

İTA

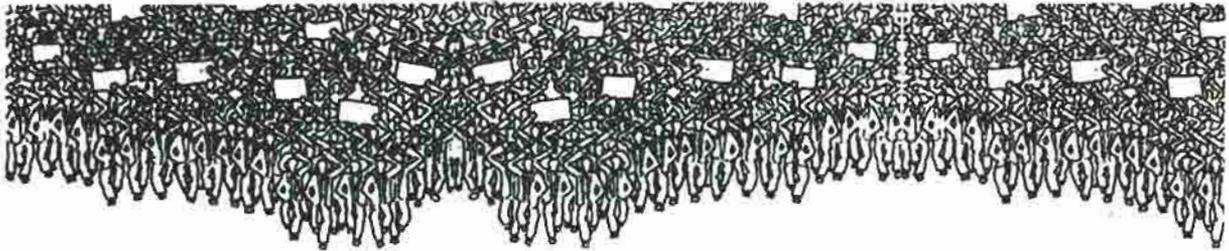
BÜLTEN BULLETIN

İFO-TÜRK AJANSI
INFO-TÜRK AGENCY
AGENTSCHAP INFO-TÜRK
AGENCE INFO TÜRK
INFO-TÜRK AGENTUR

COLLECTIF TURC D'EDITION ET DE DIFFUSION
SQUARE CH.M.WISER, 13/2 - 1040 BRUXELLES
TEL: (32-2) 230 34 72 - DEPOT LEGAL 2198
ACCOUNT: BBL 310-0148714-02 BRUXELLES

Reprints of our articles
authorized with
the mention of Info-Türk.

Monthly periodical
Year IV - march 1980
English 41
Price 20 BF
Annual subscription
Benelux 200 BF
Abroad 250 BF



mass strikes throughout turkey



ISTANBUL (ITA) - In conformity with the decision of the Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey (DISK), its affiliated trade unions have started to launch strikes covering about 100 thousand workers in manufacturing and service sectors.

At the beginning of February 1980, following a joint meeting of its administrative bodies and the executive councils of the affiliated trade unions, the DISK had reached the decision to stand against the recent economic and political measures of the Demirel Government.

Expressing their determination to fight in the most effective and massive manner against this attack of the exploiting classes on the working people, the leaders of the DISK announced that, if necessary, a general strike would be waged throughout Turkey by the member workers.

The DISK planned also other actions such as regional strikes as well as sympathy and support strikes, mass meetings and demonstrations against oppression and anti-democratic treatment of workers. The first of these actions was successfully carried out during the heroic resistance of Izmir against the dismissal of 11 thousand workers of the state-owned agro-industrial complex TARIŞ. (See: BULLETIN, February 1980).

./.

Parallel to the resistance of Izmir, three trade unions affiliated to DISK announced that they would go strikes in their sectors, covering 71,500 workers. The Metal Workers Trade Union (MADEN-İŞ) decided to strike on March 3, 1980 in 115 working places for 35,000 metal workers and the Textile Workers Trade Union (TEKSTİL) started to strike from February 17 in 77 working places employing 30,000 workers. Meantime, the strike of 6,500 employees of the Turkish Airlines, members of Airline Workers Union (HAVA-İŞ) hit all flights of Turkey's national airlines.

Notwithstanding the administration of other trade-union confederation, TÜRK-İŞ opposed to the DISK's decisions, one of its largest affiliated trade unions, The Trade Union of State Monopolies Alimentation Workers (TEK GIDA-İŞ) went on strike from February 21 with 64,000 workers in all food-producing factories of the State Monopolies.

Besides, in several smaller working places, 7,700 workers affiliated to the trade-unions of TÜRK-İŞ and 1,700 workers affiliated to those of DISK are at strike.

Furthermore, the collective bargainings will start soon for 600,000 workers employed at the state-owned enterprises and it is possible that these working places too will be scene of strikes.

The President of the Turkish Textile Industry Employers Union, Halit Narin said: "These actions are a part of the DISK plan to launch a nationwide 'general strike' and it has ideological implications and motives..."

