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ECEVIT'S GOVERNMENT YIELDED TO THE IMF, DEVALUED TURKISH LIRA

ANKARA (ITA) - Although he claimed an independent economic and financial policy in the government programme, new Prime Minister Ecevit too yielded to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and devalued Turkish Lira drastically -about 30 percent- in an apparent move to trim Turkey's huge trade deficit.

The previous government of Demirel had already been involved in lengthy negotiations with the IMF, but had not concluded an agreement, believed to have included a hefty devaluation, when it fell from power December 31.

In fact, economically torn apart Turkey is facing toughest time in recent history and has put the Government of Ecevit probably in a most serious fate-making test.

With foreign exchange drying up Turkey faces at present the most pressing 650 million dollars repayment obligations with another 340 million coming next month.

Turkey's foreign debt is 12.7 billion dollars and press reports claim it may reach as high as 15.7 billion dollars when interest payments are counted in.

Ecevit Government was obliged to take immediate measures to bail out of the economic cyclone which shocked Turkish prestige at home and abroad both and forced the Turkish citizens to be scare of a gloom and dark future.

Instead of searching new possibilities which can be obtained by breaking chains of imperialist domination on Turkey, Ecevit's Government too preferred a solution within the frame of imperialist order.

Now negotiations between Turkey and the IMF are expected to resume soon on approving foreign credits to Turkey after a year-long refusal resulting from its inability to pay its debt.

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Ecevit Government hopes also an increase in the labour force remittance and puts it upto 1,200 million dollars. But the hope became shaded after a recent survey by the Finance Ministry that the workers' consumption patterns have changed in recent years and less savings should be expected.

To overcome the serious problems the Turkish Government announced some other measures in mid-February with import restrictions, limiting touristic visits abroad of Turkish citizens and lifting foreign currency rate guarantees.

But all these measures have been very far from protecting the toiling masses from the destroying effects of an inflation provoked by the devaluation.

Just after the devaluation, price hikes began and first of all prices of petro-chemicals and iron-steel products were increased 47-70 percent. Since these items are raw materials, many consumer goods immediately started to be marketed at prices about 70 percent higher than the regular.

Abdullah Bastürk, President of Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions (DISK) and the Executive Committee of Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) criticized the government's economic decisions saying that they serve to the interests of a handful capitalists and put new burdens on the shoulders of working people.
(C-V-M-G-DG-15/3)

ECEVIT'S DISSATISFACTION OVER THE US ATTITUDE

ANKARA (ITA). - The summit conference of Turkish and Greek leaders ended with an attack on the Carter administration by Turkish Premier Bülent Ecevit.

Ecevit and Greek Premier Caramanlis reported their meeting established a "friendly and sincere dialogue" which will be kept at high level to restore friendly relations between two feuding NATO allies. But Ecevit voiced bitter disappointment with the US Government for producing what he termed "a surprise in the negative sense in the midst of friendly and constructive talks". His comment referred to a statement by US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance two days earlier linking the lifting of a US arms embargo on Turkey with the outcome of the talks in Montreux and with Turkey's Cyprus policy.

Turkish Prime Minister said that the US administration, while blaming Congress, was responsible for holding up military aid to Turkey.

Ecevit said he was so angry that he had sent a message to Washington in the middle of his talks with Caramanlis, a note in which he threatened "to revise many of our policies" toward the United States.

Turkish Premier apparently felt that the United States was trying to induce him to make concessions, and he reacted by taking a hard line saying "I want only one thing from the United States. Stand aside and do not cast a shadow."

Ecevit's heated words gave rise to speculation in Ankara that Turkey could refuse to attend a NATO head of governments meeting in Washington in May, to be followed by a review of Turkey's contribution to the alliance, if steps were not taken by next month to push the defense agreement between Turkey and the United States through the Congress.

"On the question of its national defense Turkey is not without alternatives," Ecevit warned.

The said agreement pledges one billion dollars in military aid to Turkey, over a period of four years, in return for American bases on Turkish soil.

Nevertheless, socialist opposition in Turkey found Ecevit's reaction superficial.

Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) Secretary General Dr. Nihat Sargin said: "From the point of Turkey's vital interests, neither the lifting of embargo nor the approval of the defense agreement are acceptable. With the approval of the defense agreement, the Turkish Government will have given the United States new privileges contrary to the national sovereignty of the Turkish Republic. Instead of approving it, the Turkish National Assembly should reject this agreement. The national security of Turkey can be assured only by the policy of non-alignment, against all military blocs, and by a national strategy aiming solely the defense of fatherland."

On the other hand, Ex-colonel Alparslan Türkeş, leader of the neo-fascist Nationalist Action Party (MHP), main responsible for the political violence in Turkey, accused Ecevit of having misinterpreted Cyrus Vance's statement and of deteriorating US-Turkish relations and manifested once again his mission of defending US interests in Turkey. (C-DN-DG-17/3)

EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS MANIFEST THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH ECEVIT'S GOVERNMENT

ANKARA (ITA) - As the relations between Turkish and US governments becoming strained, European social democrat parties manifest their solidarity and support for Ecevit's administration.

On February 20, 1978, Ecevit received the visiting delegation of socialist deputies from the European Parliament under Group leader Ludwig Fellemaier. The delegation delivered a special message from German social-democrat leader Willy Brandt to Ecevit. Fellemaier told "it is a proof of the great importance Mr. Brandt attributes to Premier Ecevit, having sent it with a special courier."

Fellemaier told Ecevit that their visit of Turkey was a fruit of the close cooperation between the Republican People's Party (CHP) and European social democrat parties. "We are aware of our responsibility in the full implementation of the partnership deal signed between Turkey and the European parliament. The parliamentarians of the Socialist Group of the European Parliament can play an active role in developing ties between the EEC and Turkey," he said.

Premier Ecevit too expressed the gratitude from receiving the delegation a short time after coming to power. "We are presently holding the initial studies to cope with the grave economic problems. After which, we will take up seriously our relations with the EEC. When we reach that stage, we believe that we will receive great assistance from our social democrat friends in Europe," he said.

On the other hand, Ecevit was the honour guest at a friendly private meeting in Switzerland among European social democrat leaders and Mr. Willy Brandt expressed once more their solidarity with Ecevit. Portuguese Premier Mario Soares invited Ecevit to Portugal for an official visit. (C-V-DN-DG-24/3)

SOCIALIST LEADERS AND INTELLECTUALS STILL PROSECUTED IN TURKEY

ANKARA (ITA) - Despite the promises of Ecevit for respecting human rights and freedoms, socialist leaders and progressive intellectuals are still prosecuted and brought before tribunals by public prosecutors.

Recently, Mrs. Behice Boran, President of Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP), was summoned to the office of the public prosecutor of Istanbul in order to be interrogated on the charge of "having propagated communism". However, Mrs. Boran refused to go to interrogation saying that the sole authority to initiate a proceeding against any political party is the Chief Prosecutor of the Republic.

Mrs. Boran is being tried also for having praised the workers resistance of 15-16 June 1970 on the 7th anniversary of the event.

On the other hand, Labourers' Party of Turkey (TEP) Leader Mihri Belli and other party administrators are being tried before a criminal court on the charge of "having violated the Political Parties Act". Mr Belli is being tried also on the charge of "having propagated for communism in an interview he gave to the Greek newspaper Ta Nea."

On February 18, 1978, in Kayseri, Suat Uzunlu who sold the newspaper "Kurtuluş" was arrested on the charge of having propagated communism.

On February 25, 1978, Peace Court of Istanbul decided to confiscate the Turkish edition of George Politzer's "Fundamental Principles of the Philosophy".

On February 28, 1978, Recep Maragli, Editor of Komal Publishing House, was arrested for having published a book entitled "Open Letter to the President of the Republic". All exemplaries of the book were confiscated just at the binding house.

On March 3, 1978, Writer Rasih Nuri İleri was tried before a criminal court on the charge of "having propagated communism in a book entitled Kurtulus which he wrote".

