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AS THE MARTIAL LAW CLAMPS DOWN ON THE LEFT, THE RIGHTIST OPPOSITION CALLS FOR TOPPLING THE GOVERNMENT

ANKARA (ITA) - Being unable to take under control political violence acts throughout Turkey within a 2-month period of martial law, the Turkish Government asked the Parliament to extend this emergency period for two months.

The martial law was originally imposed for two months at the end of December 1978 in 13 out of the country's 67 provinces. It was prompted by the bloody events in the south-eastern city of Kahramanmaraş which was resulted in 107 dead.

The extension of martial law coincided with the rightist opposition's calls for a "national struggle for toppling the actual government of Ecevit". In fact, recent violence acts were provoked again by the rightist opposition who aims to push the martial law authorities for resorting to more repressive measures and for acting independently without heeding the Prime Minister's intention to prevent involvement of the military in civilian affairs.

After the proclamation of martial law, Premier Ecevit had set up a Martial Law Coordination Command at the Prime Ministry with the purpose of keeping martial law commanders under political control and had clearly stated that he did not favor restrictive measures.

In order to fail this intention of Ecevit, the rightist opposition encouraged the political terror and the "Grey Wolves", para-military commandos of the neo-fascist Nationalist Action Party (MHP) played a major role in the application of this sinister plan.

The political terror recently took as target one of the distinguished journalists of Turkey, Abdi İpekçi.

On this assassination, Premier Ecevit appealed to all political organizations to reduce the tensions in the nation's political life. "In order to wage an effective struggle against terrorism, cooperation in attitudes and

basic principles, avoidance of provocations and a reduction in political tensions are necessary," the social-democrat Premier declared.

Ecevit reiterated his view that the single aim of all terrorists, no matter what their ideology, was to destroy Turkey's democratic regime.

Going further, the new Minister of Interior, Hasan Fehmi Güneş said the most rational way to combat terrorists is to crush them while they are trying to organize and added: "Crush the head of the snake before it grows."

As a further step, the government presented the Parliament the second part of the "package of measures" to curb political violence in Turkey. Certain amendments have been foreseen in the package concerning the laws of associations, meetings and demonstrations, police and its authorities.

In order to pass these new measures and other bills on taxation and social benefits, the National Assembly plunged into marathon sessions. But despite the absolute majority of the pro-government deputies in Parliament, the rightist opposition headed by the Justice Party (AP) started to apply obstruction tactics and the government could not manage to pass all these bills through Parliament in February.

Indeed, the opposition resorted to several means with the purpose of toppling the actual government and reestablishing a rightist authoritarian regime in the country:

1. Within only one month, the opposition parties gave 38 censure motions to overthrow the government through parliamentary way, but failed.
2. Afterwards, the opposition started to apply obstruction tactics during the debates for discouraging the government and obliging it to resign. But the government made it clear that, despite all obstructions, it is determined to carry out its long-term program. Ecevit charged the opposition with attempting to create the impression that the Government was about to fall. "Perhaps the opposition now hopes, after failing to topple us in the Parliament with censure motions, that the Government will despair of Turkey's problems and resign. But we do not have either such an intention or such despair. The government is strong enough," the Premier said.
3. Finally, losing the hope of overthrowing the government through parliamentary tactics, the Justice Party called on the people to take part in a "national struggle" to topple the government.

The governmental circles interprets this call as an instigation of civil war. But the martial law authorities who are theoretically under the control of the government, instead of prosecuting the rightist organizations instigating bloody events and even a civil war, take as target only the progressive organizations and publications.

The high-lights below give a clear idea about the orientation of the martial law commands:

- JAN 18: Martial Law Command in Adana interdicts the publication and distribution of four leftist periodicals: Devrimci Yol, Devrimci Halk Birliđi, Halkın Kurtuluşu and Kurtuluş.
- JAN 19: Martial Law Command in the provinces of Erzincan and Sivas interdicts the distribution of six leftist periodicals: Halkın Kurtuluşu, Devrimci Halkın Yolu, Kurtuluş, Devrimci Yol, Partizan and Devrimci Halkın Birliđi,
In Islahiye, eight students who wrote "Down with fascism" on the walls are arrested by the martial law authorities.
In Gaziantep, 40 members of the Association of Young Workers are detained by the martial law authorities.
In Ankara, Mehmet Yazıcıođlu, publisher of the leftist periodical Devrimci Yol is taken into custody by the martial law authorities.
- JAN 22: In Adana and Siverek, three progressive organizations, Workers and Peasants Solidarity Association of Siverek, Labour Popular Club of Adana and Dumlupınar Popular Culture Association of Adana are closed down by martial law authorities.
Again in Adana, the martial law command interdicts the publication and distribution of four progressive periodicals: Devrimci Halkın

Halkın Yolu, Kawa, Roja Welat and Rızgari.