On the donunciation of the employers, the Prosecutor of the Republic initiated an investigation about the DISK administration for its decision to go on a general strike. The Martial Law Command of Istanbul province too issued a communique threatening the trade unions that they would be subjected to legal proceedings if they disobey to the laws and martial law regulations.

TOWARDS FREEZING THE WAGES AND SALARIES

While the prosecutors and martial law authorities resort to every means in order to intimidate the trade unions and drive the security forces equipped with armoured vehicles, helicopters and aircrafts on resisting workers, the Demirel Government, on the suggestion of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), started to study on a new law project aiming to freeze for five years all wages and salaries.

Whereas, especially in recent years as prices were sky-rocketing, the wages and salaries lost their purchasing powers. According to a study of the Researches Department of the DISK, comparative evaluation of prices and wages of the workers covered by social security* as follows:

YEARS	Monthly not wage	Index of not wages	Price Index	Index of Real wages
1970	365 TL	100.0	100.0	100.0
1971	948 TL	109.0	119.0	91.6
1972	1.034 TL	119.5	137.3	87.0
1973	1.228 TL	142.0	156.6	90.7
1974	1.491 TL	172.4	194.0	88.6
1975	1.778 TL	205.0	235.1	87.2
1976	2.248 TL	259.7	276.1	94.1
1977	2.759 TL	319.0	347.9	91.7
1978	3.648 TL	421.7	563.2	74.9
1979 (8 months)	4.290 TL	496.0	812.6 ++	61.0 (-%39.0)

+) Out of 17 million citizens at working age, only 4,8 million are insured by the social security institutions. The rest are deprived of both the minimum wages guarantees and the social security programmes.

++) Recently the Trade Ministry disclosed that prices increased 63,9% in 1979. Moreover, the Turkish Lira was devalued 48,9% at the beginning of 1980.

POLITICAL
ASSASSINATIONS
FROM 18/2/1980
TO 13/3/1980

ISTANBUL	54
ANKARA	19
DIYARBAKIR	8
MERSIN	7
URFA	7
HATAY	6
MAHDİN	6
SAMSUN	6
MALATYA	5
ORDU	5
ADANA	4
ANTALYA	4
KURSA	4
IZMIR	4
KONYA	3
MAHAŞ	3
TOKAT	3
AKIŞİN	2
ERZURUM	2
GAZİANTEP	2
MANİSA	2
TRABZON	2
AYDIN	1
BİNGÖL	1
ÇORUM	1
EDİRNE	1
ERKİŞEHİR	1
KAYSERİ	1
SİVAS	1
SİNOP	1
UŞAK	1
TOTAL	167
4-MONTH OF DEMIREL	873
TOTAL OF 4-YEAR AND 2-MONTH	3083

Under these circumstances, there is not other way for the working class of Turkey than resorting to strikes, and if the martial law authorities and other government forces try to suppress the movement by violence, it will be inevitable to resist again actively.

THE BALANCE-SHEET OF THE 100 DAYS

When he came into power, Premier Demirel stated that he could get under control all catastrophic problems of Turkey such as political violence, price hikes, shortage of goods. But, the 100-day balance-sheet of Demirel Government is, as stressed Ecevit, a total bankruptcy. The political assassinations outnumbered the preceding periods, inflation has reached a record level and the Turkish Lira lost its value about 50 percent. Furthermore, because of growing shortages of fuel, the population of Turkey suffers from the harshest winter.

The military increased its authority in the daily politics and imposed on Parliament new antidemocratic measures. The martial law has been extended and enlarged. Recently, under the pressure of the army commanders, the government started to prepare a new law project foreseeing the creation an intermediate emergency regime in the case of lifting martial law.

In international arena, Demirel Government accepted all suggestions of the US imperialism and signed a military accord to guarantee the operation of 26 US bases in Turkey.

While all measures are being taken against the progressive forces of Turkey, the "grey wolves" of the neo-fascist MHP carry on their plots, provocations and assassinations. Recently, they shot dead on 1st March a member of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP), Ahmet Demir, and on February 22 two members of the Young Vanguard Association (GENÇ-ÖNCÜ), Naim Oguz and Osman Oguz.

