

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

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TUSTAV

**MAY DAY SPEECH BY COMRADE İ. BİLEN,  
GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE  
COMMUNIST PARTY OF TURKEY,  
BROADCAST ON "VOICE OF THE TKP" RADIO**

Workers, all working men and women!

May Day, the day of unity, solidarity and struggle of the international working class, May Day, be joyous for you all!

The working class and working people in the two halves of the world: the socialist world and the capitalist countries, are greeting May Day in altogether different conditions. In the socialist countries, workers and working people are celebrating May Day by new successes in the building of communism. In the capitalist countries, on this May Day too, the workers are raising the struggle against oppression, capitalist exploitation, the rule of the monopolies and mounting fascist attacks. The peoples waging wars of national liberation are greeting this May Day with mighty efforts to destroy the last fortresses of racism and colonialism, win national independence and move towards socialism. But the workers of all countries are filling the squares and the streets for peace, security and social progress, for a happy and plentiful life and for the friendship of the peoples.

This May Day is a mighty advance in the struggle against imperialism and its effort to confront humanity with the neutron bomb. The socialist world, the Soviet Union is leading this mighty advance.

Under what conditions is the working class of Turkey greeting May Day 1978?

The collaborating monopoly bourgeoisie is using fascist commandos and counter-guerrillas to attack and shed the blood of the working class first and foremost, its organisations and all progressive forces. The government is increasing the fascist danger by its vacillating policy. The government thinks it will profit by pursuing such a policy in the face of sanguinary attacks by fascist forces against the working class, youth, communists, socialists and all progressives. This is an extremely dangerous adventure. But there are quarters, elements within the Republican People's Party which do not subscribe to this policy, which are against fascism and imperialism. The government is not only folding its arms before reaction and the fascist forces, internally. At the same time, it is bowing before the forces which incite fascism and stand behind it: American imperialism, NATO and the imperialist banks. It is complying with imperialism's wishes. It thinks it will escape the crisis in this way. MacNamara and Rockefeller go back and forth to Turkey as they like, in order to bind the future of the country to their own imperialist interests.

However, in order to emerge from the crisis, it is imperative to end the dependence on imperialism in all spheres and to break all economic impositions. To withdraw from NATO, tear up the bilateral agreements and dismantle the bases of aggression are national demands. Our people are demanding peace, national independence and friendship and cooperation with

the socialist countries, the Soviet Union first and foremost.

This May Day in Turkey is a mighty advance, a day of struggle, against imperialist impositions, fascist escalation, unemployment and the high cost of living. Such a struggle can achieve success only through the unity and solidarity of the working class.

One of the main enemies of the working class movement and of its unity, are the yellow trade union bosses. The Tunç'es openly declared their betrayal of the working class, their servility to the bourgeoisie and announced that they would not participate in the May Day demonstration. They declared that they held the bourgeoisie's interests above those of the working class.

The Maoists are attacking the working class, progressive forces and youth together with fascist commandos, the most reactionary dark forces, the CIA and the National Intelligence Organisation (MİT). They too oppose May Day. It is necessary to be vigilant against them and not to fall victim to provocations.

In this situation, a great responsibility falls on the socialist parties. The question of the day is to defend the anti-fascist unity of the working class and entire people on a national scale. All forces must be mobilised on May Day and brought together in May Day Square. Petty bourgeois and sectarian attitudes, petty calculations must be abandoned.

The fascists and Maoists are intensifying their attacks. These attacks are reaching out to the East, towards Kürdistan. The Malatya, Maraş and Ağrı incidents are clear evidence of this. The rallying and fraternal participation in May Day of all workers, working people, the entire people, whatever their traditions, religious convictions or nationality, whether sunni, alevi, Turk or Kurd, is the question of the day.

The collaborating bourgeoisie wants to use the army as a buttress for fascism. It is attempting to destroy vigilance within the army by making articles 141 and 142 more severe. It is the national, patriotic duty of every patriotic officer, non-commissioned officer, every soldier to protect the people against the fascists.

