



Organ of the
Communist Party of Turkey

WORKER'S VOICE

December 1995

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE! WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE! WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE! WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES UNITE!

More than 60% of the French people supported the strikers United and determined action leads to victory



This level of public support puts the future of Alain Juppe, as Prime Minister, in jeopardy as he desperately tries to reach a compromise solution with union leaders without making so many concessions that he will lose political credibility by being perceived as unable to implement his policies.

The wave of non-stop strikes by transport and public service workers for more than three weeks in Paris, in protest at the imposition of the government's "austerity programme", has now eased down and workers started to go back to work after thousands of marchers took to the streets on 16th December which was a final celebration of victory. The strikes severely disrupt daily life in the French capital, and threatened the seat of Alain Juppe.

Since the 24th of November commuters have been forced to drive, walk or cycle to work, causing chaos on the capital's overloaded roads, as railway workers, resisting the government's plan to radically restructure the SNCF (the French state owned railway), implemented a total strike.

The railway unions argue that implementation of this plan will not only adversely affect their member's pension entitlements but also lead to wide scale redundancies for the work force.

Over the past weeks the transport workers have been joined in their strike action by other public sector employees concerned at the negative effect that different aspects of the austerity programme will have on their own lives.

By joining the strike Post Office staff were protesting at proposed reductions and cuts in the state welfare system and gas, electricity and telecommunications workers were attempting to resist a European Union drive to introduce more competition in to these industries; a move which they say will adversely affect the conditions and security of their employment.

Industrial action has spread even further as

university teachers, air traffic controllers and Bank of France employees join the strike. Meanwhile, public sector workers in provincial cities such as Lyons and Nice have also begun their own industrial action.

Whilst each of the unions involved in the strikes has its own specific grievances with the government these have all grown out of the imposition of a wide ranging government programme aimed at reducing public spending and controlling inflation which has been promoted by the French Prime Minister Alain Juppe.

This "austerity programme" is an attempt to strengthen the French economy in preparation for European Monetary Union (EMU) through moving towards a more extreme and competitive "market" economy. It is based on an ideology and policies similar to those promoted by Margaret Thatcher in the United Kingdom and Ronald Reagan in the USA during the 1980's. Theoretically, these policies, which focus on the reduction of public spending through measures such as reducing the level of state support for the unemployed, less attractive pension entitlements for public sector workers and the reduction in the number of people employed by the state, will allow the French government to control inflation and reduce taxation.

The political right argue that these policies will make the country more competitive in the global marketplace, stimulate the economy, and therefore, eventually reduce unemployment and increase the nation's wealth. Whilst this view, understandably, has the support of a lot of the wealthier

sections of the population there are many people, including workers in the public sector, students and those reliant upon financial state support such as the unemployed and elderly, who at best will suffer a reduction in their living standards and at worse severe hardship through the imposition of such policies.

The awareness by the general population of the implications of the austerity programme has unleashed a strong backlash of public opinion against the government. Whilst the Prime Minister, Alain Juppe, appeared to have assumed that the inconvenience caused by the strikes would quickly turn public opinion against the strikers it instead appears that the strikes have actually focused widespread public dissatisfaction on the government. Television interviews with members of the French public show an impressive level of public support for the strikes despite the chaos they caused in people day-to-day lives. This is reflected in the size of the demonstrations that have been taking place both in Paris and other provincial cities throughout France.

According to British newspaper reports public demonstrations in Lyons and Nice supporting the strike action and calling for the government to abandon its programme of social security cuts were the largest public protests to have occurred since 1968.

This level of public support puts the future of Alain Juppe, as Prime Minister, in jeopardy as he desperately tries to reach a compromise solution with union leaders without making so many

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Communist Party of Great Britain (CPB) held its 43rd Congress on 25-26 November 1995

Morning Star must survive

"It is vital that the party breaks through the wall of silence erected by capitalism and fights back against media claims that communism is dead in Britain."



Communist Party of Britain's 43rd Congress was held at a time when the conditions of working class in England and Europe are worsening, when all the hard-won social rights were taken back one-by-one and when the New Labour Party is gaining strength to confuse the minds of the toiling masses further.

Support for Star urged

On the first day of the Congress, first and foremost, the "very serious crisis" of *Morning Star* was discussed. As we covered in the last issue of *Worker's Voice*, because of the recent changes in the newspaper distribution and wholesale system, mainly the monopoly control of newspaper distribution, small titles with smaller circulations have suffered because they are not profitable in the new bulk-buying world. So the *Morning Star*, which is the only daily communist newspaper in Britain is faced to give a struggle of life or death.