Thousands of political detainees and prisoners are in inhuman conditions in prisons.

SOLIDARITY WITH PROGRESSIVE FORCES OF TURKEY

Vice-President of DISK Mukbil Zırtıoğlu, during his visit to Brussels at the end of February, called on all democratic forces of Europe to manifest their solidarity with the progressive forces of Turkey. He declared also that the trade-union movement of Turkey will be stronger, if the DISK's demand of affiliation to the European Trade Union Confederation is accepted. (C-M-DG-15/3)

FLAG OF THE "INDEPENDENT TURKISH STATE OF CYPRUS"

Encouraged by the rulers of Turkey, the despotic chief of the Turkish community of Cyprus, Rauf Denktaş manifested his ambition to proclaim an "independent Turkish state" in the northern part of the island and even ordered a project of flag for the so-called "independent" state. The project of the flag is the same of the flag of the Republic of Turkey. The 17 little stars at the corner imply that the new state will be the 17th state founded until today by the Turks. (M-DG-26/11)



THE PRESIDENT OF THE WORKERS' PARTY OF TURKEY (TIP) BEFORE MILITARY TRIBUNAL

ANKARA (ITA) - The pressure on the democratic forces of Turkey has reached such a level that the leader of a socialist party can be brought before a military tribunal for the electoral speech given during the campaign for local elections. Mrs. Behice Boran, Chairwoman of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP) is being tried by the Military Tribunal of Ankara Martial Law Command on the accusation of "having made propaganda for communism in her electoral speeches before the 14th October local elections".

The military prosecutor of the Ankara Martial Law Command had initiated investigations also for the speeches of Türkeş, chief of the neo-fascist party of "Grey Wolves" (MHP), and Demirel, president of the rightist Justice Party and actual premier, but later decided that there were not any violation of laws in their texts, while he considered Mrs. Boran liable to imprisonment up to 7,5 years. Mrs. Boran is tried according to Article 142 of the Turkish Penal Code which was borrowed from the penal code of Mussolini in 1936.

Behice Boran, 70 years old, was and always remains one of the main targets of the reactionary forces in Turkey. During the military regime which emerged with the coup d'état of March 12th, 1971, Behice Boran was condemned to 15 years of confinement and was obliged to serve her sentence at Adapazari under inhuman conditions until July 1974, at which time she, along with all other political prisoners, was amnestied.

Endowed with a courageous and valiant personality, she has in effect dedicated her entire life to the struggle against fascism and to the cause of national independence and socialism. She is among those who led the fight for democracy during the dark period spanning the rule of the "Single Chief-Single Party" from 1923 to 1946. She carried on this struggle in the form of periodicals entitled "The Country and the World", "The Steps" published during those years. While lecturing in the Letters Faculty of the Ankara University after having completed a doctorate degree on sociology at the University of Michigan in the USA, she undertook an analysis of Turkey's social structure and as such, became one of the primary targets of the general fascist offensive triggered by the ruling power against the progressive members of the educational body; in 1946 she was dismissed.

She then became President of the Association of the Friends for Peace founded in 1950. For having protested against the dispatch of Turkish soldiers to Korea, this association was immediately disbanded and its leaders were arrested and received heavy prison sentences. It is in prison that Behice Boran brought her only son into the world.

In the relatively democratic atmosphere of the 1960's, Behice Boran regained her political rights and in 1962 joined the Workers' Party of Turkey, thereby continuing her struggle at the heart of Turkey's only legal socialist organization.

As one of the 15 deputies representing the Workers' Party of Turkey in the 1965-69 Parliament, she defended the interests of the working class.

Elected national secretary of the TIP in 1970, she became president after the 4th National Congress in October of the same year.

The following year, the Workers' Party of Turkey was banned and its all leaders were arrested and condemned.

