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EUROPEAN RECOIL BEFORE THE BLACKMAIL OF TURKISH GENERALS

A few months ago, at its session of September 1983, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe had declared in a resolution that "the parliament that will be elected in Turkey on November 6 will not be able to be considered as representing democratically the Turkish people and therefore could not validly constitute a delegation to participate in the proceedings of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly". (*Info-Türk Bulletin*, No. 84, p.4)

Notwithstanding this resolution, the Turkish National Assembly's delegation which was elected on November 6 sat down on the benches of the Parliamentary Assembly on January 30, 1984, without invitation, and better they took part in the vote throughout the session.

Ankara has indeed succeeded in making a real bid for power thanks to the complicity of the European Right which seized and took advantage of every occasion in order to prevent the scheduled debate on Turkey from taking place. The delegation from Ankara, consisting of 12 representatives and 12 substitutes, has made use of the rules permitting a delegation whose eligibility is being disputed, to sit pending a decision by the Assembly. As for the European deputies of the right or the "moderate" left, under the pretext of a partial strike of the interpreters started on February 2, they decided to adjourn until May the debates on Turkey and on the Cyprus question.

According to *Le Monde*, the 35th ordinary session of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly has been concluded prematurely, amidst a confusion rarely noticed in the 21-state assembly.

The latest developments in Turkish-European relations that resulted in the failure of the democratic European deputies' initiative at the Council of Europe, had begun just after the Turkish elections with a challenge of General-President Evren claiming that by holding elections Turkey had allegedly proven that democracy had been restored, and charging the new-elected deputies with the task of going to Strasbourg to represent Turkey in the C.E.

Mr Ozal, the head of the new Ankara government has already adopted the tone of General Evren, threatening to sever totally Ankara's relations with the Council of Europe.

On January 8, Premier Ozal told reporters, "If the Parliamentary Assembly's attitude continues and if, as a



result, we cannot be represented at the parliamentary wing of the Council, then we shall not continue to be present at the Committee of Ministers." Subsequent to this challenge, the National Assembly selected 12 parliamentarians to represent Turkey in the Council of Europe. The latter immediately started their "shuttle diplomacy" in 15 European capitals.

Ozal's decision to send a parliamentary delegation to Strasbourg embarrassed the Council of Europe and Karl Ahrens, chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly, flew to Ankara in an attempt to dissuade the Turkish authorities from their "determination", but failed in his efforts to convince the Turkish government of waiting until the next plenary session in May, instead of forcing a possible confrontation now.

On January 30, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe held one of the most crucial sessions since its creation. Despite the fact that the same assembly had passed a few months ago a resolution not to accept the Turkish parliamentarians proceeding from the November 6th elections, 12 representatives of the new-elected Turkish Assembly and their 12 substitutes were present in the grand hall of the European palace.

A protest against their presence came from the Socialist Group. As debate opened over the credentials of the Turkish delegates, Danish socialist MP, Mr. Lasse Budtz, intervened on behalf of his group, the largest in the 170-member assembly. "The most important question is this: Is the parliament in Turkey freely elected?" he said. "It is not. Only three of the 15 parties who wished to participate could do so." Mr Budtz said that although some progress was being made towards democracy in Turkey, the Socialist Group had decided unanimously to oppose any validation of the Turkish delegates' credentials. "Human rights are deeply violated in the state of Turkey," he said, "the trade unions are not free, the press is not free, the universities are not free. The jails are full of political prisoners and we see the lack of an amnesty."

But those who were determined to oust the Turkish deputies on the first day, in the opening session, felt defeated when Parliamentary Assembly President Karl Ahrens, a German socialist, announced that he is referring the issue of the credentials of the Turkish parliamentarians to the Statute Committee.

The pro-governmental Turkish press reported this first obstruction as follows: "The tough and rough approach of the Socialist group was expected even before the sessions started and observers anticipated that the moderate Socialist members would not go along with them.

"At last common sense prevailed and those who realized Turkey, which is the south-eastern bastion of Europe, should not be sacrificed and those who had some feeling of responsibility moved to moderate the anti-Turkish move."

The principal figure of the "moderating operation" was Karl Ahrens who had recently visited Turkey prior to the Assembly meeting. For the first time in the history of the Council, the Assembly broke off a session to await the decision of the Statute Committee. The Committee which was convened immediately, helped the Turkish regime by referring the issue to a joint meeting of the Political and Legal Affairs Committees.

The motion to refer the issue to the joint committee was approved of by the Assembly by 116 votes to 7 and the first round clearly went to the Turkish regime.

In the evening session of the Political and Legal Affairs Committees, two opposite views clashed bitterly. At the end Austrian deputy Ludwig Steiner's

report criticizing Ankara was watered down and 35 members of the joint committee voted for a conciliating solution on the Turkish representation in the Assembly, while 15 voted against and 8 abstained.

Again, according to the Turkish press, the Committee, adopting this attitude, killed two birds with one stone. The rapporteurs of both committees were charged with the task of drawing up a new joint report to enable Turkey to keep her place at the Assembly while also satisfying the opposition by saying that the credentials of the Turkish deputies will be taken up in the Council's May session.

