

ISHA BULLETIN

No: 6 • 5 MAY 1988



May Day events

A Trade Union or an Association

Türk-İş Adana Rally

Türk-İş İzmir Meeting

Workers Angry

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF LABOUR MOVEMENT
AND TRADE UNIONS NEWS FROM TURKEY

ISHA BÜLTEN

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Arif Mardin

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editor's note

Dear Readers,

You shall find in this issue information on the preparatory stages and on the eventful celebration of May Day 1988.

Concrete facts about collective bargaining disputes and wide spreading strikes shall also be covered in this issue.

One of the most important developments of the previous month was of course the visit of the NALGO officers to Turkey. The visit of the delegations of the world's most representative "white collar" workers' union was organized by our agency ISHA.

Guest unionists upon their comprehensive solidarity proposals were greatly admired by the union officers and by the labour movement which is undergoing a contentious period. The visit proved a considerable advancement in the solidarity and brotherhood of the working class of Turkey and Great Britain. But we will publish this event in the next issue.

The well-known Taksim square in İstanbul inevitably becomes a field of political action on every May Day, which one would only rarely witness.

Every year on May Day Taksim Square, as a symbol, reflects the resoluteness and the level of the labour struggle as well as the trade union movement, which was also the case in 1988.

In despite of a severe restrictions, threats, in timidation and daunting of the Özal Government and the oppression of the police, workers, nurses, lawyers, 9 MPs and students marched in small groups and from different directions to Taksim Square.

They wanted to demonstrate on May Day 1988 that they were still loyal to the struggle waged by the democrats and revolutionaries 38 of whom were assassinated during the May Day Celebrations of 1977 wich was joined by 500.000 people. And they did.

As can easily be observed from the relevant information and news as well as the photos, police have brutally beaten, dragged and battered the marchers whom they considered to have stage an illegal action on the pretext that the government had banned the march and demonstration. They have opened fire in the air, and have detained 85 demonstrators, some of whom were later arrested.

Taksim Square which was shut to the workers during totalitarian and anti-democratic regimes, witnessed once again-albeit its weakness, deficiency and unorganized character-the "feast" of the labour.

The Editorial Board

“WE WILL CELEBRATE MAY DAY”

**INTERNATIONAL UNITY, STRUGGLE AND
SALIDARITY DAY OF THE WORKING CLASS IS
BUILDING UP ITS LEGALITY ON THE BASE OF
PRESSURES, PROSECUTIONS AND RESISTANCES.**

“As long as the laws permitted, trade union directors and lawyers put a great effort to use the right of meeting and march for demonstration which was an international profit for the working class and had not been restricted even in the 1982 Constitution and the reactionary laws.” Preparations for Mayday Labour Day came out to the daylight on 14 April with two important signs:

An organizing committee of 10 people; 6 directors, 4 from Türk-İş and 2 from the Independent Otomobil-İş and Banks Sen, 4 union officers, lawyer and educator applied to the Governship of İstanbul in order to celebrate May day. Trade unions were suggesting to celebrate the day not in Taksim Square as traditionally but in Sultanahmet Square. This suggestion gave a more reactionary and peaceful image compared to the traditional revolutionary-democrat left wing

ideas which protested the massacre of 38 progressive democrats on 1 May 1977 in Taksim Square by the fascist powers and having noone to be accused of until now.

In the application to the Governship, the organizing committee of the trade unions stated:

“To the Authority of İstanbul Governship,

We, as the organizing committee, and representing our identities below, require to arrange an open air meeting in accordance with the law of meeting and demonstrative march numbered 2911 and with the determined aim on the determined date. The aim of the meeting is to celebrate the international Labour Day of May day

Under the compulsion of the law, slogans which would be used in the meetings were declared:



Syndical rights to the whole personnels!
No strike restriction!
Workers hand in hand to a general strike!
1982 Constitution must be changed!
Democratic Turkey!
Organized unity can not be overcome!
Long live the solidarity of workers!
Long live the syndical unity!
Decisions of action are becoming real!
Türk-İş is coming!
Government, resign!
Fathers are unemployed, children are hungry!

