TÜRKİYE EKONOMİK VE TOPLUMSAL TARİH VAKFI

(5)

INFORMATION BULLETIN

Published by Socialist Workers' Party of Turkey

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Tel sok. 2/4 Taksim - Istanbul tel: 43 50 76

3 January, 1979

THE II. CONGRESS OF S.W.P.T. - A STEP FORWARD TOWARDS POLITICAL UNITY OF THE TURKISH WORKING CLASS.

The II. Congress of the Socialist Workers' Party of Turkey (SWPT) was held on December 23, 24 and 25, 1978 in Istanbul.

Party delegated from 13 regional and 45 district organisation all over Turkey, covering more than 87 percent of the entire population, attended the Congress.

Historical importance of II. Congress : The Socialist Unity.

The II. Party Congress of S.W.P.T. has marked a very important milestone in scientific socialist and working class movement as well as general revolutionary and democratic struggle against imperialism, fascism and monopoly domination in Turkey.

The II. Congress of S.W.P.T. served as a valuable and highly scientific forum on which the most important national and international issues of peace, democracy, national independance, social progress and socialism were discussed. Among them were the problem of the unification of different scientific socialist forces of Turkey, its ways and methods etc. ; the urgent tasks of the Turkish democratic forces against the fascist threat; establisment of a Democratic Platform against neo-fascist movement and fascist attacks; laying of the foundation of Democratic Popular Front against imperialism, native monopoly capital and reaction; problems of peace, détante and disarmement; problem of the unification of all Turkish peace forces in a single Peace Organisation; problems of struggle for peace and national independance in Turkey; problem of strengthening the anti-imperialist, peace-loving movement in Turkey, especially against American imperialism, against its militaristic policies, against NATO and American Military bases in Turkey; problems of the Middle East and Eastern Medditerranean such as Palestine, Iran, Cyprus, Turkish-Greek conflit etc.; problems of peace, security and cooperation in the Middle-East and the Balkans; problems relating to the anti-apartheid struggle against imperialism, colonialism and racism in Africa. Solidarity with democratic forces struggling against fascism and reaction in Latin America, Asia and Africa; the reactionary policies of the Pekin leaders and of their counter-revolutionary followers in Turkey; problems in connection with political and professional-democratic organisation in Turkey of the popular masses, workers, peasants, intellectuals, student, etc., and so on.

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TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI

TÜRKİYE EKONOMİK VE TOPLUMSAL TARİH VAKFI

These and many other issues and problems were discussed by the leadership of the Party and by several functionaries and other delegates attending the Congress.

The II. Party Congress firmly proved the S.W.P.T.'s determining role in the unification process of the class forces of Turkish proletariat as well as of other revolutionary and democratic forces in the country.

Revolutionary and progressist public opinion followed the Congress with great interest. Thousands of people representing the national or local democratic mass organisations and coming from hundreds of cities and towns, from as many factories, villages and universities, faculties or other advanced schools were present in the audience. The Congress recieved many solidarity telegrams from local mass organisations, factories, villages and schoolls all over the country that had not been able to send representatives to the Congress.

Also the president of the Constitutional Court, several ministers, progressive deputies, mayors, including the Mayor of Istanbul, sent congratulation messages to the Congress.

Progressive Trade Union Confederation of Turkey (DİSK) which covers more than half million -mostly industrial- workers and is the only revolutionary progressive trade union confederation in Turkey, attended the Congress. The Secretary General of this prominent workers' confederation, adressing the Congress on behalf of 600.000 workers, acknowledged the consistent efforts of the S.W.P.T. for the realisation of the working class unity as well as the unity and cooperation of all the socialist and democratic forces in Turkey. This was the first political Party Congress which the Confederation DİSK attended and adressed since many years.

Besides this most influential democratic mass organisation, the second largest professional association of Turkey, the Teachers' Union, also attended the Congress. All Union Teachers' Association of Turkey (TÖB-DER) which is the only teachers' organisation in Turkey, covering more than 160.000 members, and is affiliated to FİSE, sent a large delegation to the Congress. The Chairman of this influential and dynamic mass organisation who is also a member of S.W.P.T. , adressed the Congress and emphasized the S.W.P.T.'s efforts for unity as "a historical and highly valuable mission on the road to national and social liberation in Turkey."

Besides these two largest and most effective mass organisations, the leader of Labour Party of Turkey (TİP), which is a socialist party, also

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TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI

TÜRKİYE EKONOMİK VE TOPLUMSAL TARİH VAKFI

attended the Congress and expressed her opinions on the issue of the socialist unity. The progressive public opinion has enthusiastically welcomed the invitation extended to the leader of LPT. It has seen in it an eminent example of S.W.P.T.'s efforts for socialist unity. Inviting the leader of LPT to the Congress as a guest speaker was an important act of good will on the part of S.W.P.T. CC on the vital issue of socialist unity.

