

# ISHIA BULLETTIN

No.4 • 15 MARCH 1988



**Türk-İş's Adana meeting: "If prison, then prison. If death, then death."**

**Türk-İş's Aegean region meeting held in Izmir**

**Şevket Yılmaz: "Stop playing with the workers now..."**

**The time for unity has come!**

**The 11 March general lunch boycott.**

**Press coverage, editorials, evaluations, news...**

FORTNIGHTLY BULLETIN OF LABOUR MOVEMENT  
AND TRADE UNIONS NEWS FROM TURKEY

# ISHA BÜLTEN

Fortnightly Publication of the ISHA

(Labour and Trade Unions)

Press Agency

Founder and Editor: Arif Mardin

Address for Correspondence:

ISHA Haber Ajansı

Küçüklanga Cad. Hacıbey Apt. 37/1

Aksaray, Istanbul TURKEY

Telephone: (901)5231924

Subscription rates: 6months 1 year

Individuals \$ 25 \$ 40

Others \$ 30 \$ 50

For subscription, the amount  
required should be sent to the  
following bank account:

A. Mardin

Yapı ve Kredi Bankası

435 Küçüklanga Şubesi

Hesap No: 5664-8

ISHA Haber Ajansı adına sahibi ve  
sorumlu yazı işleri müdürü:

Arif Mardin

Baskı: Bizim Ofset

## editor's note

Dear Readers,

\* In this issue you will find an account of the implementation of the first of the Türk-İş confederation's decisions for satge - by - stage action.

\* For the first time in the history of Turkey, 1.5 million workers carried out a joint action. Preparations are now underway for the second and third steps: widespread meetings and a limited general strike.

\* At this stage workers and trade union leaders are taking part in the same action as the Türk-İş confederation for the first time in its history regardless of their political persuasions.

\* On the other hand, the Türk-İş leadership is experiencing and will continue to experience the problems raised as the trade union unity of the working class gradually turns into unity of action.

\* While the general lunch boycott could objectively have been a limited, passive and static action, given the burning class contradiction, it shook the balance of classes. It is polarising the government and Turkey's bourgeoisie within itself. It is pushing them towards different attitudes and different recipes in order to overcome the deepening crisis on the class and social levels.

\* The political regime is producing various political analyses and proposals and splitting and cracking within itself.

\* The Social - Democratic Populist and True Path parties are hoping to soften the rising anger of the workers with their liberal proposals.

\* Changes in the constitution and the trade union law are coming onto the agenda.

\* The bourgeoisie of Turkey, which wants to suppress the working class movement rising parallel with the deepening socio-economic crisis is looking for wholesale solutions. It is making plans to disrupt the trade union unity taking shape in Türk-İş and to sabotage the product of this unity, unity of action, right at the beginning. It is preparing to use Trojan horses both within and outside the working class movement.

Hoping to meet with you again in our next issue,  
Respectfully yours,

**The Editorial Board**

## news

**The workers are leading the forces for democracy**

# THE TIME FOR ACTION HAS COME

## FROM TRADE UNION UNITY TO UNITY OF ACTION

**O**n these pages you will find information about how the Türk-İş Confederation implemented the first of its decisions for stage-by-stage action.

It became very obvious that the general lunch boycott implemented on a national scale was not a routine protest or a passive action. Officials at every level of 33 trade unions affiliated to Türk-İş and organised in all the branches of industry unanimously supported and implemented the decision.

Independent unions, students, doctors, and young people participated in the boycott. For the first time in the history of Turkey about 1.5 million workers had a taste of action. They began to discover their own strength. The first of the stage-by-stage actions confirmed that the trade union unity of the working class of Turkey had taken shape within Türk-İş.

The second result of the general lunch boycott is the divisions which the unity of action of the working class exposed in the working class and between classes.



*Mr. Şevket Yılmaz, the General President of Türk-İş*



## türk-iş meeting before the boycott

# TÜRK-İŞ ADANA MEETING "IF PRISON, THEN PRISON. IF DEATH, THEN DEATH"

**A** regional meeting of Türk-İş was held in Adana. The joint decision of the trade unionists and workers was: "If death, then death. If prison, then prison."