At the time of the TIP's refounding on May 1st, 1975, her name appeared as one of the founders, and at the first meeting she was unanimously elected to the presidency of the Party. She was reelected to this post at the congress of 1977 and 1979. Last year she was arrested at the head of her comrades protesting against the interdiction of 1st May celebrations and condemned to 25-day imprisonment by the military court of Istanbul MLH. (See: B.Boran, Turkey and the World of Today, Info-Türk, March 1976).

PRESSURE ON THE PROGRESSIVE PRESS AND INTELLECTUALS

ANKARA (ITA) - Martial law authorities and other state institutions have considerably intensified their pressures on the progressive press and intellectuals.

On February 19, 1980, the Martial Law Command of Istanbul province closed down the daily socialist newspaper Politika for "having made propaganda for communism and separatism and instigating the people to disobey the laws". The military prosecutor of the Martial Law Tribunal decided also to arrest the editor of the newspaper, Osman İkiz, and three editorialists, Aydın Engin, Özlem Özgür and Akın Ergene.

On the other hand, the public prosecutors confiscated three different issues of the socialist weekly Yürüyüş and one issue of another progressive daily newspaper, Demokrat. The editors and editorialists of these publications have also been subjected to prosecution for similar charges.

The authorities resort also to arbitrary and violent methods with the purpose of intimidating the publishers of progressive periodicals. On January 21, 1980, some plain-cloth agents raided the printing house of the weekly Yürüyüş and confiscated the materials to be printed.

The Postal Checks Administration blocked the account of the weekly Yürüyüş and prevented it from using the subscription fees placed in this account.

The martial law authorities of Ankara arrested on March 8, 1980 Muzaffer Erdost, editor of the Sol Publishing House on the accusation of "having made propaganda for communism" and confiscated all the books considered "propaganda for communism". The Sol Publishing House is one of the oldest and most distinguished progressive ones of Turkey. The works of Marx, Engels and Lenin have been translated and published in Turkish language firstly by this publishing house. (C-M-DG-9/3)

AN AWARDED TURKISH FILM FORBIDDEN IN TURKEY

ANKARA (ITA) - A Turkish film entitled "Düşman" (Enemy) which was awarded by the International Catholic Film Organization this year at the Berlin Festival was forbidden to be shown in Turkey by the Turkish Film Censorship.

The film is based on the drama of the poor people in Turkey who suffer from unemployment, social problems and vendetta. The jury awarded this film for its scenario which "reflects successfully the social life and human values". (H-C-DG-7/3)

A MAYOR JUDGED FOR SEPARATISM

DIYARBAKIR (ITA) - The Mayor of the city of Diyarbakır, Mehdi Zana is being tried by the military court of Martial Law Command of south-eastern provinces, for "having made propaganda for separatism". The military prosecutor accused him of talking about the rights of the Kurdish people in Turkey, while he was in military prison earlier for another case.

Diyarbakır is one of the south-eastern cities where the great majority of the population is of the Kurdish origin. Historically, this city is considered as the center of the Kurdistan of Turkey.

Mehdi Zana was elected mayor at the end of 1977 as an independent candidate with the support of the different Kurdish political groups.

The Penal Code of Turkey forbids talking about the existence of a Kurdish people in Turkey and defending their fundamental rights. (M-DG-19/1)

LEADERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF ALL TEACHERS TRIED BY THE MILITARY

ANKARA (ITA) - The trial of the President and other leaders of the Association of All Teachers of Turkey (TÖB-DER) started on March 2, 1980 at the military tribunal of Ankara Martial Law Headquarters.

President Gültekin Gazioglu and his 18 colleagues are accused by the military prosecutor of "having made propaganda for communism and separatism, having violated the law on associations" and 10-year prison term is demanded for each. Notwithstanding six defendants were released at the first trial, and the rest at the second, their trial will be carried on.

The Association of All Teachers of Turkey was banned by the Martial Law Command of Ankara along with other democratic organizations such as POL-DER, TÜM-DER, TÜTED, GENÇ-ÖNCÜ, İGD, İKD. (C-M-H-DG-14/3)

INVESTIGATION ABOUT ECEVIT'S PARTY FOR ITS AFFILIATION TO SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL

ANKARA (ITA) - The Prosecutor's Office asked the Republican People's Party (CHP) of Bülent Ecevit to give detailed information on the party's ties with the Socialist International, the nature of the SI and the history of the CHP membership in it.

