



INTERNATIONAAL INSTITUUT VOOR SOCIALE GESCHIEDENIS

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL HISTORY
INTERNATIONALES INSTITUT FÜR SOZIALGESCHICHTE
INSTITUT INTERNATIONAL D'HISTOIRE SOCIALE

Amsterdam, 01.10.1990
Our ref.: C900926.EZ1/a
Your ref.:

Dear Bilge and Mete,

this is just a quick note (in english because my wordprocessor cannot handle the "abnormal" Turkish characters) to let you know that I shall be coming to Turkey during the first week of November to attend a symposium organised by the Dutch consulate in Istanbul.

I should like to use this opportunity to really get our biographical project back on the tracks. I managed to secure 5000 guilders (about eight million Turkish pounds) from the institute for the project. Now, as I see it, we would have to take care jointly of the following points:

1. Securing Ismail Arar's permission to use his collection as we see fit, in return for a mention of him as one of the editors and a fee "for his editorial work". Ideally, his involvement would be limited to giving us access, but if he insists we can give him the right to review the finished articles.
2. Securing Iletisim's agreement to publish the finished manuscript in Turkish. As you know, George Hazai of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences has already promised to publish an english-language version.
3. Arranging for someone to do the actual work on the Arar collection. This can either be Bilge herself (who has the advantage of living in Ankara and being on good terms with Ismail Bey), or an assistant, or both. If we do decide to take on an assistant, he or she will have to be paid from the 5000 guilders (in which case the sum we can offer Ismail Bey will be smaller) for the first six months. After six months, when Yildirim Koç gets out of prison, the contract with Hasan Benli will be terminated and part of the money that comes available then (500 guilders a month) can be used for this purpose.

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4. Drawing up a definitive list of entries, on the basis of our provisional list (which we have been using up to now). I would again like to emphasize that what we are aiming for is a practical research tool. Therefore I think we should resist any attempt from Ismail Bey (out of perfectionism) or from the IISH and its staff (from a predilection for left-wing personalities) to enlarge the scope of the book to any significant extent. There is always the option of doing a second volume later on.

5. Reworking the material we have (the results of these last two years) into a uniform database. This I see as my main contribution during the coming months. I have a workable dbase format.

6. Drawing up a realistic time table. The work has taken much longer than we expected and it will take longer still, but I think it should be possible to finalize the whole project within two years at the most.

For now, this is all I can think of. Please think it over to see whether there are any other pressing problems. I should greatly appreciate if you could get in touch with each other to set up a meeting of the three of us sometime between 5 and 10 November.

All the best,

yours

Erik Zürcher

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİHİ VE İKTİSADİ İLİMLERİNE İLİŞKİN KURUM