything?*

### CYPRUS TO PROTEST OVER TURKEY ARMS

Cyprus announced that it will protest strongly to the US and UN over Turkey's recent declaration that it did "not have to answer to anyone on the number of troops and military equipment it has in Cyprus," after UN reports of a Turkish military build-up.

## DEAD CY

The rapid build-up in recent months and the use of aircraft and attack helicopters with violent attacks by the armed forces spoke to the Cypriots of "harbouring development can be seen under pressure on the Atlantic current dispute in the attempt to divert the attention away from i

Despite the propaganda of the Turkish Cypriots and their neo-colonial Cypriot business circles, the expropriation of their north, are finding that the Turkish economy and Turkish Cypriot population are increasing strain in p

Many Turkish Cypriots are distinct people and resist government when it is and experts to reorganize virtually bypassing the

## STORM TEACUP

The problems in US-Turkey relations have been simmering for a long time since April and May.

The disagreements over 'recalling its ambassador' on April 23rd and 'President Evren's offer'.

There are several areas of strained relations: Firstly, the Defence and Economic Co-operation (DECA) due to be signed in an agreement whereby friendly regimes in Turkey — in military — in bases and 'listening post' deal of haggling it DECA in March. I decided to prune the Turkey from an expected \$569m. In addition none of the aid in the occupation of North Cyprus supplied military equipment to the Turkish regime is committee of the US

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Republic of Northern Cyprus' and treating the north like any other Turkish province.

## DE FACTO RECOGNITION?

The US State Department has reportedly drawn up a report on Cyprus which recognises the division of the island in two. Fears are growing that this marks the first step in recognising the North Cyprus administration. At the same time, a British all party 'Friends of Turkish Cyprus' Parliamentary Group after being wined and dined by the Denktas government in April produced a resolution calling for recognition for the 'Turkish Republic of North Cyprus' and even supported the continuing presence of Turkish troops on the island.

The increased military tension in the Middle East is further encouraging NATO countries to view North Cyprus as a useful springboard from which to intervene in the region. This is behind the very circumspect and backdoor manoeuvres aimed at giving some legitimacy to Ankara's puppet government in North Cyprus.

## THE ONLY ROAD

The arms build-up in Northern Cyprus poses a threat to peace. Cyprus remains the proverbial gun powder keg waiting for a spark to ignite it. The only solution to the problem remains the withdrawal of all foreign troops and self-determination for the people of Cyprus.

## RESOLUTION ON CYPRUS PASSED AT THE 1987 CONGRESS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR DEFENCE OF DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS IN TURKEY

### CYPRUS

As at the last congress of the CDDRT, Northern Cyprus remains a virtual colony of Turkey. This is underlined by the presence of 35,000 Turkish troops and an almost equal number of settlers from the mainland.

The continuing build-up of the Ankara regime's military forces in Cyprus and the threats being directed at the rest of Cyprus pose a serious danger of armed conflict. The attitude of the anti-democratic and expansionist regime in Turkey also increase the danger of a confrontation between Turkey and Greece over Cyprus.

The establishment of real democracy in Turkey is vital to the struggle for a free Cyprus. Only the withdrawal of Turkish troops and self-determination for the people of Cyprus can bring lasting peace to the island.

### The CDDRT:

- a) resolves to continue to expose the expansionist aims of the anti-democratic Ankara regime towards Cyprus and the Aegean.
- b) resolves to increase still further solidarity with the people of Cyprus and strengthen links and carry out joint actions with democratic Cypriot organisations.

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Ozal's relations with Reagan as seen in Milliyet.

April 24th an official day of remembrance for the genocide against the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire in 1915-16. Despite the overwhelming historical evidence the Turkish regime (which obviously sees itself as the heirs of the Ottomans!) denies that any genocide took

place. The third area of strain is US reluctance to reschedule Turkey's debts to the US which now stand at 3.5 billion TL. Problems also remain over US controls on imports of Turkish textiles and what the Turkish army sees as insufficient and obsolete military equipment being delivered to them by the US.

In retaliation (much against Ozal's own inclinations) the Turkish parliament has suspended the 'side letter' which would put DECA into effect.

