INFORMATION BULLETIN

Published by Socialist Workers' Party of Turkey

Edited by : Çagatay Anadol for S.W.P.T CC
Tel sok. 2/4 Taksim - Istanbul tel: 43 50 76

September 6, 1978

CENTRAL COMITTEE OF SWPT (SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY OF TURKEY) PROSECUTED ON ACCOUNT OF THE MESSAGE PUBLISHED ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION

TÜRKİYE EKONOMİK VE TOPLUMSAL TARİH VAKFI

TÜSTAV TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI

The Socialist Workers' Party of Turkey sent a message of congratulation to the Central Comittee of the Communist Party of Soviet Union on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Great October Revolution. The text of this message was published in the Review KİTLE on 7 November 1977. Thereupon the public prosecutor's office in İstanbul started a prosecution against the CC members of SWPT and the responsible editor of the Review KİTLE. The prosecution was concluded and the SWPT CC members, together with the responsible editor of KİTLE, were indicted for having contravened the article 142 of the Turkish Penal Code.

Ahmet Kaçmaz, the President of the Party, and Yalçın Yusufoğlu, General Secretary, are amongst the 18 members of the CC of SWPT who were present in the session in which the decision for the publication of the said message was taken. Their case will be tried by the İstanbul 5th Criminal Court. Aforementioned section of the Turkish Penal Code provides at least seven and a half years of imprisonement and, added to that, forced residence in different parts of the country for long periods.

Article 142 of the Penal Code, together with article 141, "forbids" class struggle and communist political activity. The Penal Code, in practice, prevents the Turkish Communists from working legally. These articles were originally taken over from the Italian fascist code during the 30'ies and have remained in force since. İnnumerable people, socialists, progressists democrats and intellectuals, have been tried and convicted to long periods of imprisonment under these articles. Article 141 deals with organising activities, 142 bans "communist propoganda".

TÜRKİYE EKONOMİK VE TOPLUMSAL TARİH VAKFI

In the indictment prepared by Istanbul prosecutor's office it is said that "the text, published on the third page of the newspaper under the title 'To the CC of CPSU', carries the signature of the CC of SWPT and was prepared in accordance with the decision taken by the members of the CC during their meeting of 29-30/10/1977 in order to be sent to the CPSU on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the October Revolution. In this message, prepared and sent to the press by the CC of SWPT , 60th year of the October Revolution is saluted and then it is stated that this first step taken by great Lenin and his party for the complete salvation of humanity lights the way for all the peoples of the world; that the CPSU leads the way to the final victory; that the successes achieved by this party in building communist society has won the admiration of all the peoples of the world; and that in Turkey, too, the struggle of the working class is gaining strength from day to day. Communism is praised in the same message by the use of the phrase 'Long Live The Great October Revolution!'

"All these have been established from the examination of the texts and on the strength of the expertise report dated 9/1/1978 and signed by Prof.Dr.Sulhi Dönmezer."

This is what is said, in brief, in the indictment by the prosecutor. We would like to add that Prof.Sulhi Dönmezer on whose "expertise report" the indictment is explicitly based, is a person well known for his anti-socialist reactionary opinions and is a regular contributor to the press organs of the Justice Party. The Justice Party, too, is well known for its anti-democratic views and actions in the political life of the country. It has freely collaborated in the government with the facsists before the present Ecevit government came

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI

TÜRKİYE EKONOMİK VE TOPLUMSAL TARİH VAKFI

to power and in still collaborating with them in opposition. It is the mainstay of the so called "Nationalist Front" comprising the most reactionary representatives of the ruling classes.

What is more, Prof.Dönmezer's "advice" against defendants in such cases has been held inacceptable by the courts on several occasions before on account of his "incapacity as an expert". Only during the military fascist period of 12 March have his "expertise reports" been repeatedly and extensively made use of by the military courts that tried and convicted numberless people-all socialists, democrats and patriots. The fact that in the present case against the SWPT leaders the prosecution has resorted to obtain "expertise report" from such a person -such an "export"- is clear evidence of intended pressure on SWPT and shows all the more clearly, we think, the anti-democratic character of the present proceedings against the Party.

It is obvious, on the other hand, that this treatment of the SWPT is an indication of the continuing threat hanging upon all the democratic forces, and the democratic political life in general, of the country.

Let us also add that the responsible editor of the Review KİTLE has been indicted for three more articles published in the same issue of this publication. The titles of these articles are as follows:

1."Peace Assult Is Running Towards Victory In The 60th Year Of The Great October Revolution And Is Following Its Light."
2. "The 60 Year Period Of The October Revolution Is Full Of Victories." 3. "The Great October Revolution And The Contemporary World."

The trial of the CC members of SWPT and the editor of KİTLE for "praising communism" will begin on 13 September 1978.

TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI