

TURKEY NEWSLETTER

Publication of the Committee for Defence
of Democratic Rights in Turkey

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EVREN, ARCHITECT OF THE 1980 COUP TO VISIT BRITAIN

**EVREN, THE PEOPLE WILL
MAKE
YOU
PAY FOR
YOUR
CRIMES!**



CONTENTS INCLUDE:

"Welcome to Turkey" - an alternative view, Attempt to assassinate Ozal, May Day clashes, Cyprus, Mass trials and torture, Kurdistan, Dirty business - Turkey and South Africa.

WELCOME TO TURKEY!

Dogu Perincek editor of the influential Turkish newsweekly *iki Bin'e Dogru* wrote an article for the English language *Turkish Daily News* on the occasion of the International Press Institute's Congress in Istanbul in May.

With the tourist season once again upon us we publish most of Perincek's article below as a reminder of what lies behind the glossy tourist brochures on Turkey.

During the multivision show that preceded the opening of the IPI Congress in Istanbul, a foreign delegate was heard to mutter, "Could I possibly be at a symposium on tourism?"

For indeed, was Turkey, then, nothing but the sun and the sea, historical ruins and belly dancing, "fish, flesh, fowl," stuffed vegetables. Did she have nothing to show visitors but magnificent amphitheatres, Ionian sculptures and Hittite bas-reliefs, mosques, door handles and ancient helmets? What of our other glories - our guillotines that strike down creative thought, millstones that grind our own citizens to dust, our mallets under which the cultural riches of diverse nationalities lie flattened? And these are not relics on show in medieval castles turned into museums either; they are very much alive and kicking, they are a fact of our daily life, they are still fully operational.

In order to pay a debt of truth before they leave our country, here are a few additional "welcomes to Turkey" in the same stylistic vein as the official rhetoric...

Welcome to the country where the courts have just recently ordered the confiscation and destruction of Henry Miller's *Tropic of Capricorn*. (Welcome to Turkey, kissed by the sun!)

Welcome to the country where none other than the Ministry of Culture decided, a few years ago, that all copies of the collection of David Hume's celebrated essays *On Religion* should be recycled as paper-paste on the grounds that they were an outrage on our "national culture". (Welcome to Turkey, land of no wastage, a savings paradise!)

Welcome to the country whose prisons are currently inhabited by no less than 25 editors, all sentenced not on grounds of terrorist activity but purely for so-called "press crimes", one among them up to a total of 702 years in exchange for articles he wrote and published. (Welcome to Turkey, the best preserved sample of the Stone Age!)

Welcome to the country of martial law edicts to destroy fully 109 movies made by Yilmaz Guney, the pride of

Turkish cinema on world screens - an order carried out so thoroughly that of many of these works of art, not a single copy is left. (Welcome to Turkey, where street vandalism is non-existent!)

Welcome to the country where laws passed by the last military regime make it possible to confiscate newspapers and periodicals before they have left the printshop, and where the newsweekly *Towards 2000* was subjected to this practice last year for...publishing the full text of a press conference held by Ataturk himself in January 1923. (Welcome to Turkey, a modern republic that did away with censorship decades ago!)

Welcome to the country where martial law commanders may send special detachments on "catch and kill" missions, thereby empowering them to execute citizens without trial, and where publication of documentary proof of such orders does not cause any authority to bat an eye. (Welcome to Turkey, land of cheap labour...and cheap human life!)

Welcome to the country that has discovered a new, very widespread use for electricity - not just for lighting up its towns, but also for making tens of thousands of suspects "talk". (Welcome to Turkey, on the verge of the last stage of the scientific-technical revolution!)

Welcome to the country whose prime minister may announce from the rostrum of the IPI Congress that "it is impossible to prove the existence of torture in Turkey" while sitting in the same hall are many people, citizens of the same country, who have themselves personally undergone and witnessed torture. (Welcome to Turkey, land of the brave and the very brave, land of cool politicians!)

Welcome to the country where a part of the people are subjected to injustices

and considered to warrant "keeping a careful eye on" simply because they are Kurds. (Welcome to Turkey, where no national discrimination may be mentioned because such a thing simply does not exist!)

Welcome to the country which just last month saw fit to exercise censorship on the foreign movies taking part in an international film festival held in its largest metropolis. (Welcome to Turkey, where all the arts flourish!)

Welcome to the country where the Constitution prepared by the recent military regime allows for compulsory religious education in schools, thereby trampling on the freedom of conscience and promoting fanaticism as a future barrier against the progress of democratization. (Welcome to Turkey, a secular state, God willing!)

Welcome to the country where last autumn's constitutional referendum provided the spectacle of a prime minister campaigning against blue ballots on the grounds that "blue is the colour of the Greek flag", and where he saw fit to say of his political rivals, being chased by the police on his orders, that they were "running away like Greeks". (Welcome to Turkey, land where bigotry has long been replaced by national tolerance!)

Welcome to the country where the real wage index, 100 in 1980, the year of military intervention, now stands at 53. (Welcome to Turkey's economic miracles!)

Welcome to the country of firm parliamentary traditions and convictions, where barely a week ago the president declared firmly and publicly that "a new military coup might be undertaken if necessary". (Welcome to Turkey where European democracy is now very solid indeed!)

Welcome, finally, to the country that has from time immemorial possessed human resources capable of speaking the truth when it really matters, and whose moral wealth of resisting injustice is inexhaustible.



"What happened? The police found a pen in his pocket"

MAY DAY CLASHES

"We will find out those who want to celebrate May Day and arrest them".- Director of Security, General Sabahattin Cakmakoglu.

As has been the case for 8-9 years, demonstrations to celebrate May Day - the international workers' day - remain banned in Turkey.

Attempts by a group of trade unions to hold a May Day rally were banned by the regime.

However, despite the regime's precautions, May Day did not go unmarked. In Istanbul, Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) MPs walked to Taksim Square (the scene of the historic May Day rallies of the 1970s) to lay a wreath. They were joined by several thousand people. The MPs, protected by parliamentary immunity were allowed to proceed but about 2,000 people who attempted to accompany them were blocked by riot police and attacked. At the same time several thousand more workers and students began marching up the main street leading to the square from another direction but were blocked by riot police. Attempts to arrest protestors were violently resisted and running fights developed in the streets around the square. 85 people were finally arrested. Meanwhile other protestors made their way to a cemetery to hold a meeting by the grave of a worker killed during the 1977 May Day demonstration.



In a separate action, a gunbattle broke out in the gecekondu (shanty town) district of Okmeydani when police attempted to storm a suspected Dev Sol (Revolutionary Left) "safe house". Two suspected militants were killed.



In the big coastal city of Izmir 11 people were detained after police had launched a brutal attack on workers and students seeking to celebrate May Day. The local Mayor Ozfatura claimed he would not allow a return to pre 1980 coup May Day celebrations "when a few tramps made shopkeepers close their shops on May 1st" and pledged to "eliminate communist ideas" among Izmir's inhabitants.

