

Turkish Elections Increase Chances For NATO Coup

The failure of the Republican Peoples Party to win an absolute majority in the June 5 Turkish general elections has sharply increased the chances for an escalation of terrorist activity in Turkey leading to a NATO-backed military takeover.

Bulent Ecevit, leader of the social-democratic Republican Peoples Party (CHP), won 213 parliamentary seats in the election, 13 short of a majority, and will probably be forced to form a weak coalition with the Islamic revivalist National Salvation Party or with several right-wing splinter groups. Should Ecevit become entangled in such a coalition, politicians in Ankara are reportedly "wary" of his ability to remain in power even as long as eight months, the duration of his rule in 1974.

The election campaign was the bloodiest in Turkish history, marred by assassination attempts, bombings, and violent clashes provoked by self-styled neo-Nazi commandoes tied to the National Action Party of Alparslan Turkes. The Carter Administration had counted on a strong majority government coming to power in Ankara to implement the severe austerity measures being demanded by the International Monetary Fund to ensure repayment of Turkey's debt and import bill. "The worst news for Washington is not that Ecevit won the elections, but that he didn't win bigger," commented *Newsday* on June 9. Relations with the U.S. and NATO will deteriorate, warned the paper, "very probably lead(ing) to closer ties with Moscow."

In July, \$1 billion in short-term convertible Turkish lira loans fall due, augmented by several more billion owed for imports and debt servicing. The Central Bank houses only \$600 million in foreign exchange. Despite the IMF's concern over Turkey's bankruptcy, several leading bankers considering the U.S. Labor Party's private International Development Bank proposal have dismissed the Turkish bankruptcy hysteria and stressed that what the Turkish economy lacks is merely properly allocated credit for the country's basically sound industrial capacity.

The Coup Option

Without a strong government in Ankara, the Greek daily *Ta Nea* warned that "open army intervention" is likely and could lead to "a new adventurous Turkish foreign policy."

This scenario was confirmed by a knowledgeable West Coast banker who stated that if another unwieldy coalition government like that of current Prime Minister Demirel is formed in Turkey, "the likelihood of a coup increases tremendously," adding, "Frankly, we would like to see the military come to power — they would get things done. The choices for Turkey are very limited," the source continued. "Assuming that Ecevit does get in power on his own without having to make a coalition, some pretty tough measures are going to have to be taken — a major devaluation, import cutbacks, no

Turkey Thwarts Coup Attempt

A right-wing military coup attempt led by former Col. Alparslan Turkes, the leader of the neo-fascist Nationalist Action Party and a deputy prime minister in the coalition government, was averted by the prompt action of the Turkish armed forces high command and President Fahri Koruturk, according to the June 10 *Christian Science Monitor*. A number of senior army generals are said to be involved and at least 200 officers were either detained or under close surveillance since the coup attempt June 2.

On that day, Gen. Semih Sancar, the Chief of Staff of the Turkish Armed Forces, prematurely retired the ground forces commander, Gen. Namik Kemal Ersun, with the approval of President Koruturk. Ersun was said to be one of the leaders of the attempted coup and a close associate of Turkes, who

was responsible for the appointment of Ersun to his post more than one year ago. Another general involved was Musa Ogun, one of the leaders of the 1971 military takeover.

According to the projected coup scenario, paramilitary hit squads of the Nationalist Action Party would provoke street fights and attack public buildings and election rallies, forcing the military to intervene. Such provocations were slated to take place during the final election rally in Istanbul of Bulent Ecevit, a social democrat and the main opposition leader.

Ecevit, Demirel and Sancar all received letters from an informant close to Turkes warning them of the coup attempt. Demirel then warned Ecevit not to hold the rally in Istanbul because his life was in danger.

growth, a reversion to labor intensive rather than capital intensive industry." The other alternative, stated the banker, is debt moratorium, which the Turks, he claimed, "would be insane to try."

To set the stage for a military takeover and block any initiatives by Turkey against the IMF, U.S.-NATO engineered terrorism is expected to increase dramatically in the immediate period ahead. Just days after the election, the Turkish ambassador to the Vatican was assassinated in Rome by so-called "Armenian terrorists" in an incident reminiscent of the assassination of two Turkish ambassadors — one in Vienna and one in Paris — 18 months ago. Two weeks ago, "Armenian terrorists" were also blamed for the devastating bombings at Istanbul airport and Istanbul rail terminal. In April, C.L. Sulzberger, a chief Carter Administration conduit at the *New York Times*, "predicted" a wave of Armenian terrorism.

The escalation of terrorist activity will be facilitated by Turkey's National Action Party, whose number of seats in parliament jumped from a meager 3 to 16, affording his network of terrorists considerable maneuverability in their sabotage efforts.

Despite his long-time ties to the Rockefeller family and his membership in the Bilderberg Club, the elite Rockefeller strategy clique, Ecevit is under pressure from leftist as well as traditionalist layers inside and allied with the CHP not to abandon Turkey's ambitious pro-growth economic policies. At a news conference soon after the elections, Ecevit called for the restoration of "mutual confidence with the United States," stipulating that "of course, this cannot be a one-way street." Ecevit also expressed his interest in meeting with Greek Prime Minister Karamanlis and called for joint Greek-Turkish development of Aegean natural resources. The Greek press warmly welcomed this overture as an important step toward defusing the volatile Aegean dispute between the two countries. The move also provides crucial backing for the joint Arab-Soviet-European efforts to create a Mediterranean zone of peace. While he has promised to legalize the Turkish Communist Party, outlawed since 1925, Ecevit has remained silent on the crucial matter of solving Turkey's economic problems.