The first preparatory meeting for the decision on stage-by-stage action taken by the Türk-İş council of presidents in February was held in Adana. At the action preparatory meeting held on 26th February, the Türk-İş leaders said that the country resembled a hell for those who lived by their labour and a heaven for capitalists.

The general educational secretary of Türk-İş, Mustafa Başoğlu: "This anger does not come from us. It is pressure from the rank and file. This is a flood. No one can withstand it. Başoğlu continued: "The meal boycott is the first step in our plan of action. Then in the month of May there will be meetings to protest the high cost of living. Using our strength that derives from production, we will go to a general strike."

"...Let them throw us into prison, let us spend a little time in prison. Lastly, I call on the friends in the trade union leadership, I do not think there is anyone who will be unable to show the courage to march in front of the workers. But if there is, he cannot remain under the roof of Türk-İş. If death lies at the end of this struggle, then we are ready for death." The trade union leaders who participated in the "preparation for action" meeting continued to speak in irreconcilable criticism against the government and the employers. Kenan Durukan, president of Harb-İş (Military Industry Workers' Union) said: "The steps being taken along the path of democracy in Turkey have been obstructed three times by the collaboration of local and foreign capital... They are making propaganda that the workers and trade unions are traitors to the country. The workers and society have reached the point of explosion in the past eight years."

"Mr. Özal, don't forget that this system will be brought down on your head, on the head of your family company." Necdet İnandıoğlu, vice president of the Teksif (Textile) Union, said: "Up until now, we have not taken to the streets in the face of developments. The Türk-İş Confederation has now gone out into the streets. We will either

be successful or, if we are unsuccessful, we will be finished. If necessary, we will go to prison, because it is not a question of a pay-rise. It is a right for honour."

The vice-president of Tek-Gıda İş (Food Workers' Union), Ömer Güleç: "In the actions which it took in 1987, Türk-İş decided to take bigger and stronger actions. We will have our sharpest action in May. From now on, workers' actions will continue until the workers' voice and demands have been met."

The vice-president of the Yol-İş (Highway Workers') Union, Nejat Karagöz: "We are workers. We are confronted by capital and the owners of wealth and their representative, the ruling Motherland Party... While the profits of a handful of holdings which have merged with foreign capital are multiplying, the working class has been pushed to the wall. Turkey has become a hell for those who live by their labour and a heaven for capital."

The president of the Seliloz-İş (Cellulose Workers) Union, İsmail Onay: "We are workers. We are confronted by capital and the owners of wealth and their representative, the ruling Motherland Party... While the profits of a handful of holdings which have merged with foreign capital are multiplying, the working class has been pushed to the wall. Turkey has become a hell for those who live by their labour and a heaven for capital."

The president of the Seliloz-İş (Cellulose Workers) Union, İsmail Onay: "We want our rights. Not since the Liberation War (1923) has there been a government with such a mentality of crushing the workers. There will be no comfort for you or us until this mentality of crushing the workers is changed." Branch presidents of trade unions in the south Anatolia region, members of the Executive Committee, and workers' shop stewards participated in the meeting which was very excited and enthusiastic.

The first preparation for action meeting in Adana came to a successful conclusion. The most popular slogans were: "This is a question of honour" and "If prison, then prison. If death, then death."

## türk-iş meeting before the boycott

# TÜRK-İŞ AEGEAN MEETING: SHOCK PRICE INCREASES/MANY ACTIONS

The second of Türk-İş's stage-by-stage action meetings took place in Izmir. At the meeting attended by many shop stewards the Türk-İş educational secretary, Mr. Başoğlu, said that the workers would respond to shock price increases with many action. He said: "A general strike is inevitable. From now on let the prime minister think." At the meeting, during which workers frequently shouted the slogan: "Workers hand in hand to a general strike", a group of workers raised the bread in their hands and shouted: "We don't want charity" and "Stomach anarchy has begun".

Explaining Türk-İş's decision for stage-by-stage action, Başoğlu said: "If the prime minister

still continues along his path, then we will proceed along our own path with a general strike. Then either the prime minister or we will remain in Turkey." During the meeting, the shop stewards organised in all branches of industry came to the platform saying that they supported Türk-İş's action decision and would fully implement it.