SUICIDE



On June 1st policeman Ali Aktepe shot himself in front of a large crowd after complaining about being unable to feed his family on his wages and the attitudes of his superior officers.

BOMB BLASTS

In April, May and June a series of bomb blasts - most claimed by some revolutionary organisations - shook Istanbul. Many took the form of booby-trapped banners carrying slogans. The most serious on 15th June cost the life of a caretaker who was trying to remove it. The bomb was claimed by the previously unknown 15th June Resistance Organisation (presumably named after the June 1972 demonstrations in which 5 workers died).

On the same day Dev Sol (Revolutionary Left) fixed a bomb-banner in Istanbul University commemorating 4 political prisoners who died on hunger strike in 1984.

GREEN PARTY FORMED

A Green Party established by a group of well-known academics, artists and environmentalists has been finally granted legal status in Turkey.

The new party is pledged to fight the growing threat to the natural environment in Turkey also the destruction of historical sites and the rapidly developing pollution problem. Leaders of the Greens also pledged to fight "political pollution" which is responsible for many of the environmental problems.

POWER STRUGGLE IN THE SHP

Turkey's Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) has been rocked by a struggle between left and right factions in the build up to the party's congress at the end of June. The atmosphere became hot when the right faction went to court and got the elections of delegates from the SHP's Istanbul district (the biggest and most left wing) declared void. This means Istanbul members are unlikely to be represented at the party congress. This will be a big blow to the left who are the largest single faction.



A "friendly" discussion among SHP MPs.

WOMEN

Feminists connected to the newly formed Green Party in Turkey have established the first Advice and Solidarity Centre for women. Later they plan to open Turkey's first refuge for battered women.

NEWS IN BRIEF

THREE KILLED

The divisions in the Turkish establishment over how to avert the growing crisis of which the recent leaking of intelligence documents and fist fights in parliament are signs has reached a new and more bloody stage.

On the eve of vital elections to the powerful TOBB the Turkish Union of Chambers of Commerce and Trade, the president of the influential Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, N.Adiguzel, a rightist journalist Mevlut Isik and the Ankara chair of defunct Nationalist Democracy Party D.Celik were gunned-down while chatting in the lobby of the Ankara Grand Hotel. The killer, a lawyer also associated with the right in Turkish politics Karsat Ozkan then shouted "I have killed three of the jackals" and then shot himself dead.

All those who died were believed to be associated with factions of the ruling ANAP Party.

ATTEMPT ON OZAL'S LIFE



Another sign of a deep crisis within "ruling circles" in Turkey was shown when something other than polemics occurred at the congress of the ruling Motherland Party (ANAP) on June 19th. A gunman attempted to shoot Prime Minister Turgut Ozal. The gunman was identified as Demirag, an escaped convict and former leading member of the notorious "Grey Wolves" of the fascist Nationalist Action Party.

Ozal recieved a slight thumb wound and over 20 people were wounded when Ozal's guards and some armed delegates returned the fire indiscriminately.

The attack is thought to be the reflection of a power struggle by extreme rightists and religious fanatics both inside and outside ANAP to gain control

of the party.

In the elections to higher party bodies on June 21st, the reactionary religious fundamentalists strengthened their position in ANAP.

A journalist who attempted to report a statement made by Demirag has been detained and faces charges carrying a long prison sentence. The feeling is that the authorities hope to discourage anyone from prying too deeply into the background to the incident.

PRESSURE ON THE PRESS

Over the past six months, the Turkish government has been seeking legislative changes which would enable it to put continued pressure on the press. Fines of up to millions of dollars have been meted out to newspapers, magazines and books under legislation introduced four years ago concerning "the protection of minors against indecent publications".

Now a new bill has been sent to Parliament, concerning "the protection of individual rights and freedoms", which in effect amounts to a fresh attempt at censorship.

After determined opposition from the Turkish Journalists' Union (TGS) - an IFJ affiliate - and other press organisations, the government intially gave the impression that it was going to withdraw the bill. But the move was followed by an even harsher approach against the press. The bill is now being reviewed by the

Legal Commission of Parliament.

While these developments took place, a new attempt was made to introduce changes to the regulations concerning the Commission in charge of issuing press cards, which has so far been working in a democratic manner. New legislation now being prepared by the Ministry aims at abolishing the Commission, in which the TGS plays an effective role. Meeting on the initiative of the TGS, all organisations represented on the Commission issued a joint statement, condemning the government's attempt.

Aoother development which shocked the press was Prime Minister Ozal's announcement of a 40% to 60% increase in the price of newsprint. The production of newsprint being a State monopoly in Turkey, the latest government measure was heavily criticised both by the press and the opposition parties as a move geared towards keeping the press under the economic control of the government.

From *Direct Line*, journal of the International Federation of Journalists.

In a very "sensitive" statement Minister Abdullah Tenekeci, replying to complaints about massive price increases which mean workers on the minimum wage cannot afford meat said: *We shall continue to make these rises as long as conditions require them. Those citizens who do not accept the price rises can just leave the country*".



A "democratic" regime. The Turkish prime minister's wife, Semra Ozal, toured some villages in May and June. At the village of Eymir the Muhtar (headman) asked Mrs Ozal about when the government was going to give some facilities to his village. He was promptly struck across the face by a paramilitary gendarme commander for his "insolence" in daring to speak to the "First Lady". Mrs Ozal, afraid of hearing other things she did not like hurriedly got back in her expensive limo.

CYPRUS - THE TRAGEDY CONTINUES

As the anniversary of the 1974 July invasion of Cyprus approaches. The Turkish regime, despite a flurry of speculation after the Davos talks with Greece, looks determined to hang on to its colony in North Cyprus.

Last year the Denktash administration in North Cyprus and their masters in Ankara heaped praise on UN Secretary General De Cuellar's initiative to resolve the Cyprus problem. At that time it appeared advantageous to them. Today, the story is different.

De Cuellar has prepared a report on Cyprus to be published in June. This among other things calls for Turkey to withdraw the main stumbling block to a settlement - its estimated 36,000 troops from Cyprus as a confidence building measure.

The reaction of the regime has been quite predictable. The Turkish Foreign Minister reacted by calling the report "incomplete" while self-styled North Cyprus Foreign Minister Atakol called De Cuellar "ignorant".

Ex-junta boss and president of Turkey Evren went one further and pledged there would "never" be a Turkish troop withdrawal.

Despite these reactions De Cuellar has managed to persuade the Turkish and Greek Cypriot leaderships to meet in July.

Denktash is still frightened that he and his administration might be thrown in the dustbin by the Ankara regime if Turkey can get something worthwhile from Greece in exchange. This may be the reason for the hysterical reaction to a series of clashes with the UN Peace-keeping force on the island. These included a clash when a Turkish army deserter attacked the home of a Greek Cypriot policeman in the demilitarised zone between the two parts of Cyprus. The deserter and a Cypriot National Guardsman died during the ensuing gunbattle. Immediately the Turkish propaganda machine turned the deserter from their own army into a hero treacherously slain!

