

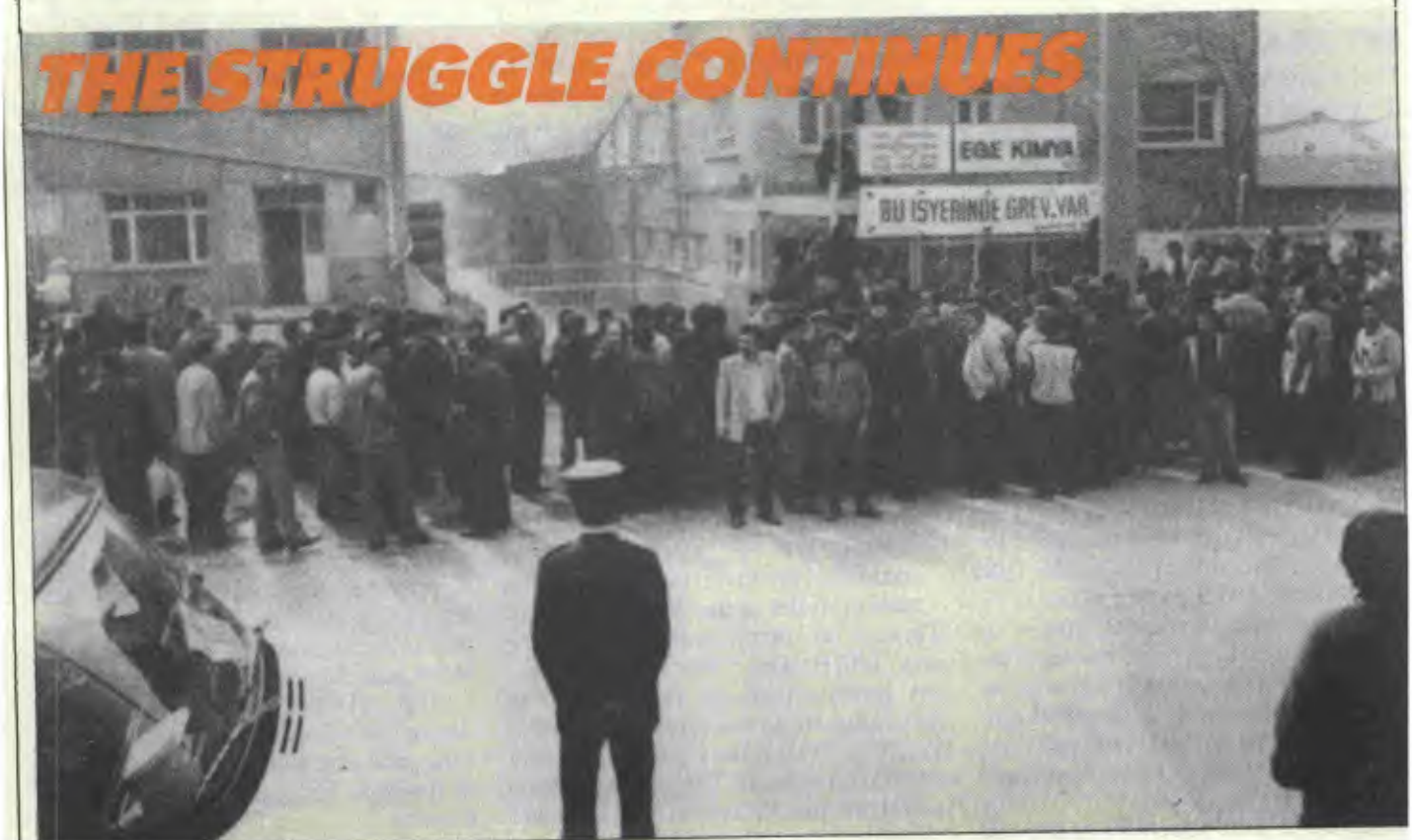
TURKEY NEWSLETTER



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

Issue No 78

January 1988



POLITICS

RETURN OF THE LEADERS OF THE UCPT



On the 16th November 1987, the leaders of the component parts of the newly formed United Communist Party of Turkey (TBKP) returned to Turkey in a bid to establish a legal party.

Accompanied by a group of 30 international supporters - European Communist MEPs and lawyers, the two leaders - Haydar Kutlu and Nihat Sargin, on arriving at Ankara's Esenboga Airport were promptly arrested by police.

SPECULATION

This dramatic development on the eve of the general election in Turkey has led to much speculation and controversy in Turkey and abroad. The question is being asked: is this the result of a deal - real or tacit, between part of the left and the Turkish regime? Or is this a significant step towards a democratic Turkey? Who will benefit most?

The media in Turkey overwhelmingly has come out in favour of making the TBKP legal. Ozal has made it clear that he too is in favour of legalisation - though he queries the timing and the use of the word 'communist' in the name of a legal party.

President Evren who poses as the defender of the 'principals' of the 1980 military coup and the voice of the army, while launching a violent attack on communism and again the timing of the return made it clear that at some future date it may be possible "to have a Euro-communist type party in Turkey" - one that "does not take its instructions from outside the country".

Among a wide spectrum of the left

and anti-regime forces in Turkey ranging from the underground Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) to the leadership of the legal trade union movement Turk-İs, there is a view that the legalisation of the TBKP is about to take place and that it is intended to benefit the regime.