- JAN 23: The Martial Law Command of Ankara province interdicts the publication and distribution of nine progressive periodicals: Devrimci Yol, Kurtuluş, Devrimci Halkın Yolu, Devrimci Halkın Birliği, Roja Welat, Kawa, Rızgari, Ürün and Halkın Kurtuluşu. In Gaziantep, the martial law command states that the activities of all political parties and associations in this province were put under the control of martial law authorities.
- JAN 29: The Martial Law Command of Ankara and Istanbul close down four police associations: Pol-Der, Pol-Bir, Pol-Ens and Tem-Der. The Martial Law Tribunal of Ankara province condemns a Socialist Workers' Party (TSIP) member, Mehmet Karadağ, to 10-month prison term for having put a party poster on the wall.
- JAN 30: The Public Administration Institute of Middle-East in Ankara is raided by the military and four progressive members of its educational board, Meral Tecer, Hasan Sami Güven, Birkan Uysal and Dr. Gencay Saylan are arrested. The Martial Law Command of Istanbul interdicts the publication and distribution of some leftist periodicals such as Ürün, Savaş Yolu, Partizan, Bora, İlerici Yurtsever Gençlik, Halkın Birliği, Halkın Yolu, Sürekli Devrim, Bağımsız Türkiye, Dev Genç, Liseli Gençlik, etc.
- FEB 8: The Martial Law Command of Istanbul province arrests a delegate of the Congress of Textile Workers' Trade Union held in Istanbul, Ahmet Görel for having given a motion criticizing the martial law practice.
- FEB 12: Famous theater actor Müjdat Gezen is taken into custody by martial law authorities under the charge of having violated martial law orders. In Ankara, five members of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) are arrested by martial law authorities for having carried in their pockets the weekly review Yürüyüş, a party press organ.
- FEB 14: The Martial Law Command of Ankara province interdicts the publication and distribution of 22 progressive periodicals: Genç Arkadaş, Kon. Devrimci Gençlik, Dev-Genç, İlerici Yurtsever Gençlik, Liseli Gençlik, Partizan, Halkın Birliği, Halkın Yolu, Bora, Sürekli Devrim, Bağımsız Türkiye, Genç Öncü, Genç Sosyalist, Devrimci Demokratik Gençlik, Genç İşçi, Kitle, Güncü, Devrimci Militan, Devrimci Proletarya, Savaş Yolu. The responsible editor of Kurdish review Kawa, Remzi Özgener, is arrested in Diyarbakır by the martial law authorities.

(C-II-DN-H-DG-16/2)

POLITICAL VIOLENCE TAKES AS TARGET ALSO THE LIBERAL MINDED PEOPLE

ANKARA (ITA) - Since the proclamation of martial law at the end of 1978 daily death toll in incidences of political violence has gone down considerably, but political killings still continue in areas not under martial law and even in big urban centers such as Istanbul and Ankara despite emergency measures.

In last one month, the political terror claiming 58 lives took also as target the editor-in-chief of a daily newspaper, a prosecutor of the republic, a police chief and an ex-general among others.

Abdi İpekçi, editor-in-chief of mass circulation daily Milliyet and one of Turkey's leading columnists, was assassinated on February 1st, 1979 by an unidentified terrorist.

When İpekçi stopped his car at a traffic light near his home in fashionable Maçka district the unidentified assailant suddenly appeared in front of his vehicle and opened fire with a pistol as shocked passersby dived for cover.

İpekçi was considered as a defender of pluralist democracy and as a columnist who always contributed to maintaining the equilibrium in the Turkish political life.

It is evident that the planners of this assassination look for furthering the atmosphere of political violence, pushing the martial law authorities to take more repressive measures against the democratic forces and weakening the position of the actual government.

Premier Ecevit said: "This premeditated murder of İpekçi, a journalist respected both at home and abroad, is aimed at destroying Turkey's credibility and democracy."

While the security forces carry out a search operation throughout Turkey, the daily Milliyet offered one million Turkish Liras for any person who comes up with clues that will lead to the arrest of the murderer. Besides, the Turkish Newspapers Publishers Union topped the offer with another five million liras for anyone who leads to find the assassin.