The CHP joined the Socialist International in 1978 and Chairman Ecevit attended its annual meeting in Vienna earlier february.

The Prosecutor's Office disclosed also that the investigation was started on the denunciation of the MHP, the neo-fascist party of Colonel Türkeş. The denunciator claimed that the Law on Political Parties forbids external ties of any Turkish political party and since CHP established organic relations with Socialist International, it should be closed down by the Court of Constitution.

Nevertheless, after having studied the reply of the Secretary General of CHP, the Chief Prosecutor of the Republic decided that there was no grounds for legal proceeding against the party and the affiliation to Socialist International was not the violation of the said law. (C-M-H-DG-14/3)

JUSTICE PARTY DEVELOPS ITS EXTERNAL TIES AND ORGANIZATION IN FEDERAL GERMANY

BONN/ANKARA (ITA) - During his recent visits to the Federal Germany, main opposition leader Bülent Ecevit accused the Justice Party (AP) and the Nationalist Action Party (MHP) of carrying the political violence from Turkey to Germany.

In fact, the neo-fascist MHP of Colonel Türkeş has been organized in different forms in European countries since 1974. Actually, all side organizations of this party in Europe are affiliated to a center in Frankfurt.

As to the AP, seeing the fact that its own sympathizers too were shifting to the MHP, Demirel decided to organize his party in Federal Germany.

The AP's side-organizations in this country are called "Associations of Free Turks" (HÜR-TÜRK) and actively supported by the German Christian Democrat Party (CDU). On February 7, 1980, a CDU delegation visited Turkey and held meetings with Demirel and other AP leaders.

Within the international organizations such as the Council of Europe, the AP takes part in the same political group with the CDU. (C-M-H-DG-8/2)

GROWING GERMAN CONCERN IN TURKEY

ANKARA/BONN (ITA) - West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt repeated once more in Newyork that Germany sees Turkey and Pakistan as the "cornerstones of western positions" and promised to extend aid to both countries.

This new remark of the German leader came just after the disclosure by the United States of the decision to limit this year's economic aid to Turkey to 200 million dollars on grounds of a 20.000 million dollars cut on the next Budget expenditures.

In recent weeks, West Germany's Finance Minister Mathoefor, appointed coordinator of the OECD assistance programme to Turkey, got in touch with all western capitals with the purpose of increasing the aid to the most backward partner of the NATO.

But, against expectations of a 1,100 - 1,200 million dollars OECD aid for this year, the US decision to reduce the 248 million dollars figure of last year to 200 million dollars will result in a less enthusiastic attitude in other OECD countries.

The Turkish Government now pins all its hopes on the Federal Germany.

Leopard tanks for Turkey and Turco-German tourism accord

The talks on the Leopard tanks to be given to Turkey by Germany have started on th March 4, 1980 in Bonn. According to a report in the German daily "Die Welt", the production of the Leopard-I tanks which had been stopped last year would start again and that 60-70 of these were expected to be handed over to Turkey.

On the other hand, the Turkish-German Agreement on cooperation in the field of tourism was signed on March 3, 1980 in Bonn. The accord covers cooperation in the fields of touristic investment, training of personnel, the management of the touristic installations.

Earlier, a delegation of German industrialists headed by Dr. Schafers, Board of Directors Chairman of the giant Thyssen Group held contacts at the beginning of January 1980 in Ankara with the Turkish Government officials for a series of joint projects to be realized in Turkey.

A joint industrial organization founded by the Thyssen and the big Turkish financial holding Eczacıbaşı and called "TÜRK-INVEST" is currently working on three joint projects: Integrated meat combines project, tourism project and housing project. (C-DN-M-8/3)

A RECORD TRADE DEFICIT FOR TURKEY

ANKARA (ITA) - Turkey will have a record trade deficit of 4.300 million dollars this year according to a government projection published in the Official Gazette. The 1980 program calls for total imports of 7.500 million dollars and exports of 3.200 million dollars.