Mary Rosser, the paper's chief executive said that the *Morning Star* is facing a crisis "every

bit as serious as the wholesalers' ban before the second world war". Ms Rosser's emergency resolution was supported unanimously, and the Congress agreed to support the formation of *Morning Star* Campaign Committees.

Main Political Resolution

At the Congress, Tony Chater, executive committee consultative delegate said that the key issue to be faced at the next general election is the defeat of the Tory government which means the election of a Labour Government.

"But it is not enough, it must be accompanied by a campaign for alternative economic and political policies which would begin to shift the balance of wealth and power away from the transnationals and toward working people and their families."

Calls for setting up of a new Socialist Labour Party should not be supported and the people making them "out of a sense of frustration" should be asked to think again, he said.

The struggle to win the trade union movement

"The need for communist unity and left unity is more urgent than ever given the scale of the attack on the working class."

to progressive policies and from there to build support for them within the Labour Party had been successful in the past, "they will win again," he insisted.

On Building the Party

The Communist Party is celebrating its 75th anniversary and 75 years of international solidarity and struggle at home, Robert Griffiths told congress as he moved the executive committee's resolution on Building the Party.

It is vital that the party breaks through the wall of silence erected by capitalism and fights back against media claims that communism is dead in Britain, he argued.

Party education has a vital role to pay in drawing members deeper into the party and giving them the weapons needed for the struggle for socialism, he said.

Pensioners

At the Congress, it was told that pensioners

have had enough of being "patted on the head" over their role in defeating fascism 50 years ago.

It was pointed out that the Beveridge report had major weaknesses, such as its lack of support for equal pensions for men and women. However, what is being done today is an attempt to undermine the very foundations of the welfare state.

It was discussed that if the link between pensions and wages is not restored, the state pension would be worthless by the year 2040 when a new generation is reaching retirement.

On Communist Unity

At the Congress it was said that the party has a vital part to play in mobilising the left, "but we are still too small to achieve all that is needed."

Delegates passed a composite resolution on communist unity which noted that "the need for communist unity and left unity is more urgent than ever given the scale of the attack on the working class".

Turkish comrades who live in England was

praised because of becoming CPB members and joining the 43rd Congress as delegates.

Ireland

Congress reaffirmed its policy that Britain should renounce all rights to Ireland, its oldest colony and called for the repeal of the 1920 government of Ireland Act.

Fraternal delegate and Communist Party of Ireland General Secretary Jimmy Stewart accused John Major of "shilly-shallying" by debating the meaning of words like permanent and decommissioning.

"The British government attitude is a road block to the peace process", he declared.

On the Clinton visit to Ireland, Mr Stewart commented: "I'm grateful for the idea of US imperialism helping to solve the Irish problem, but what is he doing about the blockade of Cuba?"

Delegates unanimously condemned the US blockade and pledged to step up solidarity with Cuba after it was recalled that the UN general assembly's recent overwhelming rejection of the

blockade.

"Nothing could better illustrate Washington's isolation over its attempt to bully socialist Cuba," its said.

International solidarity

There were fraternal delegates from Akel, Bangladesh, Canada, Iraq, Ireland, Korea, Turkey and Vietnam.

Mike Hicks urged communists to learn from history and to apply their theories to the reality of the world around them.

The collapse of the socialist countries has brought a new confidence to imperialism which is trying to carve up the world between three blocks - the US, Europe and the Pacific Rim, he said. But the anti-Soviet glue that, at one time, bonded imperialism together was gone, revealing the division sand "contradictions at the heart of imperialism".

He said that "the finest contribution we can make as communists to the socialist countries and international solidarity is to build a strong, effective Communist Party in Britain".

The Congress has ended with the *Internationale*.



Message sent to the Communist Party of Britain on the occasion of their 43rd National Congress

When the world bourgeoisie is attacking the working class on a world scale, according to a global plan, then there must accordingly be a concerted defence and counter-attack from the working class

To the 43rd National Congress
Communist Party of Britain

Dear comrades,

We convey our warmest greetings on the occasion of the 43rd National Congress of the Communist Party of Britain. Your party was founded under the direct influence of the Great October Socialist Revolution 75 years ago. During this time British communists have struggled against fascism and war, for peace and socialism. In particular, the British Communist Party played a key role in supporting the anti-imperialist and anti-colonial struggles of the peoples of the world and especially, of course, in the old British Empire.

