

'Grand Design' Comes To Mediterranean

Turkey and the Soviets sign an economic cooperation pact

On June 23, Turkish Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit concluded a three-day trip to Moscow by signing a historic "political document of friendship and cooperation" and an impressive accord for economic development.

NEAR EAST

These agreements mark a significant move, drawing not only Turkey but the entire eastern Mediterranean into the international Grand Design for peace and regional development. The agreements also threaten to undermine ongoing destabilization operations being carried out in Turkey by British-linked intelligence networks.

The political accord, while not formally a

nonaggression pact, pledges the Soviet Union and Turkey, a member of NATO, not to use force against one another, nor to allow third parties to use their territory for "aggressive and subversive actions against other states."

The political document was coupled with extensive economic agreements that will increase Turkey's trade with the Soviet Union by 200 percent over the next three years and provide for Soviet-Turkish collaboration in the search for Black Sea oil. In addition, Turkey will purchase three million tons of oil — one fifth of its oil needs — from the Soviet Union each year, paying for it with grain, metal, and meat products rather than with hard-to-come-by foreign currency. Collaboration in uranium exploration in eastern Turkey and Soviet assistance in nuclear power development were also worked out.

Unlike the political document, the details of which had

A Closer Look At The Turkish-Soviet Economic Accords

Unprecedented in their scope, the Soviet-Turkish agreements signed last month mark a turning point in economic relations between the two countries. "Although we don't share the same ideology as the Soviets," commented one Turkish diplomat, "we like doing business with them. Unlike the IMF, for example, which is bleeding us dry, the Soviets know how to develop. They give us realistic terms — low interest, long-term credit — which is what a developing country like Turkey needs."

Oil. The Soviet Union will supply Turkey with 3 million tons of oil annually in return for wheat, metal, and meat. If, at the end of three years, the goods have not paid for the oil, the balance will be made up in hard currency. The deal allows Turkey, which has had difficulty importing oil because of a lack of foreign currency, to defer the cash cost of oil. The oil exported to Turkey by the Soviets will account for 20 percent of Turkey's annual needs.

Basic goods. The Soviets will help solve Turkey's needs for coal, fertilizer, and steel through direct exports, or will set up plants in Turkey.

Black Sea oil refinery. The Soviets will build a 54-million-ton-capacity refinery on the Black Sea, with oil being transported in from the Batum oilfields.

Joint Black Sea oil exploration. According to several observers, the agreement to collaborate in the search for Black Sea oil deposits was drawn up as a

model for joint Turkish-Greek collaboration in the search for Aegean oil deposits.

Electricity imports. Severe shortages of electricity have crippled much of Turkish industry.

Energy. The establishment of hydraulic and thermal centrals in Turkey, and possibly nuclear reactors.

Dams. Three dams and hydroelectric power stations in Turkey are planned.

Subway systems. For Istanbul and Ankara.

Joint uranium exploration. In eastern Anatolia.

Industrial expansion projects. Expansion of the giant Iskenderun steel works and the Seydisehir aluminum factory, both Soviet-built.

Tourism development.

Exports to the Soviet Union. The Soviets have agreed to buy as much wheat as Turkey can sell, textiles, buses, meat, metals (excluding iron), and other goods.

Transportation. Ferryboats running between Varna and Odessa will now stop at the Turkish port of Trabzon. Also, it was agreed that Turkey will make use of the Soviet Union's canals and waterways to export goods to Scandinavia.

Joint Soviet-Turkish Economic Commission. In September, a joint Soviet-Turkish economic commission will meet in Moscow to discuss additional joint economic projects. "After this meeting of the commission," commented Ecevit, "an even further leap (in Soviet-Turkish relations) will have been achieved."

largely been worked out beforehand, the economic package offered by the Soviets was not anticipated by the Turks and reportedly came as a surprise.

The Soviet press agency TASS welcomed the Turkish-Soviet accord as "a contribution to detente." The *Baltimore Sun* compared it to the 25-year Soviet-West German cooperation package worked out in May between West German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev.

Greeting Ecevit upon his arrival in Moscow, Soviet Prime Minister Aleksei Kosygin made it clear that the U.S. has nothing to fear from the Turkish-Soviet rapprochement. "I wish to stress," said Kosygin, "that the goals that the Soviet Union is pursuing vis-a-vis Turkey — the goals of peace, good neighborliness, and cooperation — can neither harm any third country nor be turned against the interests of another peace-loving nation."