Strengthen the solidarity with strikes!
Increase in prices, oppression and torture:
This is the government!

We are workers; we are strong; we are the leaders of the struggle!

Trade unions made the second action real on the same day. In a joint declaration announced to the public opinion, they said they applied to the Governship and added:

"We will celebrate May day "

In the press declaration dated 14 April 1988, the organizing committee stated:

"On behalf of the unions, we have made a legal attempt to celebrate May day Labour Day which reflects the international unity, struggle and solidarity of the working class. In our country, there is no legal restrictions to celebrate Mayday but there is an effective restriction and oppression on Mayday Therefore, the aim of our attempt is to remove the arbitrary obstacles on it. Aiming this, we apply to the Governship Authority to get a permission for May day meeting and call for both the workers from Türk-İş, Hak-İş, Independent Unions and the ones who aren't the members of any; democratic associations, and foundations; occupational associations and all forces fighting for democracy to participate in the preparations of 1st May celebrations."

May day application of the unions was rejected on the base of the "Application of Emergency State" which is a transition model between the military power and civil democracy.

On 19 th April 1988, the Governship published a statement to the public opinion for the first time regarding Mayday and it was said:

"In order to preserve the state of peace and security that we have reached during the period of martial law as the whole nation, it is found essential to keep the regulatory measures which took part in the Emergency State Law numbered 2935 and put into action by the Commandership of Martial Law."

The Governship invited the people who have complaints to apply to:

- a. The Bureau of Emergency State
- b. Police Department
- c. Commandership of City-Gendarme Regiment

NEW EVENTS

Criticizing the statement of Governship Mayday organizing committee made a joint press statement and declared:

"We ask the Governship to review the statement and change the negative approach. As the organizing committee, we will apply to courts and if this isn't sufficient, we will use our personal right to apply to "European Court of Human Rights"

This time progressionist press gave a support to the organizing committee which called "all workers and working people, democratic associations and public opinion."

Spokesmen of 12 progressionist journals published a joint declaration under the heading of "Mayday Tradition Will Be Kept Alive". It was also said: "Sovereign powers that turned Mayday 1977 into a blood lake is now using this as a reason to prohibit Mayday The answer of the working class to this is: 'We will take the revenge of Mayday! 1977' Taksim Square is! May day Square' Let's go for May day

We, as political youth journals, once more announce our belief to keep the tradition of Mayday in spite of all obstacles and restrictions, We take our courage from our trust to the working class. Long live May day "

INEVITABLE RESULT: BRIDGES ARE BURNED

When the second application of the Committee for the Celebration of May Day was rejected by the Governor of Istanbul, developments reached a new stage. The last bridges between the two sides were burned.

At the point the trade unions and the progressive and democratic circles around them who had prepared for unity of action would either retreat or take the risk of putting into practice a right that had been gained.

They chose the second alternative.

Early in the morning of May Day 1988, workers, working people and students converged on Taksim Square in groups of three to five. Among them were trade unions leaders, shop stewards and hundreds of workers. About 10 am., close to 3000 people began marching down famous Beyoğlu Street to Taksim Square.

They were met by police who attacked with clubs and fired into the air. In one of the side streets a clash took place with both sides wielding pieces of fire-wood found outside a bakery.

A second point for May Day celebrations was the Siraselviler-Taksim district which the Social-Democratic Populist Party leaders and trade unionists considered to be more legal. When their application to celebrate May Day was denied, the activity of the Istanbul trade union leaders and the

preparatory committee was transferred to the local SDPP headquarters.

But things did not turn out as planned since the former DİSK President and present SDPP MP, Abdullah Baştürk, and eight other SDPP MP's commemorated May Day "in their own name"

However, the MP's and trade unions were reluctant to march and preferred to drive from the SDPP headquarters to Taksim Square, a distance of 200 metres. One trade unionist expressed his reaction to this as follows: "This is not the way it was supposed to be. We were supposed to march together." The same day, Erdal İnönü, President of the SDPP, proposed that May Day activities be dispersed around the countryside in a way that would liquidate the activity.

