

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

FORTNIGHTLY BULLETIN
DÖRÜM
COMMUNIST PARTY OF TURKEY

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CONTENTS

1. Message from the Communist and Workers' Parties of the Arab countries to the TKP Central Committee.
2. Message from Comrade Abdül Fattah İsmail, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Yemen, to Comrade İ. Bilen, General Secretary of the TKP Central Committee.
3. Message from Herbert Mies, Chairman of the German Communist Party, to the TKP Central Committee.
4. Message from İ. Bilen, General Secretary of the TKP Central Committee, to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Iraq.
5. Martial law and the bloody attacks
6. Mounting pressures and new impositions of imperialism.
7. Intentions to transfer the trial of the TKP Programme to the Martial Law Courts.

TÜSTAV

Recently, the Communist and Workers' Parties of the Arab countries held a consultative meeting to discuss problems in the Arab region and events in the Near East. The meeting sent the following message of solidarity to the Central Committee of the TKP:

**TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF TURKEY**

Esteemed Comrades,

We, the Communist and Workers' Parties of the Arab countries, have gathered together in December 1978 to discuss problems in the Arab region and events in the Near East. To you and, through you, to all members of your fighting party, to the struggling people of Turkey, we extend our fraternal greetings and convey our warm comradely solidarity in the face of the bloody terror which has taken the lives of hundreds of the most valuable sons and daughters of the working class and people of Turkey.

We follow with great interest the development of the revolutionary struggle waged by the masses of the people in Turkey against the presence of American military installations, against the NATO bases in your country, the deepening economic crisis, for national liberation, democracy and social progress. The struggle of the fraternal Communist Party of Turkey, which is leading the masses of the people, who have risen to fight, is a great support for the Arab peoples' cause especially in these difficult days. For this reason, we follow with close interest the continuous development of your Party and the strengthening of its mass character. We declare our solidarity with the struggle you are waging for the legalisation of the Communist Party of Turkey.

Comrades,

We declare that we are fully ready to establish the closest, comradely and internationalist relations between our parties and your struggling party, between our peoples and your struggling people. This will be in the interests of our common cause, national liberation, democracy and socialism, of peace amongst the peoples.

Long live the heroic people of Turkey and their communist party.

Consultative meeting of
December 1978 Arab countries' Communist and Workers' Parties

**TO COMRADE I. BILEN, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE
CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF TURKEY**

I thank you for the message of congratulations which you sent on the occasion of my election as the General Secretary of the Central Committee

of the Socialist Party of Yemen, and extend my most sincere and friendly regards to the Central Committee of your Party.

The great support your letter expresses with the struggle of our people strengthens our belief in the international solidarity to which you attach great value.

At its First Congress, the Socialist Party of Yemen undertook important and great duties for the welfare and progress of the people of Yemen and the winning of territorial integrity. As always, our people will prove their ability to advance on the road of national liberation, social progress and peace.

We declare our solidarity with the struggle of the working class and people of Turkey against imperialism, for independence, democracy and peace.

Your Comrade,
Abdul Fattah Ismail,
General Secretary, Central Committee
Socialist Party of Yemen

23 November 1978

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF TURKEY

Dear Comrades,

In the present situation which is crucial for the development of Turkey, and is decisive for your party and the other democratic forces of your country, we express to you once again our fraternal solidarity. We received with anger, fury, the news of the escalation of the fascist terror, of the bloody massacre in Kahramanmaraş, and the imposition of martial law. We resolutely condemn the bloody terror of the fascists who, as the striking force of reaction, do not refrain from applying the most loathsome methods in order to prevent Turkey from attaining its independence from NATO imperialism, to hinder the development of the democratic forces. We know from our own historic experiences, that the Ecevit government's capitulation to the demands of the reactionary circles around Demirel and Türkeş, its imposition of martial law, will never be able to stop the fascists. On the contrary, it will increase the repression against popular democratic forces, and this in turn will provoke reaction to renewed attacks. For this reason, we welcome with sympathy the efforts of your party to establish a national democratic front against fascism, and its call for mass actions which will repulse the fascists. Therefore we are in full solidarity with the anti-fascist demonstrations of the Turkish workers in our country. Therefore we repeat our demand that the Federal German government ban the activity of the fascist terror organisation, the "Grey Wolves", on our soil.

Dear Comrades,

In the struggle of the democratic forces of Turkey, in the struggle for the legalisation of the TKP, we shall always be at your side.