We are passing through a difficult period for the world working class and its contingents in different countries. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the socialist system, the world imperialism led by the USA and the other reactionary forces became and are becoming

even more aggressive. The rise of racism in Britain and throughout Europe is a natural development of the inability of capitalism to provide any hope of a decent future for the majority of people in the world and a tragic by-product of the destruction of the socialist system in Eastern Europe.

Capitalist imperialism in its attempts to consolidate its global domination is systematically aggravating anti-communism, national hatred and all kinds of chauvinism. It is daily doing away with the hard earned rights of the working people. It is manipulating the barbaric fervour of religious fundamentalism. In short it is waging a savage war with all the means at its disposal against the masses and champions of the future society in order to prolong its unjust existence.

When the world bourgeoisie is attacking the working class on a world scale, according to a global plan, then there must accordingly be a concerted defence and counter-attack from the

working class. This requires stronger and more effectively organised co-operation between the different contingents of the world working class, which means a search in the spirit of proletarian internationalism all over the world, and re-organisation of the most advanced elements of the working class, i.e. the communists, on a more determined and higher level.

History shows that both our parties experiences lived through, though may have been unique in national characteristics, also have striking similarities especially in relation to inner struggles for upholding the principles of Marxism-Leninism in organisational structure and ideological stance. This in fact was one of the premises which paved the way for a fraternal and brotherly relationship between our parties.

Once again we salute the Communist Party of Britain and all its membership in the spirit of proletarian internationalism.

24 November 1995

Central Committee Communist Party of Turkey

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concessions that he will lose political credibility by being perceived as unable to implement his policies.

On the 10th December, the seventeenth day of the strikes, Juppe agreed to having direct negotiations with union leaders and made concessions on railway worker's pensions and on the government's plans to close parts of the national rail network. He is unwilling, however, to discuss the broader issues surrounding social security cuts with the result that both Louis Viannet, leader of the Communist led CGT

trade union and Marc Blondel, leader of another union, Force Ouvrier, indicated that industrial action and demonstrations would continue.

The crucial meeting with Juppe and the unions will take place on 21st December. After seeing the strength of joined up strike action which has the mass support of the majority of the population, Juppe has bound to give concessions. The end result of the victorious strikes is yet to come, but one is for certain that, united determined action leads to victory.

The outcome of this dispute still remains uncertain. If the unions are prepared to accept

Alain Juppe's limited concessions, or if public support for the strike collapses the government will have won and will be able to proceed down a clear road towards a more deregulated free-market economy. If, however, public and union resistance continues it is possible that Alain Juppe will no longer retain enough political credibility to remain as Prime Minister. If this happens it seems likely that his successor will be unwilling to attempt such extreme policies as the current austerity programme and the shift by France towards a totally 'laissez faire' economy will have been slowed, if not halted.

Interview with Comrade Alan Ware, National Secretary, Socialist Unity Party of New Zealand

Our ideals still stands as the only alternative to capitalism

Would you please tell us about yourself?

I am, what we call, the National Secretary of Socialist Unity Party of New Zealand.

We used to call the position General Secretary. One of the reasons we changed General Secretary to National Secretary is, when we were discussing our organisation and our party structure and also our view of democracy inside the party and the role of ideology, we questioned the nature of what a general secretary had become in our party. General Secretary was the *all powerful*, that all the political leadership came from the General Secretary. In our view the political leadership develops within the party and comes out of the party. Not out of one individual than the party.

And that was one of the reasons to try and say we have a secretary, obviously he is one of our leading comrades, plays an important role in the ideological work and in the whole political work of the party. It was an attempt to emphasise the role of the party comrades, in the development of ideology, development of our political line, the development of the activity. To down play if you like, to try counter balance the tendency for the general secretary to issue a statement and for it to be accepted. So that was an important reason for it.

The other reason is, given the culture and the understanding, and the background of New Zealand people, we think it was pretentious to talk about general secretaries, to have central committees and central executives which was just following the Soviet model. We think we had to bring by structure of the party and the language we used into the reality of New Zealand life. So we changed to National Secretary.

That point, causes some confusion with a number of comrades from other parties but that's just our decision trying to reflect our reality.

My background is that I was born to a working class family. My father was absolutely insisting that all of his children, there was 6 of us in the family, should have as good education as possible. He saw this as a way of making a bit of life for each of us. Accordingly they encouraged me to go to university. In university, I carried a little red book round, wearing a little cap with a little star on it, screaming slogans from Mao's book. I could parrot things about revolutions coming at the barrel of the gun and you could not taste and experience an apple without biting into it and all those sort of things, but it was an important experience.