The behaviour of the SDPP leaders led to confusion and anger in the SDPP organisation and in its local headquarters, and among the progressive and democrats who chose to go there.

Some intellectuals, students and workers sharply criticised the local SDPP leaders at the headquarters. These groups held the SDPP and the "organising committee" responsible for the disorganisation and confusion on May Day. They themselves left the SDPP headquarters and

started marching towards Taksim Square. Police and officials intervened to try to stop them and there were several arguments and clashes.

By the end of the day, which had started at 9 am, 85 people had been arrested, among them 34 women. The State Security Court extended their period of detention by 15 days on the excuse that the investigation would take some time.

The committee that had been entrusted with the organisation of May Day activities and some leaders of the trade unions connected with it held a meeting that afternoon in the headquarters of the Glass making any statement or taking any decision.

The General Secretary of the Leather Workers' Union (Deri-İş) and the Chief Shopsteward of the Municipal Workers' Union (Belediye-İş) who had acted independently of the organising committee were taken into custody.

Workers and intellectuals, progressives and democrats, raised the May Day banner despite all the threats coming from government. Spokesmen of the progressive groups which participated in the activities marked by clashes stated that, while the May Day celebrations had been modest, they had remained true to the traditions of struggle.

PRESIDENT OF THE İZMİR BRANCH OF TÜRK-İŞ GATHERED



Mr. Şevket Yılmaz

On 13 April, the meeting of the İzmir Branch Presidents of the unions affiliated to Türk-İş was held at Tek-Gıda İş Union. In the speech made by Şevket Yılmaz, he pointed out the government's accusation of Türk-İş for making politics and he shortly said: 'An increase below the inflation rate will be expected in collective bargaining negotiations, restrictions for going on a strike will be on the Supreme Arbitration Board will be full of employers and then when we start actions, we will be accused for being political. If whatever we do to gain our rights is called politics, then we will continue it. We are not an alternative to the ruling party. Our aim is not to punish the

The branch presidents wanted more action. Şevket Yılmaz: 'Wocan stop work at any time.'

harvester but to have the harvest home. Also Türk-İş is not alone. We know everybody is having come to a point that I can not go shopping any hard times and is in a very difficult position. I have more. When people see me, they do not let me go without asking what the situation will be. So Mr. Özal, how do you plan to be a part of EEC under these circumstances? Exporting rate is supposed to increase. If so, it does increase by the help of the workers whom they always ignore. When you push the workers aside, nothing goes up other than the imaginary export.'

Mr. Yılmaz then introduced Mr. Bill Heeps who was member of National Legislation Council of Nalگو Union in England. He said that NALGO was the third largest union in England and their congress in 1987, they decided to support, Türk-İş.

Orhan Sorguç, the 3rd Regional President of Türk-İş suggested a full day of action instead of a 2 hours one.

news

WORKERS ARE ANGRY-DIRECTORS ARE CERTAIN

- Confederation of Türk-İş will prove its certainty in the meetings and marches.
- According to the explanations of trade union leaders, there is no way to act if the decision of action is not followed.
- By the end of May, meetings and marches covering 30 cities will be on the agenda.
- The area of action will cover 3/4 of Turkey and 80 % of the working class.
- The Prime Minister and employers are trying to arrive at a resolution with abstentions in Türk-İş. Spokesmen of the opposition have started the preparations of changing the Constitution and antidemocratic law of trade unionism.
- Türk-İş directors: 'We can't take action as an aim, but a pathway to reach our targets.'

TRADE UNION DIRECTORS' OPINIONS ON THE DECISION OF ACTION AND ITS APPLICATIONS

Şevket Yılmaz,

the General President of Türk-İş:

‘ An increase below the inflation rate will be asked for in collective bargaining, restrictions for a strike will still exist, the Supreme Arbitration Board will be full of employers and then when we start actions, we will be accused for being political.