On March 13, 1978, Mustafa Yıldırım Türk, Editor of periodical "Halkın Kurtuluşu" was tried eight times within a day for having propagated communism in different articles which appeared in the periodical. He is still under arrest for 18 different cases.

The fact that many intellectuals are still in prisons for their political opinions provokes incidents. Recently 408 prisoners in Adana City Prison and 1501 in Buca Prison of Izmir made hunger-strikes with the demand of a general amnesty for all political prisoners and detainees. (C-M-DN-DG-26/3)

**"GRAY WOLVES" STARTED BLOODY MASSACRES;
WORKERS PROTESTED AGAINST THE ESCALATION OF FASCIST TERROR,
HUNDREDS OF WORKERS DETAINED FOR THIS PROTEST**

ANKARA (ITA) - Notwithstanding the Ecevit's social-democrat government has been in power since two months, the bloody terror of fascist-oriented organisations continues without interruption all over Turkey and governmental measures remain insufficient.

Recently, on March 16, 1978, rightist extremists threw a bomb at the students of Istanbul University as they left classes and killed six persons. Four days later, the corpses of five workers were found at the suburbs of Istanbul.

Protesting these massacres, hundreds of thousands of workers affiliated with Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions (DISK) staged a 2-hour strike in major cities on March 20, 1978. About 1,5 million workers, teachers, students and government employees were involved in this strike which hit public transport, offices and factories.

The response of Premier Ecevit to DISK's protest has been an unexpected one. He branded DISK's action as "illegal" and added: "Those responsible for today's incident will not receive tolerance beyond a certain extent and will bear the consequences of their action within the rules of democratic state of law."

On this accusation by Ecevit, the Public Prosecutor of Bakırköy, where the DISK's center is based, launched a legal proceeding against the leaders of the organization and hundreds of workers having participated in the 2-hour strike were detained.

Abdullah Bastürk, President of DISK, criticized this attitude of Ecevit's government and said: "Despite the fact that the power of 'Nationalist Front' came to an end, the fascist elements are still within the state apparatus and the fascist cells have not been suppressed yet. The working class of Turkey will fight the escalation of fascism."

Again within the last month, two local centers of Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) in Istanbul were destroyed with bomb explosions. The house of National Assembly's Speaker and the building of the Council of State too were destroyed with explosion and machine-gun fires.

Within last 37 days, 51 persons were assassinated for political motives. Hence, the total number of the victims of bloody incidents happened after the formation of Ecevit's government reached 104. Below are the chronological list of recent political assassinations:

- FEB 14: In Siirt, İbrahim Tüzün is shot dead during a political conflict.
In Izmir, cooperative director İsmet Kuyucu is stabbed dead.
- FEB 15: In the district of Elmadağ of Ankara province, worker Haşim Sabit is killed by hitting on the head.
- FEB 17: As a result of an explosion at the Umraniye quarter of Istanbul an unidentified person dies.

