

# Hollinger Corp. destabilizes Turkey

by Joseph Brewda

The same British Hollinger Corp. that is running "Whitewatergate" against the U.S. presidency, and which triggered the Hebron massacre in order to destroy the Israeli-Palestinian accords, has now thrown Turkey into chaos.

On March 27, the Islamic fundamentalist Refah (Welfare) party won a number of municipal elections throughout Turkey, most spectacularly in Istanbul, its largest city, and Ankara, its capital. Campaigning on a populist "just order" platform, the party won 28 of the country's 76 municipalities, and 18% of the popular vote, twice what it won in local multi-party elections in 1989. Immediately following the election, Refah party chairman Necmettin Erbakan declared that "we have flattened all other parties," and claimed that the elections show that the people want his party to rule. The party currently has 45 seats in the 450-person parliament; if the support for Refah on the municipal level were repeated on the national level, it would take 100 seats.

Fraught with dire international implications, the elections may ultimately trigger a military coup in this NATO member-state, under the pretext of countering the fundamentalist threat; it will also heighten already serious tensions with Iran, which, like Saudi Arabia, is among the party's covert funders. At the same time, Turkish ambitions toward former Soviet Central Asia point toward conflict with a Russia which has no intention of letting that region slip under the influence of a revived Turkish-based "pan-Islamic" or "pan-Turkic" movement. The revival of such movements also tends toward sparking renewed conflict with Greece, and increases the likelihood that Turkey will be lured into the growing British-run Balkan war, especially as that war is being falsely portrayed as a Serbian and Greek Orthodox war against Muslims.

The election is no "sociological phenomenon," but rather is a result of British manipulation of the region. Hollinger Corp. International Advisory Board chairman Margaret Thatcher, formerly Britain's prime minister, and Hollinger's Richard Perle, formerly of the U.S. Defense Department, are the case-officers for the destabilization, which also draws on traditional British control over the Kurdish separatist, Islamic fundamentalist, and pan-Turkic movements.

## How it happened

The primary basis for the Refah party victory was the ruthless privatization and austerity policies of Prime Minister

Tansu Ciller, which have spread increasing misery among the population. Ciller had been installed in office in June 1993, upon the demand of Margaret Thatcher, whose influence over the Turkish elite, in part mediated through her influence in Washington, remains paramount.

Typifying her intentionally brazen confrontational approach, Ciller announced a new draconian economic "stability package" on election day, of all days. Its main elements include: price hikes for products of the public sector, especially for fuel and basic products; closing down several deficit-ridden public enterprises with the consequent layoff of some 40,000 workers; and making the Turkish central bank autonomous of government control, on the model of the U.S. Federal Reserve. Ciller has also called for selling off the state's utility companies to raise \$20 billion.

Since January 1994, the Turkish lira has depreciated 60%, while the Turkish stock market has plunged 52% in value. Foreign debt now stands at \$64 billion, with debt service draining an ever-larger section of the budget. In 1993, Turkey's budget deficit was \$4.8 billion, three times more than the previous year; this year's budget projects a deficit of \$6.8 billion.

But having used Ciller to wreck the economy, Britain is now discarding her as a spent instrument. One week prior to the election, Standard & Poor's officially downgraded Turkey's long-term debt from BB to a spectacular BBB-minus, in a transparent effort to undermine her regime. American and British investment bankers are now advising their clients to pull out of the Turkish market as a result of the Refah party victory, ensuring financial panic, and guaranteeing increased support for the Refah party.

## Why it happened

There are several reasons why Britain has pulled the plug on Turkey at this time.

One reason has been to further the new round of destabilization of the region begun by the Feb. 25 Hebron massacre, which is intended to overload the embattled Clinton administration with another foreign policy crisis, while also driving American influence out of the region. The Hebron massacre was orchestrated in part by the Hollinger Corp.'s *Jerusalem Post*, which has patronized the Brooklyn-based Jewish fundamentalist terrorists who are protected and deployed by such figures as Hollinger board members Richard Perle and Henry Kissinger. Perle, an important influence in Turkey, and his associate, the former ambassador to Ankara Morton Abramowitz, are now reportedly trying to lure the Turkish military into launching a suicidal coup as a supposed solution to the fundamentalist threat. We see what that led to in Algeria.

Another reason for the destabilization is to eliminate Turkey as a potential economic and political factor in former Soviet Central Asia, particularly given its historic ties to Germany.

As both the Hollinger Corp.'s *London Daily Telegraph*



*Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller meets President Clinton in Washington, Oct. 15, 1993. Installed by the grace of Britain's Margaret Thatcher, Ciller has implemented a vicious austerity program, and is now considered dispensable by the British oligarchy.*

and Thatcher's memoirs have made clear, Britain has been dedicated to blocking German economic development of the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe. International Monetary Fund policies imposed on eastern Europe are meant to block German penetration there, while also ensuring that that savagely looted region eventually falls back under the Russian grip. Similarly, economic and now political turmoil in Turkey have reduced Turkey's potentially positive economic and political influence in former Soviet Central Asia to almost zero. That, and the ongoing British-manipulated Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict which checks Turkish penetration eastward, means that Central Asia must also fall back under Russian control.

For similar reasons, Britain has orchestrated a dramatic weakening of Turkish-German ties, sparking Turkish-Kurdish and German-Turkish violence within Germany. Germany is the residence of nearly 2 million Turkish citizens, many of whom are ethnically Kurdish. The British-run Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), which is leading an insurrection in southeast Turkey, is based in Germany, as is Erbakan's Refah party. Despite being banned by the German government last year, the PKK still funnels large amounts of money into Turkey, with the support of elements of the German establishment who have repeatedly denounced Turkey for its efforts to repress that insurrection. The arson-murders of

several Turkish workers by the British-run "skinheads" over the last two years, combined with Richard Perle's orchestration of Turkish media attacks on the German government for harboring "Nazi" tendencies, have undermined Turkish-German relations at precisely the point such relations could have been used to stabilize the Balkans and Central Asia.

Yet another factor in motivating the destabilization is that Britain has an old historical score to settle with Turkey.

The victory of Gen. Mustafa Kemal Ataturk over the combined forces of Britain and France in the aftermath of World War I largely prevented the imposition of the Versailles system in that region, and made the successful economic development of the newly founded Turkish Republic possible. Ataturk's ruthless modernization program, based on appropriating the best of western culture, not only made Turkey into a stable regional power. It also served as a model for such Third World leaders as Shah Reza Pahlavi of Iran, Jawaharlal Nehru of India, and Gamal Nasser of Egypt, among others. Although the Ataturk tradition has been greatly undermined within Turkey since 1950, the continuing threat that elements of the Turkish elite and their European counterparts might ally around regional economic development policies has not been eliminated. Erbakan, like the Ayatollah Khomeini, is Britain's revenge.