If whatever we do to regain our rights is called politics then we'll go on making politics. We aren't an alternative to the ruling party. When Mr. Özel gives up everything, we won't take his place.

Though we are all in harmony, the head of the government insists on the opposite of it since he said that participation in the lunch boycott was 40 %. This clearly shows that the Prime Minister doesn't care Türk-İş at all. However, Türk-İş isn't alone. We know everybody is in a difficult position.

I can't go shopping any more because people around me don't let me go without asking what their situation will be. I wonder how Özal intends to be accepted to EEC. Exporting rate is increasing by the help of ignored workers. If you push the worker aside, nothing goes up except the imaginary export. We can stop work at any time. I can't give an exact date. We will talk about what to do on 1 May in a secret meeting and also discuss about a full day action and marching everywhere in Turkey instead of in 30 cities later on.'



Münir Ceylan, the General President of Petrol-İş:

‘ I don't doubt Türk-İş is turning off the decisions taken by the Council of Presidents. The administration can't break the decisions taken by the Council of Presidents. An unwilling change in policy gives damages not only to the workers' movement as well. I want to believe that there is no change in the policy determined. Actions will take place. We won't sit tight. We are always in contact with the administration and trying to explain what could happen if any backward step is taken. These actions will definitely take place and whoever changes his mind will be crushed under his burden.'



Tamer Eralan, the General President of Çimse-İş:

‘ I don't think the directors of Türk-İş will run over the determined principles and the plan of action after the talks with the Unions of Public Employers. In the light of the decisions taken by the Council of Presidents they could have meetings with also the Unions of Public Employers.’

Yener Kaya, the General President of Deri- İş:

‘ Türk-İş has taken a principal decision about collective bargaining negotiations. Any change that occurs will follow the other in rapid succession. Nowadays, maintaining the unity of Türk-İş and the workers is what is mostly needed.’

Güral Erçakır, the General President of Ağaç-İş:

‘ To me there is no change in policy. Türk-İş is following a way it should be. I can guarantee this for Türk-İş.’

Ekber Güvenç, the General President of Basın-İş:

‘ I can't fully understand the attempt of Türk-İş directors to meet the Unions of Public Employers, but I don't think there will be a change in policy.’

Ahmet Balaban, the General President of Koop-İş:

‘ Mr. Yılmaz is neither sincere nor serious. We can go no where by rejecting to get in the service buses or arranging meal boycotts Türk-İş is making a show. However, workers aren't so naive that they couldn't see where to arrive. We should stop work as soon as possible without cheating each other. It is Türk-İş's choice to be either serious or to leave the arena soon.’

Faruk Barut, the General President of Tes- İş:

‘ I suppose the directors of Türk-İş have talked about the problems to the Unions of Public Employers. I'm absolutely sure that no change in policy has taken place. I don't think the government will compromise after these actions, since it doesn't believe the people and the workers. Its policy also doesn't show any curable sign for workers. What will be the result then? I think it is continuous action.’



Bayram Meral, The General President of Yol-İş:

‘ Holding a secret meeting with the government oriented Unions of Public Employers doesn't solve any problems. Instead of this, Türk-İş should talk to the higher authorities of the government. However, after all, I don't think anything has changed in the policy determined.’

Kenan Gürbüz, the General President of Tez-Koop İş:

‘ There is a certain silence which I can't figure out the reasons why. If we surrender because of persistently rising pressures, we can't explain this to our workers. There is no positive progress after taking the decision of action. I wonder if it is a new tactic to waste our time. Therefore we will either let the pressures break our unity or go on a strike. There is no other way.’

Kenan Durukan, the General President of Türk-Harb İş:

‘ In order to change decisions of action, Türk-İş should get a permission from the Council of Presidents. If something is being solved behind the door, it must be explained to us, of course, we will try hard to find the ways of negotiating, but I don't approve to talk to the Unions of Public Employers before sorting out the reasons that have brought Türk-İş to that point.’