Ecevit emphasized the peaceful intent of the Soviets by noting that the political document "does not pursue any aims other than to contribute to the cause of peace, security, and mutually advantageous cooperation." Ecevit denied that the Soviets sought in any way to alter Turkey's commitment to NATO and dismissed rumors that the Soviets had offered arms to Turkey. "The Soviet leadership has acted out of the correct understanding that we are both members of different alliances," stated Ecevit. "They refrained from offering military supplies, and we haven't asked for them."

European Support

The Soviet-Turkish rapprochement parallels proposals made to Ecevit during an official visit to West Germany in May. At that time, Chancellor Schmidt offered substantial West German financing for a series of major development projects in Turkey. Schmidt also prompted initiatives to grant Turkey an international debt moratorium to reverse the threat of economic collapse.

According to a recent report in *Business Week*, Schmidt plans to unveil at the Bonn economic summit a \$10 billion development plan for southern Europe, according to which the developed countries of northern Europe will export on a massive scale to the underdeveloped south.

In a parallel development, Italy's Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti called July 7 for a "Mediterranean-wide agricultural modernization program." Earlier, on June 27, the day following Ecevit's return from Moscow, Italian Foreign Minister Arnaldo Forlani arrived in Turkey to discuss expanding economic and political ties between Turkey and Italy in the interest of Mediterranean security and in the context of the new Turkish-Soviet agreements.

The French are also keenly interested in developing southern Europe. According to French press sources, President Giscard d'Estaing is discussing with the Saudis possibilities for investment in Turkey, Greece, Spain, and Portugal.

Kurdish Clashes

The Soviet and European initiatives are providing an economic alternative for the Ecevit government, which is beleaguered by the continuing austerity demands of

the International Monetary Fund and by the renewed provocations of British and Israeli intelligence-backed Kurdish insurgents in the Turkey-Iran-Iraq border region.

Over the past several weeks, bloody clashes between rival Kurdish tribes, as well as between Kurdish separatists and Turks, have escalated to the degree that observers are warning of civil war and military intervention. The extremist right-wing press is noisily accusing Iran and Iraq of fomenting the Kurdish crisis, while Turkey's Maoist sects — charged up by Chinese Foreign Minister Huang Hua's recent visit to Turkey — are attacking the Soviets for being behind the Kurds.

At the same time, violent left-right student clashes, provoked by commandoes organized by Col. Alparslan Türkeş of the neofascist Nationalist Action Party, have become daily fare throughout Turkey. One or two people are gunned down in these brawls every day, and scores are wounded.

Fanning the flames, former Prime Minister Süleyman Demirel is calling on Turkey's backward peasantry to wage a "holy war" against the government, to prevent Ecevit from bringing "communism" to Turkey. Türkeş is organizing similar antigovernment sentiments throughout his networks in the Turkish military and intelligence services.

The destabilization of the Ecevit government and the polarization of the population into warring camps serves to force Turkey away from cooperation with the Soviets and the Europeans and into a NATO-style, anti-Soviet Middle East Treaty Organization (METO). Currently being proposed by British-linked Zionist circles, the METO strategy is intent on thwarting a Middle East peace settlement based on East-West entente.

To suck Turkey into METO, said a spokesman for the World Jewish Congress, it is necessary to "Islamicize" Turkey, a euphemism for undermining Turkey's development-oriented intelligentsia and putting the reactionaries around Türkeş, Demirel, and National Salvation Party leader Necmettin Erbakan into positions of power.

Ecevit's Reply: Development

To stabilize the volatile Kurdish situation, Ecevit has launched an ambitious development project for Turkey's impoverished southeast to bring the Kurds' standard of living into the 20th century and thus undercut continued British manipulation of the region. Ecevit is urging Iran and Iraq to join in the project to ensure regional stability.

Last month, Ecevit, accompanied by a large entourage of ministers and other government officials, traveled to southeastern Turkey to announce the development campaign personally. It was the first time that a Prime Minister had ever visited the area.

The first stage of the project, declared Ecevit in a speech in the town of Hakkari, roads. "With the implementation of the highway project," stated Ecevit, "the farmers will not only have roads but all the benefits of development and civilization. . . . A speedy flow of investments and services will begin toward eastern and southeastern Anatolia. . . accelerating the development of not only this region of Turkey but the entirety of Turkey and the Middle East."