The treasurer of the D Yol-İş trade union, Kazım Gözüük said: "Özal has not forgotten that he is the representative of the employers. He is taking revenge for the defeat he once suffered at the hands of the workers and trade unions." The meeting ended with enthusiasm.

## ACTION PREPARATORY MEETING HELD IN ISTANBUL ON 6 MARCH

There was a positive response to the general lunch boycott in all branches of industry throughout Turkey. The meeting in Istanbul was a demonstration of enthusiasm and determination. The last and most striking meeting of the general lunch boycott which was the first step is the Türk-İş confederation's stage-by-stage action decisions was held in Istanbul.

Approximately 1.000 trade unionists from 33 unions participated in the meeting which had a great impact. The meeting turned into a demonstration.

The meeting was opened by Türk-İş president Şevket Yılmaz. (There is an extensive summary of his speech on another page.)

The speech was met with an ovation and the workers shouted slogans that turned into a demand for a general strike. All the trade union leaders affiliated to Türk-İş spoke at the meeting which protested against to Türk-İş spoke at the meeting which protested against the government and the employers:

### **Munzur Pekgüleç, general secretary of the Deri-İş (Leather Workers') Union:**

“It is a time for struggle. It is a time for organised resistance and struggle by the working class against the employers. We must understand one thing: When Özal is gone, someone else will take his place. We must direct our struggle against the employer class and for the future of the working class. Rights are not gained through dialogue, conciliation, tolerance and asking. In order to gain

rights, struggle is necessary. In order to struggle, an organised, determined and conscious class basis is necessary.”

### **Kenan Gürbüz, Tez-Koop İş (Coop. & Office Workers' Union):**

“There is democracy in Turkey, but for whom?

For capital. For whom is there none? There is no democracy for the workers and working people! Long live the Unity of the working class! Struggle until we gain all our rights! Yes to a general strike!”

## türk-iş meeting before the boycott



Mr. Fuat Alan

**Fuat Alan, Belediye İş (Municipal Workers' Union):**

“ Turkish trade unionism faces an impasse. We all know the antidemocratic practices in our country. The bill for the ruthless economic model which is being applied is being paid by the working class. Our union will apply to the letter the decision taken by Türk-İş. For years we have experienced class repression by capital and the political regime that has merged with it. We are shamed by the lack of fundamental rights and freedoms, trade union rights, the right to organise and the torture being carried out. We are here in order to implement the decision for action taken by our confederation, to shout our demands in the squares, to be together and, as Yılmaz said, to protest in every province and district the belittling of labour. We will not say to give us our rights, we believe in unity in order to be able to take them. We will fight together shoulder to shoulder with the working class understanding of discipline.”

**Orhan Balta, president of the Tek-Gıda İş (Food Workers' Union):**

“ ...For 6 years we have been holding meetings, openair meetings, referendum meetings in the 64 provinces of Turkey. With our belief in democracy we have gone from here to there thinking they would make changes in the laws. No one listened to us... I promise that we will implement to the letter the action decisions taken by Türk-İş.”



Mr. Necdet İnandıoğlu

**Necdet İnandıoğlu, Teksif (Textile Workers' Union):**

“ ... I speak in the name of 190.000 textile workers and Türk-İş are opening a new epoch. They are shouting: 'We are marching against capital and its representative Özal'. Capital exploits all the workers, whether right or left-wing. As if their own exploitation were not enough, the prime minister is appealing to capitalists abroad: 'Come, labour is cheap in Turkey, whatever you do, our workers will submit...'

"...Whether they are right or left-wing, let all the workers came together against the brutality practised by the government with the directives of Türk-İş, in some places legal, in other places as necessary. It is a time for unity. Let us be workers, trade unionists, and not find fault with each other. The time has come to strike against capital like a sledge hammer. There is no other way to freedom. We are shouting in Istanbul. We are shouting to the whole world with Türk-İş's directives: Prime Minister Özal will see what it means to play with the Turkish worker. In your presence I say that Türk-İş's action decisions will be implemented no matter what the cost."

During this speech, the workers shouted the slogan:

**"Workers, arm in arm to a general strike!"**

The meeting ended enthusiastically. With a rising determination for action, the trade unionists dispersed to explain the decisions taken to workers in their branches and workplaces.