The legalisation of the TBKP would silence many critics of the regime in the EEC countries. Such a legalisation if accomplished on the basis of the TBKP "working within the framework of the existing constitution" would enable the regime to keep its arsenal of repressive laws intact while presenting - for a time - the veneer of a democratic country. In a meeting with Inonu, leader of the Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) on 18th November, Sevket Yilmaz, President of Turk-İs declared that the return of the TBKP leaders was master-minded by Prime Minister Ozal "as a tactic to divert the working class from their real problems".

It is thought that the return is a result of three events. Firstly, a visit by Adnan Kahveci - a close advisor of Ozal - and known to favour legality for some sort of Communist Party to Europe earlier in the year.

Secondly, the funeral of Behice Boran - veteran leader of the Workers Party of Turkey (one of the components of the new TBKP). On 17th October, before her actual burial, the regime allowed Behice Boran, an exile from the country, a state funeral in front of the parliament buildings in Ankara. This was interpreted as a signal that the regime's attitude was changing.

Finally the improved relations between the Soviet Union and Turkey resulting from Gorbachov's new policies have encouraged a more relaxed attitude to "pro-Soviet" views in Turkey.

Some feel that the regime may contemplate legalising the TBKP in order to have an excuse to legalise extreme right-wing Islamic fundamentalist movements.

The fundamentalists - who are already in the process of absorbing the old Turkish fascist movement could then be built-up as a force to be used against the progressive forces if "times became difficult" again.

The TBKP leaders have 'moderated' their views and declared their willingness to work within the present framework of Turkish law and society. It could be said that it is not the regime which is making real concessions, but for whatever reason, a section of the left which is making concessions to an anti-democratic regime.

The return of the TBKP leaders is all the more surprising considering that since 1983 they have held the view that the Turkish regime is fascist. For leaders of left or democratic organisations to voluntarily put themselves into the hands of a regime they consider fascist is unprecedented. Surely such a step could imperil the security of their organisations?

If the intention was to expose the nature of the regime, then it must be asked for whose benefit? The people of Turkey are already well aware of the lack of democracy without such a curious step.

At the time of going to print it is still too early to predict fully the outcome of the return of Haydar Kutlu and Nihat Sargin.

The CDDRT welcomes every step towards democracy in Turkey - this of course must include the freedom of function of all democratic and progressive forces.

There is also the question of freedom for the Kurdish people to determine their own destiny, freedom for workers to organise, freedom for the 15-20,000 political prisoners, withdrawal from Cyprus and the abolition of laws and parts of the state machinery which allow the ruling regime to re-impose state terror and oppression almost at will.

The CDDRT's view is that all democrats must redouble their efforts to raise solidarity with the people of Turkey in the fight for real democracy in that country.

Written on 18/11/1987



ahahlığı protesto
A retired factory worker in Adana, 54 year old Mustafa Cerik, father of 8 children, burnt himself to death in protest at the high cost of living, on 27th November. Before he died he said he was "unable to live on 80,000TL (approximately £60) per month".

STUDENTS PROTEST

In October, students in Istanbul held protests at the continuing oppression by YOK (Higher Education Council), the unfair exam system and police intimidation of students who join student organisations.



THE PRICE OF POVERTY

A team of health workers including 4 doctors on the 7th November published the results of medical checks on all 435 children in the first classes of two schools in the working class districts of Kartal and Byrampasa in Istanbul.

The results were alarming - among the children (aged 6-7) Malnutrition was common, "almost all had chronic bronchitis" ... "All 435 except one had decayed teeth, 55% had lice in the hair - 35% had ear and eye problems ..." Some children examined had to be urgently sent to hospital.

The medical team's conclusion was that the poor health of the children was the result of poverty - poor food and inadequate housing.

The general standard of living of urban working class families is continuing to deteriorate as a result of the Ozal regime's economic policies.

ANAP OFFICES BOMBED

In October and November offices of the ruling Motherland Party (ANAP) were bombed in Istanbul, Kayseri and Izmir - one person (a caretaker) was killed.

TEACHERS AND "STATE SECURITY"

At the end of October out of 11,444 new teachers appointed to schools throughout Turkey only 865 had actually been able to begin teaching. The reason? The other 10,579 were waiting to be given *security clearance papers* before they could begin their work.

Since the 1980 coup, the regime, which distrusts teachers as 'ideologically unsound' and potential revolutionaries as a group, has carried out a 'weeding-out operation' in the profession.

Following the coup, a Martial Law Coordination Unit was implanted in the Ministry of Education to purge the teaching profession. Today the body has been renamed 'The Information and Research Section'. Headed by Colonel Refik Seymenogullari, the organisation is linked to MIT (Turkish Intelligence Organisation). All teachers must get a paper to show they 'are not enemies of the state' before taking up a post or moving to another.

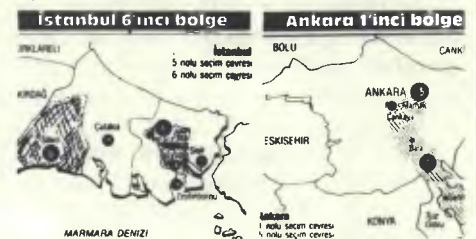
The section which has to investigate teachers' political backgrounds before 'clearing' them is overwhelmed with work.