At the same time, Turkey's Interior Minister has announced that stricter border control measures have been put into effect to prevent the free movement of Kurdish insurgents into and out of Turkey, Iraq, Iran, and Syria. Ecevit has also announced his intentions to uncover who and what is behind terrorism in Turkey.

There are also signs that the government, bolstered by the economic accords signed with the Soviets, may be stiffening its resistance to the International Monetary Fund. Two weeks before the arrival in Turkey of an IMF mission to ensure Turkish austerity in accordance with a letter of intent signed last spring, Bilsay Kuruç, a high level official from Turkey's State Planning Organization, charged that the notion of cutting Turkey's high growth rate — one of the long-standing demands of the IMF — is outrageous.

"Turkey's development," stated Kuruç in an interview in the Turkish weekly *Yanki*, "has come to such a point that it is inconceivable to think of slowing or stopping this momentum. The utilization of our full resources and manpower will expand this development in proportions impossible to foresee today."

Soviets Recall Common Past

The Soviets are keenly aware of the need to reinforce and guide Turkey's prodevelopment initiatives toward the Grand Design, particularly in light of the current antigovernment outbreak inside Turkey. Speaking in Minsk late last month, Soviet President Brezhnev praised Ecevit's visit to Moscow as a major contribution to international peace.

Brezhnev invoked the common heritage and historical precedent for Turkish-Soviet cooperation by noting that the Soviet-Turkish political and economic pacts "constitute an important leap in the expansion of

relations consolidated by Lenin and Atatürk." Atatürk, the founder of the Turkish Republic, defied the British by wresting the shards of the Ottoman Empire from colonial control and transforming the country into a modern republic.

Similarly, the Shah of Iran, picking up on Ecevit's overtures for regional cooperation, gave an address last week lauding the common efforts of Atatürk and Reza Shah, the current Shah's father, to eradicate poverty and backwardness in their respective countries via education and culture. Both Atatürk and Reza Shah, said the Iranian leader, "very well knew that no nation, without achieving a high level of education, can achieve the necessary level of development."

—Nancy Parsons

Cypriot President: Get British Bases Off Cyprus

During Ecevit's stay in Moscow, the Soviets tried to effect a breakthrough in the Cyprus deadlock by urging Ecevit to meet with Cypriot President Kyprianou. Ecevit has so far been prevented from settling the Cyprus question by the hard-line, pro-Türkes factions in the Turkish military.

Over the past several weeks, some breaks in the situation are beginning to appear, however. Following talks last week in Ankara between Greek and Turkish foreign ministry officials, the Turkish daily *Milliyet* reported that the Greeks "appear prepared to undertake

Ecevit Proposes Joint Development Of Eastern Turkey

The following are excerpts from a June 18 speech given by Turkish Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit in the border town of Hakkari in the southeastern corner of Turkey to announce a regional development project. The project, whose initial focus will be road-building, is designed to uplift, as rapidly as possible, the backward population living in that area, and in so doing, free the region from continued manipulation of tribal warfare by British-tainted intelligence networks intent on preventing Turkish integration into European Grand Design planning.

Giving priority to the underdeveloped regions does not mean discriminating (against the rest of Turkey), but on the contrary it means erasing the already existing discrimination. . . .

With the implementation of the highway project, the peasants will not only have roads but all the benefits of development and civilization.

The highway itself is not the ultimate goal of this project but a primary vehicle of development. Through the roads that are being inaugurated today a

speedy flow of investments and services will begin toward eastern and southeastern Anatolia. . . .

There are vast marketing potentials for the products of the region just on the other side of the borders. Utilization of these potentials and the establishment of productive economic cooperation with the neighboring countries will speed up not only the development of this region of Turkey but the whole of Turkey and the Middle East.

Today I have experienced the happiness of speaking in this city which has borders with two neighboring and friendly nations, Iran and Iraq.

This administration believes in the necessity for the developing countries multilateral regional cooperation for the establishment of a just world economic order and for reducing the imbalance between the developed and developing countries.

There is an open possibility for launching the foundations of just such cooperation with Iran and Iraq, both our friends and neighbors.

These potentials have not been utilized up until now. Our government is ready to take every step in order to make up for this loss and delay.