I travelled overseas to Chile, during the Allende years, and that was a very important form of experience for me. On my return to New Zealand after the coup of September 1973, I, by accident got involved in an union. That accident



being turned into design, and I consciously sat out to work in unions. I thought that as an union activist, I might be able to contribute something to the working class, and its allies in New Zealand.

And for many years I finished up working as a union official in the stores/warehouses union and then paper industry and the wire and timber industry through amalgamations.

Two and a half years ago, I had been strongly questioning what I now see as soundless methods we used, and I resigned, without reference to the party, my position in that union. And I finished up the last 2,5 years doing research for the union movement in a university. And that has been a very important experience, changing many of my views, as to how we, as communists should, work. That's probably to much about me.

Would you like to say a few things about your party?

Our party was formed in 1966, as a split from the Communist Party of New Zealand which at the time was Maoist. There was also considerable dissatisfaction from many of the trade union comrades over the question of the party instructing comrades in mass organisations. A common question in communist parties around the world. We split off, we were labelled pro-

Soviet and we were.

And the party since 1966 has gone through a number of periods. The first period was basically, its consolidation as an independent entity, and there was the establishment of the party, and the development of international credibility. The second period was the development of our own political line in New Zealand. The third period was one of leading a lot of mass activities primarily in the unions, but we were involved in many other mass organisations, solidarity organisations, peace, anti-racism, campaign against price rises, and so on so forth.

The last five years has seen a struggle with great difficulty over a number of quite crucial ideological questions. The breakdown of the Soviet Union and the Eastern European states was one factor. But there was another factor which may in fact have been of greater importance than the valuation of that.

From 1984 to 1990 we had a Social Democratic government, Labour government, Labour Party government, which introduced the most extreme economic policies. And at the same time as it refused, despite urgings from capital, to attack the trade unions. That situation lead to great confusion in the wider left and progressive movement in New Zealand and inside our party. The combination of that with the breakdown of the Soviet Union led us

I have been impressed with the CPT's ideological discussion and debates. I had some differences, but I have been impressed in those discussion. I found that many of the solutions to the ideological problems that you have come up with at this stage are similar to that what we have come up with. And you always like those that agree with you.

through a lot of agony and pain.

My assessment at the moment is that we have passed over the hump of that problem. I don't pretend, neither does our party leadership, that we have necessarily got all the correct answers but we have got to the point where we have a unity on those questions of ideology.

When was the Communist Party of New Zealand formed?

Communist Party of New Zealand was formed in 1920's. At the time it was Maoist. I explained the differences. The interesting point about the CP of New Zealand is that its gone through many ideological convulsions and we don't agree with many of their positions. But they for a long time had relations only with the Chinese and the Albanians. Then they split with the Chinese and had relations with the Albanians. And they split with the Albanians and have very recently merged with New Zealand group aligned with the Socialist Worker's Party. So there is some irony in that to those of us who watched the whole question of communists and Trockists over the years. A lot of the Socialist Worker's Party is Trockists. So they are merged with that party.

I find it difficult to characterise them quite frankly. The bit that I can characterise by reading their paper, is that they are oppositionists. Whatever anyone else does is wrong. And they are still the Communist Party of New Zealand.

We are a legal party. There is an important question we have to address right now, because New Zealand's electoral system is moving to the next election which will be held under Mixed Member Proportional Representation. We have to resolve whether we will register as a political party which requires us to produce 500 names of members. That raises the question again with our re-evaluations of many things as what we are doing, the question of the numbers of membership and the names of membership, I suspect there will be a decision to change some of that policy.

As a legal party, is the whole party apparatus legal or have you got a small section that you still keep illegal?

If we did have any illegal apparatus I would not tell you about it. On theoretical level, communist parties in situations such as ours right now, in legality. They might well change. There has been different circumstances in New Zealand in the past when the old communist party had illegal apparatuses. When we see that approaching, we will take appropriate steps. We might be too late. That is for the future to tell us.

What is your influence in the working class?

