

On ⁵March (1945) the Soviet Radio overseas transmission in Turkish remarked that, although Turkey had joined the Allies after giving liberal support to the Axis to the very end, Turkish justice was now subjecting to a secret trial 135 'democrats',⁴ who had worked to counter the evil influence of the fascists and their pan-Turanian satellites; one of the accused was a Turkish woman writer whose only offence was her consistent protestations against the serving of the Nazi interests by Turkish reactionaries. The trial of the pan-Turians, the broadcast continued, was entirely bogus, since they were being protected by those very reactionaries who were out to victimize the 'democrats'.⁵

⁴ A U.S. press correspondent, reporting that they had presented demands for regular elections, permission to organize a genuine opposition, and independent trade unions, commented on the Turkish police's habit of regarding anyone with radical views as a Communist (George Weller in Chicago Daily News, 11 Nisan 1945). The Communist monthly Moyen-Orient however, afterwards stated (May 1950, s.10) that the accused belonged to a 'Union of Progressive Youth', a title redolent of Communist infiltration tactics.

⁵ Cf. the sarcastic comment of the Daily Worker, 18 April 1945, on the sentences which had been passed on 29 March on sixteen of those accused of pan-Turanism. In October, when Turkey's relations with the Soviet Union had so far deteriorated that there was no longer any point in appeasing her at the pan-Turians expense, the Military Court of Appeal cancelled their sentences, and they were all acquitted in a re-trial which lasted from August 1946 to March 1947 (Hoestler: 'Trends in Pan-Turanianism,', Middle Eastern Affairs, January 1952, iii. 10-11).