The Government expects remittances of 1.500 million dollars from the Turkish workers abroad and 650 million dollars from other foreign currency revenues. As a result, the projected current accounts deficit for the year would stand at 3.450 million dollars.

In addition, Turkey has to pay foreign debts coming due, both principal amounts and interest, to the tune of 2.500 million dollars in 1980.

Foreign aid and credits totaling 4.650 million dollars are thus necessary for the economy to break even.

Import restrictions in last year, coupled with ever increasing oil prices, resulted in shortages of inputs for the Turkish industry which was operating only at 30 percent capacity at the end of 1979. With the new economic measures, the government hopes to import 2.500 million dollars more worth of goods in the current year than was done in 1979. (C-DN-DG-29/2)

TURKISH ARMY'S FINANCE-HOLDING AIMS TO EXPORT 2000 CARS IN 1980

ANKARA (ITA) - OYAK-Renault factories, owned by the OYAK Finance-holding of Turkish Army Officers (See: BULLETIN, June 1978: "Army Officers' finance holding turns to a mammoth"), plan to export 2000 cars in 1980. Speaking at a press conference held to mark the 10th anniversary of the OYAK-Renault Auto Factories Inc., Board of Directors Chairman Prof. Dr. Ali Bozer stated that 42 percent of a total of 403,000 cars produced in Turkey was Renault cars.

Oyak-Renault was established in 1969 with a capital of 50 million Liras of which 42 percent belongs to the Mutual Assistance Fund of the Armed Forces (OYAK), 40 percent belongs to Regie Nationale des Usines Renault, rest of the shares are held by some Turkish and French firms. Its capital today has reached 635 million Turkish Liras.

Deliveries of 700 cars to some African countries have already begun.

The Fourth 5-Year Plan foresees that 45 thousand cars be produced in Turkey in 1980. 21 thousand of this number will be produced by OYAK-Renault. (DN-DG-3/1)

TURKISH GOLD SMUGGLED OUTSIDE

ANKARA (ITA) - Gold bullion, smuggled into Turkey in large amounts until recently, is now being smuggled out because of the skyrocketing gold prices in the world. The liquidity shortage in Turkey coupled with the high price of gold drives the people possessing jewelry to convert them into cash. These are then melted, turned into bullion and smuggled abroad in parties of 25 kilos.

There are no exact figures available but experts estimate that gold jewellery held in private hands in Turkey is worth 22,500 million dollars, enough to wipe off Turkey's entire foreign debt of more than 16,000 million dollars. (14/2)

FURTHER INCENTIVES TO FOREIGN CAPITAL IN TURKEY

ANKARA (ITA) - The new code of foreign capital which brings radical changes in the regulations to attract external capital was put in effect from January 25 and a special office, an affiliate of the Prime Ministry to deal with foreign capital was established.

The scope of the incentives enjoyed by sectors opened to foreign investments under the new code has been widened by the 1980 General Incentives Regulations. Under the new practice, foreign investors can invest in the following fields: Agriculture, mining, food industry, textiles and ready-wear, forestry products, chemical industry, iron-steel, non-ferrous metals, motor vehicles, metallic goods industry, industrial and electrical machinery, steam, water and gas turbines, measuring and control devices, optical apparatus and equipment, machine tools and electronics, aircraft, helicopters and diesel motors.

Provided that certain part of the total production is exported, foreign investors will benefit from custom duties instalments, investment deductions, investment quota and foreign private credit facilities.

The chiefs of Ankara's foreign missions have in general reacted positively to the recent regulations, but without failing to point out at a few points considered insufficient. Senior foreign diplomats, for example, advocate a 5-6 year tax exemption if the government wants to speed up foreign investments. Nevertheless, they are hopeful that the special office affiliated to the Prime Ministry will provide the foreign investor with further incentives and facilities. (DN-M-C-DG-1/3)