

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

FORTNIGHTLY BULLETIN
DÖRÜM
COMMUNIST PARTY OF TURKEY

INFORMATION BULLETIN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF TURKEY

Number: 20 (226)

1 November 1978

CONTENTS

1. Messages from Comrade İ. Bilen, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkey, to the general secretaries of fraternal communist and workers' parties.
2. Speech of the TKP representative at the Congress of the German Communist Party.
3. Message from the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran to the TKP Central Committee.
4. Summary of the speech of the TKP representative at the international colloquium of neo-colonialism.
5. The struggle of the peace-loving forces of Turkey against the arms drive.

I wish you great successes in the struggle around your Party Programme which was ratified at the Mannheim Congress, and in your responsible duty at the head of your Party.

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

23 October 1978

TÜSTAV

**TO COMRADE MEIR VILNER, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF ISRAEL**

Esteemed Comrade M. Vilner,

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkey and all communists of Turkey, as well as on my own behalf, I warmly congratulate you on the occasion of your 60th birthday and convey our militant revolutionary greetings.

You waged for many years, and are waging, an ardent struggle in the frontmost ranks of the working class, against the oppression and terror of imperialism, militarism and reaction. In the leadership of your party, you remained at all times unwaveringly faithful to the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. You showed great care for the development of the fraternal relations between our parties.

The Leninist struggle you are waging under very difficult conditions to uphold peace against aggression and for the establishment of friendship among the peoples in the Middle East, will not be in vain and will achieve its great aim.

We wish you great successes, health, happiness and a long life in your responsible duty at the head of the Communist Party of Israel and in your struggle.

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

23 October 1978

**TO COMRADE HERBERT MIES, CHAIRMAN OF THE
GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY**

Esteemed Comrade H. Mies,

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkey and all communists of Turkey, as well as on my own behalf, I warmly congratulate you on your reelection as Chairman of the German Communist Party at the Mannheim Congress of the DKP, and convey our militant revolutionary greetings.

I wish you great successes in the struggle around your Party Programme which was ratified at the Mannheim Congress, and in your responsible duty at the head of your Party.

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

23 October 1978

TÜSTAV

**TO COMRADE ABDEL FATTAH ISMAIL, GENERAL SECRETARY OF
THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF YEMEN**

Esteemed Comrade A.F. İsmail,

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkey, I warmly congratulate you on your election as General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Yemen, and convey our militant fraternal greetings.

There are old and close ties between our peoples. The people of South Yemen have liberated themselves from centuries long repression and oppression, have carried out a national democratic revolution and are pursuing a new road. The working class of Turkey, our people, are waging a bitter struggle against American imperialism and the ruling quarters of NATO, for national independence, democracy and socialism.

With the founding of the Socialist Party of Yemen, your people are taking into their hands a very powerful weapon in their struggle for socialist transformations in the country. I wish you, in your responsible duty, and the Central Committee of your Party, all its members, great successes in carrying out the decisions of your Party's Founding Congress, which is of historic significance.

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

23 October 1978

**THE SPEECH OF THE TKP REPRESENTATIVE AT THE
MANNHEIM CONGRESS OF THE GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY,
HELD ON 20th-22nd OCTOBER, 1978**

Most esteemed Comrades,

On behalf of the Communist Party of Turkey and of all communists of Turkey, I convey to your Congress, this highest forum of the communists of Federal Germany, the most sincere and fervent militant greetings.

In the present circumstances of Western Europe, the Mannheim Congress of your Party is of historic significance for both the DKP and the proletariat of Federal Germany. The expansionist West German and American imperialists, NATO circles and the Peking leadership embracing them, are sabotaging the process of peace and detente in the world, and are threatening mankind with Neutron bombs, weapons of mass destruction. Confronting this are the socialist countries, led by the Soviet Union, the international working class and the national independence movements. At such a stage the programme presented to your congress by the DKP places in the hands of the proletariat and progressive forces of Federal Germany, a Marxist-Leninist, a new weapon. How powerful a weapon this is, is proved by the lively discussions and wide

repercussions it has provoked among public opinion. Such a programme is the product of a bitter struggle waged by the DKP, of experience. This experience was obtained through the DKP's persistent struggle against the monopolies, neo-fascists and the most reactionary sinister forces.