The resulting delays are adding to Turkey's acute shortage of teachers.

GERRYMANDERING IN TURKEY

In the November elections, in order to get more ANAP MPs elected in Istanbul and Ankara constituency boundaries have been changed. In Istanbul constituencies Nos 6 and 5 will include different areas scattered across the city in order to ensure majorities of ANAP voters in each.

In Ankara the constituency of Cankaya (1) has been stretched many miles into the countryside to include small villages and rural towns so that the anti-ANAP city voters will be outnumbered by ANAP rural votes.



CYPRUS - WOMEN PROTEST

On 23rd November, the *Guardian* reported that:

"Hundreds of Greek Cypriot women broke through the United Nations controlled buffer zone into Turkish-held territory in Cyprus yesterday. It was the first time such a protest had penetrated the occupied zone in 13 years.

"Women Walk Home" a group of seven hundred women demonstrating against the occupation of Northern Cyprus by Turkish forces since 1974, left central Nicosia in 26 buses, and managed to mislead pursuing United Nations peacekeeping forces. The women arrived at a checkpoint in a western suburb of Nicosia, waving white flags and banners saying "We come in peace".

Half of them charged past Greek Cypriot guards and UN soldiers, running 50 metres to the Turkish sector.

About 50 Turkish soldiers armed with automatic weapons blocked their path and ordered them to stop as the leading women dropped at the troops feet. UN soldiers then came between the two sides, but the women climbed out of the trench, broke through the cordon and forced the Turkish soldiers back another 50 metres."



TRADE UNION NEWS

LEATHER WORKERS STRIKE VICTORY

The strike by leather workers in Istanbul has ended in victory.

The employers were forced to withdraw their demand that union officials have "security clearance" from the state prosecutor.

The workers received big increases in the tax-free 'fringe' payments and benefits that usually constitute over half of a workers' real wage.

In his letter announcing the end of the strike to trade union organisations abroad Munzur Pekgulec deputy chair of Deri-Is (Leather Workers Union) said "The honourable strike in which our union has been engaged, with its 3500 members, with the support of you and all democratic forces is now over. The strike ended on the 30th October 1987 with success. It also defeated the principles which TISK (Confederation of Turkish Employers' Unions) had sought to impose on us.

The moral and material support of the international working class and the forces of democracy including the great moral support which you gave us during the 129-days long strike have made an invaluable contribution to the success of our struggle.

We wish to thank you on behalf of the leather workers for your exemplary support during the strike."

The CDDRT would like to give a special thanks to the Irish Distributive and Administrative Trade Union, the Northern Ireland Public Service Alliance and UCATT Midlands Region and SOGAT Solent branch who contributed so much to the success of this strike.

Copies of the new leather workers agreement are available from CDDRT.

The President of Turk-Is (Turkish Trade Union Confederation), Sevket Yilmaz, stated that in the last 4 years the purchasing power of the real wage of the worker in Turkey has declined by 78%.

PRINT UNION STRIKE

159 workers belonging to Basin-Is (print and graphical workers union) are continuing their strike at the State Stationary Office.

They are on strike to defend job security and against wages which are below the minimum wage in Turkey.

SOLIDARITY

The stationary workers recieved strong international support when in November 1987, Harry Conroy, General Secretary

AUTO WORKERS STRIKE



20 workers at the 'Nuran Automotive Industry' car components workshops in Istanbul downed tools and staged a protest on the 12th November.

The protest was over the employers sacking Otomobil-Is (Car and Metalworkers' Union) activists.

3 trade union representatives (2 women and 1 man) were suddenly sacked without warning. As the workers staged their protest, workers in neighbouring factories came out to show their solidarity.

of the National Union of Journalists in Britain and Alf Dubbins, General Secretary of the print workers' union - the National Graphical Association - both sent messages of support to the workers and letters to the regime calling on them to negotiate with the workers' union.

TELECOM WORKERS' ORDEAL

To end a backlog of work, PTT (Turkish Post and Telephone Company) has ordered telecom workers to do compulsory overtime until 7pm every week night and work until 4pm every Saturday.

Workers are resisting because the new times"will destroy family life" because of lack of transport to get home in the evenings and because after deductions the overtime pay will come to 100TL (1p!) per day.

One worker said "we don't work for one extra Marlboro cigarette".

LOADERS STRIKE CONTINUES

The strike by some loaders and the lockout of others is continuing at truck depots throughout Istanbul.

Despite the introduction of strike-breakers, the workers are optimistic. Already two employers have broken ranks, despite threats by the road hauliers employers union, and offered to agree to the workers demands.

The strike is particularly affecting supplies to small rural Anatolian towns and villages.

TURK-IS ON TRIAL

Turkey's reactionary constitution and labour laws forbid trade unions from becoming involved in politics.

In a dramatic defiance of these laws, Turk-Is (Turkish Trade Union Confederation) publicly called on its members not to vote for the ruling Motherland Party (ANAP) in the 29th November elections. In fact the confederation went further and instructed its affiliated trade unions to work *actively* for a 'no vote' to ANAP's campaign.

