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The year of action of the working class

**The results of 24 January 1980:
The IMF theses collapse in Turkey**

Interview with Deri-İş's branch secretary Ateş

Unemployment on the rise

FORTNIGHTLY BULLETIN OF LABOUR MOVEMENT
AND TRADE UNIONS NEWS FROM TURKEY

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editor's note

On 24 January 1980, the liberal government of Süleyman Demirel started to use a new package of economic measures conforming with the proposals made by the I.M.F. Naturally, the proposals of I.M.F. were not aiming at solving the problems arising from the crisis of capitalism in Turkey, nor finding the causes of this crisis. The aim was to protect the interests and credits of the international financial circles, and to find sufficient foreign credits to ensure the continuation of this state of affairs.

On the other hand the twin coups of 24 January/12 September 1980 led to a certain number. Of political and social incidents:

- The Parliament was dissolved, all the political parties were banned,
 - Centralisation of the arbitration, legislation and the executive powers in the hands of the military rulers, restructuration with a monolithic character.
 - Intimidation, oppression, torture, long-term imprisonment and hanging of all the opponents of the regime
 - Abolition of the rights and economical, political freedoms of the working class.
- Today, as the democratisation of Turkey is spoken, the question whether the twin coups have achieved their aims is debated. We can, however, mention some objective facts:
- The international financial circles have, **for the moment**, guaranteed their interests and credits in Turkey.
 - The process of "democratisation" is taking place on a slippery surface which has crises, risks, and the seeds of goign back to the military dictatorship.
 - The recent past has witnessed an unheard of worsening of the living and working conditions of the working class.

We will be giving objective information and data concerning the results of the economic policies prompted by the "24 January Decisions" in our present and next issues.

With friendship and devotion,

Editor

THE I.M.F. THESES COLLAPSE IN TURKEY

The strategy of stable growth, inspired by the monetarist theories of Friedman, put to active functioning in Turkey since 24 January 1980, is heading to failure in practice. The vast sections of the population, namely the workers, employees, artisans and small agricultural producers have been living over the last eight years under the conditions of ever increasing poverty, increasing price rises and unemployment. Despite the rigorous application of the policy of tightening the belts, and widespread exploitation, the resources obtained are not sufficient to solve the structural crisis of the economy of Turkey. Nor the demands of the employers are satisfied. Under these conditions, the trade union activity, based on the labour opposition, is steadily increasing. The discontent of the other stratas of the society, the toiling masses is turning towards a more active opposition to these policies."

ECONOMISTS' PANEL ASSESSES THE RESULTS OF '24 JANUARY'

On the eighth anniversary of the economic package known as the "24 January decisions", an independent group of academicians who have been expelled from universities after the military coup in 12 September 1980, has organised a panel entitled: "24 January Decisions and the urgent problems of trade unionism". The

group, known as Bilar, consists of some of the finest economists of Turkey. One of them, Professor Yakup Kepenek, gave a talk at the panel and said that the decisions of 24 January 1980 could have been put into practice only under an oppressive society, and that the military coup of 12 September 1980 was made to ensure just that. Another speaker, Professor Sadun Aren, said that it was the working class and the toiling masses who had to pay the bill for both the inflation and the measures to prevent it. He then continued: "The workers and the toiling masses have no such demand as pulling down and preventing the inflation. They cannot have such a demand. Inflation is government's problem, not workers'. The demand of the working class is to ensure the wage rises against the inflation. The demand for an additional payrise is there fore timely."



Mr. Süleyman Demirel



Mr. Turgut Ozal

THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT POPULIST PARTY HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AND CONDEMNED THE 24 JANUARY DECISIONS



Mr. Fikri Sağlar

The General Secretary of the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP), Mr. Fikri Sağlar, held a press conference on the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the "24 January Decisions". Calling it a "gloomy day", he said that since the economic measures proposed by the 24 January Decisions were put into practice the problem of galloping inflation has not been solved, and the foreign debts have been more than doubled. Noting that the price rises in the major consumer goods have reached 3000%, he said: "The life is becoming more unbearable every passing day. Our people are hungry. For the overwhelming sections of our society, 24 January is a gloomy day. But for the tiny minority of big capitalists, usurers and profiteers it is a bright day."

How did the fundamental indicators change in 8 years?

	January 1980	January 1988
National income per capita	1330 Dollars	1180 Dollars
Foreign debts	14.5 Billion Dollars	32.4 Billion Dollars
Dollar change rate	47.10 TL.	1300 TL.
Increase in consumer prices in Istanbul (%)	100	1873
Increase in wholesale prices (%)	100	1744
Deposit interest rate (%)	20	56

How did the price of consumer goods change in 8 years?

	Jan. 1980 (TL)	Jan. 1988 (TL)	Rate of increase (%)
Rice (kilo)	40	600	1400
Beef (kilo)	150	4000	2566
Egg (single)	4	80	1900
White cheese (kilo)	170	2800	1547
Sugar (kilo)	16	420	2370
A pack of cigarettes	15	350	2233
A cinema ticket	35	3000	8471
Newspaper	5	200	3900
Metropolitan bus ticket	5	200	3900

news from türk-iş

THE COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS OF TÜRK-İŞ PRESS STATEMENT



Mr. Şevket Yılmaz

The Council of Presidents of Türk-İş, the highest executive body after the Congress of the Confederation, which consists of the Central Executive Council as well as the presidents of all the trade unions affiliated, convened at the Confederation's Headquarters in Ankara on 13th and 14th of January. Shortly before the meeting, the Prime Minister Turgut Özal's consultations with the President of the Confederation of Turkish Employers' Unions (TİSK), Mr. Halit Narin, had given no positive results in the subject of giving the workers a much awaited wage rise. Consequently, an important part of the rank and file members of the trade unions affiliated to Türk-İş, even the leading cadres of some of these trade unions were expecting a tough reaction from this meeting. But what emerged was a tactic of wait-and-see, and to look for further channels for dialogue with the government during the next three months.

After the meeting, the Council of Presidents of Türk-İş issued a press statement, dated 15th January. We give below a somewhat shortened version of this press statement:

"Our country is going through a process of establishment of political democracy with its pluralist and participationist bases, and institutionalisation of all of its requirements.

In 1987, our Confederation pursued an intensive work in order to fulfill the duties that befell upon

it to get ahead of this process in a fast and sound manner.

Our Council of Presidents regards as an inevitable necessity to reemphasise the fact that, in the realisation of the solutions conforming with the demands and expectations of all the working people and the economically poor sections of our country, the most effective factor is the institutionalisation of the political democracy with its pluralist and participationist bases in our country, and assuring the full-functioning of this process. Because, the "right for free trade unionism", the rights for holding free bargaining talks and to strike, are inseparable parts of both personal rights and freedoms and the workers' rights and freedoms.

It is beyond doubt that in order to overcome the economic and social difficulties that our labour movement confronts today, the legal and constitutional obstacles must be lifted.

The Council of Presidents has determined the necessary changes, conforming with the principles of the International Labour Organisation and democratic regime, on the laws concerning the labour world. The Executive Committee will pursue with interest and determination the outcome of a package of proposals that it gave to the Ministry Labour and Social Security, and will insist on the realisation of the proposed improvements."

interview

Leather Workers Branch President Ateş: OUR STRIKE AN EXAMPLE FOR WORKING CLASS STRUGGLE

One of the major strike events in Turkey in the course of 1987 was the leather workers' strike, organised and successfully concluded by the Leather Workers' Union (Deri İş). Since most of the leather factories are found in the Kazlıçeşme district of İstanbul, the Kazlıçeşme Branch of Deri İş became, soon after the strike broke out the center of all trade union activity and solidarity with the striking leather workers.