But the heated debate on a compromise text ended unresolved. The Socialist Group and the Conservatives held firmly to their opposing views on Turkey with some splits among the Socialist ranks. Some members in the Turkish delegation reportedly wanted to walk out when the Steiner-Adler joint report attempted to alter the status of the Turkish parliamentary delegation to "observers". The Socialists tried to insert motions into the resolution urging Turkey to lift martial law and announce an amnesty, and making this conditional for Turkish participation in the Parliamentary Assembly's May session.

At this point the Turkish deputies started also to quarrel fiercely one with another because of their different views. The fact that the deputies of the MDP had distinguished themselves by their diplomatic experience, prompted their jealous colleagues of the two other parties, Ana-P and HP, to insist on an early return to Ankara. Thereupon there was a flurry of diplomatic communications between Ankara and Strasbourg as the Turkish delegation had separate telephone talks with Premier Turgut Ozal and Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu. The latter suggested to the Turkish delegation that a walkout would only serve those who want to push Turkey out of the Council.

Meanwhile, US diplomatic circles started exerting heavy pressures on the European governments for preventing a resolution against the Turkish regime. The *Wall Street Journal* of February 1 said: "Turks have had a pretty rough time, what with three years of military rule to stamp out Soviet-sponsored terrorism. They just had an election and the generals have gone back to the barracks. But instead of extending a well-done neighbor welcome, the 21-member Council of Europe attempted to refuse to seat a Turkish delegation."

While the discussions on Turkey were going on in the European Palace, taking no heed of the opposition in the Council against the presence of the Turkish deputies, the Chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly Karl Ahrens gave a reception party in honor of the Turkish delegation, with the Turkish Ambassador to the Council of Europe taking part.

On February 3, the Parliamentary Assembly sessions plunged into confusion and the debate on Turkey and Cyprus turned into a comedy of errors after the European parliamentarians had a bitter discussion on which question to debate first.

Earlier the plenary session had decided to defer the debate on Cyprus to the Assembly's May session. However, the Political Affairs Committee insisted that Cyprus be discussed and a second vote was taken which opened the way for the Cyprus debate. At that point several European deputies called for a debate on Turkey rather than on Cyprus, but this demand was rejected.

Sources said the Conservative group was against a debate on Turkey until May. The Socialists did not want a debate because it could show splits among the Socialist ranks with "moderates" taking a stand in favour of the Turkish regime.

There were at least 76 speakers asking for speaking time in the debate on Turkey, that means that a debate on the credentials of the Turkish delegation could take up 5 hours. 45 speakers were eager to address the Assembly concerning the political situation on Cyprus, which would take up 3 hours of Assembly time.

Amidst the Cyprus debate the interpreters suddenly stopped translating and started reading out their own declaration for a new pay scale and better working conditions. The Chairman of the Assembly, Karl Ahrens, recessed but the situation did not improve and the session came to a halt.

According to *Le Monde*, only interpreting in German and Italian, which are additional work languages of the Assembly, could not be ensured. Although interpreting in English and in French, the two official languages of the proceedings, was going on, most conservative and christian-democrat representatives favourable to the Ankara regime seized this occasion for calling for a recess. Thus, the new Turkish delegation, against which the left and the liberals in the Assembly had raised protests for "breach of the rules of democracy", emerged as the winner. According to the rules, the deputies who have been sent by the Ankara Parliament are wholly entitled to sit in the Assembly pending the validation of their credentials. But this validation is not to occur until the beginning of the 36th ordinary session of the C.E., that is next May.

As the debate on Turkey at the Parliamentary Assembly ended in failure, Irish representative Andrew expressed his impression as follows: "Here, the Council of Europe has finally turned into a circus." As for Austrian representative Steiner, also rapporteur of the Political Affairs Committee, he described this situation as "shameful for the Council". Belgian socialist deputy Claude Dejardin who has always distinguished himself by his determined attitude on the defence of human rights in Turkey blamed some socialist deputies who did not take heed of the decision taken unanimously by the Socialist Group, for treachery.

In Ankara, the spokesman of the Turkish delegation, Kamuran Inan, claimed that the Turkish regime had won a political and diplomatic victory against the "extremist Western European socialist deputies who attempted to dissociate it from the Council of Europe."

No doubt, the one who is most satisfied of the Council's failure is Prime Minister Ozal. Considering this result as a propaganda asset for his campaign prior to the local elections, he said on February 5 in Giresun: "If they wish to expel us by resorting to some manoeuvres, and if they have power to do it, they can act so. In that case, we shall never go there."

According to the German daily *Frankfurter Rundschau*, Ozal had been gambling and it paid off.

Nevertheless, according to the greek daily *Kathimerini* of February 7, despite the temporary success achieved in Strasbourg, the Ankara government is still to face some problems in democratic Europe.

The fact is that next March the question of the violation of Human Rights in Turkey is to be raised at a debate in the European Parliament. Socialist deputies Ludwig Fellermaier and David Blackman who, among others, were nominated rapporteurs, recently visited Ankara where they were received neither by Premier Ozal, nor by National Assembly Chairman Necmettin Karaduman, although they insisted on having talks with them.