"I COULD GIVE THEM TO THE STATE PROSECUTOR IF I LIKED"

The regime's Minister of Labour, Mukerrem Tascioglu, reacted violently to the Turk-Is decision. He said that Turk-Is "is committing a crime". The Minister went on to boast "I could give them (Turk-Is) to the State Prosecutor if I liked". Apparently he did "like" for on the 5th November the state announced that the leadership of Turk-Is were to be prosecuted for "interfering in politics by advising their members not to vote ANAP". Democratic left Party leader Ecevit called the Minister an "informer". On the same day police raided the Headquarters of Turk-Is in Ankara and confiscated the confederation's Minute Books. This was the second raid by police on the Turk-Is centre in 1987.

Trial proceedings are continuing.

A 'SERIOUS' CRIME!

When is giving a pizza to someone a crime against the state? The answer is, when you give it to someone on strike.

In Kayseri the local leader of the Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP), *Zeki Orhan*, has been indicted by the state prosecutor for supporting a strike by food processing factory workers "economically and politically".

The SHP leader committed this awesome crime by visiting the picket lines of the workers who have been on strike since the *5th March 1987* and taking them a quantity of Lahmacun (Turkish pizza) to eat.

The case has now been referred to the highest court in Turkey.



Pickets in Kayseri committing a new 'crime' by eating the 'evidence'.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS STAGE 'ILLEGAL' STRIKE

Enraged at threatened redundancies and lack of compensation for injuries, 2,600 workers building the second Bosphorus bridge struck.

In Turkey to strike without giving 60 days notice is illegal and special security and police units were rushed to the bridge as the workers began to march off the building sites in October.

This was the first such 'illegal' strike since the 1980 military coup.

The workers presented a 23-point list of demands including more pay, housing, shower facilities and food.

Workers were also enraged by a recent incident when a Japanese engineer working on the site received huge compensation payments when he was injured while a Turkish worker injured at the same time received nothing.

SHOPWORKERS STRIKE

A strike by 840 shop-assistants at MIGROS -Turkey's only major super-market chain is continuing.



TRADE UNIONISTS VISIT BRITAIN

Ilhan Dalkilic, President of Otomobil-Is (Metal Workers Union) and Eyup Oner Treasurer of the same union visited Britain between October 12th and October 21st at the invitation of the Greater London Association of Trades Councils. During their visit the trade unionists saw many leading figures in the British trade union movement including Norman Willis, TUC General Secretary, Ron Todd (T&GWU) and Ken Gill (TASS). Outside London they visited the headquarters of the National Union of Mine workers. They were able to brief their hosts on the trade union situation in Turkey including the aftermath of the Netas strike (lead by Otomobil-Is).

The visitors told their hosts of the oppressive labour laws in Turkey which are used to deny workers representation by the



union of their choice and also restrict solidarity between trade unions.

At the end of their visit the Otomobil-Is delegation spoke at a press conference called by GLATC and chaired by GLATC Vice Chair, Margaret Witham.

A 'DEMOCRACY MANOEUVRE'-AN ELECTORAL FARCE



On 29th November, voters went to the polls throughout Turkey in the second general election since the 1980 coup. The elections returned Prime Minister Ozal's ruling Motherland Party (ANAP) to power with a clear majority of seats in the Grand National Assembly.

The elections follow on a referendum in September in which by a narrow margin people voted to return political rights to pre-coup politicians who had been deprived of them by the army.

The Turkish Prime Minister, Ozal, attempted to pre-empt moves by old political forces to re-establish themselves by calling a snap general election for the 1st November. This would have given the opposition parties only a few days to select their candidates and then mount an election campaign. On the other hand Ozal's party, well prepared long before, would have had an easy head-start.

Following court battles involving , besides the opposition, frightened and de-selected sitting ANAP MPs, the election was finally shifted to 29th November.

A PREDICTABLE OUTCOME

The victory of Ozal and the ruling ANAP was predictable. This was the result of several factors :

*Ozal could rely on his own constituency of those who have "turned the corner" (got rich quick) under his free market policies. In Turkey today, the rich tiny minority of the population have "never had it so good" with lower taxes made even better by loopholes which had enabled big monopolies to escape even these taxes. For those businessmen who openly support ANAP there are the juicy public works contracts and the prospect of getting the best parts of the old state enterprises when they are put up for grabs shortly.

*As in previous elections, the ruling party indulged in shameless bribery and corruption of the voters. Just before the

election vast public works schemes were begun or promised on the clear understanding that those constituencies which voted ANAP would benefit. Areas which opposed the ruling party are not given such schemes or have them openly stopped when their "incorrect" political inclinations become clear.

*As we reported in previous *Turkey Newsletters*, Ozal has operated an 'election economy' for a period of time engaging in huge prestige public works (contrary to his own monetarist philosophy) and building-up a sizeable international debt. Another open vote-buying exercise was the decision to pay the vast army of workers classed as civil servants an extra week's pay just before the election and one-off payments to many fixed-income groups.

*To broaden the appeal of ANAP, Ozal, who *Readers' Digest* proclaimed a "Capitalist Revolutionary", selected several people with 'social democratic' credentials to be ANAP parliamentary candidates.

These included a former DISK (Revolutionary Confederation of Trade Unions) leader, Nurettin Yilmaz (who is also Kurdish). Yilmaz was badly tortured during his detention following the 1980 coup. This did not stop Ozal adding him to his collection of Islamic fundamentalists, old fascists and new businessmen who make up ANAP!

