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AN INTERNATIONAL ANSWER TO THE THREATS OF THE MILITARY CUNTA

BRUSSELS (ITA) - "The Soirée of Solidarity with TIP and DISK", organized by the Union for Democracy in Turkey, was made on February 14, 1981 at l'Ancienne Belgique in Brussels with an international participation and turned into an international answer to the threats of the military junta against the progressive people of Turkey.

The President of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP), Behice Boran was also present at the soirée as the honour guest and addressed the meeting.

Boran, after having given many examples on the tyranny and repression in Turkey, said: "The actual view of Turkey is very dark at first look. But, the people is inexhaustible! The working class is inexhaustible! The fighters of scientific socialism who devote their life to the national and social liberation of the working class and of all popular masses are also inexhaustible! At this moment they carry on the struggle against imperialism, fascism, chauvinism and monopolies; standing up against dangers and difficulties, getting over all obstacles. The solidarity which our comrades and friends in Belgium and in other countries is very valuable for us. This solidarity increases our forces."



The director of the Legal Advisory Department of the Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions (DISK), Yücel Top too addressed the meeting organised on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the TIP and of the 14th anniversary of the foundation of the DISK. The military junta has closed down these two organizations of the working class.

The president of the National Committee of Action for Peace and Development, Pierre Galand expressed the solidarity of the democratic forces of Belgium with the democratic fight of the peoples of Turkey.

Nezih Yalcin, representative of the Organization of Kurdish Workers and Students in Belgium (TEKOSER), explained the struggle of the Kurdish people and drew attention to the necessity of the unity of struggle of the two peoples of Turkey.

The Secretary General of the TIP, Nihat Sargin; Secretary General of the World Confederation of Labour, Jan Kulakowski; the National Secretary of the Belgian Communist Party, Susa Nudelholz; Socialist deputy and the Belgian representative at the Council of Europe Claude Dejardin; the senator of the BCP, Theo Dejae; the secretary of the Belgian Committee for defending the human rights in Turkey, George Dutry; the representative of the Movement against racism, xenophobisme and anti-semitism, Mrs. Jospa, and many other personalities and representatives of democratic organizations of Turkey and Belgium were present at the meeting.

The president of the Belgian Communist Party, Louis Van Geyt, le secretariat of the World Confederation of Labour as well as many other organizations sent messages of solidarity.

The Turkish, Kurdish and Italian folk-groups and singers animated the soirée with resistance songs and popular dances.

The star of the famous Turkish film "The Herd", Meliko Demirag and composer Sanar Yurdatapan who are menaced just as Boran by the junta with expulsion from the Turkish nationality, closed the soirée of solidarity with a programme challenging the junta.

Boran condemned to 8 years and 9 months imprisonment

Mrs. Behice Boran, 71, president of the Workers' Party of Turkey was condemned on February 16, 1981 to 8 years and 9 mois imprisonment and 2 years and 11 months forced residence by the military tribunal of the Martial Law Command of Ankara. She is accused of having propaganda for communism on television during the electoral campaign for the legislative elections of 1979.

The military tribunal has condemned her also to the deprivation of her rights as a citizen for life.

Although tried by default, the same tribunal has issued a warrant for arrest.

The president of the TIP, who is actually in Belgium and participated in the soirée of solidarity on February 14 in Brussels, had been summoned by the military junta to return to Turkey and to surrender to the military authorities until the date of February 25, 1981, under the menace of the expulsion from the Turkish nationality if she does not carry out the order.

The President of the Communist Party of Belgium, Louis Van Geyt, who had received Mrs. Boran on January 26, 1981, has asked the Foreign Minister to make public the measures that the Belgian Government envisages for the protection of Mrs. Boran.

Mr. Nothomb's answer is as follows:

"Although the Ministry of Justice is charged with the affair, my ministry is also informed on the subject. During her stay in Belgium with a valid residence permit, she will be the subject of the protection which is accorded to Belgian citizens. If she does not desire to carry out the order of the actual military government to return to Turkey, by risking to lose her Turkish nationality, she can demand eventually the territorial asylum in Belgium."

