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TO THE WORKERS AND PEASANTS OF TURKEY

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Comrades, workers and peasants of Turkey!

Your country has always been a military camp. The Great European Powers, while calling you a "sick man," did not even think about offering you medical treatment; on the contrary, they intentionally kept you in ill health, for each of them was attempting to remove you from the European continent, to seize the Straits, or at best to bleed you white, to depersonalize and to enslave you.

And ^{those} among you who think that your fatherland has remained on the European continent thus far thanks to your own strength are mistaken.

No. You have maintained your seemingly independent existence on the European continent thanks to the geographical position of your state and to the wrangling between the beasts of prey which were attacking you.

Every one of the Great Powers which was attempting to dominate you was restrained by another Great Power also interested in this matter, and thus the pronouncement of the death sentence against your fatherland was being postponed to a more favorable moment. This moment has arrived.

When the World War broke out your ruling circles tied the fate of your fatherland to the fate of Germany, herself not averse to enslaving you at the first opportunity.

However, your ruling circles joined Germany not without reason. For a long time before the war it was known that France, England, and Russia were dickering with regard to ceding Constantinople to Russia in return for her participation in the war. Constantinople's fate was sealed.

Prior to this barter, the question of Constantinople was part of the program of the Russian Tsars' plans of conquest. But it is most regrettable that after the dethronement of Nicholas the Second, the Cabinet of the pseudo-socialist Kerensky also proclaimed the continuation of the war under the slogan "Constantinople for Russia".

But workers and peasants of Turkey, you know that in Russia since the days of the November Revolution, i.e., since the time when power passed into the hands of workers and peasants, this Government renounced all intentions with respect to Constantinople and all intentions of conquest in general.

The Worker-Peasant Government of Soviet Russia, upon exposing before the entire world the secret treaties between monarchist Russia on the one hand and Britain and France on the other hand, broke all these secret treaties and declared: "Henceforth the Worker-Peasant Government of Russia will aid all the oppressed peoples in their struggle for independence against the oppressor - world capital - and will not recognize any secret treaties in general nor with respect to Persia and Turkey in particular."

But the four-year-long fratricidal war has now come to an end, and Germany, with whose destiny your ruling circles had bound the fate of your much suffering land, has found herself in the iron and merciless clutches of the Allied beasts of prey. Germany, the last hope of your ruling class, lies ravaged and is in great pain. She, the sole competitor of the Entente's marauding schemes in Europe, has been swept off the road.

The road toward the seizure of small and large Moslem states with a view to subjugating them is now open for Britain. She can now freely do as she pleases in Persia, Afghanistan, the Caucasus, and in your fatherland. Since the straits have been handed over by your Government to Britain there has been no independent Turkey, no historical town of Stamboul on the European continent, and no independent Ottoman nation.

Comrades workers and peasants of Turkey!

At this moment, which is so crucial for your fatherland, you are asking yourselves the question: Why your native land and you yourselves have been placed in this deplorable situation? After all, you are one of the most fearless militant peoples of Asia and Europe. All your life you have shed your blood for independence; and at last, in desperation, you deposed the strongest despot - Sultan Hamid - and set up a constitutional government. Yet all this has been of no avail and you are now languishing under the yoke of Britain.

But why has all this happened?

Because you always entrusted and are still entrusting the destiny of your fatherland to a few greedy, mercenary individuals who were selling out and are now selling your country, and also you, your wives, your children, your rights, and your honor to the European power which would give and will now give more money than anyone else to this group of individuals.

When the Grand Vizir was receiving gold from Britain he used to conduct his country's politics as Britain wanted him to conduct it.

Why then have your ruling circles recently tied the destiny of Turkey with the fate of Germany, now ruined? Well because there were again a few individuals who were willing to turn ^{the} country in the direction desired by Wilhelm, the pseudo-protector of Islam, who has now been deglorified and who has lead his country to ruin.

Thus you and your country have always been toys in the hands of a few exploiters -pashas. And your ill-fated parliament was also an assembly of these pashas-exploiters, slaves of gold, ranks, titles, etc.

Where does salvation lie?

The salvation of the country and of your own rights from internal and external beasts of prey lies in yourselves.

Neither your military party nor any of the other so-called democratic parties can save you, just as Scheidemann's social democratic party could not save Germany from the predatory capitalists of France and Britain. Your Istifak and Etlaf parties will not save you. On the contrary, they will still further undermine your independence.

There is no salvation for you so long as mercenary pashas and unprincipled parties are guiding your country.

You must understand once and for all that you, the toiling class, are the body and soul of your native land. You workers and peasants are feeding the country, enriching it, and it is also you who at a crucial hour defend it with your own blood from enemies.

Consequently, the fate of the country must be in your hands; you must be masters of your land, and you and only you can promulgate this or the other law for your country, and not the idle exploiters, landowning pashas, factory and shop owners, and your unprincipled and unstable parties, none of whom are concerned with the happiness of the toiling class.

Comrades workers and peasants of Turkey!

Your brothers Russian workers and peasants, after experiencing the entire vileness of these internal beasts of prey - blood suckers who had sold Russia to foreign marauders-European brigands, decided to take the reins of Government into their own hands.

And now, for the course of almost two years they have been fighting for their own power, for the power of the toilers.

And the hour is close when in Soviet Russia labor will triumph over capital and the enemies of labor will cease their attacks.

But this is not enough. It is imperative that all over the world the toilers should unite against the world enslavers.

Therefore the Worker-Peasant Government of Soviet Russia hopes that you workers and peasants of Turkey, after enduring everything, will at a decisive and responsible moment such as this stretch out your brotherly hand in order to rebuff in joint and concerted effort the European beasts of prey and to destroy and weaken those within the country who are used to building their own fortune on your misfortune.

People's Commissar for Foreign Affairs of the R.S.F.S.R., Georgii Chicherin.

Chief of the Moslem Near Eastern Division of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, Nariman Narimanov.

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