AN ELECTORAL SYSTEM BASED ON 'HIGHER MATHEMATICS'

*The electoral system was altered to favour the largest party disproportionately. Firstly, each constituency returned more than one MP varying between 6 (where the advantage was to ANAP) down to 3. A voter did not vote for named candidates but just for the party. A party then had to achieve 10% of the vote nationally before any of its candidates were even eligible for election, eg. a

RESULTS

Party	%	Seats
ANAP (Motherland Party)	36.24	292
SHP (Social Democratic Populist Party)	24.78	99
DYP (True Path Party)	19.15	59
DSP (Democratic Left Party)	8.5	0
RP (Welfare Party)	7.15	0
MEP (National Labour Party)	2.89	0
Independents	0.81	0
TOTAL	99.52*	450

*The rest mainly abstentions/spoiled ballots

candidate whose party received less than 10% of the national vote would not become an MP even if he received the overwhelming majority of votes in his constituency. On top of 10%, the party had to get at least 20% of the total votes in a 6-seat constituency before a particular candidate could become an MP.

In addition to all this - the party which got more than 30% of the national vote - through a system of complicated mathematics also *automatically* received about one third more seats than they had already won.

This is how ANAP, which only received 36% of all votes cast, ended up with 65 more seats than all the other parties combined.



Kurdish SHP candidate and political prisoner, Ahmet Turk, was released just before the election which has made him an MP.

WEAK OPPOSITION

The final blessing bestowed on Ozal was the generally weak opposition.

Former Prime Minister Ecevit and his small Democratic Left Party (DSP) which was hardly democratic, not left,

and more of a family club than a party - only managed to take votes away from the main line Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP).

The SHP, with its generalised slogans and vague promises put up a vigorous campaign towards the end, but could not offer a coherent alternative.

The Party of ex-Prime Minister Demirel, Ozal's old boss - the True Path Party (DYP) with its old-fashioned conservative image, windy demagoguery, personality cult leader and lack of a serious programme - reminded voters of Demirel's blunders when Prime Minister in the 1970s.

Neither were voters attracted to the lunatic ravings of the neo-fascist National Labour Party or its near relative Erbakan's Islamic 'Welfare Party'.

Anything to the left of the SHP was banned and subject to repression (as witness the arrest of the returning UCPT leaders).

CYNICISM

The great feature of the elections was the cynicism of the majority of the voters who were confronted with little real choice and had no confidence in an electoral system whereby hardly any two elections since the 1950s have been fought under the same electoral rules. For the electors therefore, most voted for the party that offered to meet some short-term need rather than out of any real belief in a particular party's policy or philosophy.

To maximise votes, the ANAP party arranged to transport free of charge thousands of migrant workers from West Germany to vote and then go back. The party was helped by the border guards waiving entry and exit procedures to speed their visit.

WHAT NEXT?

On the economic front, the Ozal regime, with the election out of the way, will press ahead with an ambitious drive to privatise State Economic Enterprises (known as KİT's). Already the giant state-owned Sumerbank is being made ready for dismemberment, followed by selling-off. The process of strengthening private monopolies in Turkey will continue. Even MAN (a car company owned jointly by the Turkish KOC monopoly and General Motors) has already been saved from disaster by the state giving them a large order not unconnected with MAN giving ANAP two buses as a gift during the election campaign!(23-10-87 *Hurriyet*)

Inflation will continue at a high rate. To pay for the 'election economies' of

recent years the working class in Turkey will be made to bear the brunt of even more savage 'austerity' measures.

Ozal seems also intent on bringing his family into government. In addition to his brother-in-law and various cousins, his own brother will probably be made Finance Minister.

In politics Ozal may try to crown the illusion of democracy in Turkey by legalising a communist party (for foreign consumption). While tying it, like the SHP, into a straight-jacket of laws and the ever-present threat of repression so that it is more of a shell for the outside world than evidence of genuine pluralism in political life.

OUR VIEW

The CDDRT's view of the election is that it was an attempt to solve the growing crisis and struggle for democracy in Turkey by artificial means. By putting a formal democratic veneer on a profoundly repressive and anti-democratic regime.

Cosmetic operations do not remove real problems.

The lack of freedom for Turkey's workers, youth, and Kurdish people remains.

It is still a regime which puts trade unionists on trial for expressing political views, holds 15-20,000 political prisoners, practices torture, deports entire Kurdish villages and kills Kurds before asking questions makes most left-wing views illegal, denies workers and students unrestricted rights to organise.

In the western media and among politicians there has been much talk since 29th November that Turkey is "more or less" a democracy. We say this is not true, the outward show has improved but just below the surface lurks

the torturers, power-hungry generals and brutal state machine. The midnight knock on the door literally remains an ever-present reality for those who too openly criticise the status-quo in Turkey.

Real democracy will come to Turkey only through the struggle of the peoples of that country.

The CDDRT calls on all democrats internationally to step-up solidarity with the fight for a genuinely bright future for the peoples of Turkey.

END OF THE ROAD



Ecevit, is retiring (along with his wife) from politics, after accusing rival social democrats of being "CIA agents" and being crushed at the polls. The wily Demirel, has been outclassed by his old pupil, Ozal.



Inonu, leader of the SHP fought a surprisingly vigorous campaign which led ANAP to accuse the Social Democrats of 'treason' for saying Turkey would be "squeezed like a lemon" if ANAP stayed in power.