Next May, the Socialist International Conference is due to be held in Copenhagen, with former Social-democrat leader Ecevit taking part. According to insiders, Turkish politicians are trying to short-circuit criticism by Socialist deputies with regard to Human

Rights, by using an intricate blackmail. The former and present Social-democrat leaders, Ecevit, as well as Erdal İnönü and Necdet Calp, respectively chairmen of Sodep and İP, are putting forward the argument that if attacks against Turkey were to continue, then the Ankara government would be forced to have increasingly close relations with the U.S. This issue had initially been raised by Ecevit at the preceding meetings of the Socialist International.

The marxist left which has been outlawed by the military rulers, does not agree with this argument, for, even without pressure being exerted by Europe with regard to Human Rights, Turkey actually has already become the United States' most reliable ally in the Middle-East.

As it has already been emphasized in several Info-Türk *Bulletins*, the military coup of the Generals had already constituted an intervention as part of the US aggressive plans in the Middle East. Just after the takeover, the military rulers had concluded a series of bilateral agreements with the US, while conducting a hostile policy towards Europe, because of the latter's criticism with regard to Human Rights violations in Turkey.

Straight after the transition to the so-called parliamentary regime, the Ozal government received a very hearty congratulatory message from President Reagan. After the new government started implementing the monetarist policy, IMF and World Bank missions went to Turkey and announced that financial support to Turkey is to be continued, as long as the economic measures issued by Ozal will be in force.

Recently, on February 5, General-President Kenan Evren announced that Turkish-American friendship is becoming increasingly closer. Proof of this is the fact that, even before the new government was formed, the military regime had already signed an agreement with the Reagan administration, allowing Incirlik air base be used with the view of supplying US forces based in Lebanon. On December 10, AWACS air traffic has started between Konya, in central Turkey, and West-Germany. It is even rumored that US nuclear missiles may be installed in Turkey.

The latest gesture has been the dramatic visit to Istanbul by the 6th Fleet on February 6, after an interval of 15 years, from where it headed the next day for Lebanon.

Along with this gesture, US "aid" to Turkey was increased. Whereas aid to Greece is reportedly to stay at its 1984 level (\$ 500 million), aid to Turkey is to rise from \$ 755 to \$ 934 million.

Under these circumstances, the argument put forward by Turkey's politicians is unfounded.

There is only one criterion to determine the level of Turkish-European relations: does the Turkish regime respect, or not, Human Rights as stipulated in the European convention?

Admittedly, three more parties will be allowed to stand for the local elections, the Party of Social-democracy (Sodep), the True Path Party (DYP) and the Welfare Party (RP), along with the three other parties which are already represented in Parliament.

But several political trends which are represented in the European Parliament and in the C.E. are still being totally banned from political life. In addition, hundreds of their leaders are still behind bars.

Even in case of a partial amnesty, thousands of political prisoners will remain in the military prisons for their opinions.

While Turkey's realities are self-evident, Europe's recoil before the blackmail of the Generals and the politicians, who are collaborationists of the former, is a scandal for the European Community.

STATE TERROR

POLEMICS ON GENERAL AMNESTY FORBIDDEN

While the Justice Ministry was submitting 160 petitions for a general amnesty to the Speakership of the Grand National Assembly, the martial law commands who still continue to impose their censorship on the Turkish press, banned on January 10, 1984 all written and oral controversy on amnesty.

Although no commitment whatsoever pertaining to a general amnesty had been included in the new government's program, the Parliamentary Group of the governing Motherland Party (Ana-P) gave its members, at the session of December 24, the green light for tabling bills providing for a partial amnesty.

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, in an interview to the daily *Tercüman* of December 5, said: "This is a very sensitive problem on which we should be very cautious. I have to think it over a couple of times before speaking on this subject." During his election campaign prior to November 6, he had avoided promising an amnesty, on the ground that "those who had been pardoned in 1974 were afterwards involved once more in acts of political violence."

Nevertheless, just after the general elections, this burning question has given rise to much controversy in political circles, because about 100 thousand prisoners including their relatives who are an important mass of voters, exert pressure on the new-elected politicians.

Although all are unanimous in thinking that an amnesty should be granted to the political prisoners, the extent of this amnesty gives rise to polemics, because the military, who are the actual rulers of the country, already made clear that they are opposed to an amnesty for those who were condemned or are still being tried for "crimes against the State" as stated in articles 141-142-146-149 and 163 of the Turkish Penal Code. According to an official communiqué, the number of political prisoners as of March 31, 1983 was about 20 thousand. Many of the new MP's have not yet the courage of proposing an amnesty for these prisoners.

Moreover, the new Turkish Constitution provides that those who were condemned for the acts mentioned in the foresaid articles, would never be pardoned, even if the majority of the deputies decide otherwise. Theoretically, Parliament is always entitled to amend any article of the Constitution, but for the time being people have no illusions that a parliament proceeding from a mockery of elections would dare to do it.