Soon after the successful conclusion of the strike the President of the Kazlıçeşme Branch of Deri-İş, Mr. Hüseyin Ateş made an extensive assessment of the strike in an interview given to the İSHA Bulletin. What follows is a somewhat shortened version of this interview.

Question: Could you briefly give us some information about your trade union?

H. Ateş: We are organised in leather industry. Apart from us, there are no other trade unions organised in this category of work. We have approximately 10 thousand members. In addition to our headquarters, there are seven local branches in İzmir, Van, Sarıkamış, Erzincan and İstanbul.

Question: What were the causes of the recent strike of the leather workers, and what did they gain at the end?

H. Ateş: The acts of intimidation by the employers or their foremen, extremely low level of their wages, the fear of being laid off any moment, and the efforts of our trade union to explain the plans of action all prepared the workers for the imminent strike. In a total of 117 factories and workplaces, an average of 2-3 workers were being laid off every day. Hence we tried to explain to them that the collective bargainings could not be limited with price rises only, and that improvement on some of the administrative articles were a necessity. Because even if the employers agree on a wage rise they usually lay off workers and take new ones with minimum wages but when the administrative articles are improved, they cannot act altogether at their own wish. The leather workers suddenly got interested in this idea of halting the arbitrary behaviour of the employers and showed remarkable interest in preparing for an industrial action. The outcome of the strike was in favour of the leather workers.

We tried to uphold the full functioning of democracy in our trade union during the course of the strike. In fact, this meant for the base to express their thoughts openly and to participate in the

process of decision. We consulted the workers even when we were about to sign the collective bargainings. Without the active participation of workers, whatever agreement one may reach with the employers it would not have too much of a meaning.

When we walked out to strike we knew that we were not striking just for our own interests, but that we were waging a struggle as part of the working class in Turkey against the threats of the Confederation of Turkish Employers' Union (TISK). Every position we gained in this struggle is an achievement of the working class of Turkey.

■ A leather worker who lives over 50 years should be mentioned in the book of records.

Successful conclusion of the strike increased the self-confidence of the working class in itself. Moreover, workers in different sectors will regard our strike as an example of the fact that the rights can be gained by a determined struggle.

Question: What are the lessons you drew from the strike?

H. Ateş: The present law severely limits the trade unions to wage a strike. One cannot do everything one wishes under these unfavourable conditions. For example, we could have done better to bring forward the educational aspect of the strike for the workers. We noticed the insufficiency of the education we provide as a trade union. Secondly, this was the first long lasting strike we waged since 1980. There have been several strikes in our sector much earlier, but this strike

Hüseyin Ateş was born in Erzincan in 1951. After finishing the secondary school he moved from Erzincan to Istanbul. Started to work in leather factories. In 1979 he became the branch secretary of the leather workers' union, Deri-İş. In 1983 he became the president of the same branch, a post he still holds.



was the first of the present leadership of the trade union. Therefore their inexperience was another unfavourable aspect. We had some mistakes in organising the duties of the picket lines, but I think this is only a minor point.

On the other hand, to convince the striking worker for the necessity of the strike was essential for us. They were convinced before the strike started, and in fact prepared themselves for a six months long strike's

Question: Did you receive any solidarity from the world labour movement?

H. Ateş: We received a large number of messages of solidarity, particularly from the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Great Britain. Some factories abroad have collected donations to support our strike, and have sent it to the striking workers here. This is, of course, very gratifying. We have not been able to send abroad sufficient information about the protests to the lock-out, nor about the massive meeting that we organised. If there has been any lack of solidarity with the world labour movement in these events it is due to our own shortcomings. Our trade union's headquarters has been visited by many foreign delegations during the strike. Since we have always been at Kazlıçeşme, we could see only those who visited our branch.

Question: Could you give us some information about the working conditions of the leather workers?