PARLIAMENTARY POLITICS



Candidate for candidature Parliamentary candidate Member of parliament

TORTURE, TRIALS AND PRISONS

ATTACK ON TAYAD



Plain clothes security police attempted to disperse members of TAYAD collecting signatures for a petition calling for freedom for all political prisoners.

The police took one woman, Naciye Simsek away because "she is not related to anyone in prison" and hence has no business collecting signatures for their release!

TAYAD members, under almost constant attack by the regime, are in the vanguard of the struggle to prevent the issue of the remaining 15,000-20,000 political prisoners in Turkey being drowned in silence.

The Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey calls on all concerned with human rights and democracy to send messages of support to TAYAD at:

Tiryaki Hasan Pasa Cd. NO.60
Toprakhan Kat:4
Aksaray/Istanbul
TURKEY
and/or

collect signatures on the petition prepared by the CDDRT calling for the same demands as TAYAD. Copies of the petition are available from the CDDRT address on page 11.

COMMEMORATION



Members of TAYAD (Association of Families of Prisoners and Detainees) held a simple ceremony at the graveside of Haydar Basbug, one of the political prisoners who died a martyr during the 1984 hunger strikes in Turkish prisons.

The ceremony was also to protest at the banning of a book about the 1984 hunger strikes called "Resistance, Death and Life".

TORTURE



Graphic descriptions of torture were heard in November during a trial of alleged members of the official Communist Party of Turkey before the Izmir State Security Court.

Seviye Kopru, a 45 year old nurse at a local hospital broke down in court and wept as she recounted the tortures she had been subjected to by police after her arrest on suspicion of belonging to a Communist Party cell.

The trial of the 13 defendants - mainly hospital personnel - is continuing.

"YOU WILL BE ANNIHILATED"

Alaeddin Duzgun, a council worker employed by the progressive Dikkele borough Council (Izmir) was approached by large gentlemen in civilian clothes who informed him they were from MIT (Turkish Intelligence Organisation).

They suggested to him that he should inform them of the political opinions of other Council workers and details of

organisations and individuals involved in a planned local community festival.

He was offered the choice of 'assisting' MIT and receiving a 'monetary reward' or refusing and being 'annihilated'. He was given time to think it over. Alaeddin Duzgun went straight to the district mayor and told him what had happened. Mr.Duzgun said "I am not involved in politics but as an ordinary member of the public I refuse to be an informer". He has since received several death threats.

WORKERS BEATEN - ONE KILLED

A group of bakery workers in Istanbul were savagely beaten by police at their workplace after their employer told police he suspected someone of stealing money from the bakery.

Later, one youth was taken away after "confessing". At the police station he was 'interrogated' further to see if he had stolen money to aid any 'subversive organisation'.

On the 11th November police announced the young worker, Ibrahim Ozturk, had died after "falling down stairs" at the police station.

IN DANGER



A group of students in Istanbul have been arrested on suspicion of supporting the PKK (Workers' Party of Kurdistan). They are in real danger of undergoing severe torture.



TAYAD members on trial in Istanbul for taking part in protests in support of prisoners.

TORTURE, TRIALS AND PRISONS

ARRESTS

Members of the Radical Party held a rally in Izmit to protest at chronic pollution of the Marmara Sea, Italian MEPs were present. They then attempted to send a 40,000-signature petition against industrial pollution to Ankara by bicycle - 15 people were arrested.



FAMILY ON TRIAL



Security police paraded before journalists an entire family suspected of being members of the pro-Kurdish TKPML (Partizan) organisation.

Huseyin Yilmaz and his son and

daughter had been sentenced in their absence by a Diyarbakir Military Court in 1982. Since then, they have been on the run. Finally captured this year, they face prison sentences of 2-6 years.

MASS TRIAL CONTINUING

Gendarmes cleared the public gallery of an Istanbul Military court as relatives shouted greetings to the 1203 defendants in the "Dev Sol No.2 Trial".

This huge trial has entered its fifth year. 1203 people are accused of various offences connected with being members of the leftist organisation Dev Sol (Revolutionary Left). The charges relate to events before the 1980 military coup.

Out of the 1203 accused, the Army Prosecutor is demanding death sentences for 580.



AYSEL REFUSED PERMISSION TO TRAVEL FOR TREATMENT

A young Turkish woman, Aysel Zehir, has spent 5 years of her life in prison, having been sentenced to 8 years imprisonment at the age of 18 for alleged political activities.

Whilst in prison she began a fast, which left her with brain-damage. Since her release, her parents have tried to find medical treatment for her serious condition. The government has consistently refused her permission to travel because she is on their list of 'suspected persons'.

At the age of 17, while Aysel attended the Uskudar Cumhuriyet College, she was arrested and tortured. In a medical report of August 1980, she was reported as having wounds on her arms, legs and neck. A police-officer from the political branch told a Turkish magazine that when Aysel refused to speak, she was tied up and put inside a bag with a wild cat.

Aysel was taken into custody again in 1981 after the trial of the Turkish Workers' and Peasants' Union (TIKB). Her

mother said of this period "She spent 2 years in Metris Prison. The political prisoners staged 3 hunger-strikes during this time. When I asked her why, she told me they were being tortured. I saw her on the 66th day of the hunger-strike and she looked like a corpse".