Whether the murderer is found or not, this assassination marks a new phase of the political violence reigning throughout Turkey and leads to a public feeling of insecurity even among those who are not involved in political activities. Such an atmosphere facilitates the application of sinister plans of the obscure forces who look for creating the impression that the actual government is no more capable to curb the "anarchy" and that an authoritarian regime should replace the constitutional one.

As an earlier step of this escalation of terror, on January 30, 1979, the Prosecutor of the Republic in Taşova, İsmail Deger was shot dead when violent incidences swept through this township of Central Anatolia. Just before dying, the prosecutor revealed that he was shot by a rightist.

It is significant that a few days earlier than these bloody events, US Embassy's 1st Secretary Robert Alexander Peck had visited this township and got in touch with some people on political matters.

On February 1st, 1979, Ex-general Cemal Madanoğlu, a member of the Junta which had toppled the Government of Menderes in 1960 and actually a member of the Senate of the Republic was threatened by unidentified persons. Thereupon, police took strict security measures around his residence in Istanbul.

On February 6, 1979, former police chief İlgez Aykutlu was shot dead by unidentified persons in Istanbul just before his home. Aykutlu was one of the main executors of torture during the period of 1971-73 military repression period. After having been dismissed from the police service, he had applied to the Bar for practicing as lawyer, but his demand was refused by this association of lawyers.

On the other hand, Secretary General of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TİP) Dr. Nihat Sargın informed the Interior Minister of the fact that the party's Elazığ Department's chairman Necati Demirel disappeared since he was summoned by the martial law authorities for an interrogation.

Together with the political murders of the last month, the total number of the victims of political violence within 13-month period of Ecevit Government rose to 1036.

Below is the list of 58 political assassinations of the last month:

- JAN 18: Turkish Radio-TV employee İzzet Hacı Alioğlu (Diyarbakır), National Salvation Party member Mehmet Baldöktü (Kayseri), rightist student Ahmet Çakır (Trabzon)
- JAN 19: İbrahim Kaya (Aydın), watchmen Bahaattin Ayber and Mehmet Tekin (İstanbul)
- JAN 20: Leftist student Fatih Yücesoy (Adana), worker Recep Altıparmak (Batman)
- JAN 21: Leftist Ayhan Aksoy (İstanbul)
- JAN 22: Engineer İbrahim Özer (Mardin)
- JAN 23: Leftist teacher Hasan Çakmak (Tunceli), leftist teacher Mahmut Dinçer (Mardin), rightist painter Murat Yalım (Adana), banker Kemal Yanık (Mersin), student Ümit Özdemir (İstanbul)
- JAN 24: Leftist lawyer Abdül Nebioğlu (Kilis), an unidentified (Adana)
- JAN 25: Ahmet Bozkurt (İstanbul)
- JAN 26: Student Halit Suna (Diyarbakır), worker Altay Kızıltaş (İstanbul), İsmet Bodur (Ankara)
- JAN 27: Former "Grey Wolf" Osman Uğur Özaydın (Uşak), rightist employee Muharrem Sabutay (Çanakkale), Mecit Kartal (Gaziantep) ./.

- JAN 28: Mechanician Nedim Keskiner (Adana)
 JAN 29: Osman Andin (Maras), Ihsan Ruhi Dayı (Balıkesir), Davut Durak (Amasya)
 JAN 30: Sergeant Sacit Sulubulut (Kilis), Prosecutor of the Republic Ismail Deger Inal (Taşova), Cumali Yakar (Adana), High school director Süleyman Yanmaz (Manisa), rightist worker Selahattin Koçak (Istanbul), Former "Grey Wolf" Mehmet Kiyak (Eskişehir), teacher Halis Demir (Giresun)
 JAN 31: Shopkeeper Şevket Özcanlar and Bedri Özdenir (Istanbul), student Yıldız Yazgüdü (Istanbul), Kerep Sarı (Çorum)
 FEB 1: Abdi Ipekçi, editor-in-chief of the daily Milliyet (Istanbul)
 FEB 3: Watchman Ali Papagan, Coffee-shopkeeper İsmail Aydın and peasant Adem Güneysu (Ordu), leftist technician Hüseyin Açıkgöç (Bolu)
 FEB 5: Necip Kartallı (Gaziantep)
 FEB 6: Former police chief Ilgız Aykutlu, an unidentified man and an unidentified woman (Istanbul)
 FEB 7: "Grey Wolf" Ali Çetiner (Gaziantep), hairdresser Hasan İlikoba (Adana) Mahmut Demir (Diyarbakır), Niyazi Ata (Trabzon)
 FEB 10: Worker Abdullah İzci (Kayseri)
 FEB 12: Rightist Mustafa Ateşoğlu (Nizip), police officer Ahmet Kaya (Samsun), former "Grey Wolf" Levent Özcan and a 60-year old housewife, Emine Ören (Istanbul)
 FEB 14: Leftist university student Metin İnan (Of), "Grey Wolf" Mustafa Dursun and high-school student Fahri Başaran (Samsun)