Our primary influence, it has been both the strength and the weakness. Our primary influence since our birth 1966 has been in the trade union, our party chairman is also the president of the central trade union organisation of New Zealand Council of Trade Unions. We have had many party comrades who held senior functionary positions in the trade unions and that's been our primary influence, a major influence. A strength, but a weakness, because it meant that we did at times tend to be trade unionist. Trade union politics did at times over

powered the socialist politics. In addition to that, I should say that, in the last 5 years, there has been another split from our party, one of our leading comrades left, and formed his own party, that affected us. The effects of the Labour Government, demise of the Soviet Union meant some resignations, some non-renewals. People just drifted away. And we have been effected by that. And that's also effected our strength and influence in the union movement.

The ideological confusion that still pervades the left and progressive movement in New Zealand is yet to be overcome. We think we moved, passed ourselves but there is a lot of work to be done in the wider field.

Used to have influence in the leadership of the trade unions or in the rank-and-file?

We used to have both. Our position now, in terms of where our comrades are, is primarily in the leadership, and that is a weakness. It is a common weakness. Our view now is that the leadership of an organisation is an ideological question not an organisational one. We are not particularly concerned whether we have comrades in leading positions of mass organisations. Its good if we can, but it does not concern us if we dont. Our comrades in mass organisation advancing the ideology to win some unity and progress, that is the key question.

What would you like to say about the international situation, working class wise, communist parties wise?

We have been concentrating on our own domestic and internal situation in New Zealand so our international involvement and work has taken a back seat. We have followed and watched, continued to read the events, but I think that there are very positive signs not over the last 12 months but maybe 2 years. The pessimism that the international communist movement was confronted with the demise of the Soviet Union is being overcome.

Some parties are calling for a meeting of all parties. My view is still a bit soon for that, primarily because there are many parties who are still in the period of sorting out their own ideological position.

I think in the demise of the Soviet Union, all communist parties were guilty. We all gave the leadership, let them have it, we did not challenge, we did not question, if we did it, we did privately with them. We did not publicise that, we did not carry thought. There are exceptions but in general that was the case internationally. I think we are moving pass that, although I am bound to say that communists internationally have still a lot to learn, in terms of accepting criticism in the spirit of internationalism in the comradely spirit that is given. No one like, criticism, there is a subjective reaction to reject it. We have to learn to overcome that and be more open. I think it is a lot better in 1995, then has been before, and it is still got to develop further.

The need for international solidarity for communist movement is no less now then it has been throughout the 20th century. In fact with the demise of the Soviet Union and the increased, enlightened arrogance of particularly United States but also the increasing penetration and depth of it economically, practically in our

region in Japan, the situation of the European Union. Have a look at all the flash points around the world, there is probably a greater need now than there has been in other periods.

It is not a question of some third way communism. All the ideals we lead through 150 year, still stands as the only alternative to capitalism. We can disagree what communism means, we can debate that, we should debate that. None of us has monopoly on truth. None of us have a monopoly on correctness. But there are some basic principles on which we all agree.

And even if we have to start in some countries from the basis that our basic point of agreement is that capitalism cannot deliver jobs and cannot deliver health systems, education, housing, it cannot remove exploitation and alienation. Even if that is the point we started, as basic as that, than that seems to me to be considered as a progress. I think we all do agree on that. That is a good starting point. I must say I would go through and higher than that but if that is the level that we have to start off universally, let us start there.

What would you like to say to Turkish communists?

When we compare our situation to the situation in Turkey, in Iran, in Sudan and many other places, our problems appear to pale into insignificance. But that is a false way of looking at it. Because oppression is oppression any way and has to be opposed. And unfortunately for us in our situation many workers say to us, why would we support you, look at those workers in Iran, in Sudan, in Malaysia, Taiwan and South Korea, and Phillipines, we have it good. Now that is a very difficult question. Question as offers, why would I want to be a communist, or support the communist party or Socialist Unity Party in New Zealand. The answer is oppression is oppression, wherever it appears and whatever the degree is. There is a relativity about oppression as well. It is not an absolute concept.

While we do not have the forms of oppression that Turkish workers have, we Socialist Unity Party can identify with the oppression that you suffer. We can identify with it through our own experience, as less as that experience may be in terms of the powers of it.

And we would simply say to them that, as the resources of our party mean that we probably cannot contribute a great amount physically and materially. We probably can not even contribute a hell of a lot, in terms of solidarity activity for Turkish workers, our concentrations obviously in the Pacific region. But we certainly will and do contribute as we can to the general struggle of the Turkish workers. Your people's struggle is our people's struggle your success is our success, your failure is our failure. We believe very intensely in internationalism and international principles. How can any communist believe at anything else in this period after the demise and what that teach us.