The row also highlights some divisions in the regime, particularly between Ozal and what are known as his 'princes' — the group of US and British trained cadres in his government and the army establishment. Ozal's inclination is to capitulate to whatever the US decides whereas the army, preoccupied with a modernisation programme and keen on 'taking on' some of Turkey's neighbours, would like a much better deal. It is known to the Turkish regime that the US administration would like to deliver more but the regime still cannot understand a situation where a parliament can have the temerity to oppose a government's decisions!

Despite all the hot words and dramatic gestures both sides know that the present Turkish regime, both the army and civilian parts, will not really break with the US or threaten the continuation of the US bases and other installations in Turkey.

# KURDISTAN

## FIGHTING CONTINUES



Despite the deployment of an estimated 150,000 Turkish troops fighting continues in the South Eastern part of Anatolia (part of Kurdistan).

At the end of April it was estimated that in the last 3-year period, 449 armed clashes with Kurdish militants have resulted in the deaths of 149 security forces members, 268 Kurdish militants and 222 civilians.

In the latest attempt to stamp out the Kurdish people's national identity and prevent assistance being given to Kurdish guerrillas, the Turkish regime has stepped up its programme of compulsory resettlement of villagers. In the latest stage of this plan 434 villages and 1064 associated farmsteads and hamlets are to be 'moved' and grouped into just several large 'protected' villages around the town of Tunceli. The authorities are promising that the new settlements will have modern facilities but in most moves in the past villagers have found themselves dumped on sites with poor facilities apart from army posts.

### WORDS OF A MINISTER

In March this year *Hurriyet* carried an exclusive interview with Interior Minister Akbulut about the 'situation in the South East'. The regime's position of denying the existence of the Kurdish people at all caused the minister to give some confused answers to questions:

**Akbulut:** We have killed most of the terrorists; our villages were being raided, our soldiers martyred.

**Q:** *Sir, are these ('terrorists') Kurdish?*

**Akbulut:** We should stop the tape with these questions.

**Q:** *But sir, if I switch off the tape I won't be able to write a report... I know the subject is delicate... but if you can please answer. Are we not able as a Turkish State to handle this?...Are the aims of these terrorists in the South-East to form a separate Kurdish state?*

**Akbulut:** I will not answer that, otherwise there will be harm to the nation, state and political situation.

**Q:** *There are some villages in the South-East which speak Arabic, Kurdish and Turkish. Are these generally Turkish*

*speaking?*

**Akbulut:**... there are people speaking Turkish, Kurdish and Arabic.

**Q:** *So these people ('terrorists') go and raid Kurdish villages?*

**Akbulut:** There are Kurdish or Arabic villages, but villages where all languages are spoken. It would be wrong to speak of Kurdish or Turkish villages...

**Q:** *A while back you would not say that we are all Turkish but the Turkish state doesn't like the word 'Kurdish'.*

**Akbulut:** Mr Colasan, is there such a being as a Kurd? Has there ever been throughout history since the world was formed, such a nation or state? Is there anyone in the region who thinks of himself as a Kurd?

**Q:** *Isn't there Sir?... Lets be a bit realistic!*

**Akbulut:** OK we will, there are not... Only those being used as pawns of the militants and others say "I am a Kurd". No one else. However, there are people being used as tools for ideological reasons. This will always create a problem for Turkey... This is all part of a systematic plan. They are being controlled from outside. Speaking Arabic or Kurdish doesn't make one a Kurd or an Arab.

**Q:** *Why is some officially known information not made public? Are you saying that there is no pro-Kurdish propaganda going on in Turkey?*

**Akbulut:** No there is not. It is all from outside and is all armed propaganda or ideological propaganda.

**Q:** *How many ('terrorists') are there?*

**Akbulut:** 300 to 400 people.

**Q:** *Are you saying there are 300 to 400 operating here now?*

**Akbulut:** No. I said 300 to 400 from time to time. They are always detected and retreat across the borders.

**Q:** *How many village protectors (militia) do we have?*

**Akbulut:** There are approximately 5,500.

**Q:** *How many in each village?*

**Akbulut:** It varies from village to village.

**Q:** *Are there at least 10 protectors in a village?*

**Akbulut:** Yes.

**Q:** *Yet despite this, a village with 14 protectors was raided and 14 people were killed including women and children... How much are the protectors paid?*

**Akbulut:** We pay them the minimum wage — 25,000-30,000 TL plus weapons and training.

**Q:** *Don't you think that this system has made the protectors targets for the terrorist gangs...?*

**Akbulut:** ... This system came about because of the difficulties. These gangs are hiding in the mountains. Before, they were going into the villages without protectors to live, eat, drink and strengthen themselves.