Prior to the ban on all polemics concerning amnesty, some public figures had expressed their views on this subject as follows:

Attila Sav, former chairman of the Union of Turkish Bar Associations: "If our subject is an amnesty, we should set our mind on a general amnesty. It should be an amnesty with a few minor exceptions, an amnesty that is based on equality and that will not open up old sores."

Muammer Aksoy, Chairman of the Ankara Bar Association: "In all democratic countries, amnesty is granted to political prisoners rather than to those sentenced for common law offenses."

Sakıp Sabancı, a leading Turkish businessman: "Those who committed political crimes for their ideological aims, should not be pardoned."

Recep Bilginer, Vice-President of the Journalists' Association of Istanbul: "I am for a general amnesty, particularly an amnesty for press offenses. Any opinion which is considered a crime today may be regarded tomorrow as an innocent one. Therefore, an amnesty for political crimes should be very extensive."

Bilgin Yazıcıoğlu, Chairman of the Union of Turkish Lawyers: "A carefully thought over amnesty

should be granted to the prisoners in order to heal the wounds."

Ibrahim Bodur, Chairman of the Industrialists' Chamber of Istanbul: "Since God forgives human beings, the latter too should forgive each other... But in the past, the amnesty for those who committed crimes against the Nation, the State and the regime proved rather harmful than useful."

Turgut Sunalp, Chairman of the Nationalist Democracy Party (MDP): "We are in favour of a partial amnesty."

Ulku Söylemezoglu, Spokesman of the MDP Parliamentary Group: "We envisage an amnesty within the limits laid down in the Constitution."

Necdet Calp, Chairman of the Populist Party (HP): "We are aware of the unbearable conditions prevailing in the prisons. The Constitution has already made clear to which prisoners the Assembly cannot grant any kind of amnesty. But there are some prisoners who have been condemned not for their acts but for their opinions."

BOMB BLASTS IN TURKEY

On December 21, two separate bomb explosions rocked the residential areas in Ankara and Istanbul, while a similar incident was averted in Izmir. Prime Minister Turgut Ozal announced that according to initial information the bomb attack was not an act directed against Turkey, but was connected to the spate of bomb attacks in the Middle East area. Subsequent to these incidents, police and Martial Law forces launched a man-hunt and tightened security measures throughout Turkey. A week later, the General Staff Headquarters announced that the incidents had been planned by the military wing of a clandestine party called "Hizbul Dava", active in a neighbour country, and that "6 terrorists and 3 accomplices of foreign nationality had been apprehended by these security forces."

RESISTANCE IN PRISONS

On January 3, 1984, the political prisoners in the military jails of the Diyarbakır region went once more on a hunger-strike for protesting against the conditions of confinement.

The prisoners, most of whom are of Kurdish origin, had already made a one-month hunger-strike during the past summer and had broken off their action when the prison administration consented to take into consideration many of their demands for improved conditions of confinement. Recently, the prison authorities banned again the introduction of food, pencils and paper into the prison, reduced the talks with the families and ordered that the prisoners be beaten up before the eyes of their visitors.

On the other hand, all political prisoners of Mamak prison in Ankara who refused to wear prison-uniforms, were reportedly beaten for three days and three nights until the morning of January 6, 1984. The victims of this inhuman treatment requested on January 9 the military tribunal which is trying them, to take all necessary steps for ensuring their security.

Besides, the families of those prisoners who were beaten up, visited the new-elected Speaker of the National Assembly, Necmeddin Karaduman, and handed over a petition requesting to stop ill-treatment in Turkish prisons.

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CONDEMNATIONS

1.12, in Izmir, 3 members of Dev-Yol condemned to life imprisonment and 29 others to prison terms up to 15 years.

2.12, in Ankara, 7 persons condemned to 5 years' imprisonment each for participating in the activities of "Kurtulus", and 12 persons up to 15 years on the charge of attempting to reorganize the THKP/C. On the same day, in Erzincan, 4 members of Dev-Yol sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment each.

3.12, in Diyarbakır, a trial of the Workers' Party of Kurdistan (PKK) ended with three death sentences, 10 defendants were condemned to life imprisonment and 10 others to various prison terms.

9.12, in Erzurum, a rightist activist condemned to death and 23 others to various prison terms. On the same day, in Izmir, 2 members of Dev-Yol condemned to life imprisonment and 5 others to various prison terms.

10.12, in Antalya, 3 members of Dev-Yol condemned to life imprisonment and 4 others to various prison terms.

14.12, in Gölcük, 19 right-wing activists condemned to prison terms up to 17 years.

15.12, in Adana, 4 members of PKK condemned to 13 years' imprisonment each.

16.12, in Ankara, two former Republican People's Party (CHP) deputies, Temel Ates and Ertugrul Günay were condemned to 3 years' imprisonment each by a military court for participating in the actions of Dev-Yol. They will also be kept during one year under house arrest.

17.12, in Ankara, one defendant at the KAWA trial sentenced to death and two others to life imprisonment. On the same day, at another trial of KAWA, four defendants condemned to 5 years' imprisonment each. Besides, in Istanbul, two defendants at the TKP-ML trial were condemned to 8 years' imprisonment each for making separatist propaganda in a petition they had submitted some time before to the judge.