İlhan Dalkılıç, the General President of Independent Otomobil-İş:

‘ Türk-İş's decisions of action can be satisfactory for a confederation that hasn't put anything into action until now. However, they are definitely not enough when we think about the present situation of the working class. If Türk-İş can't manage, we have some planned actions that will be announced soon. Cancellations of actions to a far date make workers angry. This is why there is a noticeable amount of grumbles going on among the workers. Türk-İş should not cancel the planned meeting in İstanbul.’

Yurdal Şenol, the General President of Tümtis:

‘ There is no way to return. Workers are having hard times and the pressures are increasing. It is not the time to look behind. If Türk-İş intends to move backwards, nothing can stop the workers.’

TÜRK-İŞ AD



Another link in Türk-İş's chain of action was the Adana rally. It was held, in line with Türk-İş's decision to organize rallies in those regions intensely occupied by working people, on 3.4.1988. Workers gathered in a distance of 2 km. to the meeting spot to form a mass of 25.000.

Workers, throughout the march, invited people watching the demonstration on the streets and from their balconies to participate the march and the meeting. Spectators responded the call by joining the demonstrators which brought about a workers demo the Adana people will never forget.

Most significant aspects of the meeting was the exuberant and massive participation of women, who shouted in protest swinging empty pots and pans. Woman demonstrators shouted continuously, 'We are hungry, we are', 'Who's going to feed our hungry children', 'Kitchens are wrecked'.

Despite the heat over 30 c, workers marched with the participation of other people the 2 km. road to the New Station Square to form a crowd of 40.000.

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MASSIVE EXUBERANCE

- Türk-İş president Şevket Yılmaz
- Workers shouted in Adana
- Adana demonstration, more than 40.000 workers participated
- Workers called upon the

Adana police force reinforced by a considerable number of police and gendarmerie arrested a group of youngsters shouting 'Freedom for the Kurds'.

Şevket Yılmaz in his speech said: 'Are we going to be defeated by existing conditions? Can we mention peace where no bread and freedom

prices, to express the heart breaking condition of the workers, public, to express the heart breaking condition of the workers, public employees and agricultural workers envisaging costly living conditions, then we shall continue to make politics.

If it is politics to demand the anti-democratic provisions of the Constitution and labour legislation to be amended, then we shall continue to make politics. If it is politics to wage struggle to protect the rights of those working under unbearable conditions then we shall continue to make politics. They should not bother to wink at the prosecutors, their office has become a venue for our daily visit already...'

Şevket Yılmaz reminded that the daily papers were writing the stories of people who were consuming bones instead of meat, said, 'Our people boil bones to feed their children with the few grams of meat on them. The situation of millions of unemployed is even worse. They can not take home with them a loaf of bread. And the political government issues one tax after another.

They are giving out millions to shadow exporters as stimulation credit, the money they collect from us as tax. They are struggling to save bankrupt companies again with tax they collect from us. They become spendthrifts with our money.'

Yılmaz continued his speech by pointing out that it was the first ever in the labour history of Turkey for 1.5 million of workers to stage a joint action, lunchtime food boycott, with a great discipline and resoluteness and they shall continue to display such solidarity and joint action. Yılmaz said, 'The indifferent appearance of the political government should not deceive anyone. You know people who whistle passing along a cemetery at midnight, that is how they feel now. The day we went on lunchtime food boycott, prime minister was eating his honeycomb ... style cake. He probably thinks he is mocking with us. But he does not know what our workers, seeing that photo think about him, he really does not know that. He does not know the reaction of our people...'

AS IF OUR DEMO TOOK PLACE SOMEWHERE IN AFRICA

Şevket Yılmaz, whose speech was frequently interrupted by shoutings 'we are hungry' said that the government was seriously annoyed by workers actions but somehow insisted on continuing with its implementations.