If workers belonging to the TKP, the Workers' Party of Turkey (TİP), the RPP, DİSK or Türk-İş, all working people, join hands and fill the squares and streets on May Day, the slogan FASCISM SHALL NOT PASS! will become a truly indestructible wall before fascism. This will really be a foundation stone for the formation of the National Democratic Front.

The Communist Party of Turkey is fighting with all its might to forge the unity of action and united front of national democratic forces.

All communists, all party organisations will fight and are fighting to turn this May Day into a mass action, not only of the working class, but of our entire people. Only such struggles can repulse the fascist escalation and imperialist impositions. Only such struggles can neutralize the indecision and vacillation of the government.

The May Day song of the working class says "Unite and come, arise, workers disunited are not workers". "Our steel wrists will keep May Day alive", it says. These are not empty words. The song of May Day was written in the course of bloody battles.

Worker brothers and sisters! I wish all of you success in the struggle.

## MAY DAY

May Day 1978 was a massive, organised and conscious demonstration by the working class and people of Turkey against the fascist threat, imperialism and the collaborating big bourgeoisie. This year May Day was held in an atmosphere of mounting bloody attacks organised by fascist forces and increasing imperialist pressures. May Day dealt a heavy blow to the efforts of the reactionary, fascist forces and Maoists to provoke and intimidate. It reflected and developed even further the rise in the revolutionary consciousness of the working class and labouring masses. With this May Day demonstration, all national, democratic forces, led by the working class, proved to government circles which vacillate in the face of the fascist escalation, the necessity of struggle through mass actions against the main danger. On this May Day, fresh progress was made towards the trade union and political unity of action of the working class and towards the worker-peasant alliance of struggle. Once more, the masses saw with their own eyes that the force leading them in battle, forging on the battlefields, unity of action of national democratic forces is the vanguard detachment of the working class, the TKP. The masses who filled May Day Square adopted as their own the slogan "Freedom to the TKP!".

The working class prepared for May Day in an organised manner. May Day committees were formed. Workers, working people poured into İstanbul from the four corners of the land. The May Day demonstration took on nationwide dimensions. Workers leaving the factories gathered in various districts. They marched to May Day (Taksim) Square from Beşiktaş, Dolmabahçe, Levent and Kadıköy.

At the head of the main column of the march were the leaders of DISK (the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions) and of trade unions affiliated to DISK. 28 parliamentarians belonging to the Republican People's Party (RPP) were in the front ranks of the march. These were followed by columns from affiliated trade unions to DISK. Some unions affiliated to Türk-İş had also joined the march. The columns from the Metal Workers Union (Maden-İş), which had successfully concluded its strike against the MESS bosses was the largest and strongest. As the workers and toilers marched by carrying red flags and red carnations, the streets shook to the sound of the working class' slogans: "Fascism shall not pass!", "Close the NAP!", "Purge fascists from the state apparatus!", "Arrest Türkeş!", "Fight unemployment and the high cost of living!", "National Independence!", "No to NATO!", "Dismantle the aggressive bases!", "End the arms race!", "No to the neutron bomb!".

With pictures of Marx, Engels and Lenin and banners such as "Long live proletarian internationalism!" and "Workers of all countries, unite!" carried by workers, working people and patriotic youth marching into May Day Square in different files, the working class of Turkey proved that it is an inseparable part of the international proletariat.

The socialist parties also participated in the May Day march and rally, which was supported by 54 organisations. The Teachers' Association (TÖB-

DER) and other professional organisations marched in a massive and organised manner. For the first time, peasants belonging to the Village Cooperatives (Köy-Koop) and Villager's Associations (Köy-Der) participated in May Day in a massive and organised manner. A large number of working women poured into May Day Square under the banner of the Progressive Women's Organisation (İKD). The women in the İKD entered the square with the slogan, "An end to the sorrow of the mothers!" The last to enter the square was the enormous column of the Progressive Youth Organisation (İGD). The youth in the İGD shouted the slogan "Our road is the road of the working class!".

Our people jubilantly saluted the march columns from the roadsides and windows of buildings. The first column which began marching at 10.30 am reached May Day Square at 3.00pm. It took one and a half hours to fill the square. Just before DİSK President Abdullah Baştürk was due to speak, banners proclaiming "Freedom to the Communist Party of Turkey!" and "Atılım is with us!" were unfurled simultaneously all over the square. The entire square shook to these slogans. DİSK president Abdullah Baştürk began speaking in the midst of these slogans. He demanded resolute measures against the fascist attackers and withdrawal from NATO. He spoke against unemployment, the high cost of living and racist repression. Baştürk demanded the repeal of anti-democratic laws and articles 141 and 142. His speech was met with the slogans: "Freedom to the TKP!", "Atılım is with us!", "No democracy without the TKP!", "The TKP is in May Day Square!" and "Long live Comrade Bilen!". Anti-imperialist, anti-fascist slogans were repeatedly shouted. The May Day demonstration which was watched by many foreign guests, among them representatives of trade unions of both socialist and capitalist countries, ended at about 5.00pm.

The working class of Turkey has celebrated May Day three years running in a massive and militant manner, with anti-fascist, anti-imperialist slogans and under the leadership of the Communist Party of Turkey. The TKP gained fresh experience in this May Day and emerged from it further strengthened. The TKP will make the gains of May Day a starting point for intensifying the struggle against the fascist danger and for forging the unity of action of the working class, all national democratic forces in this struggle.

Our workers in western European countries also massively celebrated the day of unity, struggle and solidarity of the world proletariat, together with the workers of those countries and other foreign workers. They provided concrete examples of class solidarity in the struggle against imperialism and the monopolies' policy of exploitation. Our workers in Federal Germany, West Berlin, Britain, Sweden, Belgium, Holland France and Switzerland marched shoulder to shoulder with their worker brothers of other nationalities. They turned the slogan "Workers of all countries, unite!" into the main watchword of the May Day demonstrations.

## DİSK AND MAY DAYS

May Day 1978 signifies the third successive massive celebration in our

country of the international day of unity, solidarity and struggle of the working class after half a century. The progressive trade union organisation of the working class of Turkey, DİSK, plays an important role in the organisation of these May Days.

In 1976 DİSK decided to celebrate May Day in the squares. In 1977, a giant demonstration of over half a million people was held. In spite of the bloody massacre of last year and the continuing fascist terror in the country, DİSK played an important role in the celebration of this May Day in a massive fashion.

Following the successful conclusion of the May Day demonstration, the reactionary, fascist forces intensified their attacks against the working class, progressive forces and DİSK. The shouting of "Freedom to the TKP!" by hundreds of thousands of working people in the May Day demonstrations frightened the pro-NATO quarters collaborating with American imperialism. Today, just as yesterday, these quarters are attempting to hit at DİSK with the weapon of anti-communism.

DİSK has faced the attacks of the ruling quarters from the day it was founded. DİSK leaders and members have been arrested many times. In the course of many strikes and demonstrations countless workers belonging to DİSK have been killed, wounded or sacked. However, even when these attacks were at their peak, during the fascist-style 12th March regime, the working class did not abandon its trade union organisation. For this reason, and faced with the support from the international workers' movement, the 12th March'ists were unable to find an opportunity to close DİSK. But the attacks did not cease. On the contrary, they intensified even further after the 5th Congress of DİSK.

In spite of all attacks and anti-democratic persecutions, DİSK (founded 13 February 1967) grew and reached its present level. When DİSK was first formed it had organised only 30 thousand workers. But at the beginning of 1970 and particularly with its 5th Congress, DİSK grew rapidly. Today DİSK unites half a million members and 25 unions.

DİSK's struggle bears witness to the fact that today, the role of trade unions is increasing in the political as well as economic sphere of struggle. With the 15-16 June 1970 demonstrations and particularly the general strike against the State Security Courts, with anti-fascist, anti-imperialist rallies, and most recently, the March anti-fascist general strike, DİSK is successfully fulfilling its tasks in the struggle for independence, democracy, peace, social progress and socialism.

At the end of last year, DİSK held its General Congress. This Congress made changes in DİSK's leadership. Before the Congress, the reactionary-fascist quarters increased their attacks on the DİSK leadership with all their strength. In reality, these quarters were attacking DİSK's defence of the unity of the international workers' movement, its policy towards forming the front of all national democratic forces, and its line of mass action against imperialism and fascist escalation. However, they were conducting their attacks against the DİSK leaders through slanders aimed at degrading them personally, seeking to strike at them with the weapon of anti-communism.

