

Will Turkey get the 'Iran treatment'?

NATO, IMF already mounting a 'dump Ecevit' drive

If NATO intelligence planners and the International Monetary Fund have their way, Turkey and the government of Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit will be the next casualties of the "Islamic fundamentalist" chaos that has destroyed the national fabric of Iran.

Ecevit has run afoul of the IMF and NATO on several counts: his government has staunchly refused to adopt a stringent IMF austerity program which is a paradigm of the genocidal "conditionalities" which the IMF has imposed throughout the Third World and is now seeking to extend to the advanced sector. If Turkey is successful in resisting the conditionalities, other countries will be encouraged to do likewise. As well, Turkey, whose troops were once the pride of NATO, has all but withdrawn from the alliance in recent years, and has resisted pressures to strengthen its

NATO ties. Most recently, Turkey has rebuffed a U.S. bid to allow overflights by U-2 spy planes seeking to verify Soviet compliance with the SALT II treaty, and Turkish government policy for the past several years, in contrast to NATO, has been to cultivate better economic relations with the Soviets.

Moreover, the Turkish situation is a key test case for the projected European Monetary System policy of development lending. In January, West German Chancellor Schmidt forced through a pledge that the West would supply Turkey with credits to stay afloat; however, that pledge has been held up under a combination of pressure by the IMF and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and vacillation by the Europeans.

Now, a full-scale drive is underway to topple Ecevit, plunge Turkey into a morass of IMF conditionalities and Islamic fundamentalist chaos, and involve the nation in geopolitical provocations against the Soviet Union.

Leading the operation against Turkey from the inside is a self-avowed fascist, former Colonel Alparslan Türkeş, leader of Turkey's Nationalist Action Party. Türkeş's political mentor is Franz Josef Strauss, head of Bavaria's Christian Social Union, with whom Türkeş met last week in Munich. Through Strauss, Türkeş has links as well to oligarchist Otto von Hapsburg, the Bavarian-based coordinator of the worldwide Muslim Brotherhood networks responsible for the chaos in Iran, the execution of Pakistan's former Prime Minister Bhutto, and now for the campaign to primitivize Turkey.

Terror toll: 34 deaths in one week

Violent assaults by both right- and left-wing terrorists are daily fare throughout Turkey, making terror-plagued countries like Italy seem placid in comparison. Gunmen open fire in restaurants, classrooms, movie houses, and other public places, murdering at will. Last year, 1,400 people—most of them students—lost their lives in terrorist incidents. In the third week of May alone, 34 people were murdered.

The terrorism has split the country down the

Soviets issue \$4 billion in development aid to Turkey

In what could be a boost to the beleaguered government of Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit, the annual meeting of the Turkish-Soviet Mixed Commission on Economic Cooperation concluded June 5 with the announcement that the Soviet Union will build a nuclear power plant in Turkey and guarantee its fuel supply

Part of an \$8 billion package of deals which will include a projected \$4 billion in Soviet credits, the nuclear plant deal is part of a package signed which also includes the import by Turkey of 3 million tons of Soviet oil, and \$400 million in Soviet credit for the expansion of several Turkish industrial facilities. The Soviets will also increase the amount of electricity they supply to Turkey.

Financial Times correspondent Metin Munir commented that "The signing of a \$400 million deal yesterday—and the prospect of a \$4 billion package—indicate that the Russians are pressing ahead with generous project credits, focused on infrastructure, energy and basic industries."

middle, pitting sectors of the population—students and factory workers in particular—against each other. Newspapers are filled daily with obituary notices of victims gunned down in terrorist assaults. Fearful of their lives, Turks think twice about venturing into the streets, in view of the risks of being cut down. Police are everywhere on university campuses to discourage shooting melees among extremist student factions. Because of the frequent disruptions and school closures, students have lost at least one year in their studies.

Although the imposition of martial law in the worst-hit provinces succeeded in quelling the violence for a while, a marked escalation has occurred in recent weeks, with U.S. citizens being targeted for the first time. On June 2, an American teacher was gunned down in southern Turkey. Several weeks earlier, two U.S. servicemen were also fatally shot, one in Izmir, the other in Istanbul. Claiming responsibility for the latter incidents was the synthetic “Marxist-Leninist Armed Propaganda Unit,” a creation of the underground Turkish People’s Liberation Army, whose kidnappings and murders led to a military takeover in 1971.

Fomenting terror from the extreme right is Alparlan Türkes and his neo-Nazi Nationalist Action Party. Recruiting his followers from among Turkey’s impoverished rural youth, Türkes runs a chain of camps throughout the country for training paramilitary shock troops and terrorist squads. Turkish opposition leader and former Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel—the IMF’s choice to return as Turkey’s next Prime Minister—is known to be working closely with Türkes. In his push to regain the premiership, Demirel is preaching righteously of “the need to restore law and order” and is attacking Ecevit for being soft on the left.

Kurds rebel

In addition to the left-right terror, Turkey’s large Kurdish population—for decades a tool of British intelligence—is once again being deliberately stirred up for separatist insurrection against the central government. The Kurdish rebellion is not being taken lightly by Turkish government officials, who are out to squelch any possibility of a breakaway Kurdish “state” being set up in the sensitive Turkey-Iraq-Iran border region.