21.12, in Izmir, four students condemned to 20 months' imprisonment each.

24.12, in Ankara, 46 defendants of the TDKP trial were condemned to prison terms up to 16 years.

30.12, in Adana, a member of Dev-Yol was sentenced to death and another to life imprisonment. Besides, three members of the Union of Labour (EB) were condemned to 20 years' imprisonment each.

31.12, in Adana, 15 defendants at the trial of DHB (Revolutionary Union of the People) were condemned to prison terms up to 15 years. On the same day, in Istanbul, 27 Iranian students were condemned to 6 years' imprisonment each for having occupied the Iranian General Consulate last year.

MASS TRIALS

In spite of the establishment of a so-called parliamentary regime, military prosecutors continue to take legal proceedings against trade-union officials and other progressive people.

The prosecutor of the Istanbul Martial Law Command filed two new suits on December 27, one against 14 officials of Taper-Is, affiliated to DISK, and another against 13 officials of the independent Construction Workers' Union (Ilerici Yapı-Is).

On the same day, the trial of 64 officials of the Metal Workers' Union (Maden-Is), affiliated to DISK, started before the military court in Istanbul.

On the other hand, the trial of 54 officials of the Printers' Union (Basın-Is), affiliated to DISK, was merged with the DISK trial. Thus, the total number of

defendants at the DISK trial rose to 139, 74 of whom risk the death penalty. 40 out of 85 DISK defendants are being tried under arrest, whereas 44 others are without restraint and one accused is still at large.

2.12, in Erzurum, the chairman of the Social Democracy Party (SODEP), Kartay, appeared before a court on the charge of not respecting the Electoral Law prior to the elections.

8.12, in Ankara, the famous painter Orhan Taylan and 3 other persons were included in the mass trial of the TKP.

9.12, in Ankara, the trial of the officials of the Association of Technical Employees, TUTED, started before a military court. The prosecutor demanded prison terms up to 3 years for the defendants who are accused of left-wing and separatist activities.

7.12, in Istanbul, the former Foreign Affairs Minister Ihsan Sabri Caglayangil was questioned by a military prosecutor for having sent a letter to the West-German Foreign Minister Genscher concerning the political situation in Turkey.

15.12, in Istanbul, a new suit was filed against four officials of the Popular House of Bakirköy on the charge of communist propaganda.

16.12, in Izmir, nine persons were brought before a court on the charge of communist activities.

18.12, in Izmir, 17 members of the Idealist Youth Association (UGD) are being tried by a military court.

19.12, in Istanbul, the military prosecutor filed a new suit against 54 presumed members of "Kurtulus", nine of whom risk the death penalty.

22.12, in Istanbul, the military prosecutor filed two new suits, one against 8 right-wing activists, 6 of whom risk the death penalty, and another against 4 members of the Progressive Youth Association (IGD).

29.12, in Ankara, the former secretary general of SODEP, Oktay Eksi, was questioned by the military prosecutor for declaring prior to the elections that he would not vote.

NEW ARRESTS

2.12, the 2nd Army Command announced that 795 persons were still tracked by the military forces in the South-eastern area and that 76 persons had been arrested over the past three months in the region of Malatya.

3.12, in Izmir, 5 presumed members of Dev-Yol were arrested.

4.12, in the provinces of Ankara and Artvin, the security forces arrested 26 presumed members of Dev-Yol. On the same day, it was announced that 22 members of the Kurdish organization Ala Fızzari had been arrested in Elazığ.

9.12, in Izmir, 19 presumed members of Dev-Yol were arrested.

17.12, in Izmir, 24 right-wing activists were taken into custody.

23.12, in Erzincan, 28 persons were arrested for participating in the actions of TDKP.

PRESS TRIALS

11.12: In Ankara, four journalists, Veyis Dözüer, Necdet Sevinç, Abdurrahman Pala and Ali Sademci were condemned to one year in prison each on the charge of having insulted the Chairman of the Religious Affairs Department, in an article published in the daily *Hergün*.

24.12: In Istanbul, Hayati Asilyazıcı, responsible editor of the art review *Somut*, and Erol Toy, publisher of the same periodical, were condemned to 16 months' imprisonment each for an article proposing a

general amnesty on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the proclamation of the Republic.

27.12: The famous poet and translator Can Yücel was included in the trial of the 18 leading members of the Turkish Writers' Union (TYS). The military prosecutor demanded prison terms up to 15 years for each of the defendants who are accused of having turned the Union into a clandestine organization.

30.12: Poet Ahmet Telli was jailed in Ankara for serving a 35-day prison term.

SOLIDARITY WITH IMSET

On November 9, the military prosecutor of the Istanbul Martial Law Command announced that he would demand a 10-year prison term for İsmet İmset, Ankara correspondent of UPI, in a press trial which had already been initiated against him in 1978.