Şevket Yılmaz said, the political government seemed to have shut ears to shoutings of the workers and 'as if our action was taking place in a country out in Africa, as if these people shouting their demands are not the inhabitants of this

country.'

He continued his speech with the following words: 'Our Constitution states that we are all part of a unity. What kind of unity is this? The concern of millions of people is not the concern of political government. As if our action was taking place in a country out in Africa, as if these people shouting their demands are not the inhabitants of this country.'

Even those who administer a private farm can not have a such a relentless attitude. Listen to what the ministers say: 'Our people want more price increase' another says, 'Our people have lots of money'. They are not ashamed at all. They are helpless and bewildered'.

Şevket Yılmaz who directly addressed the workers in the last part of his speech said: 'Are we going to yield? Can we talk about peace where no bread and no freedom exist? Are we going to act as spectators while our dignity is abused?'

'Of course we will not yield, we shall not yield. Of course we shall not talk about peace until there is bread and freedom. Of course we shall not match as our dignity is abused.'

We shall continue to wage hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder our struggle for our hard work, for the livelihood of our children and of our families, for our fundamental rights and for democracy.'

'Long live our struggle...'

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSAL CONCERNING LABOUR

Opposition parties are working on constitutional amendment concerning working conditions. Numerous restrictions were brought with the 1982 Constitution adopted during military rule. As a result of increased reaction from the opposition and public opinion, some provisions of the Constitution had been changed through referendum. At present, some amendment proposals are prepared concerning working and trade union life. Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) deputies have prepared amendment proposals demanding some of the restrictive provisions to be abolished and some new provisions to be inserted.

The draft is to be examined by a commission composed of True Path Party (DYP) and SHP deputies to take its final shape. In the draft all the working people, including public employees are recognized the right to join unions and voluntary bargaining.

BRENDA HUDSON
BILL HEEPS
MICHEAL WILSON
OF
NALGO
IN GREAT BRITAIN
SEND MAY DAY GREETINGS TO
OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN TURKEY
AND WISH Y U S U C E E S
IN YOUR STRUGGLES



TEZ-KOOP-İŞ



HELLO TO ALL THE PROLETARIANS OF THE WORLD

HELLO

To the revolutionary youth, working class and all the working people living under the imperialist-fascist pressures and exploitation in the fields, prisons and factories.

on this coming May day;

We are and we will in the future, increasing the acceleration of our struggle against torture, high cost of living and high prices; the ones who are trying to create a single type of human, society, trade union, prison cloth, student union and finally a single type of thinking. We commemorate our martyrs of May Day with respect.

Aynur Karaaslan

The President of the Third
Regional Branch of Tez-Koop İş

A TRADE UNION OR AN ASSOCIATION?

VIOLENT DISCUSSIONS TOOK PLACE BETWEEN THE OPPOSITION AND THE RULING PARTY DURING 1988 BUDGET TALKS OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

- Opposition parties got involved in a competition to prove their sensitivity about syndical rings and democratic freedoms
- First sings of the actions and certainty of the working class: the equilibrium of the class strength is shifted to the left.
- Parliamentary opposition is tending to from solidarity to show respect to democratic rights and freedoms.
- The Minister of Labour and Social Security is trying to give a more liberal image than her party is.
- The rulers are anxious about the radicalization and politization of the worker's actions. They look for precautions to smooth the actions.
- The government is trying to find a way to negotiate both with the whole body of Türk-İş and the trade unions.



Cevdet Selvi

Budget of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security was approved on 12 April after the discussions at TBMM (Turkish National Assembly). Some representatives of the parties who were former trade unionists made interesting comments during the discussions which were extremely violent from time to time.

Fehmi Işıklar, a representative of Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) stated that the articles of the '82 Constitution and the work laws coincided with the employers' demands. He then went on his talk taking the report of the Confederation of Turkish Employers' Unions (TİSK) as a reference.

'Today trade unions have turned to usual associations or charitable societies because of the réarrangements made by the employers.'