- FEB 18: In Istanbul, NOO Mehmet Bal is shot dead as returning to his home.
- FEB 19: In Ankara, student Özcan Demirkalb is shot dead by the police.
In Elazığ, teacher Ali Beltekin is shot dead by his opponents.
Again in Elazığ, Ali Rıza Koşar who was gravely wounded during a political conflict dies in a hospital.
- FEB 20: In Siirt, Halil Ağcan is shot dead by unidentified persons.
In Elazığ, left-minded Gülaga Diçici is shot dead as returning to home.
In Denizli, student Ramazan Dogan is shot dead as putting posters on walls.
- FEB 22: In Istanbul, unidentified persons robbing the State Monopoly warehouse kill employee Mustafa Çelebi.
- FEB 23: In Ankara, Mehmet Çakan who was wounded earlier as waiting in a physician's consultation-room dies in hospital.
- FEB 24: In Ankara, Mustafa Deniz, student at Commerce School is shot dead.
In Gaziantep, high-school student Şeref Çubukçu is shot dead.
Again in Gaziantep, "Gray Wolves" raid on a student dormitory and shoot to death two students, Ali Karakaya and Adil Demiröz.
- MAR 3: In Elmalı, "Gray Wolves" raid the All Teachers' Association and shoot dead student Süleyman Erin and state employee Ali Yahya Özkuyucu.
In Gaziantep, during a raid on a coffee-house, worker Mehmet Karadan dies.
- MAR 4: In Ardahan, student Davut Yagnur was shot to death.
In Giresun, "müezzın" Hasan Beyaz and İsmail Emekçi are shot dead as they were leaving the mosque.
In Ankara, worker Osman Aslan is stabbed to death.
- MAR 6: In Ankara, 9-year old girl Emine Küçükkale is shot dead as passing through a place where students are involved in an armed conflict.
- MAR 9: In Ankara, student Abdullah Turgut is shot dead by unidentified persons.
In Istanbul, high-school student Mehmet Doğruyol is shot dead.
In Izmir, Mustafa Gönen is shot dead during an armed conflict.
- MAR 10: In the city prison of Iğdır district, gendarme Mehmet Sandemir is shot dead by unidentified persons.
- MAR 11: In Gaziantep, Muri Öz and Hasan Aydın who were wounded earlier during a political incident die in hospital.
In Ankara, Halin Ülker and Coşkun Keskin were shot dead with machine-gun fire.
In the district of Manyas of Balıkesir province, Lütfü Acil is shot dead by the police when he was trying to escape from an fire-arms research.
In Malatya, "Gray Wolves" shoot dead Mehmet Korkmaz and Hasan Yasin.
In Adana, lawyer Hasan Aydın who was wounded earlier dies in hospital.
In Izmir, Hüsnü Kayıhan who was stabbed earlier by "Gray Wolves" dies in hospital.
- MAR 14: In the district of Muradiye of Van province, Ferzande Dogan, relative of city mayor, is shot dead during an armed attack on the mayor.
- MAR 15: In the district of Bucak of Burdur province, Ahmet Aydın is ambushed and killed by beating with stones and clubs.
- MAR 16: "Gray Wolves" throw a bomb at the students of Istanbul University and murder Ahmet Turan Önen, Baki Enis, Abdullah Şimşek, Serpil Aksoy, Hatice Ören and Bulent Aker.
- MAR 18: Unidentified persons murder five workers, Bahir Dilge, Cevat Koca, Sinan Koca, Ömer Bayraktar and Salih Ulu, by torturing them and throw their corpses to a waste area.

Interior Minister Ex-general İrfan Özaydınlı said on March 9, 1978 that 71 persons had died of political violence and 155 persons were arrested since his government took over in January. Of these arrested persons 72 were rightists, 64 leftists and the rest of undetermined ideology, he told reporters. Besides, the police chiefs of 57 provinces have been displaced.

Despite these governmental measures, political assassination could not be prevented. It is possible that all these incidents are provoked and even organized by the notorious Counter-guerilla Organization whose status within the Turkish Armed Forces has turned the main topic of the day in Turkey. But Ecevit's Government tries to avoid debate on this issue and refuses to launch an investigation on the provocations of the Counter-guerilla.

WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY (TIP) ORGANIZES "ANTI-NATO" CAMPAIGN

ISTANBUL (ITA) - On the occasion of 29th anniversary of the formation of the NATO Alliance, Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) organized a 3-week Anti-NATO campaign all over Turkey.

The campaign under the slogan of "For National Independence, No to the NATO" will be started on 4th April 1978 and continue until 23rd April.

Mrs. Behice Boran, President of TIP, explaining the reasons of this campaign, said: "On this occasion we shall ask the government to withdraw Turkey from the NATO Alliance. Once again we shall stress that imperialism and its tool of military aggression, NATO, have a character which menaces the world peace and national independences of all countries. It is the Workers' Party of Turkey who started first time the debate on NATO, mutual military agreements and US bases. During the electoral campaign of 1965, TIP had announced that 35 million square meters of Turkish territories were under occupation. In time, this argument turned the theme of a public reaction. Our party and other democratic organizations made many rallies on this subject. The visits of US Sixth Fleet were protested. During these protests, our party gave its first martyr, Vedat Demircioğlu."

The anti-NATO campaign of TIP is supported by democratic organizations of Turkey.

(TIP-DG-25/3)

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