H. Ateş: The filthiest working conditions in Turkey exist in our sector. One should wage a strike even against the situation of the leather factories. The working conditions are terribly primitive. This is also due to the fact that the mentality of

the employers is well behind of this century. They simply are not interested in the working conditions of their employees. There is no obliging jurisdiction either. We've had many accidents which led to the death of the workers. These are not really job accidents but simply murders. Despite our numerous recourses to the relevant authorities, nobody was interested. There is a fine in the law. If the employer does not provide the necessary security precautions in a given work, according to the law he is only liable to pay a fine of 7500 TL. There is not even a prison sentence. This of course is a matter of system. All kinds of diseases exist in our sector. Tuberculosis, urine and liver ailments, nervous disorders, heart diseases, etc. A leather worker who lives over 50 years should be mentioned in the book of records. We have been able to do some research work on these diseases during the strike. We shall be publishing soon our findings. If we don't live like a Kazlıçeşme worker, then we cannot appreciate the plight of the leather workers. We cannot see how bad their living and working conditions are. There is nothing to be done about it. There is no compulsory jurisdiction. For instance, recently a young, 17 year old friend was assigned to do a job in the leather factory. Normally he was not obliged to do it. Moreover it was dangerous for an inexperienced worker. Since there were no precautionary measures on his machine, he lost his life. The mentality is corrupt. Even if the whole factory moves to somewhere else, so long as this corrupt mentality is not changed, as this is a highly profitable sector, they will get away easily by paying ridiculously low fines. It is impossible to expect from them to respect our productive humans.

Question: What do you think about the trade-unionist unity of the working class in Turkey?

H. Ateş: This unity must be established on the basis of a program and rules. One can get together with any trade union, but if they act on different programs, then one cannot speak of a unity. We have to have the same principles of trade-unionism. We must have similar views as to how to put these principles into action. For instance, a trade unionist's monthly salary should not be more than that of an average worker. Trade unionists should live close to their worker brothers. When there is no unity of views on these matters the rest is meaningless.

When we go into and act together with the working class, there can be no differences that cannot be resolved. Because the tendency of being a class is much more different. This is what the working class wants from the intelligentsia in particular.

THE YEAR OF ACTION



The year 1987 has justly deserved to be called the "year of action" of the working class in Turkey.

In the resolutions approved by the Türk-İş Confederation's Congress at the end of 1986, as well as in the declarations of various Türk-İş officials at the leadership level, it was emphasised that 1987 would witness an unprecedented number of actions by the working class.

What were the indications that it would be so?

INDICATORS OF THE YEAR OF ACTION

Firstly, it was in 1987 that the new round of talks of free collective bargaining covering more than 800.000 workers affiliated to Türk-İş would be due. The trade unions throughout the country had been deprived of holding collective bargaining talks since the military coup in 12 September 1980. The Superior Council of Magistrates, formed after the military takeover, was the sole authority to hold collective bargaining talks with trade unions which were permitted to "function". In a country where the official rate of inflation was declared to be above 45%, the Superior Council of Magistrates offered at most 15-20% wage rises, completely disregarding the demands of the workers. Their rights and permission to hold collective bargaining talks were

seized by methods of intimidation.

Secondly, three trade unions (one of them affiliated to Türk-İş, the other two independent) were continuing their strikes which had already started before the end of 1986. Among the independent trade unions, Otomobil-İş (metal workers' union) was waging strike at Netaş, Karmasan and Süper Dizel factories with a total of 2800 workers. Another independent union, Laspetkim-İş (petroleum and chemical workers' union) was on strike at the Derby factory with 1200 workers, and Ağaç-İş (Wooden Industry Workers' union) affiliated to the Türk-İş Confederation, was waging strike at various workplaces with a total of 190 workers.