The International Federation of Journalists addressed a letter to General Evren on December 15, requesting him to deliver a valid passport to İmset who has been appointed by the UPI news agency to a new post in London. The IFJ also called on all member unions to intervene in favour of their colleague.

7 ACTORS DISMISSED

Seven famous actors of the Istanbul Municipal Theater were fired on December 24 by the theater's administration by order of the Istanbul Martial Law Command. Aliye Uzunatagan, Avni Yalçın, Öben Güney, Cetin Ipekkaya, Taner Barlas, Savas Dinçel and Aslan Kaçar who took a leading part in seven different plays staged by the municipal theaters, are considered "dangerous" for cultural life by the military.

BOOK-PRINTING PARALYZED

As a result of the Turkish regime's obscurantist policy, the book-printing industry has fallen into a deep crisis. Many printing houses cannot print any more the new books which had already been composed, because of paper shortage. The State-owned paper mill SEKA refuses systematically to supply printing houses with paper and forces them to buy it on the black market at twice the normal price.

A TV-FILM BURNT UP

After all books and periodicals considered "dangerous" by the military had been seized and destroyed, for the first time in Turkey's cultural life a TV-film was burnt up by order of the General Director of the Turkish Radio-TV Corporation. In fact, this film entitled "Tired Fighter" had been shot by movie director Halit Refig on a novel of the famous author Kemal Tahir, who interpreted the National Liberation War in a different way from the official interpretation. The shooting of this film had been ordered by the former general director of the Radio-TV Corporation. The present general director who ordered that the film be burnt up, is a retired army general, who had been appointed to this post following the military coup.

NEW SCIENTIFIC POLICY

By order of General Evren, the State Ministry has drawn up a new 30-year policy of scientific research. One of its main points is the implementation of all necessary measures for advancing scientific research by reinforcing Turkey's military power.

This new policy in the field of scientific research

will be implemented by a new institution set up by order of General Evren: The Supreme Council of Science and Technology chaired by the Prime Minister.

PURGES AT UNIVERSITIES

While the dismissal of progressive-minded members of the university teaching staff was reaching alarming dimensions, the Higher Education Council (YOK) did not forget to keep a check on the students. Consequently, 2642 of them have been purged in ten universities within the space of one year, on the ground that they did not abide by the new regulations or because they had been involved in political actions.

On the other hand, according to a new decision of YOK, from the beginning of the academic year 1984-85, university students will have to pay a charge of up to 45.000 LT per year in order to enrol at the universities.

This new charge of \$150 in an under-developed country where GNP per inhabitant is about 1000 dollar, will be another obstacle for the high school graduates who wish to have university education. This year, about 400,000 youths applied for entering university, but only 110,000 of them were admitted. According to the daily *Milîyet* of December 9, over the past 10 years, only 15 percent of all candidates have gained admission to the universities, whereas the overwhelming majority of the rest joined the army of the jobless.

SOLIDARITY WITH FATSA

In response to an appeal made by the European Committee in Defense of Refugees and Immigrants (CEDRI), 355 municipalities of 17 European countries demonstrated their solidarity with the Municipality of Fatsa in Turkey, whose leaders are the victims of repression.

Recently, on January 9, 1984, the Town Council of the City of Liège, Belgium, has adopted the following motion:

"The TC of Liège has been informed of the existence in Turkey of mass trials, where the legally elected Members of some Turkish Town Councils are in the dock. Against most of those people, who were arrested in 1980, the death penalty has been called for.

"The TC of Liège is anxious about the conditions in which these trials are taking place, particularly the trial of the inhabitants of Fatsa, and especially about the breaches of the obligations proceeding from the European Convention on safeguarding Human Rights and basic freedoms.

"The TC of Liège gives its support to fact-finding missions, made up of elected town council members from various European countries; these missions have been set up by CEDRI and are aiming:

"to attend the trial of the inhabitants of Fatsa,
"to meet the defendants and their families as well as the Turkish civil, judicial and military authorities;

"The TC of Liège wishes to be informed on the progress of the trial and on the treatment given to the defendants and their families."

Among the other European municipalities which have been demonstrating their solidarity, 61 are from Switzerland, 54 from Spain, 53 from France, 45 from the Netherlands, 40 from Portugal, 34 from Belgium, 30 from Austria, 16 from Norway, 7 from Great-Britain, 5 from Denmark, 3 from Iceland, 2 from Italy, 1 from Ireland, 1 from the FR of Germany, 1 from Sweden and 1 from Greenland.

CEDRI REPORT

The European Committee in Defense of Refugees and Immigrants (CEDRI), based in Switzerland, has just issued a detailed report on "The Present State of Human Rights in Turkey".

This 40-page report published in three languages, English, French and German, gives first several exemplary cases of Human Rights violations, analyzes how military justice is working, examines the situation of the Kurds, the new constitution and legislation, as well as the political developments since the elections, and finally comes to the following conclusion:

"That what is now at stake before the Turkish military courts, is, as stated by the head of the State Evren himself, a 'mere settling of scores' with the so-called terrorists and separatists or, in other words, with the -real or often only supposed- political opponents to the present regime. As happened in the past under certain other unjust regimes, political persecutions are being disguised under the cloak of 'justice'. This farce is supposed to benefit the regime by concealing from strangers the self-evident fact that the so-called 'justice' is to obey exclusively the orders given by the Generals.

