

# Turkey fears betrayal by State Department

by Thierry Lalevée

Recent developments are making Turkish leaders wonder whether their country is destined to be sacrificed by the U.S. State Department, in the drive for a Reagan-Gorbachov summit. The issue was put on the table on June 23 by President Kenan Evren, who angrily warned that Turkey's membership in NATO "should be put into question." A few days later, Prime Minister Turgut Ozal downplayed the statement, saying that it was intended to make a point to "an external audience," and that Turkey would remain in NATO. But the message was clear enough.

Among the principal factors provoking this outburst, is the fact that Turkey has become the target of a terrorist blood-bath, sponsored by the Soviet Union, through guerrillas of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), and tolerated by the NATO allies. Since the beginning of the year, close to 100 villagers have been killed by the PKK. On June 20, some 30 villagers of Pinarcik were carefully selected for their political and social position, lined up, and executed. On July 9, another 20 were killed in a small village close to Syria. Between the two attacks, some 15 villagers were kidnapped and driven to PKK military bases. Earlier this year, a large PKK raid had provoked the Turkish Army into retaliating against PKK bases inside Iraq. This was made possible by a treaty which allows Ankara a margin of maneuver within 20 miles inside Iraq. But now, most attacks are being conducted out of PKK bases inside Syria, and Turkish officials know that the Soviets would be only too happy to cross into Turkish territory, in retaliation for a Turkish raid inside Syrian territory.

With political headquarters in Damascus, military bases on the Turkish border, training camps in Bulgaria, and an information office in Athens, the PKK is well protected. Its recent attacks are a dramatic departure from previous years of low-intensity guerrilla warfare, and represent an all-out offensive. Just days prior to the June 20 massacre, PKK chief Abdullah Ocalan sent a memorandum to his members in Europe, announcing the creation of a "Liberation Army" inside Turkey. In the previous two months, several squads had established mobile military camps in the mountainous region. Turkish intelligence quickly ascertained that the routes they used to enter and leave Turkey are the very same used by the drug smugglers—no coincidence, since drug-smuggling is one of the PKK's major sources of financing.

What angers the Turkish leaders most, is that the Soviet-created PKK is treated with such indifference in the West.

On May 20, the daily *Hurriyet* exposed the fact that NATO countries have allowed the PKK to operate unhindered on their territories. Indeed, a source of the PKK's financing has come from its ability to impose a "revolutionary tax" on Kurdish workers abroad, especially in West Germany. The West German government has done nothing to stop the racket. Kurdish organizations abroad which oppose the PKK are being given the same treatment as Turkish villagers. On June 16, the leader of the Kurdish Workers' Association in France was gunned down on the streets of Paris, in what is considered the first shot of a war, whereby the PKK wants to emerge as the sole Kurdish organization.

And while Syria supports the PKK's atrocities, the U.S. State Department is discussing removing Syria from the list of countries supporting international terrorism, because of its reported expulsion of the Abu Nidal gang.

## 'Our patience is being tried'

Other political moves, instigated by the "Project Democracy" crowd in the United States, are seen in Ankara as a deliberate slap in the face. In May, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution in recognition of the Armenian genocide by Turks during World War I, while Congress was decreasing American military aid to Turkey. President Evren's visit to Washington was canceled, and now Foggy Bottom is telling the Turks that from September on, "President Reagan will be too busy preparing the summit." The AFL-CIO has requested that Turkey be taken out of the list of the "General System of Preferential Trade Agreements" of GATT. The AFL-CIO, a pillar of Project Democracy, argued that "trade union rights have been violated in Turkey."

At the end of June, the European Parliament voted up a resolution holding the Turkish government responsible for the World War I massacre of Armenians. Motions were presented to the European Parliament, and by the Foreign Affairs Commission of the British Parliament on July 3, urging that Turkey's membership in the European Community should be frozen, as long as it has not withdrawn its troops from Cyprus.

Said one Turkish observer, "Our patience is being tried and our people are becoming very anti-Western." The same message was conveyed by Turkish Foreign Minister Hafelogu in London on July 8, when he told Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe that he could not explain to the Turkish people the difference between the Foreign Affairs Committee's resolution and London's official position.

In this explosive political situation, a controversy erupted over an interview with U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche that appeared in the July 5 issue of the Istanbul daily *Hurriyet*. Originally a 2,000-word dispatch by the Anatolian News Agency, which conducted the interview, its publication was truncated. But LaRouche's warning that Turkey could be sacrificed by the State Department, in a deal with Gorbachov, came out loud and clear.