

ABOUT THE EASTERN ARMY OF TURKEY

After the Eastern Army of Turkey under command of Kazim Karabekir Pasha dealt a crushing blow on the Dashnaks and occupied the Kars and Alexandropol fortifications, rumours were spread about a further Turkish attack on Azarbeican and preparations for a new front against Soviet Russia with the participation of the Turkish army, and dissemination of propaganda against the Anatolian nationalists began.

As a consequence of the suspicions aroused in the public opinion and the official quarters, Moscow had sent a five-person delegation led by Y. Mdivani for talks with the Eastern Army of Turkey. This delegation has returned via Erivan to Baku after fulfilling its mission. A member of the said delegation has informed our paper as follows on this subject:

- The delegation had three main tasks: to mediate between Turkey and Armenia for a peace settlement; to establish the position of the Turks with regard to Russia; to prepare the ground for a political and military alliance between Russia and Turkey. We did not succeed in having the first accepted. We understood the main reason for this was the rejection at one time by the Dashnak plenipotentiary delegation of the intermediation of the Republics of Soviet Russia. With regard to this we have officially received a refusal from Kazim Karabekir Pasha. As regards the second matter, we have concluded that Turkey is not and cannot possibly be in accord with the Entente. We felt, meanwhile, a prevailing sympathy for the Russian revolution, the Soviet Republic and the Red Army. Both Kazim Karabekir Pasha, the officer comrades and the soldiers consider themselves on the whole a revolutionary army. They declare Red Russia as their natural ally; they display an immense hostility towards the English and great affection and sympathy towards the Russians.

Karabekir Pasha and his comrades have with great pleasure accepted the idea of concluding a political and military treaty between Russia and Turkey. The National Assembly in Ankara must also be favourably disposed in this matter, as they have immediately chosen members and sent them off from Ankara. The Turkish delegation, consisting of Ali Fuat Pasha, Yusuf Kemal Bey and Riza Nur Bey, will soon arrive in Baku. You have inquired as to the person of Karabekir Pasha and his soldiers. Although still young, the Commander Pasha is a very enlightened and extremely

handsome soldier.

He has impressed our comrades very favourably. A democrat by nature, this courageous soldier has acquired an eminent position both among the officers and the soldiers and the people and the sympathy of the public in the eastern province.

The schools for orphans and the industrial establishments that he has created in Erzurum and his front-rank position in creating insurrection and national rebellion against the Entente and his present great success on the eastern front are sufficient evidence of his prominence in Turkey. The officers and soldiers of Karabekir Pasha, despite being subject to strict discipline, treat each other as friends. They have abolished the silver epaulets and stripes. In general the soldiers and officers are imbued with a revolutionary spirit. As Karabekir Pasha and his friends are certain of the future victory of the social revolution, they are inclined to enlightening and informing the people about communism and establishing an organisation. The Chief of General Staff Kazim Bey is also endowed with lofty virtues. It is even now possible to regard the Eastern Army of Turkey as a torch to guide the revolution in the East.

Yeni Dünya, January 26 th, 1921, p. 2

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİHİ

TÜSTİA

TARİHİ

ARASTIRMALARI