Miss İmren Aykut

## Before the general meal boycott, the employer and governing bloc

### MINISTER AYKUT: 'LET THE WORKERS BE PATIENT FOR MY SAKE'

**T**he labour minister İmren Aykut established a supreme advisory council made up of 20 people. This council, composed of right-wingers and extreme right-wingers, held its first meeting in Istanbul. During the meeting the minister referred to Türk-İş's action decision and said, "you have waited for several years. Wait a few more months for me, all the shortcomings will be rectified, if you take action outside the legal framework, the workers will suffer for this."

#### **The workers' minister**

After this warning to Türk-İş, the minister Aykut called herself the "workers' minister", saying: "There are enough ministers in the government representing the employers. I will do whatever I can in opposition to them as the workers' minister".

Aykut continued: "They will carry out an aesthetic operation on the labour law. This time I want

to go to the IMF with really concrete things."

The general secretary of TİSK, Mr. Atasayar, vehemently criticised Türk-İş's action decisions: "While defining illegal strikes, law no: 2822 on Collective Bargaining, Strikes and Lock-outs included workplace occupations, slow-downs and efficiency reductions among other resistances. Fines and legal penalties are stipulated for those who decide on resistances like lunch the country was brought by the illegal events which started with the turning off of switches in Izmir some time ago has not been erased from people's memories."

#### **Threat to Türk-İş from Prime Minister Özal**

"If Türk-İş proceeds to a general strike, we will unhesitatingly take it to court. If there is a slow-down we will pay for it by cutting the workers' bonuses."

#### **Another view from Mr. Özal**

While leaving parliament, Prime Minister Özal made an impromptu statement to journalists: "Yes, I know, a lunch boycott. But of course it's a shame if the food prepared by the people is thrown away. That would be waste...."

"Other ways can be found; marches can be held, placards raised, demonstrations and meetings held, but not to eat .... Now, do the employers reply by saying that they too will not eat for a day? They shouldn't. Food is a blessing. It is not good to spurn that blessing."

# THE 11 MARCH GENE



## Ş. YILMAZ: "Stop playing with the workers now; you wi

Türk-İş president Şevket Yılmaz spoke to an excited gathering of workers at the 4th Regional Railway Headquarters in Ankara. "This is the first warning. As long as they fail to heed this warning, I do not see any force which could disrupt the unity of our friends."

### NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

- Workers at the Uşak sugar factory, the ceramic factory and the Social Insurance Council participated in the boycott.
- 1300 workers at the Soma Central of the Electricity Board boycotted their noon meal. Participation in the Electricity Board's other regions was secured without exception.
- 15,000 members of the Textile, Mine and Metal unions in Manisa joined the boycott.
- 10,000 private and public sector workers in Antalya boycotted their lunch.
- 5400 workers at the aluminium works in Seydişehir and workers at the Konya Chrome and Magnesita works joined the boycott.
- Approximately 150,000 workers in the east and southeastern region participated in the

general lunch boycott.

- At the Ereğli Iron and Steel factory, 5000 workers entered the canteen but left without eating. Some civil servants also followed the workers.
- Workers on three shifts at the Sümerbank Cloth Factory, as at other big workplaces, participated in the boycott.
- Students supported the boycott by not eating in university canteens.
- There was full participation in the boycott by workers at the Sirkeci and Haydarpaşa train stations.
- Sick workers at the Süreyya Park Hospital supported the boycott and did not eat their noon meal.
- Workers in the factory owned by TISK president Halit Narin, all participated in the boycott. Outside the factory they unfurled a banner which said: "We are with our president."



# AL LUNCH BOYCOTT



ot be able to take the consequences.”

## THE TIME FOR UNITY HAS COME

### THE GENERAL MEAL BOYCOTT IS SPREADING

**T**he first of the protest actions against the 10,000TL gross wage increase (\$8) for the workers decided upon jointly by employers in the public and private sectors concluded with high participation and success.

Workers on the night shift also participated in the general lunch boycott. It has been announced that 1.5 million workers participated.