**Q:** *Are you sure the protectors we have put there are against these people? Are you sure these protectors are not playing a double game?*

**Akbulut:** There may be some who turn out that way. Some of them are not protecting as they are supposed to do.

**Q:** *We say after each raid into Iraq that we have destroyed the terrorists. Yet after each attack they come back and retaliate. Are our armed forces being worn down?*

**Akbulut:** No. Since 1984 we have killed 150 terrorists and captured an unknown number.

**Q:** *What do you say to Demirel's accusation that 'the blood spilt is being left on the floor'?*

**Akbulut:** Before the 12th September (1980 coup) 6,000 of our people killed each other. Now it's just a few armed terrorists against the security forces.



## TURKEY'S WAR INDUSTRY GROWS

**The Belgium-based *Info-Turk* reports in issue No.126:**

Defence Minister Zeki Yavuzturk, opening Turkey's first military arms fair (IDEA '87) in Ankara on April 27, 1987, said the country now plans to start its own armaments industry. The fair was participated by 403 armaments companies from 21 foreign countries, such as General Dynamics, Dassault, British Aerospace, Krauss-Maffei, Colt Industries International Inc., Dornier GmbH, BMC, Helicopter Textron, Marconi, CASA, Westinghouse Defence, Euro-missile, SAT, General Defence International Division, RLM Defence Engineering, Oip Optics NV-SA, Hall and Watss Ltd, Pilatus Aircraft Ltd, E. Lacroix.

Mr Yavuzturk claimed that the share of industrial goods in Turkish exports had risen to over 70 percent and this would contribute to the development of war industry.

Turkey is already building a plant to produce 152 F-16 fighters starting later this year. This is a co-production of the US General Dynamics and the TUSAS Aerospace Industries Inc. of Turkey.

The sum to be attributed to the war industry is estimated at 7,500 billion TL (9.4 billion dollars).

The Defence Industry Development and Support Administration (DIDA), coordinator of different armaments industries, had already talks as well with the Turkish private sector as with foreign companies. The foreign companies which participated in the IDEA '87 have forwarded proposals for cooperation in Turkish war industries.

Founded in 1986 by law, DIDA is based on free and liberal economic principles. Managed by a Supreme Coordination Board composed of Prime Minister, certain ministers and army chiefs, DIDA is charged with encouraging new investments through the re-organization of existing industries and integrating modern technology into the forces.

Besides, with the purpose of collecting finance, the Foundation of Support for the Defence Industry has been established under the authority of DIDA. By law, this fund receives considerable sums from the taxes put on alcoholic drinks, tobacco, lotteries and fuels. The law stipulates also the transfer of the funds of three foundations set up by Land, Air and

Naval forces to the new foundation of DIDA. The proper funds of this new foundation have already risen to 200 billion TL (250 million dollars).

## BRITISH WEAPONS FOR TURKEY

**As a result of problems in US-Turkish relations the regime is trying vary its sources of sophisticated weapons. Britain is high on the list as a potential partner.**

**John Bulloch, writing in the *Independent* on April 28th reports:**

The Shade of Sir Basil Zaharoff appeared in Turkey yesterday in the unlikely shape of Mr George Younger, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Defence. He was selling arms to the Turks. And in the tradition established by his illustrious predecessor at the beginning of the century, he agreed that Britain was also selling arms to the Greeks. Not the same ones, he said, but similar.

Quite right. That was the spirit that Sir Basil, the great arms dealer, had shown when he saw the sale of a warship to one Balkan country as an opportunity to supply a submarine to a second.

Mr Younger, as cheerful an arms dealer as one could wish to meet, left Turkey last night after attending the country's first international arms fair — officially Idea 87, the Turkish International Defence Equipment and Avionics exhibition. He spoke warmly of the arms fair, its organisation, and the chances of Britain making big sales to the Turks.

After cheerily admitting British arms

sales to both Greece and Turkey, Mr Younger was asked if Britain placed any restrictions on arms sold to Turkey. After all, many weapons and vehicles could be used in counter insurgency, particularly by the Turkish gendarmerie, which is in the market for Land-Rover. Certainly not, he told *The Independent*. No limitation. Once the Turks buy weapons, it is up to them what they do with them. This will not be good news for the Kurds, who have stepped up their terrorist campaign to get some recognition from the Ankara government, which regards them as Turks subverted by elements in a neighbouring country.