The DKP fought and is fighting against the efforts of the bourgeoisie and imperialist monopolies to foist the whole burden of the crises onto the backs of the working class and the broad working masses. The DKP fought and is fighting against the abolition of democratic rights and freedoms, against unemployment and prohibitions applied in the professions. The DKP fought and is fighting against the monopolies' barbaric exploitation of foreign workers in Federal Germany, against their oppression which tramples underfoot human dignity. In this way, it is defending the principles of proletarian internationalism as the apple of its eye. The hundreds of thousands of workers from Turkey in Federal Germany witness this Leninist conduct of the DKP through their own experience. Such is the source of the DKP's prestige among workers from Turkey.

Comrade Mies' valuable report, based on Marxist-Leninist principles and analyses, shows what difficult conditions the communists of Federal Germany are working under, how they are finding concrete solutions to problems and how they illuminate the struggle of the proletariat of Federal Germany. The programme and report show that the DKP is the leader, vanguard and source of hope of the working class and working masses in their struggle for democracy and socialism. The DKP leads the struggle against the Strausses, the nazis old and new, who would again bring great woes upon the people of Federal Germany. The faith of the broad masses of the people in the future, in liberation, comes to life in these struggles of the DKP.

Dear Comrades,

Turkey, our 42 million people, are living through a very difficult phase of history. Our country, our people are suffering under deep-rooted and continuous economic, social and political crises. Because of its dependence on NATO and the arms race, Turkey has plunged into foreign debts totalling billions of dollars. It has come under the control of international monopolies and finance centres. For the benefit of the American imperialists and NATO, our land is criss-crossed with bases of aggression and stockpiles of nuclear warheads to be used against our great neighbour, the Soviet Union. Our motherland is at each moment faced with a terrible peril. Moreover, the cost of living, inflation and unemployment have reached awesome proportions. For our working class and people, life has become a hell.

The collaborating bourgeoisie, the most reactionary quarters, their striking force, the fascist forces, are conducting violent armed attacks against the working class, progressive forces and organisations. The party of the Hitlerite Türkeş, receiving support from expansionist American quarters, from the CIA and Strauss, the leader of the West German reactionaries – and shoulder to shoulder with them, the Maoists – are heading for a civil war in our country. Within the last 9 months, these attacks have claimed the lives of 800 of our countrymen, while the number of wounded runs into the thousands. The armed fascist terror is directed mainly against the working class, its vanguard detachment, the TKP, and progressive youth and women's, peace and

professional organisations. The victims of the fascist bullets are workers, communists, the youth. One edge of the terror is also directed against the anti-imperialist wing of the RPP. The domestic source of these attacks is the monopoly, collaborating reactionary bourgeoisie. Externally, their bases of support are the American and West German imperialists and NATO circles. In recent times, these quarters have further intensified their pressures on Turkey.

Our people and working class are fighting against such an enemy, for national independence and an advanced democratic order which will grow into socialism, for peace in our region and in the world, for the development of good-neighbourly and friendly relations with our great neighbour, the Soviet Union. At the head of this struggle marches our party, the Communist Party of Turkey.

On the other hand, the Ecevit government – which calls itself social-democratic – is trying to stifle mass actions, is refusing to act against fascist attack and is bowing before imperialism. Itself restricting democratic rights and freedoms, it turns a blind eye to their violation. Under this government, progressive books and journals are being banned and confiscated. The government has banned our legally published Party Programme. It has had the managing editor of Ürün publications, which published the Programme, committed to trial. The trial took place on the 17th of October. The prosecutor is demanding a minimum sentence of 11 years imprisonment for the managing editor, Taştan. The ban on the TKP is still in force. Turkey is today the only country in Europe where the communist party is banned. We communists of Turkey are fighting under such difficult conditions.

The fraternal parties are setting a new example of international solidarity for freedom to our Party and against the trial of its programme. The DKP's contribution to this solidarity was, and is, great. We warmly thank the DKP Executive Committee and the communists of Federal Germany for their solidarity.