I have been impressed with the CPT's ideological discussion and debates. I had some differences, but I have been impressed in those discussion. I found that many of the solutions to the ideological problems that you have come up with at this stage are similar to that what we have come up with. And you always like those that agree with you.



We have lost our comrade Bedir Aydemir, on 31st December 1988, seven years ago. He was only 42 years old and it was a great loss for our party and working class movement.

He became a party member in 1973. And was

On the commemoration of

Bedir Aydemir

A few hours before he died, he raised his clenched fist with his last strength and said, "long live communism, long live Marxism-Leninism".

a Central Committee member for very long years. He was a very valuable comrade and an exemplary communist. He worked continuously in a planned-programmed style. He had a sophisticated mind and a huge cultural background. He had given his life to the struggle of the working class movement, and worked for this cause as a worker.

When there was the split in the party he sided with the Leninists without wavering. He had invaluable contributions to the party. Wherever he worked, he cherished it.

He was the founding member of the Peace Organisation in Turkey, and he had always believed that for a continuous and just peace a fight for the revolution is needed. He worked in the Peace Organisation with this revolutionary thought.

A few hours before he died, he raised his clenched fist with his last strength and said, "long live communism, long live Marxism-Leninism".

We deeply miss him. He is always in our thoughts and in our struggle for true democracy.

KSCM CONGRESS

M.GIRAY



4th. Congress of KSCM (Communist Party of Czech and Moravia) was held on 2nd. December, 1995 in Liberec town of Czechoslovakia at the historical working class venue of Koloseum.

Comrade Miroslav Grebenicek, addressing the 324 delegates said that the inner-party crisis was over.

"We are the numerically largest, the most stable and, according to the election results, also the strongest opposition party, which expresses the interests and articulates the aspirations of hundreds of thousands of ordinary people.

Delegates from 7 fraternal parties of European countries attended the Congress and the Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean and Cuban communist and workers parties were represented by their embassies.

Congress adopted reports on past work and many resolutions for the future. 93 comrades were elected to the Central Committee. Comrade Miroslav Grebenicek was re-elected as the Chairperson of KSCM. Also comrade Miloslav Ransdorf was re-elected as Vice Chairperson responsible for international relations. Workers Voice congratulate all the elected comrades and the delegates of the 4th. Congress and wish them all the success in their future struggles.

*We wish to all our readers and freedom fighters,
a happy and victorious new year
in our struggle for socialism and democracy.
With fraternal greetings*

Worker's Voice

Meeting with James Steward, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Ireland

Our common enemy is imperialism

Our party is based on Marxism-Leninism not only as a slogan but as a gate to action to advance the interests of the working class and to achieve United Socialist Ireland.

About our party

Communist Party of Ireland, despite the division of Ireland into Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland (still held by British), our party is organised in the whole of Ireland.

The structure of our organisation is that we have a National Executive Committee (which is equivalent of Central Committee) elected at the 21st Congress on May 1995. The Congress elected 22 members to National Executive. National Executive Committee establishes National Political Committee, National Industrial Committee, Women's Education, Youth Committees. General Secretary is elected by National Executive Committee following the Congress.

I have been General Secretary since 1984, deputy General Secretary since 1971. At one period I was General Secretary of our party's youth organisation.

We are based on entire working class. We are based on working class struggle and the working class struggle is based on trade union movement. Despite the division, the whole country have one confederation of trade union called Irish Trade Union Congress.