On the other hand, the military junta has already ordered more than 200 Turkish progressistes to return in one month to Turkey with the same menace: deprivation of their nationality.

TWO INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION ORGANIZATIONS
PROTEST AGAINST THE TERROR OF THE TURKISH MILITARY JUNTA

BRUSSELS (ITA) - The protest campaign of international trade union circles against the imprisonments of the leaders of the Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey (DISK) is being carried on at all levels.

The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and the World Confederation of Labour (WCL) had already decided to send each one a mission to Turkey in order to study the real situation in Turkey and to talk with the arrested leaders of the DISK. The Turkish military government stated that these mission can go to Turkey, but they cannot see the prisoners.

On this attitude of the Turkish Government, Mr. Mathias Hinterscheid, Secretary General of the ETUC held a press conference on February 5, 1981 in Brussels and said:

"In June 1980, the Executive Committee of the ETUC welcomed Turkey's rapprochement with Western Europe and was consequently anxious that the major trade union organizations in that country should join the ETUC as soon as possible.

"In early September 1980, the ETUC put forward the idea of sending a delegation of high-ranking officials to Turkey with the view to collaborating with DISK and TURK-IS (the Turkish trade union organizations which have applied to the ETUC for affiliation) on efforts to seek efficient means of strengthening democracy and the respect of fundamental freedoms in that country and to investigate ways and means of counteracting the deterioration in the social and political situation, which is going from bad to worse.

"In mid September, the ETUC emphatically condemned the coup d'état and the abolition of the fundamental freedoms and basic rights of the workers of Turkey, and demanded that the Council of Europe and the Council of Ministers of the EC take all the necessary measures to make those in power in Turkey restore democracy and freedom. This action has been to no avail, and the ETUC has since been receiving more and more information on abusive arrests, inhuman treatment and torture.

"In order to obtain further information on the situation and to make the ETUC position and opinion known to those in power in Turkey and make it clear to them that the European trade unions would not accept economic, social or political collaboration with a dictatorial and authoritarian regime, the ETUC renewed its decision to send a delegation to Turkey.

"The Turkish Government did not even consider the letter which the ETUC sent explaining the purpose and mission of the trade union delegation worthy of acknowledgement, let alone an official reply in writing. It was only after urgent appeals that the ETUC received an answer by telephone explaining, i.a., that under Turkish law the delegation would not be allowed to meet the members of DISK who are in prison.

"The ETUC regards this refusal to allow the delegation to contact the DISK trade unionists in prison as an admission that the information received on the inhuman treatment of prisoners and their limited means of defense is absolutely true.

"In view of this situation, the ETUC has decided to cancel its mission.

"But this cancellation must not be interpreted to mean that we are abandoning our Turkish colleagues or that we have become resigned to the facts.

"The ETUC considers that every means must be employed to condemn and combat the military dictatorship. At its session on 12th and 13th February, the Executive Committee will seek other ways and means of exerting as much pressure as possible to have democracy and freedom restored immediately and to the full in Turkey."

In fact, the executive committee of the ETUC, at its session on 12th and 13th February, decided to recommend the Council of Europe to expel the Turkish regime from the membership of this organization, and the European Communities to suspend all relations between the EEC and Turkey, because of the anti-democratic practices of the military junta in power.

On the other hand, the Secretary General of the World Confederation of Labour (WCL), Jan Kulakowski, made the following statement at his press conference held on February 11, 1981 in Brussels:

"The WCL has a concern for the real defence of the workers' and peoples' rights all over the world. The WCL backs up the struggles of the workers and their trade unions whose right to strike and to bargain collectively has been abolished, whose autonomous organizations have been prohibited.

"This is the reason why we wrote to the Prime Minister of Turkey and informed him of our decision to send a delegation to Turkey to find out the real situation and to talk to the officers of our friendly organization DISK even if they were to be in prison.

"The First Councillor of the Turkish Embassy in Belgium, Mr. Orhan Kulin, in response to our letter addressed to the Prime Minister and to our telex of 21 January, informed us by telephone that his Government had authorized him to declare that there was nothing against the WCL delegation visiting Turkey. We were not satisfied with this reply and wrote to the Prime Minister of Turkey a second time, insisting that we should be given the occasion to visit the DISK officers in prison. To this day we have not received any reply to our letter and for that reason cancel our visit to Turkey.