Thirdly, the severe limitations brought by the new decrees introduced after the military coup of 12 September 1980 on the political and social rights, the right to strike, to hold free collective bargaining talks, to organise in trade unions could be

F THE WORKING CLASS



halted by determined action of the working class. Indeed, when the Netaş strike was about to start, the question whether one could wage a strike with these laws, even if one could, then the chances of its successful conclusion, were being intensely debated by the public opinion. However, the Netaş strike amply demonstrated that one could wage a strike despite these laws. Facing all kinds of unfavourable conditions, 2650 striking workers, after 93 days of hardship, never-

theless succeeded in getting a 40.5% payrise for the first year, and 30% for the second. In addition to the payrise, they got an extra heating assistance worth of 225.000 TL for the next couple of years. Otomobil-İş, the independent trade union which waged the Netaş strike also received a tremendous domestic and international solidarity, both from the public opinion and the other trade unions.

The Netaş strike was soon followed by the strike of the petroleum, chemical and rubber workers, organised by their trade union Petrol-İş, affiliated to Türk-İş. Despite the threats of lockout and acts of intimidation by the employers' union, KIPLAS, 9524 workers in 63 factories waged a long lasting strike which stretched to 129 days in certain factories. Petrol-İş signed a very favourable agreement after the successful conclusion of the strike. According to the agreement, the striking workers got 64.6% payrise as well as increases

in many allowances, ranging from 132.4% (family allowance) to 500% (child allowance). However, undoubtedly the most important victory of Petrol-İş was the fact that although the employers' union KIPLAS insisted on group collective bargainings, it was the demand of Petrol-İş, namely, that collective bargainings should be held for every individual workplace, that was finally accepted. (For a more comprehensive assessment of the Petrol-İş strike, see the interview given to the 1st issue of the İSHA Bulletin by the President of Petrol-İş, Mr. Münir Ceylan.) During the summer of 1987, Deri-İş (Leather Workers' Union), Türk-Metal (Metal Workers' Union), Demiryolu-İş (Union of Railwaymen), Basın-İş (Press Workers' Union), all of which are affiliated to Türk-İş, went on strike. The strike of the railwaymen lasted one month. The striking workers were not satisfied with the eventual agreement signed with the employer, the State Railways. They criticised the soft attitude of the union's leadership, and some of the workers resigned from Demiryolu-İş.

THE ACTION-PACKED SUMMER OF 1987

On 24 June 1987, the leather workers commenced their strike in 117 factories and workplaces. Employers' immediate lockout prompted widespread actions of protest. The leather workers' union, Deri-İş, held a mass meeting, well attended by other trade unions. The strike, covering more than 10.000 workers, ended after 131 days. (For more details of the leather workers' strike, see the interview with, Mr. Hüseyin Ateş, the President of the Kazlıçeşme branch, the branch from which the whole strike was conducted, of Deri-İş in this issue of the İSHA Bulletin.)



The metal workers went on strike in two different plants. One of these, the Aluminum Works in Seydişehir, is one of the most important factories in Turkey. 5700 workers in Seydişehir and nearly 700 in Ferrokrom factory were led by the metal workers' union, Türk-Metal.

Before the end of summer, two more strikes were added to the chain of strikes of 1987. One of these, the strike of the MIGROS supermarket workers, started on 20 August simultaneously at 33 supermarkets in and around of Istanbul. The strike covered more than 900 workers and employees, and was led by the cooperative workers' union, TEZ KOOP-İŞ. The MIGROS strike is the longest strike waged by the working class since the military takeover in 12 September 1980, and has been successfully concluded by the TEZ KOOP-İŞ union on 30 December after long and tough negotiations. (For more information on the MIGROS strike, see the interview with the President of the 3rd Regional Branch of TEZ KOOP-İŞ in Istanbul, Mrs. Aynur Karaaslan, in the 1st issue of the ISHA Bullation.)