That led to the subject of the Gulf War. The minister was definite: Britain would not sell anything to Iran or Iraq. No mention of recent sales of Land-Rovers, radar, ships or radio. But perhaps the Turks might sell to clients of whom Britain disapproved? The partners in a joint venture, the minister said carefully, would have to agree any sales. Sir Basil might have permitted himself a smile. He knew what he was doing: there seemed to be some vague doubts about Mr Younger's total grasp of political affairs here in the approaches to the Levant.

But at the arms fair, 20 miles from Ankara, all was cheerfulness. Britain and Germany, Italy and France, neutral Switzerland and Sweden competed alongside a dozen others. It was all, everyone agreed, a big step forward in helping Turkey establish its own industry. And it probably helped Britain too. Mr Younger proudly announced that last year Britain moved up from number four to number three in the arms equipment sales league. Who knows? With Turkish help, Britain might yet make number two.



National Defence Minister Zeki Yavuzturk and visiting British Defence Minister George Younger, on an aircraft displayed at the International Defence Equipment and Avionics Exhibition (IDEA-87) in Ankara.

## MURDER IN VAN

On the 5th May, a 19-year old Veterinary student, Sirin Tekin, was killed during an incident at Van University in Turkey.

The student was one of a group who had ignored pressures to observe the Ramadan fast. He was attacked by a gang of Islamic reactionaries who stabbed him with knives when he tried to enter the university canteen. During Ramadan, university and public establishment canteens have been closed, even to non-fasters.

As a result of the killing, students throughout Turkey have shown their outrage by holding protests.

At Van University, 88 students were arrested for protesting. They criticised the fact that no one has been prosecuted for the murder. As late as May 22, 45 were still in detention. In Bursa, 100 students demonstrated and 8 were arrested. They had carried a wreath to lay on Ataturk's statue but as they held a minute's silence, the eight were arrested by security police. Students at Ataturk University also protested over the death.

A spokesman for the Social Democratic Party commented on the killing, "Every knife stuck into a student is stuck into a democratic and secular Turkey".

Prime Minister Ozal stated that, "the Van incident is significant only in itself... an incident has occurred but everything is under control".

Also at this time, 63 students are being tried at the State Security court in Istanbul. 31 of these are still in custody at Bayrampasa prison.

The trial is over a march in April which was held to protest against the repressive "YOK" (Higher Education) laws — calling for freedom for students to organise associations and for democratic and autonomous universities.

The students are pleading not guilty. Some of the defendants were apparently forced to sign statements whilst blindfolded and others were not allowed to see the statements they signed when arrested.

The prosecution is asking for 1½-3 years imprisonment for all 63 accused.

At the end of the first hearing gendarmes broke up attempts by parents to speak to those on trial.

The recent events indicate that the student movement in Turkey is increasing in its militancy against the restrictive student legislation and the influence of the Islamic sectors within the universities.



*A mother demonstrates her support of protesting students.*

## MEETING

In May a mass meeting was held between staff and students at Cukurova University to discuss the way the political police were frequently visiting the campus and interfering in student

meetings etc. In addition, students wanted to discuss the crowded conditions in lectures where many have to sit on the floors, and the fact that 70% of the required books are not available. It transpired that even many teachers have not got copies.

At one stage the meeting was suspended while students demanded that two officers of the political police who were present leave the hall.



*A father, denouncing students as 'traitors' attempts to drag his daughter away from a sit-down protest in Istanbul. She returned later.*



## A WARNING

Evren, former junta boss and now 'President' of Turkey delivered a lecture to the youth of Turkey on May 19th. Exhorting them to follow in the path of Ataturk, founder of the Turkish Republic, (who was also a dictator and presided over campaigns of genocide against Kurds and others), he said:

"Against this great person the centenary of whose birth was declared 'Ataturk Year' by the United Nations, certain miserable persons from among us with perverted thoughts and brains covered with cobwebs have maintained a smear campaign based on treacherous lies and slander. Naturally, a few such traitors can be found in any nation. But that such traitors have tended to increase rather than decrease with the passing years profoundly distresses us all ...

