

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

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TÜSTAV

FREEDOM TO THE TKP AND SOLIDARITY

The chief of the ÜRÜN Publishing House, Ahmet Taştan, who has already been brought to trial under the fascist article 142 for legally publishing the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) programme, will be brought before the courts once again on 27th April. This time he will be tried under the fascist article 141. Parallel with this new anti-democratic undertaking by the bourgeois and reactionary-fascist forces, a motion has been entered onto the parliamentary agenda for the repeal of articles 141 and 142. The motion was proposed by the independent M.P. Nurettin Yılmaz.

The national and international solidarity campaign for lifting the ban on the TKP, and for repeal of articles 141-142 from the Statutes of the Republic of Turkey is gaining new strength.

The French Communist Party's M.P., Antoin Porcu, who had come to Turkey for the meeting of the Common Market-Turkey inter-parliamentary Joint Commission, demanded the lifting of the ban on the TKP at a press conference he had arranged. Porcu stated that the banning of a Communist Party is to deprive that country of the consciousness and influence of the working class, its most dynamic force. Porcu said: "The maintenance of the ban on the TKP creates anxiety from the point of strengthening and developing democracy... Without the involvement of the broadest classes of the society in the social, economic and political life of a country, that country's development cannot be ensured. I want to underline, I observe with great sadness that the Republic of Turkey is the only country in Europe where legal existence is denied to the Communist Party. I wish with all my heart that this can be realised soon, and that the communist comrades of Turkey will be able to conduct in broad daylight their worthwhile activities on behalf of the working class and the country they love so much... As a French Communist, I am upset if there is an injustice, and especially if it is as great as this one.

The solidarity campaign developing on a national and international scale is bearing fruit. As a matter of fact, the dossier on the head of the Temel Publishers, Ahmet Kardam, who was tried for publishing the Konya Conference Documents of the TKP, has been prevented from being transferred to the Martial Law Courts. Ahmet Kardam too is being tried under the fascist article 142.

The fascist articles being applied at present are directed not only against the TKP, but also against all socialist parties, all progressive and democratic organisations. For this reason, the struggle in our country against these fascist articles is embracing broad masses and achieving new dimensions. As a matter of fact, during the trial of the former executives of the İzmir branch of the Young Socialists' Union, more than 30 İzmir lawyers declared that articles 141-142 are against the constitution and should be referred to the Constitutional Court.

Unable to defend the half-a-century long ban on the TKP, the bourgeoisie and reactionary forces, in the face of the developing and strengthening struggle against the fascist articles, are accelerating their efforts to

incite and revive vulgar anti-communism. Demirel says, "When articles 141-142 begin to be considered in the parliament, we shall fight". He opposes the legalisation of the TKP. "We will smash Turkey upon the heads of those who would legalise the Communist Party".

Reaction is striving to make use of martial law, the Ecevit government's inconsistent conduct and the reactionary cabinet members. Just as articles 141-142 were about to be considered in Parliament, the 6 reactionary ministers who took up duties in the Ecevit government issued a joint communique demanding the abandonment of efforts to repeal "articles 141-142 which would open the gates of Turkey to communism", and declaring that they would resolutely oppose the legalisation of the Communist Party.

In the face of anti-communist attacks, solidarity with all progressives who are being tried under articles 141-142 is becoming more urgent.

THE SITUATION IN TURKEY

The 6 reactionary ministers who took up duties in the Ecevit government handed a note to the government demanding that anti-communist pressures be stepped up. They declared that they would resolutely oppose the repeal of articles 141-142 and the legalisation of the Communist Party. This anti-communist sortie of the 6 ministers, their threats, are aimed at creating a new governmental crisis. The reactionary-fascist forces are trying to take advantage of the situation. The Justice Party (JP) leader, Demirel, is calling for the downfall of the government. He is talking about a complete overhaul of the constitution. The fascist Nationalist Action Party (NAP) leader, Türkeş, wants martial law to be extended to the entire country, the establishment of State Security Courts, and the increase of pressures against the progressive forces. Türkeş regards the action of the 6 ministers as an important development towards realising his aims. As a matter of fact, Türkeş congratulated the 6 ministers on their declaration. The policies of the government dominated by the right wing of the Republican People's Party (RPP) — martial law, increase of anti-democratic repression, bowing to pressures of imperialism, NATO and the IMF, undermining of class trade unionism and dividing the trade unions — paved the way for both the reactionary and fascist forces and the anti-communist sortie of the 6 ministers. They are demanding that the Ecevit government renew and extend the area of martial law on 26th April.

American imperialism is increasing its pressures upon Turkey with the aim of strengthening its shaken military-strategic position in the Middle East. U.S. imperialism is trying to put into practice its plans to transfer to Turkey a major part of the spying installations on American bases in Iran. With this objective, it is spreading the lie of a "Soviet threat" and promising economic "aid" to Turkey. As a matter of fact, the American government has decided to give 100 million dollars additional "aid" to Turkey on the condition that it is used for military purposes. As was pointed out in a commentary in the Soviet "Pravda" newspaper dated 12th April, all these indicate that the Pentagon's strategists look at Turkey as a "spring board" for their aggressive policies, that

they are treading underfoot the national interests of Turkey and the efforts of the people of Turkey to live in peace and friendship with their neighbours.