In another incident a Turkish Cypriot died after attacking Austrian peace-keeping troops and his relatives launched an attack on a UN post in revenge. Denktash immediately mounted a "Greindle (Commander of the UN troops) must go" campaign.



Hate campaign by the Turkish Cypriot administration against UN commander Greindl.

DISULLUSIONED

The Turkish administration in North Cyprus remains a puppet of the Ankara government. The north is a colony in all but name.

However, as we have reported before, people in the north, despite the propaganda, find it more difficult to parrot the official slogan; "How happy is the one who says, 'I'm a Turk'". The North Cyprus currency tied to the Turkish Lira is suffering the same fate of rapid devaluation. Inflation is rampant. The Turkish Cypriot manual worker earns less than half that of his/her Greek counterpart. There is widespread resentment at the presence of settlers from Turkey.

The Turkish settlers themselves are not so happy. Interviewed in the Turkish press, one, 30-year old Orhan Ozbayrak said: "They (the Turkish government) said it would be better than life in Turkey. They said they would provide land and a house. I have been here for 13 years. I spent 2 million lira on a house. Help comes here from Turkey and is lost here". A Laz construction worker said he had even thought of going back to Turkey. "But what is surprising to me is that 50% of the Turkish Cypriots feel that the Turks from the mainland have not adapted to Cyprus. The population is very cold to the people from Turkey. The Turkish government sent us here but we feel very lonely." A taxi driver who had come from Turkey said "The Turkish Cypriots call us Karasakal (Blackbeard) but it is something the Turkish people don't understand."

EUROPE AND THE CYPRUS QUESTION

On May 20th, the European Parliament reiterated its stand on the Turkish invasion of Cyprus and condemning moves by the regime in the north to permanently alter the ethnic and cultural identity of the region.

ATHENS VISIT

The visit of Turkish Prime minister Ozal to Athens in early June was the first by a Turkish prime minister to Greece for 36 years. The main purpose of the trip was to enable Ozal and Papandreou to consolidate the "detente" between the two countries begun at Davos earlier this year (see *Turkey Newsletter No.81*).

However, despite the bland statements the happy atmosphere was only preserved by once again avoiding dwelling too much on the main disputes between Greece and Turkey; ie, Cyprus and the Aegean territorial dispute. These were once again relegated to shadowy committees of experts to discuss later.

Ozal was greeted on his arrival by big demonstrations by Turkish exiles from the 1980 coup and also Kurds and Armenians -highlighting the regime's genocidal policies towards other nations within Turkish state boundaries. Also protesting were Cypriot women campaigning on the question of the estimated 1,619 "missing persons" - Greek Cypriots who "disappeared" after the 1974 invasion of Cyprus by the Turkish army.

Ozal's response to the question of missing persons was to blandly state that there were no *living* Greek Cypriots being held by Turkey.

When asked about Greece's position of blocking a full normalisation of Turkish-EEC relations until the Cyprus question is solved, Ozal implied Turkey could drop its application to join the EEC if conditions were attached. However this is generally felt to be a bluff just like the periodic threats to leave NATO for the same reason.



A hot welcome for Ozal in Greece.



TRADE UNION NEWS

ILO ON TURKEY

Facing pressure from trade unions at home and abroad and afraid of being put on the ILO's blacklist (which would affect its relations with Europe), the Turkish regime has begun to alter its repressive labour laws.

Minister of Labour Aykut claimed that the changes would bring labour peace. 165,000 more workers are to get the right to strike, students and religious officials will be permitted to join trade unions, union officials will be allowed to keep their posts for 4 more terms of office, statements by trade unions on social and economic matters will no longer be illegal, the number official pickets in a strike will be raised from 3 to 4. However, most petro chemical workers will still be forbidden from striking, strikes for solidarity or sympathy and to demand labour rights will still be banned.

At the ILO (International Labour Organisation) meeting in June it was decided not to put Turkey on the blacklist of countries which violate workers' rights. The decision only came after a 2-hour debate in which ILO Workers' Section head Jeff Houthys proposed that Turkey should be black-listed on the ground that it had not fulfilled its obligations to the ILO. This was opposed by the Employers' Section leader, Alfred Wisskirchen. In the end the ILO Applications Committee Chair ruled that Turkey's labour laws now conformed to ILO standards but instructed the Turkish government to apply all provisions.

Turk-Is (Turkish Trade Union Confederation) president, Sevket Yilmaz criticised the decision saying: "The speakers said that amendments made in the Trade Union Laws and the law on collective bargaining agreements, strikes and lockouts were not in accord with ILO standards...The government exaggerated the changes made in the labour laws".

In a separate statement Sevket Yilmaz strongly attacked Francis Blanchard Director General of the ILO who is reported as saying that there were no more labour rights problems in Turkey. Yilmaz stated that this "does not reflect the real situation in Turkey" and that Blanchard's statement was made "for political reasons". He then claimed that an ILO report to be prepared by experts later would give a truer picture of the situation.

The Turkish employers organisation, TISK leader Atasayer launched a violent attack on Yilmaz for trying to put

Turkey on the blacklist: "I cannot accept Turk-Is' defending the defunct DISK (Revolutionary Confederation of Trade Unions, suppressed after the 1980 coup)...Also, defending the effort to allow civil servants to establish trade unions is against Turkey's interests".

THE LAW ON CIVIL SERVANTS

"If three or more public servants or public employees who have no workers' status, in accordance with a decision or alliance they had previously made, abandon their offices or do not accomplish their duties entirely or partly, even if temporarily, or slow down their work, they shall be imprisoned for four months to one year and shall be fined 2000TL to 10000TL and they shall be permanently or temporarily disqualified from holding public office".

Turkish Penal Code as ammended in 1981.

MUNICIPAL WORKERS TAKE ACTION



Some 30,000 members of the municipal workers union -Belediye-Is are taking action following a breakdown in negotiations with local authorities throughout Turkey. Banned from taking strike action the workers are finding other actions just as effective.

Tourists in Istanbul may notice a smell this summer as refuse workers work to rule of "forget" to pick up garbage.

In Izmir, Belediye-Is Chair Huseyin Pala told reporters that his 6,500 members would go slow, wear black clothes, attend a rally in Ankara and start to report for medical check-up en-masse during working hours.

Thousands of municipal truck drivers have shaven their heads convict-style as a visible protest against restrictions on their right to strike.

WORKERS PROTEST

Members of the food workers union Oz Gida-Is, which is affiliated to Hak-Is (the

small, Islamic-leaning trade union centre), staged an angry demonstration at the Turgag plant in Izmir when union officials arrived to inform them that their planned strike was cancelled. The employers had offered a 60% wage increase (small when taking inflation into account) which the union had accepted.