"Though from amongst you have emerged certain persons who harbour perverted ideologies and aspire to destroy the Republic and replace it with a Marxist-Leninist or a theocratic state based on Sharia, these have been eliminated in each case. ... Let us not forget that such attempts will occur in the future too..."

## REACTION IN THE SCHOOL

A high school student in Adana, Refik Baytar said, in a petition addressed on April 26 to the leaders of SHP, that he had been expelled from school by a rightist headmaster for having defended the theories of Darwin, and detained later by the police and tortured during 12 days in detention.

## STUDENT PICKET

The CDDRT participated in a picket organised by the Turkish Students Federation in the UK outside the Turkish Educational Counsellorship in London.

The picket was in solidarity with the struggle of the student movement in Turkey and to call for the release of all students detained in the April demonstrations in Turkey.

The Turkish Students Federation is one of our oldest affiliated organisations. In view of the increasing student struggle in Turkey and the need for greater solidarity with them, the CDDRT and the TSF will be carrying out a joint campaign throughout the rest of this year.



The CDDRT banner was on the massive anti-nuclear demonstration organised by CND in London in April.

## MAY DAY

On May 1st the CDDRT and its banner was present on the London May Day March as part of the very large Turkish contingent.

## STAND



On May 25th, the CDDRT had a large and colourful stand at the *Morning Star Festival For All* held in Alexandra Palace, North London.

A great deal of interest was shown in the stall at this major event which attracted many thousands of people.

## 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 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-opt.

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

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## Affiliate to the CDDRT

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

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## A TIMELY PUBLICATION

A powerful condemnation of the incredibly oppressive Turkish education system has just been published by World University Service in conjunction with the Association of University Teachers in English and in German with the West German Teachers Union GEW.

*Out of Order — Turkish Universities and Totalitarianism*, written mainly by a group of distinguished exiled academics from Turkey details the steps by which higher education in that country has been purged of virtually all creative and democratic elements. The mass sacking of academic staff, the replacement of education with ideological indoctrination and the appalling conditions under which students live are reported.

The report also contains translations of some interesting documents which reveal how the education system actually functions. An example of this is an official form for evaluating academic staff prepared in 1984 and still in force. It lays down the criteria to be used in grading professors and lecturers by their 'superiors' in the educational hierarchy. It is interesting to note that out of 25 points well over half of them consist of evaluations of the political attitude of the subject. Indeed, "Belief in Ataturk's nationalism" is point 2 whereas "Ability to teach and explain" only comes in point 17.

The report also contains many eyewitness accounts of the workings of the 'education' system.

The authoritarian and centralising role of the all-powerful Higher Education Commission (YOK) is fully explained.

The report sets the university situation in the context of the continuing violations of human rights in Turkey and ends with a call for western academics to show solidarity with their persecuted colleagues in Turkey. A call we would all heartily endorse.

For anyone interested in the situation in Turkey or human rights this report is essential reading.

### OUT OF ORDER

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## THE HIDDEN HOLOCAUST

During the course of the First World War considerably over a million Armenians were slaughtered in one of the most horrific but least known genocides of recent history. The then government of Ottoman Turkey made a decision to liquidate their Armenian Christian subjects as a people. Armenian conscripts in the Ottoman armies were starved, beaten and machine gunned. Armenian intellectuals were murdered. In Armenian villages men were taken away and shot, while their women and children were rounded up and forced to walk southwards into the deserts, where many collapsed and died of hunger and exhaustion. The survivors were then incarcerated in open-air concentration camps, from which few emerged alive.

All of this has been recorded in documents and individual memoirs. There can be no doubt that the genocide took place with full government knowledge and approval. But even today the present Turkish government denies the reality of the Armenian genocide and has erased it from official Turkish history. Yet for the Armenian people it is essential that the facts of their sufferings are recognized and their claims acknowledged.

*The Armenians*, Minority Rights Group Report 32, is one of the few accessible accounts of this little known episode. But more than this, it gives an overview of past Armenian history and culture, the present situation of the Armenian diaspora around the world and prospects for the future. Written by David M. Lang and Christopher J. Walker, two leading writers on the Armenian situation, this new edition of this classic report also refers to the acute contemporary problems for Armenians in Lebanon and Iran as well as continuing repression in Turkey.

An important report on an exceptional and cohesive minority group, which should be read by all those concerned with human rights and history as well as the Armenian people, wherever they live.

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