During the lunch boycott, members of Yol-iş said: "We are protesting against big capital and those who protect the owners of wealth" "The workers in Turkey are strong. We will introduce this strength to those who think they can eliminate it by ignoring it." Mr. Mehmet Bamyacı "The leather workers were in the front ranks of the class struggle and the unity of action." "It is a time for struggle and resistance by the working

class against the employers." Mr. munzur Pekgüleç.

The petrol workers: "It is like a holiday, not a meal boycott. Everyone is enthusiastic, active and cheerful." "We are here to implement the decisions for action taken by our confederation, to shout in the squares.....to protest against the belittling of labour." Mr. Münir Ceylan.

#### **From a meal boycott to a march**

3,000 workers and members of the the Dok Gemi-İş (Dock and Ship Workers' Union) at the Gölcük dockyards collectively left the workplace at noon without entering the canteen. The workers went to the Atatürk monument for a moment's silence and then collectively returned to work.

#### **Obstacle in Erzurum**

The director at the military heavy equipment factory, colonel Y. Çağlayan, opened an investigation into the workers who participated in the boycott. The workers argued about this with him.

#### **High participation in military workplace**

The general secretary of the Military Industry Workers' Union (Harb-iş), M. Alpdündür, said that participation in the lunch boycott was 100 % at workplaces where the union is organised.

## POST-ACTION DEVELOPMENTS

The first of the stage-by-stage actions organised by the Türk-İş confederation came to a successful conclusion. The general lunch boycott in protest against the high cost of living, the employers, and the government concluded without incident.

The İzmir branch of the Yol-İş Union turned the meal boycott into a two-day hunger strike. Approximately one hundred percent participated in the boycott.

### **Evaluating the action, Özal says:**

"The boycott didn't catch on"

In Side/Antalya where he had come for a rest, Prime Minister Özal said that, despite the great support of the press and the TRT, the Türk-İş lunch boycott had been unsuccessful.

Threatening to take Türk-İş to court in the event of a general strike or slow-down, the prime minister said that those who had organised the boycott were mistaken. "It is not the mistake of the workers." Turning to the Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Fahrettin Kurt, he asked about the rate of participation in the Mineral Research and Investigation institute in Ankara. When he was told that participation had been high, Özal shook his head with a negative expression on his face and said: "Anyway, we have too many workers at the Institute." For some time, news has been leaking out to the press that the government is going to make widespread sackings at the Institute and that it has been waiting for an opportunity.

### **Newspaper headlines**

While Turkish Radio and Television (TRT) censored the event, the press accorded wide space

to the boycott. Below we give some selections from the press: "Mr. Halit should pay his debt to the workers first and talk later. The president of TİSK, Narin, who threatened before the boycott that the workers would be driven out, has not paid the insurance funds of the workers for months."

The workers say: "Before Mr. Halit talks so much, let him pay his debt to the workers and the state. Because of employers like Halit Narin who do not pay their insurance contributions, the Social Security Council has not even had enough money to provide health services. (Sabah Newspaper) The lunch boycott organised by Türk-İş in protest against the high cost of living and the restriction of trade union rights went off without incident. Throughout the country 1.5 million workers took part in the action. The un-aten meals were distributed to the poor. Türk-İş president Yılmaz warned Prime Minister Özal: "If you continue with this mentality, not even we will be able to save you." (Günaydın newspaper) "The workers did not eat their lunch. The boycott held." (Tercüman newspaper) "Action on a hungry stomach." "Today Türk-İş called on 1.5 million workers not to eat." (Güneş newspaper) The first fruit of the Türk-İş action: Minister of Defence Vuralhan called on the unions to come to the table Mr. Şevket Yılmaz said that henceforward Türk-İş meetings will be closed to the TRT. Yılmaz condemned the TRT for giving only 45 seconds to the news of the lunch boycott and thanked the press which accorded wide space to the boycott. (Hürriyet) The first action from the workers. 100% enthusiastic participation in the Aegean." (Cumhuriyet)

## CONTRARY EXPLANATIONS FROM THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

### SUPPORT FROM THE SDPP

**SDPP** president Erdal İnönü gave support to the boycott at a meeting of his party's parliamentary group. He said: "The prime minister talks like the president of an employers' association. Workers who are unable to feed their children cannot swallow their food anyway. The prime minister is making fun of the workers' action. As long as price increases continue, events will become more serious. The situation, not only of the workers, but also of farmers and civil servants is very bad."