With our socialist greetings,
Herbert Mies, Chairman
German Communist Party

27 December 1978

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF IRAQ

Esteemed Comrades,

In the name of all communists of Turkey, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkey protests against the repression and terror being conducted in Iraq against members and sympathisers of your Party, and once again declares our fraternal solidarity with the Communist Party of Iraq.

We have learned with great anger and aversion that for some time now, the governing circles have been carrying out an intense campaign of repression against communists and the progressive forces close to them, arresting tens of thousands of citizens, practicing inhuman and barbarous tortures, that some patriots have been executed. There is no doubt that such an anti-communist stand will weaken the fighting unity of the forces opposing imperialism and Zionism, that it will evoke a reaction against the government of Iraq among world democratic public opinion, in the Arab world, and among the people of Turkey.

The Communist Party of Turkey will use all means at hand to continue the campaign of solidarity for the release of the arrested comrades in Iraq, to end the repression and terror against the communists and their sympathisers.

The Communist Party of Iraq is marching and shall always march at the head of the people of Iraq, in their struggle to continue and intensify the anti-imperialist and progressive development of the motherland.

Long live the heroic Communist Party of Iraq!

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

12 January 1979

MARTIAL LAW AND THE BLOODY ATTACKS

Repression and terror against the progressive, democratic forces and organisations continue in the period of martial law declared by the Republican People's Party (RPP)-dominated government, a government which capitulated to the pressures and provocations of the reactionary-fascist forces and the collaborating monopoly-capital circles. Attacks by fascist commandos and Maoist "wolves" have again taken many lives in the 13 provinces under martial law, and in other cities of the country. Alongside this, the Istanbul, Beykoz and Beşiktaş branches of the Progressive Youth Organisation (İGD) were raided on orders of the Istanbul Martial Law Headquarters. 75 members of the organisation were taken into custody. In other cities, too intense repressions were launched against progressive, democratic organisations.

The reactionary-fascist parties are doing their utmost, making various manoeuvres and applying different tactics to ensure that martial law will be applied against the left more intensively. The fascist Nationalist Action Party

and the reactionary Justice Party are demanding the further extension of the territory under martial law. The fascist Türkiyeş is persistently calling for the overthrow of the government and the establishment of a direct military dictatorship.

International imperialist circles, their collaborators in our country, the monopoly bourgeoisie, also want to take advantage of martial law. The IMF is trying to impose a new 30% devaluation on Turkey. It is giving orders to freeze workers' wages and ban strikes. In the same way, the employers are also expecting the martial law to ban strikes and the workers' struggle. The president of the Association of Turkish industrialists and Businessmen (TÜSİAD), Berker, says that, "Martial law must act at once to stop strikes".

The TKP pointed out that the danger of fascism has mounted with the imposition of martial law, imposed on the insistence of the militarist clique. It called all progressive, patriotic forces to unity of action and unity of strength in the anti-fascist struggle against this national danger. Recent developments have proved many times over the correctness of this call by the TKP, and of the policy that it has pursued.

The struggle to defend and extend freedoms has not stopped under the conditions of martial law – 5,000 workers entered the new year with a strike. On the initiative of the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions (DİSK), over one million workers, working people, employees and young people joined in a five-minute strike on 5 January. Trade unions affiliated to DİSK, some trade unions affiliated to Türk-İş, democratic organisations and professional associations took an active part in this national action. It condemned the bloody massacre carried out by the fascists and Maoists, and demanded the repeal of martial law, the closing of the NAP and the trial of the culprits. In İzmir too, more than 30 thousand progressives and patriots organised a mass demonstration against fascism which demanded the repeal of martial law, the arrest of the fascist Türkiyeş and an end to the bloody attacks and repression. In other cities of the country, as well as abroad – in Federal Germany, West Berlin and England – there were various protests organised around the demand for the repeal of martial law, an end to persistent and bloody repression and attacks, and the closure of the NAP and its allied organisations.

MOUNTING PRESSURES AND NEW IMPOSITIONS OF IMPERIALISM

The imperialist pressures on our country are increasing. Concrete developments are showing the rôle played by the imperialists in the government's declaration of martial law.

In Guadeloupe, the leaders of the four imperialist countries took new decisions to perpetuate the enslavement of Turkey. These new "proposals" are aimed at strengthening the positions of NATO and the United States, and having Turkey build up her armaments. The urgent "aid fund" which has been established to, so to speak, revitalise Turkey's "sick" economy, is aimed at

this.