The Economic Situation

The price increases imposed on consumer goods and liquid fuel have worsened the living conditions of the broad working masses. The RPP-dominated government is calling for "sacrifices" "to put the economy in order". The Ecevit government imposed the burden of dependence on imperialism and the economic crisis created by the monopolies, upon the shoulders of the workers and working people with collaboration agreements signed first, with the yellow trade unionists in Türk-İş, then with the trade-union bureaucrats in DİSK (the Confederation of Revolutionary Trade Unions). Democratic and trade union rights have come under great pressure. Employers are taking advantage of martial law to speed up mass lay-offs. Workers' wages have started a continuous decline. In contrast to this, the profits of the profiteering monopolies have further increased. According to official statements, the profits of İş-Bank have increased by 100 million TL in one year. The holding of the military clique at the head of the army, OYAK, had a net profit of 77 million TL in 1978. In this period, the profits of Pamuk-Bank increased by 151%.

As can be seen, the Ecevit government's undertakings in the name of "economic recovery measures" are whittling away the livings of the workers and working people, whipping up unemployment and the cost of living, and pouring money into the strong boxes of the profiteering monopolies and multimillionaires.

Fascist Attacks

The reactionary, fascist forces and Peking agents have taken advantage of the imposition of martial law to intensify their attacks and provocations. Within the last two weeks, 5 patriots have been the victims of fascist commandos in Adana, Istanbul and Diyarbakır. In other provinces of the country, attacks organised by fascists and Maoists have resulted in the wounding of many people. The socialist parties are also becoming a target for these bloody attacks. The Labourers' Party of Turkey leader, Mihri Belli, was wounded by fascists. In connection with this event, the Justice Party MP and fascist Elverdi publicly stated, "He was wounded, but did not die", and complained of the bloody attack not reaching its objective. The Istanbul organising secretary of the Socialist Workers' Party of Turkey, Aydoğan Gezer, was also shot by fascists. Attacks have been made against members of the Progressive Youth Organisation (IGD) and the Progressive Womens' Organisation (IKD) in many parts of the country.

Recently, the ruling bourgeoisie has intensified blood-filled terror and attacks in the Eastern provinces. Repression by the military-clique has mounted in Turkish Kurdistan. The ruling circles and the bourgeoisie who see

Turkey's boundaries with Middle East countries as "dangerous", have put the army on alert in the region. This clearly shows the efforts to step up provocations against the Kurdish people in parallel with repression of the TKP and other democratic organisations. The visit to Iraq of the Chief of Staff, Evren, is closely related to these developments. In recent months, repression against communist and progressive forces in Iraq has intensified further. Plans to intensify attacks against the Kurdish people were also shown by the meeting of 14 provincial governors in Turkish Kurdistan. This meeting discussed methods of increasing repression, attacks and terror against the Kurdish people who are struggling for equality of rights.

Deputy-Prime Minister, Sukan, remarking on the events in Iran in a public statement, said that "effective measures" would be taken against instigators of "divisionism" in our country and that "state force will be used". As is known, the bourgeoisie and ruling circles have always clung to words like "divisionism" in their continuous repression, attacks and provocations against the TKP, the progressive, democratic forces and the Kurdish people. The reactionary-fascist and Maoist press publicises the attacks and provocations. The "Tercüman" correspondent, Nazlı Ilıcak wants "Martial Law and new repressive operations in the east". The fascist "Hergün" newspaper inflames passions with such statements as "The TKP is calling for civil war". The Maoist "Aydınlık" also joins in the same campaign with its extreme anti-sovietism and anti-communism, its anti-TKP propaganda in particular.

The position of the TKP

The TKP is fighting against increasing pressures on the government from imperialism, internal reaction and fascist forces. It is opposing the Ecevit government's efforts to establish closer ties with imperialism and its economic, political and military organisations. It is criticising the government's policy of compromise, its attempts to fan anti-communism, and actions which suit the reactionary, fascist forces. It is organising the struggle of the working class and the working people for their own demands. The TKP says "No" to new military pacts imposed by American imperialism, to new spy bases and the arms race. The TKP is fighting for withdrawal from NATO, for the tearing up of enslaving bilateral agreements with imperialism and the dismantling of American bases. It is fighting to put an end to the impositions of imperialist monopolies and the IMF. It firmly opposes the policy of putting the burden of the crisis on the shoulders of the people in order to safeguard the interests of the monopolies, and the extension of martial law which is restricting democratic freedoms. It demands the closure of the fascist National Action Party (NAP) and its associated organisations and the purging of fascists from the state apparatus. It is struggling to put an end to anti-democratic practices and pressures against socialist parties and democratic organisations. The TKP opposes the oppression of the Kurdish people. It aims to put an end to the breeding of hostilities between nations and fights for equality of rights for the Kurdish people and national minorities, for their right to freely determine their destiny. It is fighting against yellow trade unionism, against class

collaborationism, liquidationism, against repression of the trade unions, against mass lay-offs, for an end to pressures against class trade unionism. The TKP is striving for the provision of land to the peasants, for the application of a genuine land reform. It defends the democratic rights of women, the youth, intellectuals, of the whole people. The TKP calls for unity of action of communists, socialists, social democrats, RPP supporters, Kurdish democrats, all patriotic and progressive forces for the realisation of these concrete aims.

THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF NATO

30 years have passed since the foundation of the aggressive military organisation of imperialism, NATO, of which Turkey is a member. The 30-year history of NATO has shown clearly what the aims of the organisation were and against whom it was established. For thirty years, NATO has served as the main enemy of world peace and security. It posed itself against the national and social liberation struggles of the people. NATO is the chief instigator of the arms race. It is NATO which today threatens the people with nuclear war and the neutron bomb, and fans hostilities between peoples.

In 30 years, the peoples of the world have seen that NATO is not a defence but an aggressive organisation. For this reason, in many countries throughout the world mass demonstrations and protests have taken place against NATO on its 30th anniversary. A broad campaign is being waged against NATO in Turkey as well. Those against wars, those for peace and fraternity between peoples, have joined actively in this campaign, alongside with progressive, democratic forces and organisations. The Peace Committee of Turkey, Progressive Youth and Women's organisations, trade unions and professional organisations have organised activities against NATO. On the 4th of April, 18 democratic organisations, among them the İzmir branch of the Teachers' Association, the University Assistants' Association, the University Lecturers' Association, the Association of Mechanical Engineers, the Progressive Women's Organisation, and The İzmir branch of the Doctors' Association, held a press conference in İzmir. The press conference spontaneously developed into a mass demonstration. Police detachments attacked the anti-imperialist demonstrators and detained the organisers of the press conference. In the press conference, NATO was described as an organisation of aggression. It was also stated that "NATO and its supporters are enemies of peace. But the peoples of the world demand peace. They say no to the arms race. We say no to NATO. We must withdraw from NATO, an organisation formed by imperialism, the chief enemy of peace and the peoples. The enslaving bilateral agreements must be torn up. The US and NATO bases must be removed from our land." A TKP statement declared that the communists of Turkey are leading the fight against NATO and demanded Turkey's withdrawal from NATO.

A mass meeting was organised in Eskişehir on 14 April in which representatives from the Metal-Workers' Union, Office Workers Union and the Military Dock-Yard Workers' Union took part. At the demonstration, attended by over 7,000 workers, women and youth, the slogans "NO to NATO",

"Smash American Imperialism", "Washington, Peking hands off Vietnam", were shouted. In Mersin, a demonstration took place "Against NATO for democratic rights and freedoms", in which took part the Progressive Women's Organisation, the Progressive Youth Organisation, the Workers Party of Turkey, and the Socialist Workers Party of Turkey, as well as various trade unions. Over 5,000 people took part in the demonstration. Withdrawal from NATO, the tearing up of enslaving bilateral agreements and the removal of military bases were the demands of the day.

Government authorities and reactionary circles have increased their pressures against those taking part in the "NO to NATO" campaign. Thus, the Bozuyuk branch of the Progressive Youth Organisation was closed for the third time for taking part in this campaign.

The struggle of the people of Turkey against NATO cannot be separated from the struggle against imperialism and the fascist threat, the struggle for national independence, democratic rights and freedoms. NATO has increased its pressures on Turkey. This can be seen in the efforts of the US and NATO to consolidate hegemony in the military field, to establish new bases in our country, to transfer spying installations from Iran to Turkey, to establish bases for AWACS spy plans in our country, in attempts to establish a Justice Party – Republican People's Party coalition which will defend the political interests of imperialism, and in attempts to suppress the anti-fascist anti-imperialist struggle. For NATO ringleaders, Turkey is a strategic and military springboard for aggression against the socialist countries, particularly the Soviet Union, and against the national liberation movements in the Middle East. For this reason, on the 30th anniversary of this aggressive organisation, the pro-NATO circles in our country, the strategic allies of imperialism, the Maoists, rose to the defence of NATO with an intensive anti-Soviet and anti-communist campaign. The leader of the Maoist party, Perinçek, demanded the strengthening of NATO against the Soviet Union.

Membership of NATO has brought our country nothing but ruin. Foreign debts exceeding 20 billion dollars, 6 million unemployed and the deep economic crisis are bitter results of NATO membership. Military expenditures increased by 10% each year between 1960-1970 and by 33% each year between 1970-1977, as a result of NATO's command over the Turkish army. For this reason, our people, the TKP and progressive organisations say "NO to NATO". They are demanding withdrawal from NATO and the removal of bases of aggression.

TÜSTAV