In a closed session of his party’s parliamentary group on April 25, Prime Minister Ecevit blamed “capitalist forces” for deliberately provoking differences and divisions in Turkey and elsewhere as part of an attempt to fragment the Islamic world and take the pressure off Israel. Noting the boost that has been given to the various ethnic separatist movements throughout the Middle East by the wave of Islamic fundamentalism sweeping outward from Iran, Ecevit focused on the Kurdish insurrection. “Although the [Kurdish] movement ... tries carefully to put forth a

radical leftist image and collaborates with other radical leftist forces, this movement at root is a product of provocations emanating from capitalist forces,” stated Ecevit. Alluding to the British “Bernard Lewis Plan,” Ecevit continued: “The movement is part of a plot designed to weaken Arab and Islamic countries in the oil-producing region, to insert buffer states between those countries, and also to divide some countries of the region within themselves or create divisions among them in order to reduce the pressure on Israel.”

IMF blackmail

With ethnic unrest and virtual civil war eroding the very foundation of the Turkish Republic, the IMF is moving in for the kill.

A \$1.45 billion emergency economic aid package was offered to the financially strapped Turkish government by 14 industrialized nations meeting at the end of May under the auspices of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The offer includes \$661 million in loans from the U.S., West Germany, France, and Great Britain; \$245 million in trade credits from Japan, the U.S., and others; \$150 million from the World Bank; and \$400 million in commercial credits from a consortium of 34 banks headed by Citibank.

Billed by the *New York Times* as “unexpectedly generous,” the aid offer is in fact a hoax, an attempt to blackmail Ecevit into implementing the IMF’s austerity demands, which include tight domestic credit controls, cuts in government spending, opening up Turkey to foreign investment, and yet another currency devaluation. The aid is conditional on Turkey’s acceptance of these measures, and unless Ecevit agrees to them, no money will be disbursed.

Ecevit has his back to the wall. As a result of the austerity measures already implemented in Turkey over the past year, the Turkish population and economy is in no shape to endure further insults. Inflation is running at 70 percent, unemployment is 20 percent, and industry is operating at less than 50 percent capacity. Turkey is so short of foreign exchange that vitally needed fuel and parts cannot be imported. Ecevit describes the situation as “the gravest economic crisis in the history of the republic.”

Both Ecevit and the IMF know that any further austerity will mean straight genocide. The IMF knows this too, and for this reason Turkey is being set up for the Iran treatment—the installation of a government capable of carrying out wholesale murder and deindustrialization Khomeini-style.

Picking up on this scenario, the June 4 *Daily Telegraph* of London admitted that the OECD aid package may very well “fell Ecevit.” Correspondent John Bulloch writes: “Western aid worth [41.45 billion] could bring down Mr. Ecevit’s moderate Government by forcing on him terms he knows his country will not

Ecevit: 'foreign interference' behind terror

The following are excerpts from an interview with Turkish Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit conducted by Jean-Pierre Clerc and printed May 10 in the French daily LeMonde.

Question: Terrorism has claimed more than 1,000 victims in Turkey in recent years. Why?

Ecevit: Terrorism has escalated in Turkey in the past 12 years. Right-wing movements, including a legal party (Nationalist Action Party—ed.), have openly supported members of extreme right-wing groups. They have had training camps for years. The conservative Justice Party (of Süleyman Demirel—ed.) has tried to take advantage of that. ... Under the coalition that preceded my government, right-wing terrorism enjoyed official protection. ...

Question: What are the deep-seated causes of this terrorism?

Ecevit: Our economic and social problems obviously provide a favorable climate. What country with an annual inflation rate of 50 percent and an unemployment rate of 20 percent would be exempt from terrorism? There is certainly foreign interference.

Terrorism is international. Turkey is just one target among many. However, that does not explain everything. If our society were sound, the danger from outside would not be very great.

Question: Can Turkey contemplate diplomatic alternatives?

Ecevit: As I have said on many occasions, we do not intend to leave NATO; we have never attempted to blackmail our allies. ...

Nonetheless, it would not be accurate to think that Turkey is going to remain an anachronistic remnant of the cold war. Detente is progressing. We want to make a contribution to detente too, and our geostrategic position enables us to do so. We can take part in collective defense by helping the establishment of an atmosphere of mutual understanding in the region. ...

If there is a tendency to move away from the West, it is because we are forced to do so by the attitude of some Western countries and by their failure to understand our economic problems. If, for example, our trade relations with the West are strained, it is not our fault.

accept. ... Mr. Ecevit has been fighting the IMF austerity measures for months as he knows the proposed package would give the Opposition Justice party of Mr. Demirel the final leverage to obtain a vote of no confidence in Parliament."