#### **True Path Party president says: "Türk-İş should be listened to"**

The president of the True Path Party, S. Demirel, said that rather than condemning Turkish Workers, civil servants and peasants to ruin, it is necessary to eliminate the cause for this. He said that "labour must definitely receive its reward" The general secretary of the TPP, Gökberk Erge-  
nekon, supported the boycott and said: "The situation of the Turkish Workers is clear; we want whatever exists in the free world to exist in Turkey as well. Not to eat meals is not a crime. Expressing a discontent in a peaceful manner without harming anyone is not a crime."

#### **Thanks from Şevket Yılmaz**

The president of Türk-İş, Şevket Yılmaz, said that participation in the lunch boycott they had applied had been close to 100% and very successful. Evaluating the action, Mr. Yılmaz thanked the workers and trade unionists and said that the response to their call had been close to 100%. Yılmaz also thanked university teachers, student and organisations which had shown support □

#### **The constitution must change**

The minister of Labour and Social Security, İmren Aykut, said that two articles in the 1982 constitution contain stipulations that contravene ILO principles.

The articles in question are no: 52 which bans unions from becoming involved in politics, and no: 54 which bans strikes for rights. (4.3.1988)

#### **İmren Aykut: "If you cannot gain your rights, go on strike"**

Minister Aykut recommended workers who cannot get by on their wages to go on strike. "... Price increases are the inevitable consequences of the economy. But there must be corresponding increases in the wages of working people. Unfortunately, we the government have been unable to secure this." (5.3.1988)

#### **TÜRK-İŞ: The US Ambassador warned Minister Aykut**

According to Türk-İş, "As a member of the ICFTU, the American AFL-CIO warned the Turkish minister about trade union rights in Turkey. According to news agencies, the president of Türk-İş, Şevket Yılmaz, connected the warning of Mr. Hupe with an assignment given by his government. Mr. Şevket Yılmaz said that the Ambassador's warning could be interpreted as a result of international solidarity by trade unions.

#### **Denial by Minister Aykut**

The minister said that discussions had been held with Ambassador R. Hupe according to the rules of diplomatic protocol. Denying reports in the press that the American ambassador had threatened that trade advantages would be abolished if laws concerning the workers are not corrected, the Minister asked: "Is the Ambassador sincere on the question ambassador had answered in that way. "I went to the US ten years ago. At that time the AFL-CIO was very strong. I also went last year and investigated the situation. The trade unions had melted away. They were finished. Let those who give us advice first recognise the rights of their own workers and trade unions." (5.3.1988)



## türk-iş meeting before the boycott

# THE SPEECH MADE BY TÜRK-İŞ PRESIDENT ŞEVKET YILMAZ AT THE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS ON 3RD MARCH 1988

**T**he struggle that Türk-İş has been waging to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of the workers and with the aim of solving the economic impasse, is continuing in accordance with the decisions of our 13th and 14th congresses.

As is known, this struggle is directed towards four fundamental aims. These are:

1. The establishment of a free and pluralist democracy in our country with all its organisations and rules.
2. The abolition of unjust restrictions and impositions directed against workers' rights and freedoms in accordance with the principles of the ILO.
3. The reactivation of a free collective bargaining system including strikes.
4. The establishment of a system based on the principles of a "social state" and "social justice" and the solution of the economic and social problems of the economically weak majority of our nation.

The political regime's understanding of democracy; its economic policy and applications which contravene the concept of the social state; its failure to consider legal changes that would make it possible to reactivate the system of free collective bargaining including strikes; its remaining a spectator to the crushing of the economically weak majority of our nation, the workers first and foremost, under constantly deteriorating living conditions; its insistent pursuit of policies which radically undermine the principles of free trade unionism and free collective bargaining; all these have brought the Türk-İş community and our workers to the point of resisting these injustices by every means.

The state of affairs that is seen in every society in which the system of democracy and industrial relations does not operate soundly, in which its sound operation is prevented, now threatens to become dominant in our country as well. It is clear that the responsibility for such an outcome will not lie with the workers and workers organisations.