(G-M-DN-H-16/2)

ARTICLE 142 BEFORE THE COURT OF CONSTITUTION

ISTANBUL (ITA) - One of the articles of the Turkish Penal Code which menace freedom of expression and organization of socialists in Turkey will be re-examined by the Court of Constitution.

Article 142 of the TPC reads: "Whosoever shall be found guilty of carrying out propaganda with the view of establishing the domination of a social class over other classes, or eliminating a social class, or overthrowing any of the fundamental economic and social orders established in the country or the complete political and legal system of the State, shall be punished by heavy imprisonment from five to ten years. In case the above-mentioned acts are perpetrated by means of publication the penalty involved shall be increased by a half."

In the course of the trial of an editor before the 2nd Criminal Court of Istanbul, on January 26, 1979, the judges decided to transfer the file of the case to the Court of Constitution with the demand of re-examination of Article 142 and repealing it.

Together with article 141 which punishes "whosoever shall attempt to form, or form, or organize or direct the activities of, under whatsoever name, any society with the aim of establishing the hegemony or domination of a social class over other social classes...", article 142 too had been borrowed from the Penal Code of Mussolini in 1936.

The judges of the 2nd Criminal Court who tried Publisher Ahmet Taştan for publishing a pamphlet entitled "The Programme of the Communist Party of Turkey" declared in their decision that these articles might be reviewed since the social and political conditions have changed to a great extent in Turkey since 1936.

In 1963, the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) had appealed to the Court of Constitution with the demand of repealing these two articles, but in 1965

the supreme court had rejected the demand with one vote majority and the fascist articles stayed in force.

Since 43 years these articles have been used by the authorities to intimidate or to annihilate any social opposition in Turkey. Hundreds of writers, editors, translators, actors, painters have been tried and condemned on the accusation of violating article 142 in their publications and performances. Even after the formation of Ecevit Government, despite his promises during his electoral campaign for repealing these articles, they are used by public prosecutors against progressive people.

Beside the above-mentioned case and others (See: BULLETIN, October 1978), in recent months the following cases have been brought before criminal courts:

On December 20, 1978, a 16-year old high-school student, Tuncay İgnak was tried at 6th Criminal Court of Istanbul for having written "Communist Turkey" on the blackboard of his class and the prosecutor demanded 5-year prison term.

On December 12, 1978, Muran Saygılı, editor of the review Parti Bayrağı, was tried before a criminal court according to the article 142.

Same day, Mehmet Yörük, editor of Devrimci Halkın Yolu was tried with similar charges. He had been under arrest since 22 months. The total demand of imprisonment for all responsables of this review reached 770 years.

On December 29, 1979, Müslim Çolak, editor of daily Işık was tried according to the same article.

There are also many other prosecutions against journalists and artists which were initiated by public prosecutors according to other articles of the Turkish Penal Code.

On December 14, 1978, Işık Yurtçu, former editor of daily Politika was condemned to 7-month prison term for "having insulted a prosecutor".

On December 3, 1978, famous folk singer Feyzullah Çınar was arrested on the charge of defaming the government in his songs.

On December 15, 1978, the public prosecutor initiated an investigation against famous movie star Yılmaz Güney for the charge of having committed crime in his interview he gave to a Swedish TV team. Mr. Güney is still in prison for another condemnation.

(For the anti-democratic practice of the martial law authorities against the press and intellectuals, see the article No.1 in this issue).

If the Court of Constitution decides to annul article 142 of the Turkish Penal Code, it will be a very important step in the course of democratization of intellectual life of Turkey.

(C-DN-DG-18/2)

PARTIAL SENATE POLLS AND CHANGES IN ELECTION LAW

ANKARA (ITA) - The partial Senate elections will be held on October 14, 1979. According to the announcement of the Supreme Elections Council, the election will be for one thirds of the posts in the upper house.

