

T. C.
ANKARA ÜNİVERSİTESİ
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İ D A R İ İ L İ M L E R E N S T İ T Ü S Ü

INSTITUT DES SCIENCES ADMINISTRATIVES
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UNIVERSITÉ D'ANKARA

INSTITUTE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES
FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF ANKARA

28th Feb. 1970

Dear Prof. Lobkowitz,

Mrs. Prof. Dr. Nermin Abadan kindly informed me that she has applied to you on my behalf to enable me to work in your Institute for a year during my coming sabbatical leave.

Presently, I am an associate professor in the chair of Political Theory, Faculty of Political Science, University of Ankara. I teach History of Western Political Thought (classical and modern) and I do research on the History of the Turkish Left. In my major field, I have edited a three-volume book of readings which has been published recently and in my special subject, I have written a beginning volume on the 1908-1925 period (2nd ed. 1967) which I shall in the next three years continue with a second volume covering events and ideas up to the end of 1945.

My English is fairly good (I have spent the years 1961-1963 at the London School of Economics and Political Science as a graduate student), but my German is very poor. I have also a reading knowledge of Arabic characters in print (as Turkey changed into the Latin alphabet in 1928, this is indispensable for any work in Turkish history). I can obtain my sabbatical leave from the faculty in July 1971 for a year or perhaps 15 months.

If given an opportunity to go to Germany, I must first spend 4 - 5 months in a Goethe Institute to learn some more German. Then I can work in an academic institute on my research topic and also observe, hopefully to improve my own courses, the teaching of political theory there.

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For my research project, "The Leftist Movements in Turkey: 1926-1945," I do not imagine that I can find much material in German libraries and archives. (I am collecting at present all the relevant material that are available here.) But to be able to evaluate rightly the course of the history of the Turkish left, I must be better acquainted with the international situation which I presume I can do in Munich. I am also interested in learning more about the activities and international connections of the German left in the pre-Nazi Weimar period for the following reasons: (a) many prominent Turkish leftist leaders were educated and trained in Germany, some of them lived there as political refugees; (b) Turkish illegal literature then was printed in Germany and smuggled into Turkey (these are impossible to find in this country anymore and apart from the Komintern archives, German libraries are the most likely places in the world to have at least some specimens of them - they do not exist in major libraries of the U.S., so my fellow-worker Dr, George Hasris, author of The Origins of Communism in Turkey, informs me); (c) occasionally important articles on the Turkish Left appeared in German periodicals - recently, I learned about two, which were printed in 1929 in Die Fahne des Kommunismus, then organ of the left wing opposition to the KPD. In case you desire, I can compose for you a detailed outline describing the political development of the Turkish Left during the interwar and the Second World War years.

I have asked Professors Bahri Savcı and Seha Meray of our Faculty to write recommendation letters to you for me.

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Finally, may I add that I intend to take my wife with me and therefore the stipend to be granted to me ought to suffice for both of us. I have two children -both aged nine- but due to probable difficulties in arranging their schools I may leave them here in Turkey.

Hoping these particulars will satisfy you and looking forward to your kind reply, I am

Yours truly,

Dr. Mete Tunçay

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI
TÜSTAV