Furthermore, the Mayor of one of the most important and largest cities in Turkey also attended and adressed the Congress. He is the first socialist mayor in Turkey. He was elected to this post last year through the cooperation of S.W.P.T. and a local socialist group. This event set an extraordinary example to those wishing for the unity of the left forces and for the first time in Turkish history a socialist was elected mayor thanks to the cooperation of socialist and progressist forces. The event, in itself, was a proof of the inevitable victory of such cooperation.

The socialist head of Turkey's first socialist municipal administration, in his adress, expressed the gratitude of his people to S.W.P.T. for its consistent and resolute endeavor to unify the scientific socialist and progressist forces of turkey.

Another guest speaker was the Chairman of The Young Socialists League which is the only socialist youth organisation in Turkey.

Besides these guest speakers, the Chairman of All-Union Engineers' Chambers, the chairmen of All-Union Peasants Cooperations, of the All-Union Medical Doctors' Chambers, the president of the Istanbul Bar association, etc., adressed the Congress by messages.

Also the Chairmen and secretaries general of two progressive parties were present at the Congress.

Delegations from National Liberation Front of Algeria and Polisario Front of Democratic Arab Republic of Sahara sent delegations to the Congress. Furthermore the Communist Parties of Venezuela, Lebanon and Austria sent solidarity messages, wished success to the Congress and stated their willingness to develope better rellations with S.W.P.T.

Aport from these, the Soviet Asian-African Solidarity Committee (of the USSR) sent a solidarity message to the Congress.

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TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI

TÜRKİYE EKONOMİK VE TOPLUMSAL TARİH VAKFI

Brief Information About the Congress :

The Congress was opened by the Secretary General, who said: "Respectable guests and dear Comrades, in the name of the Central Committee I am opening the II. Party Congress of S.W.P.T. with the firm belief that it will contribute to the national and social emancipation of our people, and will serve to develop solidarity between Turkish working people and world's working people. May our Congress be glorious to the proletarian internationalism!"

After the election of the Presidium of the Congress, Ahmet Kaçmaz, the Chairman of the Party, came to the stand for the inauguration speech.

Chairman Ahmet Kaçmaz briefly stated the continuous gains and victories of the world revolutionary process under the guidance of socialist system against imperialism and international reaction. Stressing that the cause of peace is the most important issue of our age, he critisized and condemned American imperialism for violating the Final Act of Helsinki Conference, endangering world's peace, trying to promote the arms race and striving to undermine the process of détante by several reactionary campaigns against the socialist world. Comrade Kaçmaz insisted that political détante must be combined and implemented by military détante, which, in brief, means disarmement. Ahmet Kaçmaz also critisized the Pekin's maoist policy of collaboration with Pentagon militarism endangering peace and security in the world and provoking international tension. He stressed that all the economical and social or socio-political troubles which Turkey faces is a result of her dependance on imperialism and consequently on the capitalist social system. Comrade Kaçmaz made a detailed basic analysis of the economic problems and social and political situation in Turkey.

He put forward that the most important political task of the democratic forces in Turkey is to start a cooperation without any delay against the danger of fascism.

Chairman Kaçmaz expressed that the Turkish neo-fascist movement and its collaborators heavily attack all socialist, progressive and other democratic-even liberal-forces in Turkey. The fascist terror is climbing up through individual and wholosale massacres. Against the fascist threat, all revolutionary and democratic forces, all anti-fascistic political and non-political organisations, such as parties and democratic mass organisations must immediatelly from a Democratic Platform and agree on a definite and concrete programme in order to unify all the democratic forces and their actions against fascism and reaction. He emphasized that S.W.P.T. has been urging since more than four years for such a Platform and for democratic cooperation.

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TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI

TÜRKİYE EKONOMİK VE TOPLUMSAL TARİH VAKFI

Comrade Kaçmaz also stated that the core and leading force of the popular and democratic movement is the socialist political forces. He once again reminded that scientific socialist movement in Turkey has been divided among several different parties and groups. From the very beginning S.W.P.T. stood for the unification of all these socialist forces in a single working class party on the strong foundations of scientific socialism and proletarian internationalism. Comrade Kaçmaz said: "All the objective pre-conditions have matured for the implementation of the socialist unity, but unfortunately some subjective factors such as sectarianism and political egoism of certain Turkish socialist political parties of circles still continue to exist. Our Party, S.W.P.T. is playing the determining and vanguard role in the unification process of all socialist forces in Turkey by its consistent and despectable policies and by its energetical struggle for the socialist unity. This problem is the problem not only of our Party, but it is an urgent problem and concrete demand of Turkish proletariat, it is an urgent problem and concrete demand of all the progressive popular forces that are in need of a strong political vanguard.