Comrades,

The bonds between the German Communists and the Communists of Turkey are long-standing. These bonds have been further strengthened during the last 10 years. Our parties are bound by proletarian internationalism, the principles of Marxism-Leninism and their indestructible friendship towards the Soviet Union.

Glory to the German Communist Party, the bearer of the militant traditions of the great Marx and Engels, the Liebknechts Luxemburgs and Teilmanns!

Long live the indestructible fraternity and militant friendship between the DKP and the TKP!

Long live proletarian internationalism!

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF TURKEY

Esteemed comrades,

In recent months the revolutionary struggle being waged by our people against the Shah regime, for democratic freedoms, national independence and social progress has intensified. We have witnessed a rising wave of glorious solidarity and sympathy, of support for us and for the honourable, responsible, freedom-loving and patriotic people of Iran.

The Iranian freedom fighters are not alone against the barbarous oppression of the regime of the Shah, one of the worlds most despotic rulers. This wave of solidarity is a very important support for our people. It gives them strength and vitality in their struggles which will result in victory.

As you know, on the 8th of September the Shah regime came face to face with an unprecedented protest meeting of millions of Iranians. Martial law was proclaimed in 12 large cities of Iran, including the capital. On the same day, in Tehran alone, thousands of our countrymen engaged in an unarmed demonstration were murdered. Now the Shah and his corrupt clique are able to govern only with the direct support of the army and SAVAK. It has been fully proved that he is a brutal despot. He has turned away even from a large section of his old supporters. The struggle of the people of Iran for freedom, national independence and social progress has entered a very important and sensitive stage. Developments in the coming months will be extremely important from the point of view of our country's future.

Esteemed comrades, for this reason we thank you for the friendship, solidarity and support you have shown. At the same time we call your attention to the truly difficult conditions under which our people are fighting. Your continuous support and solidarity in the recent weeks and months has been extremely helpful. Its value will increase further in the days to come.

With fraternal greetings,

Irkady Eskandry
First Secretary, Central Committee
Tudeh Party of Iran

FROM THE SPEECH OF THE TKP REPRESENTATIVE AT THE
COLLOQUIUM ON "THE STRUGGLE AGAINST
IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM AND RACISM ON THE
AFRICAN, SOUTH AMERICAN AND ASIAN CONTINENTS"
HELD IN FRANKFURT, FEDERAL GERMANY,
23-24 OCTOBER 1978

...Current developments in the international arena further reveal the face of imperialism as the enemy of peace and mankind. The attempts by American imperialism to increase international tension; its strivings to accelerate the arms race by producing the Neutron bomb; its fanning of the hotbeds of tension in Africa, the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean; the support

it is lending to Smith's racist and Pinochet's fascist regimes, to Somoza's oligarchic dictatorship and the Shah of Iran's bloody dictatorial regime; its collaboration with the Peking hegemonists, show the dimensions of the dangerous, if hopeless, manoeuvres engaged in by American imperialism to consolidate its remaining positions against the advancing world revolutionary process.

Turkey is situated in a region which is a focus of the dangerous adventures of American imperialism and its partners, together with the Peking hegemonists...

The imperialists have also intensified their pressures on Turkey in order to consolidate their interests in the region and strengthen the southeastern flank of NATO. With the removal of the embargo, the nuclear-weapon-stocked American bases, whose operations had been restricted, were officially reopened. For example, the reopened base in Sinop is used for espionage and aggressive purposes against the Soviet Union, while the one in Diyarbakır is directed against both the Soviet Union and countries of Middle East...