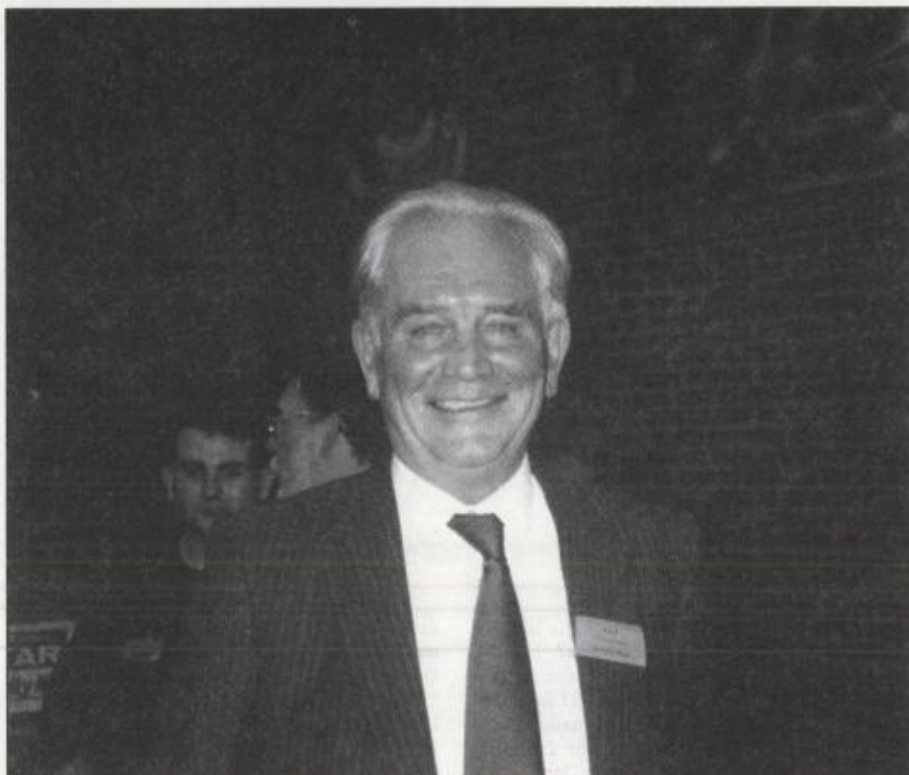
We have considerable influence on community organisations of working class and in the women's movement. We are re-constructing our youth organisations which virtually disappeared earlier.

Among the 22 members of the National Executive, 5 are women. Women's issue is important in Ireland. Equal pay for equal work is an important issue. Woman's labour is cheap labour. That is one of the central questions we are focusing on.

International Situation

International movement suffered from the collapse of the Soviet Union and the disintegration of the socialist system. It caused confusion and many parties liquidated themselves. It also made it more difficult to maintain international links and relations.

We still share the common enemy of imperialism. We have to work together, to ensure that our combined efforts can advance us to forward socialism. People are becoming to realise what they lost. Again learning (I hope) from mistakes of the past.



Our party is based on Marxism-Leninism not only as a slogan but as a gate to action to advance the interests of the working class and to achieve United Socialist Ireland. We also looked at the question of party organisation. Democratic centralism must function properly. Without that you either have centralism or you get anarchy. The collective of the party decides. Once decisions are made, the members fight for those decisions. Otherwise we are not a revolutionary party.

On the Soviet Union's collapse

To analyse the collapse of the Soviet Union is very complicated and has roots in the early days:

One of the main reasons of the collapse is that Soviet Union was established on very poor economic background.

War of interventions had vast effects on the Soviet Union. The II. World War Against Fascism and tremendous cost it took on economy and people, should be taken into consideration.

The main weakness which laid the ways and helped to develop a command approach within the political structure was that the party was not listening the people's voices. Once the voices of the people was not heard enough, then there could be no mentioning of mass democracy, which must be the heart of the matter in a socialist society.

The participation of people is a key point. In 1917 and in the II. World War, the people participated. But when you can not obtain this, you become not the leaders of the people but the administrators of them.

Another reasons is that the tremendous finances spent for arms race with the imperialists powers, and the effects of this spendings on the economy is very important. Also imperialism itself was working constantly to isolate Soviet Union and socialist countries on economic bases as well.

When you consider the developments in Gorbachev's period, the restructuring was necessary. But they did not even make a plan for this restructuring. They talked about market economy without knowing what a social market economy was.

Message to Turkish communists

On the question of Kurdish people's right to self-determination, that's a key point in every country. I welcome the position of Communist Party of Turkey in it's support on that principal position.

Also, on behalf of our party I send warmest greetings to all comrades in Communist Party of Turkey and hope we build stronger relationships and understanding between two parties so that two parties can play their part in the struggle against imperialism and for socialism.

"Now we have less number of members but more ideologically united."

A Message of Solidarity

On the occasion of 43rd Congress of Communist Party of Britain, representatives of Communist Party of Turkey met with comrades from Communist Party of Canada and had a chance to exchange views. Following is a short interview held with a Central Committee member of Communist Party of Canada, Comrade Domenic Belissimo.



because of law. So other type of pressures were in force. For example, if you are a communist party member, you can be a member of a trade union, but you can not hold official duties within the trade union, hence you can never administer trade union activities. This act was called TAFT- Hertley. With this act, our comrades were prevented to become trade union leaders. Consequently, right-wing social democrats became dominant in trade unions and hampered our parties' work immensely. In that period, if you are a candidate to become a trade union leader, they could

Raised \$100,000 – to launch the paper called People's Voice. We choose the name by voting. We had only one full time worker. The rest of the party work was done on voluntary basis.