15 out of 184 senators in the upper house are appointed by the President and 19 are life-Senators who had led the 1960 military intervention and the preparation of the actual constitution. So, the partial elections will be held for one thirds of 150 seats, that is to say for 50 seats.

On the other hand, the political parties being represented in the Parliament have agreed in principle to make certain changes in the Election Law. The most important change is to lower the voting age limit to 18.

The representatives of the parties have failed to agree on the question of extending voting rights for Turkish workers abroad.

The changes in the election law envisage also depriving the political parties which are not actually represented in Parliament of taking part in elections. According to a change agreed by political parties being represented

in Parliament, any party who does not have representative in Parliament cannot participate in elections, if it is not organized in all districts of at least 20 out of 67 provinces of Turkey. This change aims to deprive the socialist parties of running in elections.

Nevertheless, the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) has led a successful organization campaign despite all obstructions and even assassinations (See: MASSACRE IN ANKARA, WHY?, Info-Türk Agency, 1978 Brussels) and it will be able to run in coming elections as the political representative of the working class of Turkey. (C-H-DN-DC-18/2)

2nd GRAND CONGRESS OF THE WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY (TIP)

ISTANBUL (ITA) - The 2nd Grand Congress of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) will be held on February 24-25-26, 1979 in Istanbul. The first evening of the congress is devoted to the traditional party day.

The Workers' Party of Turkey was founded in 1961 and made the people of Turkey acquainted with the scientific socialist outlook and carried the conscience of class to workers and peasants. In 1965 elections, the TIP gained 15 seats in a 450-member parliament and courageously defended the interests of the working masses in legislative platform.

In 1971, following the military coup d'état, the TIP was closed down and its leaders, including President Mrs. Behice Boran, were condemned to 15-year prison term each.

But thanks to the growing resistance of the masses, the military was obliged to put an end to emergency period in 1973. Following the general elections, along with other political prisoners, the TIP leaders too were released and refounded the Workers' Party of Turkey on 1st May 1975.

Along with seven other political parties, the TIP took part in the 1977 elections. Although raised the voice of socialist movement during the electoral campaign, the TIP failed to gain enough votes to be represented in Parliament due to the fact that the left-leaning voters preferred to vote in favour of the Republican People's Party (CHP) of actual premier Ecevit who had promised to put an end to anti-democratic practices and Turkey's dependence on imperialist blocs.

The 2nd Congress of the TIP is held in a period which witnesses the failure of social-democrat Ecevit's policies. Seeing the incapability of the social-democrat party to solve the vital problems of Turkey, the toiling masses look now for more radical alternatives.

With the purpose of answering this search, the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP), first time in the history of Turkey, has published a counter-plan at the beginning of this year.

Under the title of "Plan for the Democratization, 1978-1982", this document of 800 pages points out the economic basis of political and social democratization and puts forward the solutions for each problem which can be realized even by a social-democrat government.

Another important aspect of this congress is that new party departments established within last year will be represented at the meeting. The congress will show the level of organization of the party. Since the political parties who do not have representative in Parliament are deprived of running in legislative elections if they are not organized at least 20 provinces, the degree of success in organization campaign will determine the TIP's chance to take part in elections.

According to early estimations, the TIP has already passed the limit foreseen by the new law and it can raise the voice of the working class in coming elections.

(The details on the 2nd Congress will be given in the next issue).

CELEBRATION OF THE 12TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISK'S FOUNDATION

ISTANBUL (ITA) - The Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey (DISK) celebrated the 12th anniversary of its foundation on February 13, 1979 in Istanbul with the participation of the representatives of Chilean trade unions and Chilean Union of People as well as other international organizations.

At his speech to the meeting, DISK Chairman Abdullah Dagtürk reaffirmed the will of progressive trade unions to defend the democracy and to reject all kinds of political, economic and social projects which are imposed by imperialism and its collaborators.

He criticized also the social-democrat government of Ecevit of not keeping its promises for breaking the ties with imperialist powers, eliminating fascist elements in the state's apparatus and of following a conciliation policy towards grand capital.

The DISK was formed in 1967 as a reaction against the class-collaboration policy of the Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions (Türk-İş) which has always been under the influence of US trade union movement.

Because of deepening class contradictions and rising class conscience of labouring masses, DISK, in a very short time, gained a big influence especially in the private sector workers and reached an effective of 1 million members.

As the Türk-İş is affiliated to the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the DISK has remained independent, but recently applied for affiliation to the European Confederation of Trade Unions (ECTU).

(DISK-M-C-DG-15/2)

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