Several other stringent conditions are being forced upon Ankara, according to the Turkish press: 1) Turkey must surrender its national economic planning prerogatives to the OECD—a clear infringement of Turkey's national sovereignty; 2) the Turkish government must announce that it has no differences with NATO and will work with the alliance to "check Soviet expansionism"; and 3) Turkey must back the Camp David accords and withdraw support of those Arab countries opposed to the Egypt-Israel war pact.

To strongarm the Turks into line, Alexander Haig, the just-retired commander of NATO, visited Turkey June 1 on his first civilian deployment. Both Haig and NATO Secretary General Joseph Luns have been loudly sounding the alarm about Turkey in recent weeks, declaring Turkey to be the most critical security problem facing the West today because of its economic problems and related political instability.

That Haig's British sponsors are coordinating the

"break Turkey" operation is clear. According to the London *Financial Times*, "the new British Government [is] reportedly prepared to play a more active role than its predecessor" in getting Turkey to resume its post-World War II commitment to "stand up to the Soviets." In particular, wrote the *Financial Times*, "the Conservatives put more emphasis on the importance of Turkey to NATO." As a result, the British have suddenly become "more willing to contribute to an aid package for Turkey," the *Financial Times* article concluded.

In a speech last month before the Council of Europe, Ecevit charged "certain Western allies" with trying to exploit Turkey's economic difficulties by imposing disastrous economic and political policies. "The West is trying for further detente," he added. "But when Turkey tries to do the same, they ask suspiciously, 'Is Turkey trying to break with the West?'"

Domestic desertions

Adding to Ecevit's problems is the fact that the Turkish business community has abandoned him. The Association of Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen (TUS-

IAD) recently launched a propaganda campaign, publicly attacking Ecevit for being "completely out of touch with reality" for not accepting the IMF's "corrective measures." Defending free enterprise, TUSIAD, like the IMF, is vociferously calling for the dismantling of Turkey's state sector industries. Ecevit has angrily charged TUSIAD with attempting to bring down the government. TUSIAD's attacks, said Ecevit recently, are tantamount to "a call for foreigners to dictate policy to Turkey."

Challenges to Ecevit's leadership are also coming from within his own Republican People's Party. The party's left faction accuses Ecevit of being too repressive; the right accuses him of moving too close to the Soviet Union. However, despite attempts by these factions at last month's party congress to restructure

the party's decision-making body and dilute Ecevit's leadership role, Ecevit succeeded in being reelected as party chairman.

In parliament, the slim majority held by the Republican People's Party has been reduced, through defections, to merely six. Although Demirel does not have the parliamentary clout to topple Ecevit, the *New York Times*, like the *Daily Telegraph*, is eagerly forecasting a Demirel return to power. According to the *Times*, Ecevit will be forced to call new elections in the fall if his party does badly in the October Senate elections and more defections occur. "And Mr. Demirel would almost certainly scurry back through the political revolving door," the *New York Times* concluded.

—Nancy Parsons

Turkey nixes U-2 spy replay

The government of Turkey has informed the United States that unless Moscow agrees, American U-2 reconnaissance planes will not be allowed to fly over Turkish territory to monitor Soviet compliance with the Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty (SALT II).

In the well-known 1960 incident, a U-2 that had taken off from a U.S. base in Turkey was shot down while inside Soviet territory, leading to a U.S.-Soviet crisis and the breakdown of a planned Eisenhower-Khrushchev summit.

In response to a three-page letter from President Carter to Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit asking for the use of Turkish air space for checking on the Soviets, the Turkish Foreign Ministry issued a communiqué indicating considerable reluctance to grant this privilege.

"Since Turkey is not a party to this treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union," stated the Turkish Foreign Ministry communiqué, "and as the text is not fully known to its Government, the subject could be taken up in the authoritative Turkish governmental bodies only if it is determined by Turkey that the requested contribution advances the objectives and concurs with the understanding of the parties to the treaty."

The statement emphasized Turkey's desire not to upset relations with Moscow, noting that "it is only natural that Turkey takes into consideration its own security and relations with its neighbors and takes care to base its relations with its neighbors on mutual trust."

British complicity

Carter's U-2 ploy is a provocation worked out with Great Britain against the Soviets and SALT II. According to the plan, the United States would station U-2 planes at Akrotiri, one of Britain's two bases in Cyprus, and dispatch them from there for overflights in Turkey near the Soviet border.

The problem for Turkey—and the Soviets—is that the planes may be carrying out espionage above and beyond monitoring compliance with SALT. The Turks are wary of getting involved, having been caught in the middle in the 1960 affair when Gary Powers's U-2 plane was shot down while carrying out a spying mission into Soviet territory. Early this year, it was reported in the press that British intelligence had staged the entire incident.

According to Washington sources, Turkey's attitude is causing considerable consternation in the Carter Administration. In a meeting last month with Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who was dispatched to Ankara from Washington to force Ecevit's hand on the U-2 issue, the Turkish leader reportedly exploded with anger when Christopher threatened to link U.S. economic aid for Turkey to whether or not the U-2 flights were permitted. According to one diplomatic source, Ecevit was "the angriest I've seen him since he became Premier."

The Soviet Union has indicated that it would "receive positively" any decision by Turkey not to allow the U-2 flights.