

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

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TÜSTAV

STATEMENT

The Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Turkey (TKP) held a top-level meeting with regional secretaries and those responsible for mass activities. The meeting analysed the situation in the world and in our country. The many-sided pressures of NATO and American imperialism on Turkey are intensifying. The danger of fascism is mounting further. The TKP is taking the lead in drawing all national democratic forces into unity of action in the struggle against these pressures and this danger.

The meeting examined the development of the TKP since the Plenum. It set out the main political, ideological and organisational tasks before our Party.

In the face of imperialism's attacks against peace and the process of detente, common action on the part of all peace forces becomes even more necessary. In this struggle, the Leninist peace policy of the CPSU and the strengthening of the unity of the international communist movement become even more effective.

American imperialism and NATO are increasing their pressures in our region and on our country. The country is writhing in the grip of profound economic and political crises. Opportunists for the bourgeoisie to rule with the old methods are narrowing. The martial law it imposed could not halt the struggle of our working class and people. The class struggle is gradually assuming more merciless and harsher dimensions. Friction and conflicts among the bourgeois parties have increased. The danger of fascism has mounted. The Republican People's Party-dominated government is moving towards collaboration with imperialism, the collaborating monopoly bourgeoisie and reaction. It is retreating in the face of fascist attacks. Anti-communist measures are increasing. The burden of the crisis is being placed on the backs of the working people. The bourgeoisie's chauvinist measures and national repression in Turkish Kurdistan are intensifying.

The TKP has put in the forefront the struggle against the main enemy, NATO, imperialism, the collaborating monopoly bourgeoisie, and reactionary fascist forces. It is organising the struggles of the masses for national independence, advanced democracy, peace and socialism. It is connecting their actions on behalf of their immediate demands with the struggle for an advanced democratic revolution that will grow into socialism. The TKP is struggling against the policy of chauvinist pressures against the Kurdish people, national repression and forced assimilation. It is exposing to the masses the hidden face of the government's pro-NATO policy, its martial law and austerity measures. It is awakening them. It is struggling against the demagoguery of reactionary fascist parties such as the Justice Party and the Nationalist Action Party which want to use the discontent of the masses for their own interests. It is striving to draw into unity of action the masses of the people who have either turned away from the government or are still supporting it, to win them to the struggle to form a national democratic front. The TKP defines the main

form of struggle as anti-imperialist, anti-fascist mass action. Reliance on government policy as well as terrorist actions on the part of adventurist groups are also aiding the fascist escalation. The May Day demonstration was a successful confirmation in the sphere of action, of the tactic of the revolutionary mass struggle. The TKP is coordinating legal and illegal activities in the new conditions that developed following the imposition of martial law.

Both the international situation and the deepening crisis within the country confront the TKP with historical responsibilities. It is the subjective factor which will determine whether the crisis will give birth to revolutionary results. The further strengthening of our Party will further increase its ability to draw the masses into arenas of struggle; will lead to the establishment of working class unity, the worker-peasant alliance and the national democratic front.

Such a policy will further the anti-imperialist, anti-monopoly, democratic action of the masses of the people. The ability of the working class to unite the other masses of the people around itself, the hegemony of the proletariat, will be ensured by increasing the TKP's mass influence on the basis of its independent policy. This is connected as well with the TKP's gradually strengthening leadership among the working class first and foremost, and within the peasantry and the middle strata. The communists' struggle among the masses is the basis for unity from above of national democratic political forces. The TKP does not counterpose to each other the policies of a single front from above and from below.

The meeting confirmed the correctness of the TKP's policy. It showed that our party has developed rapidly both qualitatively and quantitatively; that its quality of being the mass Marxist-Leninist part of the working class on a nation-wide scale has increased. It considered that the TKP's Leninist political, ideological and organisational unity has become further strengthened. The party cadres' political experience and maturity is increasing. The level of militancy is rising. Party organisations are struggling under difficult conditions with revolutionary sacrifice. They are working within the masses, not with stereotypes, but with enterprising, creative forms. In this way they are smashing the ruling forces' many sided-attacks and attempts to isolate the TKP.

The meeting also pointed out short-comings and showed the ways of eliminating them. It proved that the party has the strength to solve and overcome every type of difficulty it may face with Leninist unity and discipline.

In our day, the main link to be grasped in strengthening our party is the further development of ideological work in every sphere. The struggle of the working class movement against its ideological enemies, right and "left" opportunism, is continuing without let-up. In this struggle, the main danger today is right opportunism. The TKP declares that "left" opportunism cannot be defeated without a struggle against this danger. It is marching in the light of the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

The meeting issued a warning against the danger of right opportunism. It criticised all manner of mistaken right and "left" views. It is essential to struggle against incorrect attitudes which distort party policy and the views of Comrade İ. Bilen, General Secretary of the Central Committee, attitudes

which overlook the needs of the national democratic front policy and, under today's conditions, lead to adventurism. On the other hand, the struggle to protect Leninist party norms as the apple of our eye, to apply them conscientiously, is not to be separated from the struggle against right opportunism. The process whereby the same Leninist qualities of the cadre are being created in all party organisations fighting under different conditions is advancing.

The meeting called all party organisations to the struggle to fulfil their revolutionary duties together with, and in front of the masses, with even greater successes.

The TKP will further accelerate its persistent struggle for the unity of action of all forces against the pressures of imperialism, the danger of fascism, and mounting exploitation by the monopolies.

Political Bureau,
Central Committee,
Communist Party of Turkey

3 June 1979

THE IMF AND ECONOMIC RUIN

Bowing to the harsh conditions laid down by the IMF, the Republican People's Party devalued the Turkish Lira (TL) by 43%. Thus, since the beginning of the year, an 80% devaluation has been carried out under various names. After each devaluation came increases in the prices of all goods and services. Together with this recent devaluation, the price of petrol increased by 100%, that of iron and steel by 35-40%, monopolised raw materials by 30%, mini-cab, taxi, ferry and Turkish Airlines fares by 40%. It was announced that there would be a 45-60% increase in the prices of all urban and inter-city transportation, building materials, refrigerators, and products of the automotive industry.

Together with the devaluation, the issue of unbacked paper money has also reached dangerous proportions. While in 1978, 34 billion 898 million TL of unbacked money was printed, this figure was surpassed in the first half of 1979 and the rate of inflation has now reached 70%. Turkey comes first among the OECD countries in regard to inflation and rising prices.

Turkey's foreign debt is approaching 20-25 billion dollars. According to official figures published by the Finance Ministry, Turkey, whose position in regard to foreign debts is similar to that of 3 other countries, is required to pay one billion 900 million in principal and interest in 1979. Promises of "fresh money" and credits from the IMF, the World Bank, the European Investment Bank and the OECD countries on the other hand, come to 1.5 million dollars. Today, Turkey has a foreign debt of 78,541 TL per family.

At the end of 1978, Turkey's foreign trade deficit had reached 5 billion dollars. Due to the lack of foreign currency, importing had become impossible by the first half of 1979. Production is rapidly declining since petrol, crude oil, necessary raw and auxiliary materials, spare parts and agricultural chemicals cannot be imported, because industry is dependent on the outside. For this

reason, a large proportion of enterprises is working at half-capacity. At the same time, this further increases unemployment. The number of lay-offs is increasing. According to official figures, 20% of the employable population is unemployed; 41% is suffering in the hell of hidden unemployment.

The profits of collaborating monopoly capital and holdings, and speculations by the banks, are mounting rapidly despite the economic ruin and deep crises. The government's measures of incentives for the private sector – for example 100% rise in import guarantees, the 25% increase in the foreign currency given to exporters, and the doubling of credits – have insured this. Taking advantage of these opportunities, the holdings have increased their profits 35-40% over the previous year. Public Enterprises (KİT) have recorded a loss of 50 billion TL in 1978.

DEMANDS FOR THE REPEAL OF ARTICLES 141 AND 142.

The struggle for the repeal of articles 141 and 142 is gradually broadening. Charges brought against progressive patriotic forces under these articles are turning into a trial of the fascist articles 141 and 142.

At the trial of some progressive youth at İzmir's Second Felony Court, the court itself pointed out that the fascist article 141 contravenes the Constitution and unanimously adopted a decision requesting the Constitutional Court to repeal this article. The decision pointed out that this article punishes thought, not action.

On the other hand, the General Council of the Constitutional Court rejected the second request made by the İstanbul Second Felony Court for the repeal of the fascist articles 141 and 142. As is known, Ahmet Taştan, the managing editor of the ÜRÜN publishing house, was tried under article 142 in the trial of the TKP Programme. Lawyers stated that this article is unconstitutional and demanded that the court appeal to the Constitutional Court for its repeal. The court accepted this demand and appealed to the Constitutional Court which, however, rejected their request on the grounds that this article comes within the sphere of the Martial Law Court. Now the İstanbul Martial Law Court as well is applying to the Constitutional Court for the repeal of article 142. The supporters of freedom in Turkey and several other countries are waiting for the Constitutional Court's reply to this new appeal, and are accelerating the struggle against the ban and the fascist laws in regard to the TKP.

WHAT ARE ARTICLES 141 AND 142?

Where do these two articles which were incorporated into the Turkish Penal Code with the changes made in 1936 come from? Since that time, until today, these articles have been used not only against efforts to organise the working class and to spread its ideology, but also against many democratic activities. Many democrats have been tried and sentenced under these articles.

The penalties they impose range from five years to execution.

Articles 141 and 142 appeared in 1926 at the time of fascism's consolidation in Italy. Fascism, which had come to power in 1922, brought to the fore the concept of "defence of the state" in order to protect its own state. The fascist "law for the protection of the state" became part of the penal code in 1930. Mussolini, who, in the years before he came to power, closed all trade-unions and associations opposed to himself with a special law, took advantage of these new laws to prevent their secret reestablishment or conducting of propaganda.

Six years later, these articles, numbered 270 and 272, were added to the Turkish penal code as articles 141 and 142. These articles are still in force and are still being used to try many democrats, socialists and communists in 1979.