Mr. Işıklar, who was one of the directors of DİSK that was banned by the military power, pointed out that even Türk-İş, comparably a moderate confederation, and the unions affiliated to it were mutining and he added:

'ILO is getting anxious about its modest and acceptable principles not being in process in Turkey even though they have already been carried out in African countries.

conference in June. Being in the black list will mean that the sanctions used in South Africa will also be in process in Turkey, since South Africa is on the ILO's black list. None of us has the right to put Turkey into South Africa's position.'

50 % DECREASE IN THE WORKERS' PURCHASING POWER

Güneş Müftüoğlu, the Zonguldak representative of liberal True Path Party (DYP) repeated that the '82 Constitution and the matching work laws restricted the syndical rights and freedoms. Related to the workers' low wage he said:

'Low wage policy is not true, because investors know very well that in the countries where syndical and democratic rights exist, the wages can't be kept at low levels. In our condition, purchasing power of wages has declined 50 % between 1980-87. A qualified mine worker, for example, receives 106.000 TL. after working for 16 years.'

Then he talked against the unjust dismissals and wished them not exist any more and said:

'The aim is not to protect the workers but the foreign investments and big holdings and also to form a defenceless army of workers with low labour.'

PRAISES TO the 1982 CONSTITUTION

Brahim Öztürk, the Adana representative of Motherland Party (ANAP) who was a former Social Democrat and also the former general president of Hava-İş, made quite interesting explanations and said: 'Present work laws are aimed to maintain both the peace of the country and the labour. The opportunity of free collective bargaining has been given and the principles of powerful trade unionism have been brought up.'

We don't agree with the opposite views defending the impossibility of using the right of strike and trade unionism according to these laws. These claims aren't real.'

Mr. Öztürk then declared that the 1961 Constitution which had a liberal content, had actually some sentences breaking the peace of labour.

Speaking on behalf of the parliamentary group of the ruling party Mr. Öztürk exalted the 1982 Constitution which had been badly criticized. He fully defended the '82 Constitution and the new work laws since they were clarified from all negative effects breaking the labour peace included in the other constitutions.

He then stated that by the help of the present work laws, trade unions received new blood for running their inner democracy and these laws had some sentences preventing the right of a strike and lock out from being misused.

Cevdet Selvi, the representative of Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) and the former

general president of Petrol-İş Union said that the reason for the present chaos between the worker and the employer was that the government had taken no steps to change the unequal situation formed by the laws arranging industrial relationships.

Having explained the similarity between the status of the contracted personnels and of the slavery, he stated that the government was defending all the damages given by the Supreme Arbitration Board in the past through the Unions of Public Employers.

Mentioning about the depoliticization of the unions through political restrictions, he said:

'The government is trying to get rid of the problems by making some superficial changes. It is obvious that this approach can never solve the blind alleys of the industrial relationships and it will lead Turkey to become a country out of the international contracts. Therefore what should be done now is not to form an aesthetical intervention but to try to build up a healthy structure for the worker-employer relationships and to make rearrangements in the principal democratic rights and freedoms as well as in the contemporary syndical rights.'

Regarding to Türk-İş actions, Mr. Selvi revealed that being insensitive towards the problems couldn't be thought as a solution. He stated that although the Minister of Labour and Social Security show her good will, she generally contradicted herself and he said:

'Miss Aykut says she will sort out the problems between the workers and the employers, but she prefers to be silent about the changes of the Constitution Critics made by the spokesmen of the opposition parties weren't answered but some information about the Ministry's applications was given.'

RED FLAG-GREEN FLAG

DISCUSSIONS

After the Ministers' speech, Ömer Çiftçi the representative of Social Democratic Populist Party (SHP) started to speak about the budget of the Ministry and by criticizing the sentence of 'There are 3 confederations of workers but only 1 confederation of employers he said: 'Not 3 but there are 4 confederations in Turkey. The fourth one is DİSK. It isn't closed; it is directed by the administrators.'