"The military leaders came forward to "put an end to anarchy and terror" and to "save democracy". It is true that before the coup of 12 September, there was wide-spread terror in Turkey. However, DISK and its affiliated unions had nothing to do with terror whatsoever. On the contrary, terrorism also included trade union leaders and workers among its targets. DISK and its affiliated unions were not against democracy. On the contrary, they were among the leading defenders of democracy.

"After having paid a heavy debt of terrorism and repression, judicially threatened with suspension since 1980 for having exercised the right to strike, this is how DISK pays for its determination to defend the workers, the democratic rights and the trust which the labour world was more and more putting in it.

"So we can arrive at the result that we have witnessed a planned destabilization of the State in Turkey in order that a more repressive as well as a more dictatorial policy could be justified and established.

"It is for that reason that the fascist National Movement Party (MHP) and the terrorists attached to it were let loose. Individual-terrorists, adventurist groups (calling themselves "leftists") responded to them in the same way.

"The adverse effect of this planned terrorism affected the masses. Then followed the coup d'état.

"It is true that terrorism is not present in Turkey as it was before. But neither is democracy.

"- The Constitution of Turkey and human rights are suspended.

"- The Parliament is abolished.

"- Activities of all political parties are suspended.

"- The genuine and representative trade union confederation (DISK) and its affiliated unions are suspended.

"- The right to strike and bargain collectively is completely banned.

"- There is wide-spread torture and repression.

"- The press and other public media are censored.

"- Trade union leaders, militants and workers are under arrest."

"Now the international financial organizations and the multinationals are free to act as they wish. The wages can be frozen in accordance with the demands of the International Monetary Fund, Unemployment can increase as investments decrease. Inflation can also increase as a result of the high production costs due to the devaluation of the Turkish Lira.

"Demands arising out of political purposes connected with strategical interests can be met much more easily now.

"The prospects for the future are also very dim.

"The military junta declared that towards the end of the year "a Constituent assembly" would be declared. In fact, this will not be an assembly but just a mechanism serving like committees voting on certain legislative bills, subject

to the approval of the National Security Council. In case the Council does not approve a bill voted on by the so called Constituent Assembly, it will have the power to amend it and to enact the final bill.

"This means nothing more than making a joke of democracy.

"It does not look like the Government is ready to make a serious study on the allegations that human rights are not respected in Turkey and that there is wide-spread torture. For about four months the officers and militants and members of DISK were kept in military prisons and were not allowed even to contact with their lawyers. Now that they have been recently taken before the courts, we learn of the tortures applied to them. This means that the statements taken from them under such adverse conditions do not and can not carry any weight.

"The main wish of the WCL is to have Turkey return to genuine democracy. We believe that Turkey must remain a member of the Council of Europe and that conditions can worsen if Turkey were out of the Council of Europe. However, Turkey can not stay in the Council of Europe under the present conditions.

"It is the duty of the international trade union movement, before all the others, to see to it that democracy is re-established in Turkey as early as possible."



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BANKRUPT OF THE NEW ECONOMIC POLICY OF THE JUNTA

ANKARA (ITA) - With the first year of implementation left behind, the disclosures by Turkish authorities on certain aspects of the January 24 package such as the public financing, control of the inflation and boosting the exports, are generally regarded as "over optimistic" by the international finance organisations, who are actually the real architects of the current programme.

In fact it has now become obvious that the so-called "stabilising the prices at a higher level", and while consolidating the inflation at three digits, had played havoc with the budget and programme applications which were designed with an inflation rate of only 33% in mind. As a result, the TL 66,000 million budget deficit, which was seen as a record level then, had skyrocketed to TL 200,000 million and the monetary expansion had lagged far behind the liquidity requirements of the economy.