The other strike, that of the transport workers, is now more than four months old. The transport workers' union, TÜMTİS, with more than 1000 of its members commenced the strike in more than 100 depots and warehouses. In December and early January, 68 of these workplaces agreed the conditions laid down by the workers and sat to the negotiation table. TÜMTİS accuses the employers of their strike-breaking attempts after the declaration of lockout in nearly all of these depots. The employers' attempts to take goods out and load them from warehouses quickly set up by members of the Greater Istanbul Council, as well as a member of parliament belonging to the ruling Motherland Party (ANAP) met with strong protests by the striking workers and TÜMTİS. Some of these actions of protest turned into clashes with the police, and several striking workers were arrested. TÜMTİS leaders declared that they will not tolerate such strike breaking attempts, and that the strike will continue until their demands are met by the rest of the employers.

The trade union struggle in 1987

The number of factories deciding to strike	398
The number of workers deciding to strike	187291
The number of factories deciding to lockout	285
The number of workers going on strike	29764
The number of factories going on strike	357
The number of trade unions going on strike (2 are independent)	13
The number of sectors on strike	8

THE REMARKABLE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF STRIKERS

A total of 4595 workers in 17 factories went on strike in 1986. In 1987, the number of striking workers increased six times and neared 30 thousand. After the National Security Council's prohibition of all strikes following the military coup in 1980, the first strike broke out at Desan and Yıldırım shipyards in October 1984 and a total of 31 workers participated. It lasted less than three months. Whereas this year, the strike at the Seydişehir Aluminum Works alone involved over 5.500 workers, and the major strikes such as the MIGROS strike, the leather workers' strike lasted over four months. This is a good indicator of the determination and self-sacrifice of the workers to regain their rights. If the strikes, demonstrations and mass rallies demanding more human living and better working conditions continue at the same pace, then it is most likely that 1988 will be another year of action.

LUNCH BOYCOTT BY THE AKBANK EMPLOYEES

While one of the biggest banks in Turkey, Akbank, celebrated its fortieth anniversary, the employees staged a massive Lunch boycott in order to protest their employers. Wearing black outfits on the anniversary day, the employ-

ees sent telegrams of protest to the President of the Executive Committee, Mr. Naim Talu.

On the other hand, the General Secretary of FIET (International Federation of Commercial, clerical, Professional and Technical Employees), Mr. Herbert Meyer, sent a telegram to Mr. Talu and condemned the unfavourable attitude of the Executive Committee of Akbank.

The General Secretary of Banks is (bank employees' union), Mr. Kutsal Özer said that their members have been carrying out the strike action with a great spirit of solidarity, and that the actions would be intensified in the near future.

THREAT OF GENERAL STRIKE FROM TÜRK-İŞ

The General Secretary of Education of the Türk-İş Confederation, Mr. Mustafa Başoğlu, called for the Prime Minister Turgut Özal to take steps to improve the economic situation of the working people. He added: "Otherwise our fight will continue from where it is now. If necessary, we will march to Ankara from 67 cities and may go to a general strike. The fact that he has been the president of an employers' union does not

necessitate him to assume the role of an employer's representative. If the hardships of the workers and employers are to be resolved at the same parallel, then this means that those problems will go on forever. We demand from the new government that first of all it should redetermine the minimum wage, that it should put the new pay rise into effect at once, and that it should go over the regime of interest-free credit."

1987: THE YEAR OF STRIKES



Tor the first time since the military coup in 12 September 1980, the year of 1987 has seen a veritable eruption in the number of strikes. According to a survey, during the period from January to December 1987, the highest number of strikes has been observed in March and April. In 1987, the number of working days spent in

strikes reached 2.5 million. This figure is nine times as much the figure of 1986. A total of 235 thousand working days had been spent in strikes in the course of 1986. With its 10 thousand striking members spending a total of 802 thousand working days on strike, Petrol-İş is the leading trade union. When the trade union came into agreement with the employers, the strikes at 63 different factories were over before the end of June.