In August 1984, Aysel was released from prison. She was suffering from severe memory loss and could not remember close friends or events in her life.

Her parents are now still awaiting permission from the Turkish authorities for their daughter to be given a passport allowing her to travel for treatment.

Please write letters of protest to the Prime Minister of Turkey: Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, Basbakanlik, Ankara, Turkey. We would be grateful for copies of any letters sent or received about Aysel's case.

The CDDRT has organised a Political Prisoners' Campaign to bring attention to the continuing ill-treatment of prisoners in Turkey and to campaign for their release. If you are interested please write to the Political Prisoners' Campaign, c/o CDDRT.

KURDISTAN

WAR

Regular reports of armed clashes in the "East" (Kurdistan in Turkey) continue to appear in the Turkish press.

Despite attempts by successive Turkish regimes for the last 60 years to destroy the Kurdish national identity, resistance continues.

For years regimes in Turkey, backed by slavish 'academics' tried to claim that the Kurds did not exist that there were only 'mountain Turks'. Every effort was made to stamp out the Kurdish language and culture.

Anyone who spoke up for the national rights of the Kurdish people (some 9-10million of the population of Turkey) could expect long imprisonment, exile or death.

Today despite the unchanged official position of the regime ever-increasing circles in Turkey are talking and writing about the 'Kurdish question'.

A bloody war is being waged in Kurdistan.

As for the 8 and-a-half year period from the proclamation of martial law in 1979 up to now, according to official figures, 4,053 people died in armed confrontations and 59,701 were tried before the military tribunals in Turkish Kurdistan. In the same period, Kurdish militants have carried out 10,110 armed attacks, 6,790 sabotages and 1,288 demonstrations or protest actions without official permission.

The forces of the Turkish regime have rounded up entire villages, subjected male villagers to public beatings and humiliation. Other villages have been deported to 'safe areas' en masse.

TOUR GUIDE NARROWLY ESCAPES

Tourism can be a dangerous business in Kurdistan in Turkey.

This was discovered by Mr Michael Ceraminot, who was accompanying a French tour group. He found himself spending four months in a Turkish prison waiting to stand trial for promoting Armenian and Kurdish 'seperatism'. He had made the terrible mistake of referring to historical facts and pointing out various monuments of Armenian and Kurdish culture in the region. A Turkish guide denounced him to the police.

Fortunately pressure from the French government enabled Mr Ceraminot to eventually slip out of the country. He could have received 12 years in prison for his 'mistake'.

Writing in the *Financial Times*, David Barchard pointed out:



"Several other cases of this sort have occurred in Turkey in recent years. The Turkish authorities not only reject claims that there were government-backed massacres of Armenians during the First World War, but also that Armenian kingdoms or identifiable states ever existed at any point in history - a claim which conflicts with the facts of history as understood in the West.

Another Tourist guide, a German, was held for many months in Diyarbakir earlier this decade on similar charges, while the deputy manager of the Istanbul office of Lufthansa was put on trial for possessing a globe on which Armenia and Kurdistan were marked.

A trial of the Turkish language edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica is currently approaching its final stages. The Encyclopaedia was accused of weakening national sentiment by stating that various Turkish towns were under Armenian rule in the Middle Ages."



The 'Super Governor' of Turkish Kurdistan presents pro-regime militiamen with winter jackets - a gift from the state-owned Sumer Bank.

ORDER TO "CAPTURE AND KILL"

Umit Zileli, who did his military service as a junior officer in the Dersim (new name Tunceli) area of Turkish Kurdistan, disclosed to the Turkish weekly magazine *2,000'e dogru* that he had been issued with written orders relating to the capture and killing of kurdish guerrillas.

As Social Democratic member of parliament and important opposition figure Aydin Guven Gurkin pointed out "such orders inevitably lead to innocents being killed as "suspected terrorists. Such incidents can then be declared accidents".

The order Umit Zileli received :

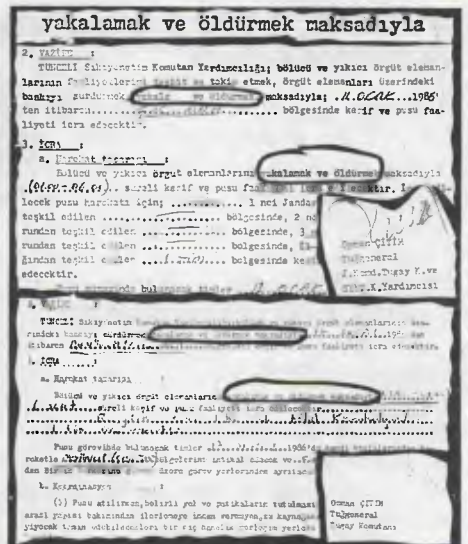
Duty : Tunceli Martial Law Command

Reconnaissance and ambush operations will be carried out in the Akynlu (Cantur) area from 17th February onwards with the purpose of keeping up the pressure on members of separatist groups and capturing and killing them.

(a) Proposed operation:

Activity

Between 1 and 7 am reconnaissance and ambush operations will be carried out for the purpose of capturing and killing members of separatist groups.



Continued on page 12

APPEAL

The Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights has been organising solidarity with the democratic struggle in Turkey for 9 years.

