

tion is in Turkey. Discussions seem to be at a stalemate with Turkey pushing on border security matters, and Syria demanding more water and a greater say over the flow of the Euphrates River.

A Turkish government delegation headed by the prime minister recently visited Iraq to discuss the issues of economic cooperation, across-the-border operations versus Kurds, and water. An agreement was reached whereby Turkey will give two credit packages of \$40 million each to Iraq, help reconstruct some factories, and provide technical training for Iraqi personnel. But Turkey has rejected Iraqi demands to increase the supply of water being released from newly constructed giant dams. As opposed to Iraqi and Syrian arguments that the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers are international waterways like the Danube in Europe, the Turkish government holds that they are Turkey's territorial waterways and that Turkey is the sole decision-maker as to how they are to be utilized. In response, Iraq refused to renew the cross-border operations agreement which expired in 1989. With its oil pipelines and water sources within Turkish boundaries, Iraq is obviously at a greater disadvantage in this bargain.

At this juncture, with Turkey aspiring to play a more active role in the Middle East and in line with its national interests, Turkey would not risk breaking relations with the Arab countries. However, with the strategic control it has over vital water sources, Turkey will have a considerable leverage for pressuring Iraq and Syria. A more active military role for Turkey implies the use of the close to 30 US military facilities in Turkey for direct intervention in Middle Eastern affairs in compliance with the old-new NATO approach to the scope of its activities. These bases, which were directly used by the US in its 1958 invasion of Lebanon, and in connection with Black September 1970 in Jordan, are now allegedly used solely for NATO purposes. There is also a discussion of replacing the older Turkish weapon systems with weapons to be removed from Europe, in keeping with the new disarmament treaties. The Turkish regime's claims that its southern

neighbors have become hotbeds of hostile activities against it ominously complement the NATO attempt to expand its sphere of involvement. This was shown when Turkey took the matter of the intifada in Kurdistan to NATO, as a foreign threat against Turkish territory; NATO and the US expressed deep concern over the developments. It is clear that an aggressive reactionary Israeli-Turkish axis is in the making discreetly, though it will need the participation of an Arab state to become an overt force in the Middle Eastern arena.

Broader implications of the revolutionary upsurge

Turkish and Kurdish revolutionaries are proceeding against the tide in view of the retreat of socialism in the international arena. The general strengthening of world reaction and imperialism certainly has adverse effects on the struggle of the peoples of Turkey and Kurdistan. It is a fact that Turkey and the Middle East, like Latin America, are not among those areas where tension will be reduced.

Especially with the new mission given to Turkey with NATO shifting its emphasis from Europe to the Middle East, the revolutionary developments in Turkey and Kurdistan are of great importance for the oppressed peoples of the Middle East.

Turkey is a country with a relatively developed capitalist structure, class struggle and working class, and a strategic bastion of the imperialist system in the region. Thus, the advance of the revolutionary struggle in Turkey and Kurdistan would affect the balance of forces in the Middle Eastern arena in favor of the forces of national and social emancipation. Such a change has the potential to throw the imperialist system into a turmoil. It could activate dynamics that would give a new impetus to the world revolutionary process. The fascist Turkish regime and imperialism are aware of the broad potentials of the revolutionary upsurge in Turkey. While engaging in new massacres and terror to block the progress of this struggle, they are censoring all related news, while highlighting some so-called democratic practices to mislead world public opinion.

The Palestinian intifada has found its echo in Kurdistan. Castro's cry of «Socialism or Death» has found its echo in the struggle of the Turkish and Kurdish revolutionaries swimming against the tide in spite of all setbacks. The revolutionary struggles of our region have compiled a wealth of experiences that should be shared by all. There has always been mutual interaction between revolutionary struggles in various parts of the region. Now, in the face of the coming imperialist attack, consolidation of such cooperation and solidarity is a must.

To conclude this article, we will quote part of a call addressed to the progressive international public opinion by the Turkish and Kurdish organizations constituting the Revolutionary Unity Platform:

«Just as the peoples of Turkey and Kurdistan were pulling themselves out of the swamp of the fascist September 12th junta, they are being forced back into the abyss of a new «Decree of Silence.» The rights and positions won by revolutionary forces through struggle are now being wiped out by the all-out attacks of the fascist regime in the form of special warfare. The ruling classes consider this to be a question of «to be or not to be» and have launched an all-out attack against even the smallest crumbs of freedom... Our peoples will take action in self-defence in the face of these brazen violations of their right to live in Turkey and Kurdistan. The brutal methods employed by the ruling classes motivate our peoples to engage in broad armed resistance... Today there is a stark human problem in Turkey and Kurdistan. This deserves the attention of all progressive humanity and requires a sensitive approach on their part. No demagogy can conceal the fact that the initiators and propagators of terror are not the revolutionary forces. On the contrary, these forces are acting in righteous self-defence in the face of state-sponsored massacres and attacks directed against themselves and our toiling peoples. There can be nothing more natural and more necessary than the resistance of our people by all means against this period of inquisition. This is the duty of those who claim to be modern and democratic people. We call on progressive humanity to shoulder its responsibilities.»