

1. the agreement itself has to contribute to the conditions which facilitate the respecting of MILS;
 2. the agreement has to provide for a proper settlement of disputes by an independent body;
 3. the respecting of minimal international labour standards should be on the basis of reciprocity.
- 5) As the discussion on the normative activities of the ILO is being continued presently within the Board of the labour organization, this advice should be viewed as an important enrichment to the debate on the principles.

TURKEY : RIGHT TO STRIKE PRACTICALLY DENIED
PURCHASING POWER CONTINUES TO FALL



Half of the workers in Turkey do not have the right to strike as they work in those industries where strikes are illegal according to the Turkish Constitution. The other half has the right to strike, on paper, but because of the complex and cumbersome formalities required by law, it is practically impossible to call a genuine strike.

In case there is anything missing in the formalities, however, unimportant it may be, the workers lose their right to strike and face the danger of imprisonment if they go ahead with the strike. For example, if a union fails to inform the employer of its decision to go on strike, within 6 days, the workers no longer have the right to strike. There are many cases where because of the delays in the post, strikes have been considered to be illegal and trade union officers have been found guilty. What is more, in such a case the negotiation is transferred over to the High Arbitration Board for compulsory arbitration which is binding on the parties.

If, as a result of a vote, the workers say "No" to a strike, then the strike becomes illegal. It is common use for the employers to fire organised workers and to hire new workers just before the day of the voting to break a strike. There is nothing in the law to prevent it. If the result of the vote is "No", the matter goes to the High Arbitration Board for a binding decision. The great majority of the High Arbitration Board members represent the Government or the employers.

The Government has the power to postpone strikes and the Government never hesitates to use its power. Once a strike has been postponed, the matter once again goes to the High Arbitration Board for compulsory arbitration.

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The average daily wage in Turkey was equal to \$ 2.90 in 1984. It had been \$ 8.31 in 1978. This means a drop of 65% in the purchasing power during the last 7 years. Today, the wages in Turkey have got even lower than the wages in South Korea, Taiwan, Hong-Kong, etc. Assistant Director of American Bank Express, George Carmany, has made the following remark on this situation :

"Until recently, wages in Turkey were higher than those in the Asian countries. For that reason, Turkish goods could not compete with the goods of other countries in foreign markets. However, now that the wages in Turkey have become lower than those in Asia, Turkish goods can now compete with other goods."

The minimum legal wage (\$ 30.- monthly) can no longer follow the price rises. There has been a decrease of 33.7% in the real value of the minimum wage since 1978.

INVESTMENTS BY 7 MIDDLE EAST
COUNTRIES IN TURKEY.-

The investment of 7 Middle Eastern countries totals about 27 billion Turk Liras (TL.) in Turkey, as follows:

LIBYA: 22 billion TL. in sea transport and in agricultural companies with shares of 50%.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: 1 billion TL. in banking and furniture industries.

KUWAIT: 1.billion TL. with a
7.25% share.

LEBANON: 1 billion TL. in food and storage industries.

BAHREIN: 600 million TL. in
transport.

SYRIA: 200 million TL. in
paper and transport
with 49% shares.

SAUDI ARABIA: 600 million TL.
in agriculture owning
90% of shares.

(See CUMHURIYET daily paper
of 16 March 1985)

500 TL. = US\$ 1

In 1978, a single worker used to get, as real minimum wage, 2.129 TL.net. In 1984, a net loss of 1.336 TL. was recorded. In other words, although the monthly minimum legal wage had increased in monetary (numerical) terms, there has been a real loss of 33.7%

In the first 3 months of 1985, there has been an increase of 22.9% in the amount of money paid by a family of 4 for food. In December 1984, such a family had to pay 58.310 TL for food. This amount has now increased to 71.645 TL (\$.143) in March 1985.

During the same period, the purchasing power of a teacher decreased 5.440 TL; that of a bus driver 5.550 TL; that of a retired civil servant 8.030 TL; that of a metal worker 5.400 TL (see daily HURRIYET paper of 9 April 1985, European edition).

By his very nature, man is and must be the principle, the author and the project, not only of economic activity, but more generally of all institutions, which therefore must be directed towards the good of people, and must not be subordinated to the order of things. To safeguard personal value in a society characterized by a continuous advance of technology and science and by an increasing interaction and interdependence of men and organizations, it is necessary to eliminate the excessive influence of the technocracy by the assumption of responsibility by basic groups, communities and organizations and their specific action to ensure that, in the last resort, man remains master of the development of his own life and that of the whole community.