

NOTES ON THE SECOND TRIP TO TURKEY

I. General Atmosphere

Due to the preoccupation of wide circles of people from political parties, trade unions and press with the coming elections in November, probably the attention of most of the perspective partners in Ankara and Istanbul will not be concentrated on long term problems and relations. This has caused and will be causing some difficulties. It might even be difficult to get to see the leaders of political parties and trade unions.

Nevertheless, the general tendency of seeking more contacts with the Western European institutions is continuing. Besides, there is very little hope that at the end of the elections the social democrats or even the other bourgeois party in the opposition (DYP) will come to power. That is why there is almost no optimism for a short-run change in the general political balance of forces, although an attitude of "wait and see" may be the rule in the coming six weeks for a large number of people.

II. Main Aims of the Trip

I propose approaching this trip primarily as a complement to the first in the sense that rather than initiating too many new contacts, one should try to bring to fruition those that have been established in the first trip and complete certain tasks that were left half-finished.

(a) As I had already proposed in the context of the first visit, I believe that the foremost priority should be to arrange for the transport to Amsterdam of the already accumulated material (mainly second part of my collection and film material) as well as establishing regular and dependable means for future transport of further "hot" material.

Assuming that Jaap has already contacted the Dutch mover with whom the Institute usually deals in such matters, I am not dwelling on the transportation of "insensitive" material. Moreover it has been our experience for the last two months that such books, pamphlets and periodicals can be sent on a rather extensive basis via the post.

(b) The second aim of the trip should be to try to reach concrete and workable relationships with the National Library, TÜRK-İŞ and DISK. As I mentioned in my progress report covering the period 15 April-31 August our relations with the NL are a dead end. It would be worthwhile to visit the (Vice-) Director of the NL and to discuss concrete terms of the interchange with, or the types of services they could render to IISG. This visit should also contribute to establishing lasting working relations with TÜRK-İŞ and DISK, by consolidating the contacts already established with these organisations by Y. Koç and F. Aral respectively.

(c) We should get in touch once more with Rasih Nuri İleri and Tarık Zafer Tunaya in order to finalise the terms of our copying (borrowing, acquisition ?) of their collections. Regarding K. Sülker, I think the next step should be taken is to ascertain the precise contents of the collection before committing ourselves to any further move.

(d) It would be useful to conclude, if possible, an explicit and detailed agreement with the İletişim Group, concerning the exchange of material as I have already proposed in my related note dated 7.9.1987.

(e) Another main aim of the trip may be regarded as meeting those people whom we had included in our first list of appointments, but nevertheless did not manage to see in May, and meeting the leaders of the two social democrat parties in Turkey, namely Erdal İnönü (Social Democratic People's Party - SHP) and Bülent Ecevit (Democratic Left Party - DSP). Of the former group I would suggest as top priority the following people on whom I have already prepared short notes : Prof Cahit Talas, Halil Tunç, Şaban Yıldız, Mehmet Ali Aybar, Bahir Ersoy.

(f) I think a further aim of the trip should be to resolve certain questions relating to the set up in Turkey. As far as I can see, these are:

- Selecting the appropriate means for copying the material in Turkey and making provisions for the acquisition (or borrowing, renting) of the requisite equipment (transportable microfiche apparatus ?)
- Resolving the question of either sending a personal computer from Netherlands or purchasing one in Turkey, which is compatible with the existing facilities in the IISG.
- Making final arrangements for Ulkü Özen's liason and observation trip to Amsterdam which we have considered scheduly for the second half of October.
- Possible ways of developing a better communication between Amsterdam - Ankara and Istanbul.
- Other questions that our collaborators might want to raise relating to the infrastructure in Turkey.

III. Miscellaneous

In case you meet them it might be useful to mention to those people whom we have considered for our prospective Advisory Board we are planning to found that we would like to see them on this Board. The first meeting of the Board will probably take place right after our international workshop on "The Sources, Problems and Perspectives of the Research on Social History of Turkey during 19th and 20th Centuries" on 22-24 June 1988. They will be hearing from us in greater detail in the near future.

(Prof Alpaslan Işıklı, Prof Sadun Aren, Rasih Nuri İleri, Prof Tarık Zafer Tunaya, Doc Dr Zafer Toprak)

I strongly advise ^{you} to meet the last name. He was in USA in May and if he really allocates some time for us, he could contribute a lot.

Announcing the opening of the Department of Turkey and the activities planned in conjunction with the official opening including the publication of our Turkish and English prospectus might also be a good idea. Printed material will be mailed to all concerned by the beginning

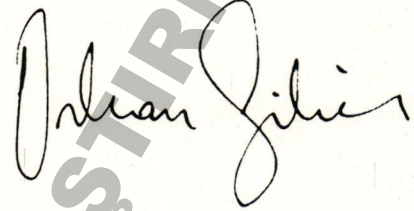
of November.

Yıldırım will be expecting you in Ankara either the evening of the 4th of October or the next morning. His private number is 2311657, his number at work is 1180595.

I will back in Holland from 2nd of October on. I will be at the Institute during the whole week of your stay in Ankara and Istanbul. In case you may want to reach me for consultation you would reach me easily. you could also call me up, of course, at home.

O. Silier

17.09.1987 - Figuera de Foz



TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA KURUMU
TÜSTAV

IISH USHERS IN A NEW DEPARTMENT : DEPARTMENT OF TURKEY

In the light of the growing interest in Turkey, mainly due to the intensification of relations between Turkey and West Europe, and the increased awareness of the enduring presence of millions of immigrant workers from Turkey, the IISH has launched a new department. The Department of Turkey, which officially opens its collections to the users beginning December 1987, is projected to be one of the focal points of the IISH.

In accordance with the tradition of the IISH this Department devotes itself, principally, to the workers' and trade union movement in Turkey and the participation of the workers from Turkey in the labour movement of the countries of immigration. The peace movement, women's movement, student movement, environment movement and similar left currents constitute other areas of interest for the Department.

The Department is acquiring, besides all types of publications, archive material, posters, caricatures, photographs and films, going as far back as the emergence of a multinational working class in the Ottoman Empire in the second half of the nineteenth century.

The fact that under the Ottoman Empire and then later the Turkish Republic, the workers' movement has faced systematic and harsh repression for a considerable part of its history, renders the task of collecting library and archive material on the subject extremely difficult when not impossible. The latest case in point is that during the recent years following the military coup of 1980, not only the archives and documentation of the progressive trade unions, associations and political parties, but, those of the bourgeois parties, were sent to the paper mills to be pulped. This is why rescuing the remaining material that can still be unearthed, one of the foremost aims of the department.

This new department of the IISH is preparing for publication in English, a series of comprehensive bibliographies on the left wing literature (including also the articles, pamphlets etc) and planning a multi-volume history of the workers' and trade union movement in the Ottoman Empire and Turkey.

Another undertaking that the Department of Turkey is planning to realize within the coming four years -considered as the founding period of the Department- is an oral history project. Under this project, it is planned to video-tape interviews with around one hundred old-generation trade unionists and political activists.

The Department, with the collaboration of a wide circle of social scientists and historians from Turkey, is also to ^{engage} in research activities in the related area of social history. The first large-scale

undertaking in this direction is the organisation of a workshop on "Sources, Problems and Perspectives of Social History Research on the 19th and 20th Century Turkey," to take place in Spring 1988.

Within the near future it is to be hoped that the Department of Turkey of the IISH will not only attract researchers working directly on Turkey, but also students of the Balkanic and Middle Eastern history as well as the history of the workers' movement in "Third World" countries.

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