In the Guadeloupe meeting, the stress on Turkey's importance for the belligerent aims of an aggressive NATO is closely related to the developments in our region. Afghanistan's entry onto the path of democratic development, the Iranian people's uprising against the bloody regime of the Shah, a satellite of imperialism, have thoroughly shaken the positions of imperialism in this region. Just as the leaders of the imperialist countries emphasised, in the face of such developments, the importance of Turkey within NATO has further increased. Moreover, these circles could not hide the fact that developments in Iran could affect Turkey. NATO's General Secretary Luns expressed this already in the report he presented at the NATO summit held in Brussels in December. Luns stressed that, because of the revolution in Afghanistan, Sadat's isolation in the Arab world, the developing popular movement in Iran, and the "West's" declining influence in Africa, NATO must concern itself more with Turkey. NATO was faced with the question of transferring the American bases in Iran to Turkey, and part of them to Saudi Arabia. Indeed, the United States removed from Iran many squadrons of the most modern fighter planes, known as "Tomcats", and relocated them at the İncirlik airbase near Adana. Thus, Turkey is being more tightly bound to NATO, and new bases of aggression are being given to those circles which are the mortal enemies of our people. One of these is the base for NATO's AWACS espionage flights, cited for construction near Konya.

In accordance with this policy of imperialism, the American Deputy Foreign Secretary, Warren Christopher, came to Ankara on 10 January. His visit was followed by the arrival of a 12-man American delegation. Christopher has set new conditions for tying Turkey more closely to the economic, political and military organisations of imperialism. He asked for immediate fulfillment of the IMF demands. He said that "The devaluation must be carried out, as well as price increases, workers' and employees' wages must be frozen, the bases in Iran must be transferred to Turkey, the US bases in Turkey must be expanded, they must be equipped with modern arms, new missile ramps must be set up, and the South-East flank of NATO must be strengthened".

Moreover, during Christopher's visit, a "draft for a basic agreement" was prepared. It caused intense discussions among members of the government. The Defence Secretary, Hasan Esat Işık, resigned. Prime Minister Ecevit emphasized that his government is prepared to bow to the new impositions of imperialism, with the words that, "Our relations with the US are developing very well!" This policy pursued by imperialism in Turkey is threatening peace and security in our region. Such a policy is contrary to the spirit of the political document signed between Turkey and the Soviet Union.

INTENTION TO TRANSFER THE TRIAL OF THE TKP PROGRAMME TO THE MARTIAL LAW COURTS

The first hearing in the trial of Ahmet Taştan, the managing editor of "Ürün" publications, for having legally published the TKP Programme, has

been held. The court postponed the trial to 26 January 1979, in order to decide whether or not the trial should be transferred to the Martial Law Court. At the same time, the trial of Kardam, the editor of "Temel" publications, for publishing the documents of the TKP's Konya Conference, was transferred from the First Ankara Criminal Court to a Martial Law Court.

Ahmet Taştan and 50 defense lawyers sent a letter to the UN General Secretary, Kurt Waldheim, requesting him to take an interest in the anachronistic laws in effect in Turkey. The letter read: "At the time of the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, we would like to present for your attention a case which violates this declaration. Two articles which were adapted in 1936 from the fascist penal code of Mussolini, and then expanded and made more severe, are still in force in our country as articles 141 and 142 of the Turkish Penal Code. Turkey is a member of the European Council, and accepted the European Human Rights Agreement. Turkey is a European country which signed the Helsinki Final Act. Despite all these, after the victory of the democratic forces in Greece, Portugal and Spain, Turkey remains the only country where such a ban on freedom of thought and organisation is still maintained. This ban is also in effect against the freedom of the press. As a matter of fact, a trial, which we believe you are following closely, is being conducted against Ahmet Taştan, the managing editor of "Ürün" publications, for having published the Programme of the TKP, a party which has been prevented from working legally for 56 years. This trial raised widespread interest and solidarity among world democratic public opinion. It is now intended to transfer this trial, a trial of the publication of the TKP Programme, to the Martial Law Courts. We request you not to spare your interest in the existence and application of such anachronistic laws, which are directly contrary to democracy, the UN Declaration on Human Rights, the European Human Rights Agreement, and the Helsinki Final Act".

Issue no. 5 of the newspaper "Savaş Yolu", called all democratic forces to solidarity against the transfer of the trial of the TKP Programme to the Martial Law Courts.

TÜSTAV