"Although it's no longer possible to turn a deaf ear to the cries and the calls for help rising from the Turkish jails and internment camps, these cries are likely to come up against deaf ears in Europe.

"If the reports on Turkey's military dictatorship were as numerous as in some other cases, political and economic sanctions would surely have been imposed, which in addition would have been approved of by the European public opinion. Indeed that kind of measures seem today necessary to bring Turkey back to democracy. It would be the only effective way."

This report can be obtained at CEDRI, Missionstrasse 35 - Postfach 2780 - 4002 Basel - Switzerland.

BELGIAN DEPUTEES IN TURKEY

A Belgian inquiry commission, consisting of deputies Jef Smeets (SP) and Willy Kuypers (VU), of George Van Sweevelt, trade-unionist, and of Jef Uburghs, Roger Jacobs and Fons Veyens representing non governmental organisations, which stayed in Turkey from December 26 until January 2, has given its testimony on the violation of Human Rights since the general elections, at a press conference in Brussels, on January 10.

During their stay in Turkey, the commission has found that General Evren remains the keeper of public order, of the Constitution, of martial law. Nothing has changed since the elections which allegedly were to prove Turkey's returning to democracy. If Mr Özal holds a part of power, granted by the military, it is just to enforce the directives of the International Monetary Fund. As for Human Rights, they are still being violated as massively as before.

The situation of trade unions in Turkey and, especially of DISK, is tragic and deserves all support and all solidarity of the free western world, at least as much as "Solidarnosc" in Poland, trade-unionist Van Sweevelt declared, who intends to take steps towards the International Labor Organisation.

KURDISH PRISONERS DEAD

The detainees of Diyarbakır military prison (south east of Turkey), most of whom are Kurdish militants, went in early January on a hunger-strike to protest against their conditions of confinement as well as torture. This action of resistance, marked by incidents

which ended with several people dying, was still going on while writing our Bulletin.

Last September, the detainees of this prison which is reputed to be the most sinister of Turkey, had already made a 25-day hunger-strike to protest against ill-treatment, to which they claim they are systematically being subjected. This action had been suspended in return of the authorities' promise of improved conditions of confinement. "Things are again as they were before", was the alarm cry a prisoner, Serdar Can, dared to shout out before the Court, on January 15. As a result of this rashness he had both legs broken, as he was brought back to his cell.

Beside their hunger-strike, the detainees started boycotting visits and refused to appear before the Court to attend the hearings.

The military authorities have imposed a total blackout on the prevalent situation in the prisons. Nevertheless, in Belgium the Kurdish organisation TEKO-SER has announced that at least 17 political prisoners have been murdered by the security forces, out of whom 14 have been shot dead in cell nr 10, while 3 others died under torture.

FRIENDS OF KURDISH PEOPLE

In Louvain, Belgium, a group of Belgian democrats have set up a new committee called "Friends of the Kurdish People" and have issued their manifesto on January 20.

The Committee's political platform is based on the right for any people to self-determination, an inalienable democratic right, and on internationalism.

"The Committee opposes any kind of discrimination of the Kurdish people in Iraq, Iran, Turkey and Syria. It considers however that this struggle cannot be distinct from the struggle waged by these peoples against their common oppressors, the ruling class. Consequently, the Committee insists on a common struggle by all peoples involved against their common enemy: the ruling class of any nationality. In accordance with these basic principles, the Committee opposes racism with regard to immigrant workers in its own country."

Contact address of the "Friends of the Kurdish People": P.O. Box 213 - 3000 LEUVEN 1 - Belgium.

IMMIGRATION

According to a survey carried out by the Federal Statistics Department, the number of foreigners in the Federal Republic of Germany has decreased by 2.9 percent to 5,540,000. In comparison however with the foreign population in 1974, when further immigration was banned by the German authorities, the number of aliens shows a 15-percent increase, because immigrant families used to be joined by their relatives living abroad and due to the high birth rate of the Turkish population.

A report by the Turkish Statistics Institute says that that the number of Turkish children abroad in the 0-18 age group rose to 817.000, the number of housewives to 451.000, while the total number of Turkish workers amounts to 952.000.

As for the FRG, the corresponding numbers are respectively 634.000, 349.000 and 576.000.

The Interior Ministry of the FRG estimates that, because of the low birth rate of the native population, the number of German citizens will decrease from today's 56.9 million to 52.16 million in 2000 and 38.28 million in 2030. On the other hand, the number of foreigners will rise to 7 million in the year 2000.

The Director of the Foreigners Department, Gün-

ter Tschiersch announced that the federal government hopes that at least 50,000 Turkish immigrant workers will return to their country thanks to the new law which provides for granting an alien repatriation pay of 10,500 DM.

In addition to this payment, some big German companies which employ foreigners promise to grant a supplement exceeding the basic sum. For example, Mannesmann announced that it would pay a 22.000 DM premium to those who accept to return to their native country.