The metal workers' union, Türk-Metal, with 6200 members spending 375.320 working days on strike comes second. The strikes of Türk-Metal, which were waged at the Seydişehir Aluminium and Antalya Ferro-chrome plantations started on 30 June and, despite the Prime Minister Özal's threats to shut down the plantations, went on until 30 August.

The third trade union is leather workers' union, Deri-İş, with 3500 of its members spending 342 thousand working days on strike.

UNEMPLOYMENT ON THE RISE

Despite the high rate of growth recorded over the past two years, the number of unemployed in Turkey is continuing to rise. Although the exact numbers of unemployed cannot be determined, there were 1.128.686 registered unemployed workers at the end of June 1987. This figure only includes those people who seek jobs through the Social Security council, but not the retired employees who are looking for additional jobs to survive.

The number of registered unemployed workers at the end of June 1987 shows that the rate of unemployment has gone up by 6.8% over the past twelve months: In June 1986 the total number of registered unemployed workers was 1.056.879. It has been noted that the rate of unemployment has gone up by 6.2% among the male workers, and 9.5% among the female workers.

The regional authorities, who have emphasised the fast rate of population increase, have said that due to the practically non-existent level of private investment, the number of unskilled

workers is increasing every day.

The State Minister Tınaz Titiz: "Unemployment is tending to fall"

When the statistical data prepared by the Employment and Worker Inquiry Organisation is known to all, Mr. Tınaz Titiz, the State Minister who is "in charge of preventing the unemployment", said in a statement he made in Izmir at the beginning of September that "A tendency of decrease in unemployment has been observed". He said that: "Maybe it is a very small number, but there is a decrease. Deeds are more important than the words regarding this problem".

Declaring that a vast number of projects have been put in to action to reduce unemployment, and that over 22 thousand people have participated in basic proficiency courses, the State Minister Titiz said that 6.400 people had successfully completed these courses before the end of July. He emphasised also that among those who completed their courses, 85% have already found an employment.

Employment and worker inquiry Organisation's statistics (covering the period of Jan-June)

	1986	1987	Change (%)
Number of applicants	299.484	260.944	-12.9
Demand of labour-force	84.025	121.363	44.4
Number of emplaced	109.921	109.910	-
—In public sector	78.053	78.630	0.7
—In private sector	31.868	31.280	-1.8
—In agricultural sector	29.464	27.882	-5.4
—Non-agricultural sector	80.457	82.028	2.0
Registered unemployed	1.286.879	1.128.686	6.8
Immigrating workers	17.394	19.501	12.1

Experts believe that the true figures of unemployed workers range between 8-10 millions. The Özal government has no social program to tackle the problem of unemployment. It is content with such short-term proposals as export of labour, birth control and planning, educational courses for the apprentices, etc.

In Turkey, where no social security for the unemployed exists, unemployed population strives to exist by working in labour-intensive agricultural establishments or marginal services sector.

news

FOUR NEW TRIALS AGAINST TRADE UNION LEADERS

3 trade unionists from the leather workers' union (Deri-İş), cement, glass and ceramic workers' union (Çimse-İş), railway workers' union (Demiryol-İş), metal workers' union (Maden-İş) are facing a new wave of trials. The executive committee members of the İzmir branch of Demiryol-İş and those of the Keçiborlu branch of Maden-İş have been accused of being involved in

"political activity" when they distributed campaign brochures prepared by the Türk-İş Confederation, to which all the above-mentioned trade unions are affiliated, during the campaigning period leading to the Referendum on 6th September last year which was to decide whether the ban on political activity of the leaders of the political parties before the military takeover in 12 September 1980 should be lifted or not.

As for the leather workers' union, the President and the Executive Committee Members of Deri-İş are being accused of having made public and press statements against the lockout decision of the employers without obtaining permission from the authorities during the recent strike of the leather workers.