This is not a subjective issue of our Party, it is the most vital problem and aspiration of Turkish working class and popular movement. Millions of Turkish workers, intellectuals, poor peasants are longing for a single and strong working class party. We believe that such a PARTY can be created by unification, in a single working class party, of different scientific socialist and proletarian internationalist political parties and movements in Turkey."

After the inauguration speech of the Chairman of Socialist Workers' Party of Turkey, the Presidium of the Congress invited Mrs. Behice Boran, the Chairman of Labour Party of Turkey (LPT) who was attending the Congress as a guest, to speak. Mrs. Boran expressed the views of her Party on the issue of the socialist unity in Turkey.

After her, Fehmi Işıklar, the Secretary General of the Confederation of Progressive Trade Unions of Turkey came up to stand and adressed the delegated and the audience.

The third guest speaker was the Chairman of All-Union Teachers' Association, Gültekin Gazioğlu. After him, the first socialist mayor of Turkey, Mr.Mehdi Zana addressed the Congress. And the last Turkish guest speaker was Cmrd. Yaşar Yiğit, the Chairman of Young Socialists' League.

As foreign guest speakers, Cmrd. Malamine Uld Sadık from the political Bureau of the Polisario Front and Cmrd. Ogab Boubakeur, the Reporter of International Relations Comission of National Liberation Front of Algeria

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TÜSTAV TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI

TÜRKİYE EKONOMİK VE TOPLUMSAL TARİH VAKFI

spoke on behalf of their delegations present at the Congress as well as of their peoples.

In the second session of the Congress, Cmrd. Yalçın Yusufoğlu presented the Report of the Central Committee to the Congress and emphasized the importance of peace, détante and disarmement in the world, and the importance of unifying the socialist, as well as all the democratic, forces in Turkey.

After the second session ended, in the evening, there was the Party Rally to which a great and overwhelming crowd came. Ruhi su, the most popular Turkish revolutionary folk singer presented a reportoire. Besides, the Party Chorus and the Party's folk dancing team presented programmes; furthermore, o short theatre play was staged Cmrd. Malenino Uld Sadık from the Political Bureau of the Polisario Front made a brief speech in the S.W.P.T. Party Rally.

On the second day, in the morning session the delegates spoke on the Report of CC. In the afternoon, the fourth session was held in which the items on the agenda was discussed. The main subjects were the socialist unity and unification problem of the democratic forces; the proletarian internationalism and international solidarity of the world's peoples; peace, détante and disarmement, the Middle East crisis, the Cyprus problem; organisation of Turkish peace forces; extending Party's works among the masses; the problem of developing the living and working conditions of toiling masses, the unity of the trade-union movement in Turkey; the unity of the youth movement in Turkey; the unity of the democratic women's movements in Turkey and also the Children Year of 1979.

On this session, scientific and practical papers were presented to the Congress by the Secretary General, by other Politbureau and Central Committee members. The delegates discussed the issues. The same evening these was a "Solidarity Meeting With the Polisario Front and the Sahara People". Representatives of the Polisario Front and National Liberation Front of Algeria adressed the audiance.

On the third day, in the fifth session, the draft resolutions which had been prepared by the Political Bureau were presented to the Congress and unanimuosly approved by the delegates.

In the sixth session the elections took place. 41 members and 15 candidates members were elected to the Central Committee. The Presidium gave a short recess for the first meeting of CC. the new Central Committee elected Cmrd. Ahmet Kaçmaz as Chairman and Cmrd. Yalcın Yusufoğlu as Secretary

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TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI

TÜRKİYE EKONOMİK VE TOPLUMSAL TARİH VAKFI

General with a unanimous vote. The members and candidate members for the Political Bureau were also elected.

At the closing session, Chairman Ahmet Kaçmaz made a short speech indicating the very difficult political conditions in Turkey and the heavy tasks in front of S.W.P.T. and other socialist of democratic forces.

The Congress ended by the singing of the International.

In brief words, the II. Congress of S.W.P.T. has not only proved the success of S.W.P.T. but scored also an important gain for scientific socialism and proletarian internationalism in Turkey.

TÜSTAV
TÜRKİYE SOSYAL TARİH ARAŞTIRMA VAKFI