RACIST ACTS

13.12: During an assault by unknown people on a Turkish private club, called Alsancak, in Brussels, one of the Moroccan clients was shot dead and two others wounded. At the moment we are writing our *Bulletin*, more than one month has passed without the truth being revealed - especially as far as the public prosecutor is concerned. This silence has only resulted in arousing growing suspicions and anxiety in anti-racist circles who believe in a racist crime. In support of the argument for a racist crime, there is the anonymous telephone call to the Belga news agency in the name of a "Liberation Front of Belgium". This call is closely linked with the shooting, since at the time of the telephone call, nobody in the general public had been informed. The MRAX anti-racist movement and the Moroccan organisations have especially expressed their fears in the face of growing hatred.

19.12: As they entered the mosque in Terre-Neuve Street in Brussels for prayer, the muslims have got an unpleasant surprise: indeed a pig head had been hanged up at the first floor of the mosque, just above their heads.

15.12: In Frederikssund, Denmark, both Danish policemen who had been accused of torturing to death the Turkish worker Osman Polat, were acquitted by the local court. Polat had been arrested by the defendants on June 20, 1983 and beaten on his head. But after the pronouncement of the verdict, the prosecutor announced on December 23 that he will lodge an appeal from this decision.

22.12: In Frankfurt/Main, FRG, a 9-year-old Turkish boy, Enver Gümüşoluk, was beaten to death by his German class-mates.

28.12: In the prison of the city of Kassel, FRG, a 27-year-old Turkish prisoner, İdris Sahinbay, was found hanged in his cell. The prosecutor of Kassel has initiated a preliminary investigation in order to ascertain some allegations saying that the detainees in this jail are victims of ill-treatment by the warders.

29.12: In Kohenhausen, FRG, a Turkish woman who had been married for 14 years, Nazra Celik, committed suicide due to a nervous breakdown.

30.12: In Ghent, Belgium, a Turkish citizen, Ali Pehlivan, married and father of four children, was found dead in a field by a Belgian farmer.

ANTI - RACIST MOVEMENT

3.12, tens of thousands of Parisians and three government ministers joined in the last segment of a march against racism that was begun in October in Marseille by 30 young people, most of them children of North African immigrants. Soon after the march ended, eight of the original marchers were received by President François Mitterrand at the Elysée Palace. The 1,130-kilometer march, which began with almost no publicity on October 15, took on political significance as religious and civic groups and finally the French Government came to its support. The original marchers said they wanted to demonstrate against fascism and for equality and to publicize the fate of the many North African immigrants and their families who have been victims of growing violence.

7.12, the federal government banned the most active Nazi organisation in the FRG, but the group's leader immediately announced that it would re-emerge with a new "political concept" early 1984. The ban, on constitutional grounds, of the Action Front of National Socialists/National Activists was preceded by dawn raids on flats owned by Nazis throughout the country, during which police confiscated a membership index, right-wing literature, and emblems including swastikas. No one was arrested.

The Action Front has 270 active members and several thousand supporters. This organisation which underlines its claim of fighting for the revival of Hitler's NSDAP by wearing jack-boots and black leather jackets, is held responsible for a series of racist attacks on foreign workers - mostly Turks - and the infiltration of football fan clubs.

9.12, in Belgium, the passing of the "Gol draft bill" on immigration in a parliamentary commission has prompted the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions accredited in Brussels to issue a protest communiqué at the end of a meeting. "Such a policy is at variance with the spirit of Belgian-Arab co-operation and can only harm its development," says the communiqué.

16.12, in Liège, Belgium, a torchlight march has been held through the center of the city to protest against racism and the Gol draft bill, with a thousand demonstrators taking part.

24.12, in Brussels, in their Christmas statement, the Belgian bishops expressed their "fear that new legal provisions (concerning immigration) even if they aim at curbing rightfully some residual abuses, may jeopardize a highly delicate balance as well as the essential rights of persons and families."

25.12, 162 lawyers of Liège signed a petition calling for the withdrawal of the Gol draft bill, considering inopportune the precipitate passing of a number of amendments disputing some essential rights that were taken for granted following the enactment of the law of December 15, 1980, pertaining to the status of foreigners.

INFO-TURK AT NEW PREMISES

Since January 30, 1984, Info-Türk (Turkish Collectif of edition and diffusion) has regrouped all its activities, carried out up to that date in different places, in its new premises at the crossroads of three municipalities, Brussels-City, Sint-Josse and Schaarbeek, inhabited by the Turkish immigrants.

The new premises are also very near to the European institutions such as the EEC, European Parliament as well as International Press Center. The programme of the socio-cultural activities of the Collectif which have been multiplied on this occasion as follows:

Library: From monday to friday
Social Service: Monday, tuesday, thursday, friday
Creative ateliers: Wednesday and friday
Homeworks class: Monday, tuesday, thursday, friday
Turkish language: Thursday

Folklore: Wednesday
Course of Saz (Turkish instrument): Tuesday
Sportive activities: Monday, tuesday, thursday
Alphabetisation of women: Tuesday and thursday
Movie-club: Friday