TÜRK-İŞ LEADERS FACING TRIAL

The State Prosecutor in Ankara has completed its investigation on Türk-İş and has decided to open trial against the Executive Committee Members for having failed to respect the Trade Unions and Associations Law. According to the indictment, the leaders of the Türk-İş Confederation will be tried with a demand for imprisonment from 3 months to 2 years. In the statement of reasons of the trial to be

opened at the Court of First Instance of Ankara, it has been stated that the Confederation has failed to send to the Police headquarters in Ankara a copy of the tract it has distributed during the campaign period prior to the Referendum held on 6 September last year. With the distribution of this tract, Türk-İş has violated Article 37 of the Trade Unions and Associations Law, the statement of reasons alleged.

THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF FIET VISITS TURKEY

The General Secretary of FIET (International Federation of Commercial, Clerical, Professional and Technical Employees), Mr. Herbert Meyer, has recently visited Turkey as the Tez Koop-İş union (Cooperative and Office Workers' Union), an affiliate of FIET. Carrying out a mission of on-the-spot investiga-

tion of the problems that the trade union movement in Turkey is confronting today, Mr. Meyer said: "We are well aware of the limiting character of the labour laws in Turkey".

The President of Tez Koop-İş, Mr. Kenan Gürbüz, held a joint press conference with Mr. Meyer before the departure of his guest.

Mr. Gürbüz and Mr. Meyer have both reemphasised the necessity of abolishing the labour laws which "severely restrict the rights of the workers to strike, to hold free collective bargaining talks, and to organise freely in trade unions of their own choice"

REAL WAGES RECEDE 19%

In a report presented to the recently convened Council of Presidents of Türk-İş, the Executive Committee of the Confederation revealed that in 1987 alone, the real wages receded by 19.3%. The section on the wage-price relations of this report states that an average of 35% payrise has been materialised in 1987, whereas the price rises have soared to 67.3% during the same period. The report continued: "If 1986 is taken as ref-

erence, then recession in the real wages over the last twelve months is 19.3%. The declarations of the government when faced with stark reality, that "the payrises are "Ten points above the inflation", is nothing but fooling the public opinion. During the period of 1984-1987 the real wages have receded by a stunning 42.4% and the statements of the government don't reflect the reality at all".

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ISHA BULLETIN

Dear readers,

ISHA Bulletin is the only publication in English, printed in Turkey, which is concerned primarily with the labour and trade union movement there.

In order to offer you a more satisfactory service, we would like to know your expectations from such a bulletin; namely, what would you like to see most, the kind of information that interests you, and what might be boring!

We have therefore prepared a brief questionnaire. We would be grateful if you could duly fill it and send to our address without sparing any comments and/or suggestions you deem useful. Thank you in advance.

ISHA Bulletin



NAME

ADDRESS

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1. What type of information about the labour and trade union movement in Turkey would be of particular interest to you? Tick as appropriate:

- a) INFORMATION ON LABOUR LAWS AND PRACTICES IN TURKEY
- b) INFORMATION ON THE ECONOMY OF TURKEY
- c) INFORMATION ON INTERNAL TRADE UNION ORGANISATION AND STRUCTURES
- d) DETAILS OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND RESULTS OF NEGOTIATIONS
- e) SHORT NEWS OF STRIKES AND INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES
- f) BACKGROUND ARTICLES ON INDIVIDUAL TRADE UNIONS IN TURKEY..
- g) PROFILES OF TRADE UNION LEADERS
- h) INTERVIEWS WITH LEADING FIGURES IN THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN TURKEY
- i) WOMEN AND TRADE UNIONS
- j) INTERNATIONAL VIEWS OF TRADE UNIONS IN TURKEY
- k) POLICIES AND ACTIVITIES OF TÜRK-İŞ (TURKISH T.U. CONFEDERATION)

2. Would you be interested in a single subscription to the bulletin? YES/NO

3. Would you be interested in bulk subscriptions (more than 2 copies) of the bulletin? YES/NO

4. Comments or additional suggestions.

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