Now we have less number of members but more ideologically united. We are discussing our new party programme now. The old programme is 15 years old. The world has changed. In 1988 the decision to make changes on the party programme was postponed but the discussions have started now. In 1996 we will hold a party congress only to discuss the party programme.

Fundamental principals of our party is based on Marxism-Leninism. Democratic centralism is practiced in a much better way. Members are fully consulted before decisions are taken. Our party holds congress every 2 years and we elected 17 members of Central Committee, five of them then forms a Central Executive. Congress delegates are elected by local clubs/sections. (Clubs are called for party cells.)

Our last congress was held on May 95 with about 100 delegates. There was no recommended list for the central committee. Nominations were open and the votes were closed.

Could you give a brief account of the history of the Communist Party of Canada?

Yes, I will tell you shortly about our party's history. Our party was founded in 1921 in a barn in Guelph area of Canada. It was made illegal for a number of times. One of our founding members, Tim Buck was party's leader for many years, was imprisoned twice and upon his release 15,000 people greeted him.

Especially in 1930's, during big depression and in 1940's our party had approximately 30-35,000 members. This was the period when our party was most strong. Also, it was quite strong after Second World War.

Canadian communists participated in Spanish Civil War too. McKenzie Papineau (shortly MacPap's) was the name of the brigade we sent from Canada. There were 120 comrades. Comrades who survived through the civil war and who are still alive, are still continuing to fight to be recognised as war veterans. These brigades were made up of communists and internationalists from all over the world. The ones from Canada had to leave the country illegally.

One of the leading members of the Canadian brigade was Dr Norman Bethune. He went to Spain and then to China. In 1940's he helped comrades medically as well. He had a mobile truck financed by the Communist Party and went around helping people trying to cure them from illnesses. Eventually he died in China from tuberculosis which he caught from one of his patients whom he was trying to cure.

The Cold War effected our party very seriously. We were subjected to same treatment which communists faced in the USA. During that time communists could not find work, they were black-listed everywhere, etc. Even during the cold war people could not be imprisoned

easily ask you if you are a communist. A lot of trade unions lost their strength for this reason. Our party was made illegal during the Second World War. Then it is name changed to Labour Progressive Party. But everyone knew it was us. In 1950's it became legal again and the name of "communist" came back in late 50's.

In 1960's, 70's and 80's comrade Bill Kashtan was General Secretary. Real difficulties began in late 80's. Discussions began if Marxism-Leninism is still the right ideology. Serious time came in 1990. A section of Central Executive began a process of liquidation. They felt the party should dissolve itself and became the party of the broader left. It wasn't done openly. More and more they managed to distance the party paper from the party ideology. There was a key struggle to control the party paper. They always claimed they were democratic. But they expelled 65- 75% of the party members. Although they weren't very strong in the party, they controlled the Central Committee. We couldn't call an emergency Congress due to bureaucratic difficulties in party's legislation. Then the paper began to dissolve quickly.

The former leadership formed a negotiation committee to establish who would control the paper and the name of the party. The whole thing did not end up at court but the media started to use it. We did not want a fight; we did not want people saying: "communists are fighting for money" etc. So we did not go to court but negotiated. Many party members left their wills and so on. Many people said, "don't give them a single cent". This took 1,5 years. Tragedy was, we became so inward looking, many party activists stop being involved in the party.

In 1992 we started publishing our own paper.

What is your views on the unity of communist parties?

The first point which we should mention on the unity of the communist parties is that there should not be any interference in the internal affairs of other parties.

The other point is that we should have the right as a party to express our concern if a fraternal party is making a mistake which could harm the international movement.

It might seem to be contradictory to each other, but, considering what has happened in the past – when no one could raise their voice against the mistakes of Soviet Party, and when there has been a tendency for communists to support the communist parties whom they never had any contacts with – this should be the right attitude.

We always supported the idea of an international assembly of communist parties of the world but we do not feel that we have to have a centre to lead the world parties. We have regular contacts with USA, Mexico, Chile, Cuba, Salvador parties. Also with the Communist Party of Quebec.

Unity should no longer defined as anonymity among the world parties.

Would you like to give a message to Turkish communists?

Yes, I would like to give a message of warm fraternal greetings also wish health and well being, to comrades working in such difficult conditions.

We welcome closer relations with Communist Party of Turkey and if anything we can do from our side, we are ready to do so, to show our solidarity and support.