When the union official announced the new deal, workers shouted "you sold us out", "Forget agreements" and "Forward to strike". Angry workers also damaged the official's car.

REFINERY WORKERS TAKE ACTION



10,000 members of the petro-chemical workers' union - Petrol-Is took part in a "passive strike" beginning on May 30th and lasting 20 days. The strike was at the Tupras refinery.

Refinery workers are forbidden by law to take strike action so the workers staged a series of actions which disrupted production without technically being a strike. They staged a series of lunch boycotts, go-slows and work time meetings.

The workers were protesting at low wages and the inclusion of petroleum workers in the sector where strikes are banned.

At the same time workers employed by Shell began a go-slow which caused an acute fuel shortage in Turkey.

The actions have ended for the time being following an improved pay offer from the employers.

ROUGH RIDE



State Minister Pakdemirli had a nasty surprise when he visited the Istinnye shipyards on 14th June. Angry workers surrounded him shouting "we are hungry", "we have no bread".

PROBLEMS IN TURK-IS

Bitter struggles within the leadership of Turk-Is have delayed further stages in the Turk-Is action programme which is aimed at staging a general strike if trade union rights are not fully established. After the successful March midday food boycott (see *Turkey Newsletter No.81*) and rallies in April, the next stage was to have been a massive rally in Istanbul in May and a one day general work stoppage.

The first indication of trouble was a summit between Turk-Is and the government over public sector pay rises. Over the heads of many trade unions a deal was reached which gave the workers less than was possible.

Munir Caylan, leader of Petrol-Is one of the largest unions said: "Our approach to the agreement is of course negative. It is impossible for us to approve... This agreement contradicts our decision to take action. Our target is to eliminate the state authority over employers and workers in the public sector's collective bargaining... and to eliminate restrictions in the Constitution and labour laws."

Turk-Is' decision to postpone 30 provincial rallies evoked a storm of protest from union branch and district organisations.

Turk-Is' May rally in Istanbul was postponed while parliament debated changes to the labour laws. Finally when Turk-Is announced its intention to hold it on May 28th the regime banned it under the "State of Emergency" which is still in force in Istanbul.

ARRESTS



Six trade unionists were arrested on June 23rd as they tried to stage a protest march along Adapazari-Izmit highway. They were leading members of several Turk-Is affiliated trade union who were demanding that Turk-Is implement its postponed plan of action against the regime.

Police said that "investigations" were continuing against the detained trade unionists.

TURK-IS ON TRIAL AGAIN

On June 23rd the trial opened of the executive of Turk-Is (Turkish TU Confederation) before the Ankara Criminal Court. They are accused of illegal political activities during the 1987 referendum on restoring political rights to banned politicians. This consisted in issuing a pamphlet calling for a yes vote.

The State Prosecutor is calling for 6 months jail sentences for Turk-Is administrators.



On June 24th, a strike began at the Turkish Mint. The workers print the money but they are not given enough to feed their children. The strike has been called by the Turk-Is affiliated print workers' union *Basin-Is*.

NO JOY

The burden of life in the "economic miracle" of Turkey was illustrated in June when the parents of triplets were interviewed by the press.

Mustafa Demir, a construction worker and already the father of five commented: "It was rather hard to make ends meet when we were seven. I don't know what I am going to do with 10. I have to create miracles with an income of TL80,000 (L60 per month)". His wife Meliha Demir expressed her regret over this sudden increase in the family saying: "We don't have a regular income. I don't know what to say. I've become a mother of eight children at a very early age. I will not give birth to any more children."

1500 STRIKE



1500 workers employed by the state Soil Products Office, members of the shop and office workers union Tez-Koop Is began a strike on 17th June.

RECORD NUMBER OF STRIKES

The authorities admitted that there were 26,000 workers currently on strike on May 27th. Most belonged to Turk-Is affiliated trade unions.

CLASS GENOCIDE

According to recent government statistics in Turkey, on average every workday, 500 work accidents take place, 4 workers die and 9 are permanently crippled.



The high price of the regime's Laissez faire economics: Factory worker Ali Osman and son. The father is in hospital dying of a disease contracted as a result of bad work conditions. His son now employed at the same factory has contracted the same illness.

A MURDERER VISITS BRITAIN



Evren, the architect of the 12th September 1980 coup -one of the blackest times in Turkish history is visiting Britain as an official guest of the Queen.

Relations between Turkey and Britain are going through a very warm patch.

Earlier this year British PM Margaret Thatcher visited Turkey. Now Evren is coming to Britain. This will be the first country in Western Europe to invite this unpleasant man.

The reasons for all this friendship are clear; the British government want the juicy infrastructural and armaments contracts which the Turkish regime is putting out to tender. They also want to keep Turkey -with NATO's second largest army-firmly within the alliance. The Turkish regime, on the other hand needs Britain's support in its bid to join the EEC.

It is on this shabby basis of squalid deals with a second class, decaying, anti-democratic regime that the British Government is prepared to host a man who most European governments would find an embarrassment.

While in Britain, besides being foisted upon the Queen, Evren will visit Cambridge where he will see the university's famous library among other things. As head of a government which considers even the *Encyclopedia Britannica* a subversive publication his main interest in the library can only be to calculate how long it would take to burn its contents.

Also while in Cambridge Evren will dine with the University's Vice Chancellor. Evren will no doubt be able to tell his host many amusing stories about how he abolished the autonomy of Turkey's universities, had professors arrested, students tortured and put army officers in charge of education.

PROTEST AT EVREN'S VISIT

However, Evren is not going to have the quiet visit his hosts hope for.

A campaign of protest has begun.

All the progressive Turkish and Kurdish organisations in Britain have come together to form an Organising Committee to Prevent Evren's visit to the UK.

Already the committee has been able to get the sponsorship of a wide range of personalities and organisations.

On Saturday, 25th June, the Committee organised a rally in Shoreditch Town Hall attended by over 1,000 people and addressed by speakers such as Jeremy Corbyn MP and Alf Lomas MEP.

The Organising Committee has also organised a petition campaign and a demonstration on Saturday, 2nd July. Starting at 2pm at "The Reformers' Tree", Hyde Park

Corner and proceeding to Downing Street. The CDDRT urges all friends and supporters to attend this demonstration.

Further information on the plans of the Organising Committee can be obtained from the CDDRT office or directly from the committee at Liberty Hall, 489 Kingsland Road, London E8. Tel:01-249 6930.

The Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights in Turkey also calls for individuals and organisations to let the British government know of their disgust at this visit by writing letters of protest to The Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street London SW1.



How Evren sees himself - a new sculpture in front of the War School in Ankara - its artistic merit may be dubious, but its message is clear. It shows Evren backed by his army buddies as the guardians of Ataturk's legacy.



Evren reveals his true self in his coup speech on the eve of May Day. (From Milliyet).