Money supply, expanding by 57 per cent in 1980 with current prices, had actually receded by 23 per cent in real terms. That recession had been only four per cent in real terms in 1979. The net decreases observed in money supply in three-digit-inflation years make up a new defect of the stabilization package which was overlooked until now. Parallel to that, net decreases of 30 per cent in the credit supply by the banks, and 27 per cent in saving deposits have been recorded within the same term.

Despite the liberalization of the interest rates, the volume of time-deposits also has displayed a real decrease of 12.5 per cent compared to last year when calculated with the inflation, whereas in 1979 a net increase of 1.1 per cent had been the case in time-deposits. This development calls for a revision of the philosophy of the current stabilization programme tending to see the savings as a function of the interest rates. Because, the actual real decrease of the per-capita income within 1980, had prevented a real increase in the volume of savings. The liberalization of the interest rates had merely reflected a choice of who would get how much from a decreasing savings potential.

As for the exports, the closing month of 1980, with its export-sum of US\$ 526 million had made possible the attainment of a record US\$ 2.9 billion for the whole year. But expecting the last months of the year, the exports had actually dropped quantitatively. Taken together with the price developments at the world markets, the quantities exported within 1979, could have brought at least US\$ 3.5 billion in 1980.

Resignation of the Central Bank Governor

The Central Bank Governor Ismail Hakkı Aydınoglu resigned on January 9, 1981 from this post following a meeting with Prime Minister Uluşu.

Aydınoglu's resignation came after an exclusive two-day interview with the daily Yeni Asir where he used an unprecedentedly bitter language on Özal's economic policies.

In the first part of his interview printed in Yeni Asir on January 2, Aydınoglu said in order that Turkish economy could resume a rapid development process "the development strategy initiated by the 24 January measures should be abandoned and replaced by a new strategy.

He noted that as a result of the economic policies endorsed by also the present government the budget deficit had increased to TL 200 billion this year, liberalization of prices of state economic enterprises products had failed to bring about the anticipated outcome and that incomplete measures have had a shock-effect on prices. Aydınoglu added, however, that the 24-January measures could not possibly be implemented as a whole "because in essence the measures contradicted any concept of integrity".

On the so-called "realistic exchange rate policies", Aydınoglu said that in primary-products exporting underdeveloped countries such policies only added to an unwanted economic structure. "Secondly" he said, "whether a realistic exchange rate can really promote exports is debatable. In Turkey devaluations have increased the current accounts deficit by inflating foreign currency expenditures rather than revenues".

In the second part of the interview, Aydinoglu said that investments in 1980 had declined in real terms over previous year. "Developments blamed for deterioration of labour peace in our country are nothing but indicators of an increasing struggle for income. One cannot speak of labour peace in any country where there is capital and labour. Instead there is either an income struggle or a labour struggle... But where the former starts to force legal boundaries during times of economic crisis, an imaginative labour peace is shown as shattering."

THE NUMBER OF FOREIGN BANKS ACTIVE IN TURKEY ROSE TO THREE

Following the earlier Government permission to foreign banks to set up branches in Turkey, the third such application, by the Luxembourg-based "Bank of Credit and Commerce International Limited" was approved by the Council of Ministers. The bank thereby will be able to set up three branches in Istanbul, Izmir and either Adana or Mersin and engage in all kinds of banking activities with Turkish Lira and collect deposits. The branches, which will be able to transact in foreign currencies too, will each have a capital of Turkish Lira equivalent for US\$ 2 million. The branches are also allowed to raise their capital up to US\$ 50 million.

Another development concerning the operations of foreign banks in Turkey is the going into implementation last week, of the decree allowing "American Express" to open branches in the country. The Bank will enjoy all the privileges granted to other foreign banks in Turkey and its initial capital is set as the Turkish Lira equivalent of US\$ 1 million.

The "Citibank" completes the list of foreign banks which had applied for branches in Turkey so far.

1980 INCREASES FOREIGN CAPITAL INVESTMENT FOURFOLD

ANKARA (ITA) - Foreign capital investment in Turkey increased four times or by TL 7.1 billion during 1980 -- from TL 2.5 billion at the end of 1979 to TL 9.6 billion one year later.