The fact that 61 of the officially disclosed 199 NATO bases in the Mediterranean are in Turkey, reveals the dimensions of imperialism and NATO's military interest in our country. Turkey is saddled with the heavy burden of this dependence. Under the yoke of neo-colonialism, our country has been dragged into the war-mongering NATO bloc. Turkey maintains the second-largest number of soldiers under arms in this bloc, after America. Turkey's aims and military expenditures are constantly rising. Imperialist sources give an annual average increase of 33% between 1971-1977, as opposed to an annual average increase of 10% between 1960-1970. These figures show that Turkey has the highest rate of increase in military spending of any NATO member. Turkey again heads the bloc in the period 1975-1978 in terms of the proportion that military spending takes of total government spending 25%. In the period 1975-1977, Turkey allocated 6-7 per cent of its Gross National Product to armament. Turkey also heads NATO in terms of the proportion of national wealth allocated to armament. These figures are enough to understand what a burden on the country's economy Turkey's military dependence on American imperialism is. American imperialism's main partner in Europe, the Federal German imperialists, are also increasing their military influence over Turkey. They are now openly requesting military bases in Turkey. In news reports of the Turkish Defence Minister's negotiations in Federal Germany last week, it was stated that Federal Germany had applied to lease land for the building of a military base, which was called a "firing and training range", and that it had prepared a one million DM arms sales project for Turkey. The Federal German imperialists, in accordance with the strategy of escalating rearmament, are among the most fervent supporters of efforts to establish a war industry in Turkey. Thus they hope to produce weapons using cheap labour on Turkish soil, extract vast profits, consolidate their partnership with Turkey's collaborating monopoly bourgeoisie and seize positions in the Turkish market now dominated by the American arms monopolies.

The working class of Turkey, our people, the national democratic forces, are waging a persistent struggle against this policy of dependence on imperial-

ism. The TKP is leading this struggle. The TKP is fighting for withdrawal from NATO, the tearing up of bilateral agreements, closure of American and NATO bases, complete realisation of sovereign rights, and establishment of relations of friendship and cooperation with all socialist countries, all neighbouring countries, the Soviet Union first and foremost. It is fighting for lasting peace and security in our region...

...Dependence on imperialism is based on the collaboration of the Turkish monopoly bourgeoisie with imperialism... The production process in Turkey is dependent on imperialist monopolies, not only from the point of view of production itself, of finance and technology, but for raw materials and fuel.

The economic relations between Turkey and the imperialist countries, formed on the basis of dependence, exhibit a constant development to the detriment of Turkey. Turkey's foreign trade deficit runs into billions of dollars every year. According to disclosures of American sources, debts to imperialist countries and monopolies exceed 20 billion dollars. Ten years ago, the annual rate of debt stood at 300 million dollars. In 1978 this figure reached 900 million dollars.

Dependence on imperialism has plunged Turkey into financial bankruptcy. Turkey is in debt to over 200 banks and 68 thousand individuals or firms. American and Federal German banks have established complete control over Turkey in the form of a consortium. Apart from US banks such as City Bank, Chase Manhattan, and Morgan Guaranty Trust, this consortium includes such giant Federal German banks as the Deutsche Bank and Dresdener Bank.

The imperialist centres exert their pressure on Turkey through finance organisations such as the IMF... A concrete example of this is provided by the consecutive devaluations. There were 15 devaluations of the Turkish Lira between 1972-1977, the last one by 30%. Measures such as those giving foreign capital new privileges, reducing domestic investment, reducing the growth rate, freezing workers' wages, pegging the minimum statutory prices for agricultural products and raising prices, are being imposed as conditions for giving credit and providing foreign exchange. These neo-colonial impositions aim at safeguarding the imperialist monopolies and their profits in Turkey, and preventing any nationalisations. A typical example of this was seen in the attempt to nationalise the ATAŞ refinery... In addition, during the efforts to legislate state operation of mineral resources, the American government sent a letter openly stating the economic and political pressures it would exert on Turkey if American monopolies were nationalised.

Apart from American monopolies, Common Market monopolies, particularly Federal German ones, are also exploiting Turkey to the hilt. The influence of Federal German monopolies over the Turkish economy is increasing. Federal Germany heads the list in terms of the number of imperialist firms investing in Turkey in accordance with law 6224, and lies second in terms of the total capital invested. The most important Federal German monopolies are Thyssen, Siemens, Bayer, Höchst, BASF, AEG, Bosch, Mercedes-Benz, MAN and Mannesman.