The entire range of petty-bourgeois trends, which to that day had been

unable to gain a mass basis in the workers' movement, from the adventurists to the right opportunists, began claiming that DİSK had become RPP'fied. While appearing to complain that DİSK had come under so-called Republican People's Party control, and attempting to blame the TKP for this, they spared no efforts to get known social democratic trade unionists into the leadership. In reality, seeing that the TKP had rapidly won great prestige in the workers' movement, they sought to drag DİSK into the most anti-communist positions possible, each for its own interests. They considered the old DİSK leadership – which was not anti-communist – an obstacle to these aims.

The Extraordinary DİSK Congress made changes in the leadership, but preserved the principles of class and mass trade unionism. The divisionism fanned by the ruling forces was unable to achieve its aim. DİSK succeeded in coming out of the congress with its unity intact. This was largely due to the class trade unionists and the revolutionary potential of the worker masses in the DİSK rank and file.

Since that day, DİSK has preserved its honourable place in the class struggle and is continuing the fight against imperialism, oppression and exploitation by the collaborating bourgeoisie, against the fascist danger. The massive 1978 May Day is a fresh example of this.

#### TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE BELGIAN COMMUNIST PARTY

Esteemed Comrades,

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkey, I express our condolences on the death of Comrade Terfve, deputy chairman of the Belgian Communist Party.

With comrade Jean Terfve's death, an outstanding fighter for peace, democracy and socialism is lost, not only to the Belgian Communist Party but to the world communist movement as well. The communists of Turkey know him as a heroic militant against fascism and imperialism and a fiery upholder of the unity of the world communist movement on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

The Communist Party of Turkey will always remember Comrade Jean Terfve with respect.

With communist greetings,  
İ. Bilen  
General Secretary,  
Central Committee  
Communist Party of Turkey

19 April 1978

#### TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF AUSTRIA

Esteemed Comrades,

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkey

and all communists of Turkey, we share with you your profound sorrow over the death of Comrade Friedl Fűrberg.

With Comrade Fűrberg's departure from our midst, the working class of Austria and the international communist and workers' movement have lost one of their outstanding fighters. Comrade Fűrberg fought against fascism unflinchingly. He stood in the front ranks of the Communist Party of Austria in the struggle for peace, democracy and socialism. He remained faithful to the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism throughout his life of struggle.

The Communist Party of Turkey will always remember Comrade Fűrberg with respect.

With communist greetings  
İ. Bilen  
General Secretary,  
Central Committee  
Communist Party of Turkey

28 April 1978

#### **KARL MARX COMMEMORATED IN ALL COUNTRIES ON THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS BIRTH**

The great teacher of the international workers' movement, the founder of scientific communism, Karl Marx, is being commemorated in various way in all countries on the 160th anniversary of his birth. The fraternal communist and workers' parties, various organisations and trade union confederations, are once more investigating Marx's teaching in conferences, symposiums and meetings. They are emphasising that nothing has been lost in our age of its constant, guiding influence.

The TKP began celebrations of the 160th anniversary of Karl Marx's birth during April, with meetings, seminars and similar forums, at various levels and in different regions. The TKP held a broad and general meeting attended by representatives of various party organisations to mark this historic anniversary. This meeting, which was successfully carried out under conditions of secrecy, dealt with the anniversary importance of Marx's teaching. The opportunist theses that Marx's teaching is obsolete were disproved and the validity of Marx's teaching which has left its mark on the progress of all mankind was emphasized. It was declared that in our age, Marxism guides the way of the international proletariat with all its vitality as Leninism. It was explained that in the TKP Programme the principles of Marxism-Leninism are creatively applied to the conditions of Turkey and that with each passing day the working class is more closely embracing the great thinking of Marx, Engels and Lenin. A series of questions relating to the class struggle in Turkey were answered in the light of the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism.

The commemorative meetings, seminars, symposiums and conferences marking the 160th anniversary of Marx's birth are to continue during May.