RECORD OF A BUTCHER

Evren today likes to pose as the "father of the nation" even to the point of dressing-up to look like Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey. He likes to indulge in well-publicised "surprise visits" or "raids" official institutions and berate officials for not doing their jobs. This image of the stern soldier-father is somewhat undermined by his rumored fondness for fast cars and high living.

All these however are not the things for which this Korean war veteran will be remembered by the people of Turkey. It is his reign of terror from 1980 to 1984 and his continuing threats of anti-democratic action which will stick in the mind.

Let us look at Evren's record:

* Evren as commander of the Turkish army led a coup on 12th September 1980, overthrowing the civilian government, closing parliament, banning all political parties, suppressing trade unions and as head of a military junta tried to build a monolithic, fascist state in Turkey.

* Under Evren, 500,000 people were detained, often for years, or sent before military courts.

* According to such bodies as Amnesty International, at least 100,000 detainees have been subjected to systematic torture during interrogation.

* 50 people have been officially executed by hanging.

* 400 people are today awaiting ratification of their death sentences by the Turkish parliament (Grand National Assembly).

* At least 253 detainees have died under torture, "disappeared" or been "shot while trying to escape".

* 27 journalists are serving a total of 3,000 years imprisonment for articles they have written.

* Thousands of books and publications have been burnt or pulped as "subversive".

* Over 5,000 teachers and 900 university professors have been sacked on political grounds and teachers' and student unions suppressed.

* Since 1980 over 14,000 students have been sentenced by courts for political offences.

* Evren denies the existence of the Kurdish people on the territory of Turkey and the Turkish army is waging war on the Kurds costing over 3,000 lives so far.

* There are over 15,000 political prisoners in Turkey.

* Evren masterminded the 1982 Constitution of Turkey -the most repressive in Western Europe. Apart from draconian restrictions on trade unions and workers' organisations, he even wrote in articles making it a *criminal offence* to criticise the President of Turkey (himself) in speeches or the press!

* Evren transformed himself from military dictator to president and foisted his Constitution on the country by a phoney referendum in 1983. There was no alternative candidate, the polling stations were controlled by the army and see-through ballot papers were used.

EVREN DOES NOT CHANGE HIS SPOTS!

Any fool under the illusion that Evren has since 1983 become a late convert to democracy must now realise the truth that this tyrant still hankers for the loathsome regimented society he tried to impose on Turkey after the 1980 coup.

On May 1st this year, Evren took the opportunity of a speech in the Black Sea city of Trabzon not only to defend continuing bans on the celebration of May Day but to accuse people of trying to "drag Turkey back" into the period of

"anarchy" before the 12th September coup. He defended that coup which was the worst period of state terror in modern Turkish history and warned that if the situation warranted it he will do the same again. Referring to the pre 1980 period when the working class and progressive youth of Turkey were fighting to establish a real democracy in Turkey and against fascist terror gangs, (surrptitiously backed by Evren and his friends), Evren warned: "If Turkey faces the same situation again, it will be the Armed Forces who will oppose it." He warned that the army will return if the people of Turkey don't behave themselves." This is all the more sinister when it is borne in mind that as president Evren is Commander in Chief of those same armed forces.

A belief that military force is the bedrock of democracy is strange indeed!

Confronted with a storm of protest from public opinion and members of parliament in Turkey over his remarks, Evren defended his statements on May 2nd. In addition, he defended the actions of his corrupt Presidential Council - which is the old 1980-1983 Junta by another name. This body has come under fire from politicians for its privileged position in the state apparatus and the threat it poses to any elected civilian government. Evren replied to this by stating that no one should be allowed to question the Presidential Council's functions and "no one has the right to demand their resignation". So much for parliament's freedom to criticise.

The legal opposition parties and the press were united in their condemnation of Evren's remarks, (though the press in particular has to be careful not to criticise the president as such).

Demirel, leader of the conservative True Path Party (DYP) and the prime minister who was toppled by Evren in the 1980 coup, stated: "The president has declared Turkey to be a country of coups"... "I am very dismayed... The nation does not expect the president to say "Yes, we set up this constitutional system but it can be scrapped when the time comes"(via a new coup)".



In Evren's Turkey military brutality is not only meted out to civilians. Officers of Turkey's conscript army regularly ill-treat enlisted men. There have even been cases of officers beating private soldiers to death.

The photo shows an officer beating a soldier who he "didn't like the look of" across the face, in front of a crowd in a street on May 10th.

TORTURE, TRIALS & ARRESTS

MOTHER BEATEN



A trip to visit her grown-up children turned into a nightmare for Mrs Atilgan and illustrated that torture is still routine in Turkey no matter what the regime may claim.

Mrs Zatten Atilgan is a 45 years-old mother of 4 with also 4 grandchildren living in Izmir. In early May she took a trip to visit her daughter. One of her daughter's friends 25 years-old Hakin Ataoglu offered to give her a lift back to her home in his car. On arrival in Mrs Atilgan's street they found the police carrying out a "routine" identity check so familiar to people in Turkey. On producing their identity cards, the police noted that Mrs Atilgan had a different surname from her male companion.

Apparently for a man and woman with different surnames to be driving in the same car is considered by the police to be "immoral".

Mrs Atilgan, despite her explanation was taken to a police station and accused of "going with men for money". When she denied this, police beat her on the head and hands with batons. Mrs Atilgan said that "calling her filthy names", the police then put her to falaka - the "traditional" form of torture in Turkey - which entails tying the victim down and beating the soles of the feet with heavy sticks until the feet swell up and the victim is in acute pain. In Mrs Atilgan's case, after doing this, they

poured water on her feet and made her walk home.

TBKP TRIAL

On June 8th the trial proper has begun of Kutlu (Yagci) and Sargin, leaders of the old official Communist Party of Turkey and the Workers Party of Turkey respectively, who voluntarily returned to Turkey earlier this year to try and establish a new legal party - the United Communist Party of Turkey (TBKP).

The indictment runs to 230 pages and is supposedly based upon their statements during interrogation and material appearing in party publications. 14 others are standing trial with them, including two defence lawyers.

The conduct of the trial has been criticised by delegations of foreign lawyers, communists and others observing the trial. Lord Gifford of the House of Lords all-party human rights committee has been denied access to the defendants. At a press conference he called for the release of all political prisoners including Kutlu and Sargin. He also called for an end to torture and said that "not everyone thinks the same way as Margaret Thatcher about Turkey".

SOCIALIST PARTY TRIAL

578 lawyers from all over Turkey signed the defence of the newly formed Socialist Party whose leaders are now on trial before a State Security Court.

The State Prosecutor is seeking to ban the party on the grounds that it is a legal continuation of an old banned maoist party and that its programme is "against private property".

MASS ARRESTS

In May, raids and arrests of suspected left-wing sympathisers have followed the escape from Metris prison earlier in the year.



On May 10th, the State Prosecutor demanded sentences of 500 years for 9 members of TIKKO (Workers' and Peasants Army of Turkey).