Staging events, sending delegations to Turkey, assisting visits from Turkey, producing publications and other materials. All this work has been kept-up by CDDRT relying purely on affiliation fees, Newsletter sales and donations - largely from the London Turkish community.

All the work of CDDRT is done by a small band of unpaid volunteers.

Today in order to expand our existing work and send an important delegation to visit political prisoners in Turkey we need money.

We therefore appeal to all our friends and affiliates to either give a donation to CDDRT or get an organisation or individual to affiliate to CDDRT.

All donations large or small will be welcomed.

Yours in solidarity

John Bloom

Honorary Treasurer

All donations should be addressed to "1987 APPEAL", CDDRT, 84 Balls Pond Road, London N1 4AJ.

Cheques/POs should be made payable to CDDRT.

I/We wish to donate to the CDDRT's "1987 APPEAL". Please find enclosed cheque or PO for

Name

Address

CONGRESS

At the 4th Biennial Congress of the Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey in March 1987, it was resolved, that in view of the rapidly changing situation in Turkey, the CDDRT should in future hold an annual congress or AGM. The 1988 Congress (AGM) will take place on Saturday, 26th March 1988, at the Meeting Hall of the Union of Turkish Workers, 1st Floor, 84 Balls Pond Road, London N1.

The Congress will begin at 11am and end at 5pm to be followed by a social at the same premises.

All individual members of the CDDRT and delegates from the affiliated organisations can attend, submit resolutions and nominations, vote and be elected. Visitors are also welcome.

Resolutions should reach the CDDRT's office not later than two weeks before the Congress.

During the Congress there will be guest speakers, videos, literature and craft stalls.

I/We* wish to apply for delegate's credentials/visitors tickets* for the CDDRT 5th Congress. (£1 per credential or ticket). Please find enclosed £ for credentials/visitors tickets.

Name

Address

.....

*Delete which does not apply.

Return to: CDDRT 84 Balls Pond Road, London N1 4AJ.

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

BRITAIN 84 Balls Pond Road, London N1 4AJ

FRANCE 7 Rue Leclerc, 75014 Paris

IRELAND 9 Cavendish Row, Dublin 1

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

WEST c/o Internationaler

GERMANY Jugendverein, Germaniastr. 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 CDDRT, 84 Balls Pond Road, London N1 4AJ, Tel: 01-254 0387.

Subscribe to **TURKEY NEWSLETTER**

Subscription rates are:

Britain & Ireland £3.00pa

Europe & Mideast £4.00pa

Rest of World £7.00pa

Bulk rates per issue:

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, 84 Balls Pond Road, London N1 4AJ.

KURDISTAN

GAP

GAP (South East Anatolia Project), is being used to develop 'Turkish' Kurdistan as an economically exploitable area.

GAP's irrigation schemes are creating more arable land This is to be given to settlers. The fact that a group of farm and 'other' experts from Israel recently visited the area should therefore come as no surprise. Israel is offering to help the Turkish regime in relation to GAP. The project plays a similar role to Israeli settlement schemes on the West Bank and the Golan Heights. GAP too is intended to transform the ethnic composition of South Anatolia and make it irrevocably 'Turkish'.

An example of this are the 'conditions' those wishing to get a farm in the newly irrigated areas will have to meet. The settler "must be literate (ie be able to read and write Turkish), must be a male 'head of household' with a family, must not be handicapped, must be under 65 years old. *must not have been involved in crimes against the state*".



JAMES BONDS ON THE CHEAP

A section of MIT (Turkish National Intelligence Organisation) has written a new circular to all government departments. From now on all civil servants being sent abroad, for more than 3 days *must* first receive a briefing from MIT.

The briefing consists of two parts - firstly how to 'gather information' about the country they are visiting - the second section deals with spying on exiles from Turkey and their foreign supporters.

On their return to Turkey, the luckless civil servants must give a report according to a standard format to MIT.

In foreign countries the civil servants should strive to find details of "scientific and technological advances, transport, communications, economic and social conditions" then it gets really serious - the visitors should note "military installations" even in friendly countries and

"take photos" of them if possible. If it is a coastal country they should "note shores which are good for landings ... with photos if possible."

When abroad, civil servants should note people from Turkey engaged in "subversive and separatist (Kurds) activity" against the regime.

They should find the names and addresses plus descriptions "of those Turkish or foreigners who have sympathy with subversive or separatist organisations" - so, CDDRT members watch out!

The amateur James Bonds should also take note of "Turkish nationals working in the media of the host countries - their addresses and their views." Note should also be taken of "those Turkish citizens who are members of foreign leftist, divisive, or rightist organisations".

Of special interest for CDDRT supporters, the civil servants should get

all the details they can on "Turkish and foreign people who are active against the Turkish State - especially in organisations for that end set-up *jointly by Turks and foreigners*".

The sleuths should note also what demonstrations and actions such organisations hold - how many people attend etc ...

MORE ...

Not only does MIT intend to draw civil servants into their sinister work abroad, at home also, civil servants have a "task". Every civil servant who meets foreigners -abroad or in Turkey will have to fill in a "Contact With Foreigners Form" in this the officials should list all details of the foreigners including "professional capabilities, hobbies/interests, views about Turkey, sexual inclinations."



84 Balls Pond Road
London N1 4AJ, England