A study of the past 20 years of foreign capital investment in Turkey under the Law on Protection of the Value of the Turkish Currency reveals that 1980 was an unprecedented year. Between 1960-70, foreign capital investment totalled US\$ 88.2 million, bringing the cumulative amount to US\$ 105.5 million. Between 1970-79, inflow registered another US\$ 122.6 million and the cumulative investment figure rose to US\$ 288.1 million. Then in 1980, US\$ 97 million of investment was made corresponding to 30 percent of the cumulative amount.

Also last year, the number of companies with foreign shares increased from 91 to 100. In manufacturing industry the number rose from 77 to 84, in services from 14 to 16 as a result of investment permissions issued for American Express and Citibank.

In 11 sub-sectors of the manufacturing industry foreign companies underwent capital expansion last year. Subsequent to the capital increases, the share of foreign investment in manufacturing industry compared to the entire foreign capital investment in Turkey rose to 87.3 per cent from 79.4 per cent.

As foreign investment tended concentrate in manufacturing industry, the share of foreign investment in services compared to the aggregate foreign capital investment figure declined to 12.9 per cent from 20.6 per cent.

Taking into account all sectors, the share of foreign capital investment in total capital rose as well as last year. While foreign shares in those investments rose from 29.7% at the end of 1979 to 34% late 1980, local shares decreased to 66% from 70.3%.

By countries of origin, Federal Germany and the United States top the list with lion's shares in foreign capital investment in Turkey. Germany is represented by 26 companies with an aggregate investment of TL 3.200 million corresponding to 47.3% of the total and the US by 16 companies, TL 1.100 million and 42.3%, respectively. In terms of number of companies, France and Switzerland have 7 concerns here each, England 5, Holland 6, Italy and Denmark 4 each.

FISCAL YEAR 1981 BUDGET ABOVE TL 1,500 BILLION

ANKARA (ITA) - Finance Minister Kaya Erdem told the press after the budget bill was submitted to the National Security Council that as a whole the 1981 budget aims at recreation of the middle class that had lost this identity due to inflation. To this effect, he said, laws on public employees and state pension would be amended to increase salaries.

The budget bill channels a major part of investments to energy projects. Second on the list are half-finished projects and reactivation of inert capacities. Based on the assumption that state economic enterprises will have a total TL 60,000 million deficit in fiscal year 1981, budget bans access of SEEs to Central Bank resources to cover their financing gaps. Instead, SEEs will be empowered to adjust prices of their products as they deem necessary. Finance Minister Erdem said in this connection that that way the market will be saved from parallel prices.

Erdem said tax revenues would provide TL 1,355 billion of the total TL 1,500 billion budget revenues.

Pointing out that the 1981 bill was elaborated taking into consideration the economic conditions of Turkey and the world and based on a 3 per cent growth rate, Erdem said on the interrelation between the budget and the gross national product: "Budgetary policies vary depending on economic growth or recession. Thus one of the indicators of effectiveness of the budget on national economy, is its share in gross national product. Generally, the Turkish budget constitutes about 20 per cent of the GNP at the initial stage. Towards the end of the budget term, this share approaches to 25%. This year, too, a similar trend is likely."

Of the TL 1,581-billion budget, TL 268 billion will be spared for defence, adding that studies were under way for a 3 per cent additional increase as foreseen for NATO-member countries. The minister disclosed that in the FY 1980 budget original defence allocation of TL 113 billion had gone up to TL 180 billion.

FIRST EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF THE UNION FOR DEMOCRACY IN TURKEY

BRUSSELS (ITA) - The first European congress of the Union for Democracy in Turkey (DIB), organized within 8 months in 7 European countries as well as in Australia, was held on February 14 in Brussels.

The DIB was initially constituted by the socialists of Turkey who live and work abroad with the purpose of struggling for establishment a real democracy in this country.

The president of the Workers' Party of Turkey (TIP), Behice Boran was also present at the congress as the honour guest and made, in her address to the meeting, a profound analysis of the actual situation in Turkey.

The congress ratified the new statutes of the DIB, adopted four resolutions on the struggle for democracy and peace, elected a 5-member administrative board and decided to establish its seat in Brussels.