DISAPPEARED

It has been revealed that Nurettin Ozturk, editor of the left-wing political review *Kurtulus* disappeared in 1984 after being detained by police.

Ozturk had returned to Turkey after living for years as a political refugee in Switzerland. On his return he was immediately arrested. His mother believes Ozturk was killed by police during interrogation.



Most of the women from the mining village of Alpagut (see Turkey News-

letter No.79-80) are still being detained following their protest action at a mine.

POLITICAL PRISONERS

HUNGER STRIKE WAVE CONTINUES

In May there were hunger strikes and other protest actions by political prisoners in Amaysa, Diyarbakir, Aydin, Canakkale, Buca, Gaziantep and Ankara prisons.

At the time of writing, hunger strikes by political prisoners and their families were continuing in various parts of Turkey.

A hunger strike by political detainees at Aydin Prison (begun May 22nd) ended on June 20th after the Justice Ministry promised to look at their complaints. Their main grievance is that after a tunnel made by some PKK (Workers Party of Kurdistan) prisoners was discovered by guards on May 20th, army commandos were brought into the prison and proceeded to beat inmates with batons.

On June 23rd, relatives of political detainees and prisoners in Eskisehir prison launched a hunger strike in solidarity with the prisoners.

In Ankara Prison a hunger strike began on May 22nd by 60 men and 7 women political detainees. According to a report prepared by some SHP MPs, all food in the wards has been confiscated and the authorities are not allowing hunger strikers to take water containing sugar or salt.

The prisoners are demanding access to books and publications and an end to repeated strip-searching.

COMMEMORATION



On May 18th, members of TAYAD (Association of Families of Political Prisoners and Detainees) held a commemoration of 10 political prisoners who died on hunger strike 4 years ago.

TAYAD members including mostly women and children marched to the cemetery where some of the hunger strikers are buried, laid red carnations on the grave and gave clenched fist salutes. Later police attacked the crowd with batons.

MILITARY COURTS AND PRISONS

Despite the lifting of Martial Law, 5,309 people are still being tried throughout Turkey before military tribunals and 1,392 civilian political prisoners are still being held in 5 military prisons.

METRIS

Since the amazing escape from Metris Military Prison of 29 political prisoners in March (see *TN no.81*), only two have been recaptured. The regime has compensated itself by locking-up the prison commander for "negligence".

A REPENTANT REALLY REPENTS



Ozturk, a former political prisoner who took advantage of the regime's disgusting Repentance Law is sorry.

The Repentance Law states that anyone "repenting" and giving information about his/her political organisation will have their sentences reduced or be freed altogether. In cases where it is necessary the "repentant" will be given a

BUCA PRISON



A prisoner almost at death's door during a hunger strike being guarded in case he escapes!

MOTHERS BURN THEMSELVES



On May 17th, two mothers of political prisoners in the notorious Diyarbakir Prison, attempted to burn themselves to death in front of Diyarbakir's municipal building. The two mothers, Saliha Saner and Rahime Sahin were saved by passers-by.

The mothers were protesting at the ill-treatment of their children in prison.

new identity, money and even plastic surgery.

Ozturk a former Dev Sol member was one of the few to take advantage of the "informers charter". He said that the police promised to "look after him". But "nobody cares. Now I live in a gecekondu (shanty), I am hungry, I have no friends. Now I am really repentant. I will kill myself".

STUDENTS

STUDENTS CLASH WITH POLICE

The struggle of students in Turkey dramatically escalated on the eve of May Day with the most violent confrontation between police and students since the 1980 coup.

The clash began on April 28th in Istanbul University when a female student Zulal Sari was stopped by security police carrying out an identity check and sexually harassed. Students nearby came to her aid and attacked plainclothes security and political police. Police reinforcements arrived and six students were arrested.

Tension was already high because of fears by the regime that students would try to commemorate the April 28th 1960 student uprising which helped bring down the then government.

Students then marched on the university rector's office shouting slogans against the police and YOK (Higher Education Council). Riot police appeared and students rushed into the rector's office and barricaded themselves in. Baton wielding police then smashed down the doors and a general fight began as students defended themselves with bits of furniture. Police, accustomed to little resistance to their brutality, were surprised by the fierceness of the students resistance and many police as well as students were injured. Finally 150 students were detained.

On the same day in Ankara's Gazi University police arrested students protesting about attacks by knife waving Islamic students from the university's Sports faculty who had earlier attacked a student from the university's School of Music who had refused to abide by the Ramadan fast.

On May 5th those arrested after the Istanbul clash were brought before the State Security Court. Over a thousand students and relatives packed the street outside, clapping hands and shouting slogans as the arrested students arrived. All but 31 were released.

In the following weeks protests, food boycotts and demonstrations spread to Ankara, Izmir, Kocaeli, Eskisehir, Adana, Van, Diyarbakir and Samsun universities.

Following the actions Education Minister Guzel threatened: "The government is determined to curb the activities of student associations which are directed by illegal organisations".

In the past few months nine student unions in Istanbul alone have been banned. In Izmir's Aegean University student associations have been banned and the doors of the literature faculty closed to students as punishment for holding a memorial meeting to commemorate revolutionary martyr Deniz Gezmiş - a student leader hanged by the government in 1971.



Students beat and chase a police agent provocatur.

One thing is clear from recent events, students in Turkey will continue to fight for their rights and for a modern, democratic and scientific education despite the regime's vicious onslaught.



Students in court. The regime is demanding one and a half years imprisonment each for 31 students.



Students demand the release of their 158 arrested friends.



Police beat a reporter from Hurriyet newspaper as he tries to photo two girls arrested by police during the Istanbul student protest. He suffered a fractured skull.

KURDISH LEADER INTERVIEWED - NEWSPAPER BANNED

The regime in Turkey was "shocked" when *Milliyet* one of Turkey's most prestigious daily papers began a series of interviews with Abdullah Ocalan, (codename Apo), leader of the PKK on their front page. The interviews were conducted by Mehmet Ali Birand -one of Turkey's leading journalists.

In the interviews which were conducted with unusual objectivity, Abdullah Ocalan explained the origins and policy of the PKK and among other things offered a ceasefire and prisoner-exchange. Photos accompanying the articles showed the well-organised bases of the PKK and its military forces in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

The interview showed many facets of Abdullah Ocalan's life, including his sense of humour and the fact that he supports the Istanbul Galatasaray football team!

A.Ocalan also rebutted claims that the regime had the situation under control in the "East" on the subject of casualties in the war commented that last year "we lost 500 but we have killed 2,000".

He described the four-year guerrilla war as "just warning shots to show the government the futility of denying ethnic realities and resorting to force."



For the first time a Turkish newspaper - *Milliyet*- interviews Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the PKK and carries pictures of the main bases of the organisation.

NO GLASNOST IN TURKEY

The regime gave an hysterical response to the articles which gave the lie to the Turkish regime's propaganda that the PKK was just a handful of terrorists.