Today, as the Council of Presidents and the Action Committee, we will determine the measures and the Action Committee, we will deter-



*The Türk-İş Executive Committee*

mine the measures that will be taken and applied against those who persist in obstructing the operation of the system of free collective bargaining.

In 1988, collective bargaining talks will take place that concern approximately 600,000 of our workers.

These collective bargaining talks will take place in both the private and public sectors. It is necessary to at least recover what has been taken from the pockets of the workers through the economic policy followed by the government. In both the private sector and in the associations of public employers who act in accordance with instructions from the political regime, there is an evident tendency and wish to raise the existing exploitation to even higher levels.

The 1988 yearly plan prepared by the State Planning Organisation contains provisions which maintain shortcomings that should be eliminated immediately, which even develop them in a negative way, and which we regard with extreme concern.

Effective measures will be taken against this attitude and this trend.

I hope to be able to make a more detailed statement at the end of our meeting.

Thank you.

## türk-iş meeting before the boycott

The resolution submitted to the Türk-İş Council of Presidents by the Executive Committee was adopted unanimously.

### RESOLUTION OF THE TÜRK-İŞ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



From left to right: Emin Kul, Şevket Yılmaz, Mustafa Başoğlu, Orhan Balaban, Çetin Göçer

**W**ith the aim of seeing the establishment in our country of a pluralist and free democracy with all its institutions and rules; the abolition of unjust restrictions and practices directed against the rights and freedoms of the workers in line with the principles of the ILO; the reactivation of the system of free collective bargaining including strikes; and the establishment of a system based on the principles of the "social state" and "social justice" that will solve the economic and social problems of the economically weak majority of our nation; the Türk-İş executive committee has resolved, in order to ensure that all the actions and forms of action envisaged in the resolution of the 14th Congress be implemented:

1. That the following fundamental principles be pursued in collective bargaining negotiations:

Fundamental principles

#### **A. The rate of increase in wages and social aid:**

The rate of wage increases in collective bargaining should eliminate the real decline in wages which took place in 1986-87 due to inflation and not fall below a level to offset the expected rate of inflation in 1988.

#### **B. The period of agreements:**

The period covered by collective bargaining agreements will be one year.

#### **C. Job security and rights of management:**

All the stipulations that deal in essence with job security and which were unilaterally drafted under law no: 2364 by the High Arbitration Council and later imposed as "articles of principle" by the Associations of Public Employers, should be included in dropped because they contravened the laws.

2. In the case of collective bargaining negotiations which have begun without the inclusion of the fundamental principles listed in the first article above, the negotiations will be broken off and moved to the stage of arbitration - except in the case where the employer has accepted the unions position as submitted.

3. The form in which the view of the workers will be reflected in the High Arbitration Council in the case of compulsory arbitration started in branches of industry where strikes are banned, is to be evaluated as necessitated by conditions and decided upon by the Türk-İş Action Committee.

4. The other preparations will continue

5. This resolution will be carried out by the Türk-İş Action Committee.

---

## NO TO CHARITY!...

**The Highway Workers' Union (Yol-İş) has begun a campaign against the token additional wage rise under the slogan: "No to charity"**

---



*Mr. Bayram  
Meral  
The General  
Secretary  
of Yol-İş*

**T**he Highway Workers' Union (Yol-İş) affiliated to Türk-İş, has launched a campaign aimed at the rejection by the workers of the token additional wage rise. The president of the union, Bayram Meral, characterised the additional wage increase which it was announced would be given on 21 March, as "charity" and said that the "Özal government is hoping that a 10.000 TL wage increase will make people forget its policy which is eliminating in one blow the gains that were made along the path to a social state and even further distorting the already distorted income distribution. But what our workers have lost cannot be measured by ten or even 100 thousand TL. What was lost was the workers' honour of living a human life. What was lost was the future of the worker himself and of his children. What was lost was the future of Turkey". In regard to the decision to reject the additional increase of 38.460 TL. (\$ 20), Meral said: "This decision was taken unanimously by the executive committee of our union as a result of the insistent demands of our members."

He also stressed that, with this decision, they would save the honour and the future of the working class.