Then the members of the ruling Motherland Party (ANAP) insulted him by saying that the nation banned DİSK. Mr. Çiftçi replied them and said: 'Not the nation, but the capital banned DİSK.'

After hearing the words of 'you want to wave a red flag' from the rows of ANAP, Mr. Çiftçi spoke again and said:

'No, dear friends who are waving a green flag, we aren't waving a red flag but the Turkish flag.'

OTOMOBİL-İŞ

May day is the international day of Unity, Struggle and Solidarity of all the workers of the world-whatever their languages, religions and colors are-on which they announce and defend their common democratic wishes.

Looking through the history of Turkey, we can see that 1st May was banned when no democracy existed and was celebrated by hundreds and thousands of people when democracy appeared.

If no permission is given to celebrate it in streets and squares, we must ask the reason to the ones who say that there is a democracy here.

The agenda of our proletariat on May Day is to struggle for getting the right of celebration back.

We as Otomobil-İş (Turkey Automotive Product, Mounting, Iron, Steel, Machine and Manufacturing from Metal Commodities Industries Workers Trade Union) Union celebrate the May Day of all the workers of the world who live with only their labours.

**LONG LIVE MAY DAY
LONG LIVE THE INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY OF THE
WORLD'S PROLETARIAT!**

DERİ-İŞ

On May day 1988 the counterrevolution is living its last days. 12th September and the government established by it suffer from the critical economic problems and the growing social opposition. Realizing the resolution and defeat, the compradors look for new solutions. They are trying to lessen the social opposition and prevent it from turning against the establishment.

Thousands of workers realize that the solutions of the establishment are worthless. Their numbers are increasing and will increase during the struggle against these ways. They also know that any sort of government can not find the solutions. Maybe on this May Day our proletariat won't be able to show its anger and shout its hopes; Maybe it won't be able to protest the high prices,

violence and torture;

Maybe it won't be able to shout the slogan: "LONG LIVE SOCIALISM!";

but no problem, because all these show that the enemies are in terror and weak. All these terror and violence, widely used torture, deaths and prisons could not satisfy the ones who took the government wishing to establish the order and stability forever; so they won't be enough for their followers to live.

In spite of all these, 1988 can be a year of struggle and indeed it will be.

Long live 1st May!

Munzur Pekgüleç
Vice General President of
Deri-İş Union

LASPETKİM-İŞ

WE SHALL BE IN FIELDS ON MAY DAY

May day is the day of unity, struggle and solidarity of the workers all over the world. This day, which is the anniversary of the bloody massacre of workers, has been celebrated since the 1920's. In 1976, 1977 and 1978 our proletariat celebrated it in the fields. This costed the lives of 36 workers. After 12th September, they couldn't manage to make people forget may day although they forced them to do so. This year trade unions made an application for cooperative celebrations and this was the first attempt after 12th September. Although there had been no legal prohibition, it was rejected. However, our working class is certain to make massive celebra-

tions in the fields on may day 1988. Strikes, meal boycotts of thousands of workers, demonstrations which have been widely spread before may day, shows us that it is impossible to be silent against the attacks to our rights. May day 1988 will be the day of struggle, against all anti-democratic applications, tortures, pressures and exploitation. We shall prove the tradition of struggle of our proletariat once more.

**EXECUTIVE BOARD OF
LASPETKİM-İŞ UNION**

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



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- a) INFORMATION ON LABOUR LAWS AND PRACTICES IN TURKEY
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- h) INTERVIEWS WITH LEADING FIGURES IN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN TURKEY
- i) WOMEN AND TRADE UNIONS
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LONG LIVE MAY DAY



**HAPPY MAY DAY THE DAY
OF UNITY, STRUGGLE AND
SOLIDARITY
TO THE PROLETERAIT
OF THE WORLD**

**SALUTE TO THE PROLETERAIT OF THE WORLD
SALUTE TO THE PROLETERAIT OF TURKEY**

petrol-iş