On the night of June 17th, armed police surrounded the offices of *Milliyet* and confiscated the entire print run of



40,000 copies. They did this without even waiting for a warrant from a tame court.

Birand commenting on this act said: "Our aim was to teach reality to the Turkish people". He had aimed to show both "the weaknesses and strengths" of the PKK. "Ozal and his people cannot understand this... their action is a coup against our democracy".

A REAL WAR

Bloody clashes continued throughout May and June between forces lead by the Workers Party of Kurdistan (PKK) and the Turkish Army in the South East Anatolian provinces which constitute part of Kurdistan. The clashes are so frequent, and often on such a large scale that the situation can only be described as one of war.

The regime has put 200,000 troops into the region in an effort to quell the resistance of the Kurdish people with decreasing success.



The regime attempt to boost flagging morale and intimidate opponents by publishing gruesome photos of alleged Kurdish militants killed by the security forces.

ZANA DEFENDS HIMSELF IN KURDISH

The former Mayor of Diyarbakir, Mehdi Zana, in a protest against the ban on the Kurdish language in Turkey, declared at the Military Court of Diyarbakir that he would refuse to speak Turkish and make his defence in Kurdish.

When he began to speak in Kurdish, the military judge, Major Alparslan interrupted him stating: "Only Turkish is spoken here. The language of the State is Turkish. Otherwise I shall expel you from the courtroom".

To speak Kurdish or proclaim oneself to be of Kurdish nationality remains a serious crime in Turkey which entails lengthy imprisonment and/or torture.

Despite this threat, Zana continued to speak Kurdish. As soldiers dragged him from the court, he shouted: "Bimre Zordesti" (Down with tyranny) and "Bimre Koleti" (Down with slavery).

After his removal the court decided to prosecute him under Article 142 of the Penal Code for speaking Kurdish.

Zana was arrested after the 1980 coup and has been in prison ever since. He has been made to stand trial many times in this period and has repeatedly been sentenced to life imprisonment though never convicted of a single violent act.

Mehdi Zana has suffered severe torture during his imprisonment. His case shows the reality of the treatment of the Kurdish people under successive Turkish regimes and why many Kurdish people are taking up arms to defend themselves.

CDDRT NEWS

NALGO DELEGATION VISITS TURKEY

In mid-April, Brenda Hudson and Bill Heeps, members of NALGO's Executive Committee and Mike Wilson of NALGO's Education Department visited Istanbul. While there, they were able to meet leaders of 13 Turkish trade unions including NALGO's opposite number Belediye Is. Bill Heeps also brought fraternal greetings from his union to a regional meeting of Turk-Is (Turkish Trade Union Confederation) in Izmir where he was welcomed by Turk-Is President, Sevket Yilmaz.

The NALGO visitors were deeply impressed by the warmth of their welcome and the keenness of Turkish trade unions to establish close contacts with the British trade union movement.

They found that Turkish trade unions were most anxious to receive educational materials and aids and deeply appreciated even the smallest show of solidarity from their British sisters and brothers.

A fuller report of the visit will appear in the next issue on *Turkey Newsletter*.

MAY DAY



London May Day march.

This year CDDRT contingents took part in May Day marches in Croydon and London.

The Croydon May Day march has for many years been joined by a Turkish contingent in appreciation of the local labour movement's support for the struggle for democracy in Turkey.

The big London march took place on May the first and made its way from Finsbury Park to Alexandria Palace where the South East Regional TUC had organised a rally and festival. CDDRT formed part of the massive Turkish and Kurdish contingent on the march.

The CDDRT had a prominent and large stand at the SERTUC Festival which followed.



NALGO CONGRESS

This year the CDDRT had a stand at the annual congress of NALGO (National Association of Local Government

Officers) between 12th - 15th June. Many new contacts were made.



NALGO Conference.

SOME DATES FOR THE DIARY

12th - 15th July

State visit of "President" Evren to Britain. Various protests are planned at every appearance of the murderer. Contact CDDRT for details.

17th July

Free Mandela 70th Birthday demonstration, organised by Anti-Apartheid, Hyde Park. The CDDRT will be there, keep an eye out for the CDDRT banner, *Turkey Newsletter* sellers will be needed on the day. If you are interested in helping ring the CDDRT's London office.

7th September

CDDRT RECEPTION AT THE TUC CONGRESS, BOURNEMOUTH. 12.30-2.30pm in the Lucullus Room, The Pavilion, Exeter Rd. Meet Turkish activists and see videos of the latest struggles of Turkey's trade unions.

From the 27th July onwards, there will be meetings/discussions on the current situation in Turkey and work sessions every Wednesday at the CDDRT's London offices, anyone interested is welcome to come along.



The Committee for Defence of Democratic Rights had a large and colourful stall at this year's Friendship Festival organised by the Union of Turkish Workers and the Union of Turkish Women in London.

INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL

A group of Turkish, Kurdish and German organisations and personalities are organizing, on the 8th anniversary of the 1980 coup in Turkey an, international tribunal against the regime.

The trial will be held on September 9th, 10th and 11th 1988.

The aims of the Tribunal are to:

-Condemn the injustice of 12th September Coup.

-Freedom for all prisoners condemned by 12th September

fascist junta.

-Demand Turkey respect the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention of the International Labour Organisation.

-Allow all political refugees and those who have been deprived of their citizenship to regain it and return to their country.

The Tribunal will also call for:

-Lifting bans and pressures on the masses.

-Recognize all the rights of the Kurdish people.

-Implementation of a democracy conforming to European norms.

Restructuring the State and its organs in conformity with democratic principles.

-Punishing torturers and the assassins of Turkish and Kurdish peoples.

-Free elections without any restrictions.

-Defence of the workers against the monopolies.

-Freedom of the press and political association rights.

The Tribunal's jury will consist of representatives of trade unions, democratic states, and human rights organisations.

The venue of the Tribunal will be announced later.

Further information can be obtained from: Türkiye Informationsbüro, c/o R.Ocan, Postfach 91 08 43, 3000 Hannover 91, Federal Republic of Germany. Tel: 49-511-210 20 07.

CDDRT RESOURCES

*Back numbers of TURKEY NEWSLETTER, 0.30p each including p+p.

*WOMEN IN TURKEY, proceedings of the 1986 conference on women in Turkey, price 0.95p including p+p.

*Information Files; KURDISTAN, STUDENTS IN TURKEY, POLITICAL PRISONERS. (Mainly material gathered from Turkey Newsletters plus other documents). L1. each including p+p.

*TORTURE REPORT 1 & 2 (combined) -confessions of a torturer. L1. including p+p.

*TORTURE REPORT No.3. (Torture cases in 1987). 0.50p inc. p+p.

*TORTURE REPORT No.4. (Torture in Diyarbakir Prison). 0.50p inc. p+p.