The Yol-İş Union issued a brochure to announce these decisions to all workers and publicised these slogans:

"Everything is free for the businessmen, but banned for the workers"

"Enough! We will reject charity"

"They are proud of turning Turkey into a paradise of cheap labour"

"We will reject the so-called additional wage increase of 38.000 TL. We will take all our rights"

"We will show them that they cannot make us accept everything"

"No to charity!"

**Worker friend!**

**Reject the charity they will pay on 21 March!  
Protect your honour!**

The petition drafted and signed by the workers in the context of the campaign and given to the unions to send to the prime minister, declares: "We resolutely condemn the mentality and practice which gives us an absurd increase more like charity rather than paying us the equivalent of our labour in order that we may live in a human manner. As motorway -construction and maintenance workers, we reject this money which does not accord with the honour of people, working people."

At the same time, the general secretary of the Yol-İş union, Mehmet Bamyacı, said that with the decree it had issued the government had reduced the mobility allowance which makes deceive the workers with a camical sum under the name of an additional wage increase.

M. Bamyacı said, "As the Yol-İş union, we protest against those who protect big capital and the owners of wealth. The workers in Turkey are strong. We will introduce this strength to those who think they can eliminate it by ignoring it... As trade unions and workers, we will leave an honourable past to our children who will make up the next generation of workers."

With the petition signed right at the beginning by hundreds of workers, trade union leaders said that the campaign would be successful and that all the workers would reject the additional wage increase.



# QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ISHA BULLETIN

Dear readers,

ISHA Bulletin is the only publication in English, printed in Turkey, which is concerned primarily with the labour and trade union movement there.

In order to offer you a more satisfactory service, we would like to know your expectations from such a bulletin; namely, what would you like to see most, the kind of information that interests you, and what might be boring!

We have therefore prepared a brief questionnaire. We would be grateful if you could duly fill it and send to our address without sparing any comments and/or suggestions you deem useful. Thank you in advance.

ISHA Bulletin



NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

1. What type of information about the labour and trade union movement in Turkey would be of particular interest to you? Tick is appropriate:

- a) INFORMATION ON LABOUR LAWS AND PRACTICES IN TURKEY .....
- b) INFORMATION ON THE ECONOMY OF TURKEY .....
- c) INFORMATION ON INTERNAL UNION ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURES .....
- d) DETAILS OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND RESULTS OF NEGOTIATIONS .....
- e) SHORT NEWS OF STRIKES AND INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES .....
- f) BACKGROUND ARTICLES ON INDIVIDUAL TRADE UNIONS IN TURKEY .....
- g) PROFILES OF TRADE UNION LEADERS .....
- h) INTERVIEWS WITH LEADING FIGURES IN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN TURKEY .....
- i) WOMEN AND TRADE UNIONS .....
- j) INTERNATIONAL VIEWS OF TRADE UNIONS IN TURKEY .....
- k) POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF TÜRK-İŞ (TURKISH T.U. CONFEDERATION) .....

2. Would you be interested in a single subscription to the bulletin? ..... YES/NO

3. Would you be interested in bulk subscriptions (more than 2 copies) of the bulletin? ..... YES/NO

4. Comments or additional suggestions.

Please return this questionnaire to: ISHA Haber Ajansı, 37/1,  
Hacıbey Apt. Küçükklanga Cad., Aksaray-İSTANBUL/TURKEY

## SUBSCRIBE TO ISHA Bulletin

Subscription rates are : 6 mounts, 1 year

Individuals : \$ 25      \$ 40

Others : \$ 30      \$ 50

All inclusive of postage

I wish to subscribe to ISHA Bulletin for 6 months/1 year and I enclose payment of . . . . .

Name: .....

Address: .....

Subscription to commence on .....

For subscription, the amount required should be sent to the following bank account:

A. Mardin

Yapı ve Kredi Bankası

435 Küçükklanga Şubesi — İstanbul/Turkey

Hesap No (Account No.) 5664-8

This form should be sent to the following address: ISHA Haber Ajansı,

Küçükklanga Cad. Hacıbey Apt. 37/1 Aksaray 34300 - İstanbul - TURKEY