Clearly, at the base of Turkey's economic crisis, lie the contradictions of

capitalism... While Business Week disclosed that a Turkish monopoly, Koç Holding, stands 5th among the 13 highest profit making monopolies in the world, the Prime Minister revealed that Turkey has one of the highest unemployment rates in the capitalist world: 20%. OECD reports state that Turkey tops the list among 24 member countries in terms of price rises: 70%. Every year 100 thousand children die of measles in Turkey. The illiteracy rate is 54%...

...What is the political situation in Turkey today? In office at present is a government dominated by the right-wing of the Republican People's Party, which has joined the Socialist International, and which includes breakaways from the reactionary Justice Party. Although this government came to power by promising to solve the vital problems we have enumerated above, it has been unable to overcome any of them. The fundamental reason for this is the RPP leadership's subservience to domestic and foreign monopolies. With the intensification of the imperialist pressures and the fascist terror engendered by it, the government is even retreating from positions it previously held. Its official reopening of the American bases, its inability to prevent the terror which has claimed 800 victims in 9 months, its failure to close down the fascist NAP and its allied organisations, while conducting investigations and prosecutions against progressive organisations and the press, are indications of this process.

The TKP believes that, in the prevailing conditions, there are forces capable of repulsing the imperialist pressures, stopping the fascist escalation and preventing the further rightward swing of the government. The TKP is fighting for the single front of all national democratic forces under the leadership of the working class...

...Our party is fighting in conditions of illegality. It is fighting without let up for the realisation of the urgent economic, social and political demands of our people. It is organising the struggles of the masses around these aims and uniting these struggles with the struggle for an advanced democracy which will grow into socialism...

...The TKP has made no concession from its positions of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, and never will. Our own battle experiences have taught us that the more persistently we adhere to our principled positions, the stronger we become. Our party's relentless struggle against all manner of anti-communism and anti-Sovietism, is an important factor in its increasing prestige among the widest circles.

The international colloquium on neo-colonialism held in Frankfurt dwelt particularly on the role of West German imperialism and the function of the German Social Democratic Party (SPD) leadership as a support of imperialism. Important stress was placed on the fact that the imperialist states are striving to prevent the more rapid change in the balance of world forces in favour of the world revolutionary process.

The topics discussed at this forum are also of great significance for the anti-imperialist forces in our country. Alongside American imperialism, the influence of West German imperialism, and particularly of the SPD leadership in Turkey, is steadily increasing. The bilateral and many-sided relations

between the RPP and the SPD have intensified since the RPP's affiliation to the "Socialist International". New initiatives in this area were made in the talks held between RPP General Secretary Üstündağ and the SPD leadership during his tour of F. Germany. In this respect, the question of opening a bureau of the "Friedrich Ebert Foundation", an allied organisation of the SPD, in Turkey was discussed.

THE STRUGGLE OF THE PEACE-LOVING FORCES OF TURKEY AGAINST THE ARMS DRIVE

In Turkey, as in many other countries, the week of "Struggle against the arms drive, for disarmament" held between 24-31 October, received wide support. The peace-loving forces of Turkey, progressive democratic organisations, participated in this week with mass actions. In various forums held during "Disarmament Week", the efforts of American imperialism to produce weapons of mass destruction such as the neutron bomb and the NATO countries' policy of inciting the arms drive, were vehemently condemned. The peace proposals of the socialist countries, in particular of the Soviet Union, were supported and concrete steps towards disarmament were demanded.

Speaking at a press conference held in connection with "Disarmament Week", the President of the Peace Committee of Turkey, Dikerdem, demanded withdrawal from imperialism's aggression organisation, NATO and the closing down of NATO and American bases in our country. He strongly condemned American imperialism's plans for rearmament and production of the neutron bomb, and called all peace-loving forces in our country to action.

The increase in armament by Turkey, a NATO member and the presence of US and NATO bases of aggression on our soil, are of the utmost danger, not only for the revolutionary struggle of our working people, but also for world peace, security in our region and good relations with our neighbours. That is why the peace forces of Turkey are waging a bitter struggle against the arms drive, the Neutron bomb, bases of aggression and the warmongering policy of imperialism.