*Minority Rights Group reports; KURDS, ARMENIANS, CYPRUS. L2 each inc. p+p.

*CDDRT 1988 CONGRESS REPORT. L1.

*INFORMATION PACK (contains a selection of CDDRT literature plus papers dealing with different aspects of the situation in Turkey - a valuable introduction to the subject). L2 inc. p+p.

*Music cassettes;REVOLUTIONARY SONGS, (Turkish and international, performed by the Iscinin Sesi Choir and others.) PIR SULTAN (a musical drama -performed in Turkish- about the 16th century poet and leader of the Alevi masses). SIVAN PREWER 9 (Kurdish folk music and songs of resistance). RAHMI SALTUK (Turkish folk music performed by a leading folksinger and saz-player). L3.50 inc p+p.

For any of the above materials send cheque/PO with order to the CDDRT, 84 Balls Pond Rd., 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 CDDRT are as follows:

-And all vestiges of military rule, martial law, torture and executions.

-Release all political prisoners

-Freedom for all democratic organisations.

-End the national oppression of the Kurds and national minorities. Defend the right of the Kurdish people to self-determination.

-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 forgoing utilising every means at our disposal.

Union of Turkish Workers

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 1st 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 motions. The conduct of business shall be on the basis of Standing Orders approved by Congress. Pre-Congress arrangements are the responsibility of the retiring General Council. Each Congress shall decide the size of the General Council.

5. The General Council is the continuing body of Congress and shall meet quarterly. It shall appoint the Executive Committee which is responsible to it. The General Council shall have the right to co-option.

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

7. Local Branches of the CDDRT are formed with the approval of the General Council.

8. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority at a Congress.

9. The General Congress may call, or upon request by two-thirds of affiliated national organisations shall call, a Special Congress.

CDDRT GENERAL COUNCIL

W. ANDREWS (B.F.&A.W.U.)

Bedir AYDEMIR

John M. BLOOM (NUPE)

Dennis CANAVAN MP

Harry COHEN MP

Jeremy CORBYN MP

Ali HIKMET

Max HIRONS

Alf LOMAS MEP

Pat INGRAM (NALGO)

Marion SARAFI

Fevzi SOLT

Peter SPALDING (GLATC)

R. YURUKOGLU

One representative each from:

Turkish Students' Federation in the UK

Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain

Union of Turkish Women in Britain

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

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TURKEY & SOUTH AFRICA

DIRTY BUSINESS

The old saying that "birds of a feather flock together" certainly holds true in relations between the anti-democratic regime in Turkey and their loathsome counterpart in South Africa.

Like South Africa, the regime in Turkey has colonialist ambitions towards neighbouring countries. The Ankara regime also pursues racist policies as witnessed by its oppression of the people of Kurdistan and its denial of the Armenian Genocide.

Along with most of the world, Turkey has formally condemned apartheid, South Africa's occupation of Namibia and supported all the appropriate UN resolutions.

However, a little reported but nasty trade is developing between South Africa and Turkey. While the calls for boycotts and sanctions have resounded around the world, Turkey has quietly become an important middleman in trade for Pretoria.

Earlier this year reports began to appear that Turkey was involved with Israel (another country whose policies Turkey officially condemns), in breaking arms embargoes on South Africa. Turkish companies, with State backing, were involved in exporting weapons from West German arms manufacturers to South Africa.

Further deals came to light when South African manufacturers pressed their government to shelve preferential trade partner status of Turkey out of fear of cheap Turkish textile imports. It transpired that last year, South Africa had entered into a "secret steel or coal deal" with Turkey.

The strengthening of ties was further reported in *The Middle East* magazine's April 1988 issue. Reporting; "Although the two countries do not enjoy diplomatic links because of Pretoria's apartheid policy, they have been trading consistently over the years. Last year South African exports to Turkey - mainly coal, railway industry products, mining machinery and industrial equipment - totalled over \$400m while Turkish exports to South Africa touched a mere \$4m.

The government of Turgut Ozal which has adopted an "export-or-die" economic policy, is keen to redress the balance by exporting more textiles and clothing, among other goods, to South Africa. Last year, South Africa's Trade and Technology Minister, Danie Steyn, visited Turkey ostensibly on a "private" visit as a guest of Sarik Tara, chairman of the giant Enka Holdings, one of the

largest conglomerates in Turkey and Europe. In Istanbul, Steyn met various top Turkish businessmen and bankers, and in Ankara, he met Turkey's undersecretary of foreign trade and treasury, Yavuz Canevi, who is effectively Ozal's foreign trade supremo.

A major result of this trip was an understanding to balance trade between the two states. This was especially demonstrated by Pretoria's willingness to open the lucrative South African market to Turkish textiles and garments..."

"Danie Steyn also met the heads of Turkish Electricity (TEK) and Turkish Railways - both past customers of South African steel utilities such as the iron and steel giant ISCOR, and the electricity giant, ESKOM. Last year Ankara municipality, amidst great controversy, opted for South African coal to fire its power stations..."

"ISCOR also supplied Turkish Railways with iron rails and the utility's Istanbul agents - a local Turkish company - remains unrepentant about its South African contacts..."

"The then foreign trade and treasury undersecretary, Ekrem Pakdemirli (now the transport and communications minister in Ozal's second-term government) played down ...his country's trade links with Pretoria. But Turkey now has a rapidly expanding economy, and since 1980 has followed an aggressive export-led liberal economic policy devised by Ozal. He headed the influential State Planning Office in the military government of Bulent Ulusu before becoming prime minister himself.

MORE SANCTIONS-BREAKING

Turkey is also considering establishing a free-port facility to store and re-export South African coal.

Turkish companies also placed discreet ads in South African newspapers offering to import, re-label then re-export South African goods as if they originated in Turkey.

COUNTERTRADE

"Turkish industry sources confirm that further coal and iron deals are being negotiated and that Pretoria has agreed to import unspecified Turkish products other than textiles. The South Africans on the other hand, are also keen to countertrade goods with Turkey. Johan

Klopper, ESKOM's manager in charge of its Non-Conventional Trade Department, has confirmed that Turkey is a target country..."

"...Another important area where cooperation has been discussed is South Africa's help to Turkey to set up an over-the-counter gold exchange in Istanbul to raise funds to finance Turkey's expanding exports..."

"Tourism is another area where cooperation is taking place. A British subsidiary of Sun International, one of South Africa's largest hotel resort groups... has already submitted proposals to the Turkish Ministry of Tourism to develop a resort on the Turkish Mediterranean Coast."

TURKISH TRADE UNIONS CALL FOR BOYCOTT

Yol-Is the powerful Turk-Is affiliated road and construction workers' union has for several years now been conducting a campaign of persuading the public to boycott South African goods and products. This policy is also being carried out by several other unions.

REFUGEES



In April thousands of Turkish and Kurdish refugees and their supporters marched in Canada to protest at new laws aimed at deporting them.