

METE TUNÇAY

Karyağdı Sok., 14/2
Kavaklıdere - Ankara

Dr. W.Z. Laqueur
Survey, London

20th April 1965

Dear Sir,

I am a member of the Political Science Faculty at the University of Ankara, presently working on a period of the Turkish Left (1908-1938). Though my real field of interest is the history of political thought, in this study I am compelled to go into the history of the movement before attempting the analysis of the ideas put forward by our leftists. Your book, Communism and Nationalism in the Middle East proved to be of great value in guiding my studies. But I could not find evidence elsewhere to a particular piece of information given in p. 207 of your work :

"In 1912 a Turkish Socialist Federation was founded in Salonika... . . . one of the socialist leaders, Ahmet Salim, is reported to have been murdered; another, Tawfik Nased, was forced to leave Turkey; and a third, Faik Hasib, was deported to inner Anatolia in a wave of repression in 1913-14. A fourth leader, Mustafa Suphi, fled to Russia in 1914 in order to escape from arrest in his homeland."

The last statement must be erroneous. M. Suphi fled to Russia, but not to escape arrest. He was banished to Sinop in 1913 on the occasion of the assassination of Mahmut Şevket paşa, which gave the Union + Progress party a convenient excuse to get rid of their political opponents. Suphi had been active in a National Constitutionalist party and a paper called İfham. Both had nothing to do with socialism. He seems to have been quite bourgeois in deeds as well as ideas prior to his Russian days. As for the Turkish Socialist Federation of Salonika and the gentlemen you mention I am completely ignorant. I shall be very much obliged to

SURVEY

EDITORIAL OFFICE: Summit House · 1 Langham Place · London W.1 · LANgham 6807

SUBSCRIPTION OFFICE: Ilford House · 133 Oxford Street · London W.1 · REGent 0592

Mr. Mete Tuncay,
Karyagdi Sok. 14/2,
Kavaklidere,
Ankara.

30 April 1965

Dear Mr. Tuncay,

Thank you very much for your letter.

I wish I could help you with your work but it is now more than ten years since I wrote that book and the little I knew about the subject of communism in Turkey I have forgotten. I do not know how to locate the periodicals you are looking for. About the Turkish Socialist Federation of 1912, I read presumably in some contemporary western periodical or in one of the Russian books of Pavlovich, but I really do not remember.

There is very little in English and your best bet would be to read the Soviet periodicals 'New East' and the 'Revolutionary East'. The Russians may have published more material in recent years but I have not followed this. Nor do I know of anyone else working at present on this subject but Professor Bernard Lewis or Professor D. Rustow may know.

I am really truly sorry to be unable to help you.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

Walter Laqueur

Walter Laqueur
Editor