

ACTIVIES OF THE CENTER FOR STRATEGIC RESEARCH

May 1996 - June 1997

Last year in June 1996 we invited Danish Ombudsman Hans Gammeltof-Hansen to visit Turkey. The Centre for Strategic Research (SAM) organised conferences for him in Ankara and Istanbul where he shared his knowledge and thoughts with MPs, academics, journalists and bureaucrats on the Ombudsman System, which we do not yet have in Turkey.

In October 1996, the Centre organised a conference for Sir Alan Walters, who had served as personal economic adviser to Lady Thatcher during the early years of her government and who is currently Vice-Chairman of the AIG-Trading Inc. In his conference, Sir Alan shared his experiences with a large number of Turkish bureaucrats and non-governmental participants, on deregulation, tax reform and privatisation.

Again in October, a round-table meeting was held at SAM with the Middle East Institute of Washington. Turkish academics had discussions with Ambassador Roscoe Suddarth (President) and Ambassador Richard Murphy (Board Member) of the Institute, concerning U.S's policies towards the Middle East.

Starting from October 1996, SAM organised a series of conferences, seminars and workshops on Turkey's relations with the EU. This started with a conference entitled "IGC and Custom Union" with Prof. Dr. Josef Janning from Munich University. The conference was jointly organised by SAM and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in October. The results were reflected in a Turkish language publication of that Foundation and consequently in English in "SAM Papers No 4", which can be obtained from us upon request.

On 6-7 January 1997, the Centre organised jointly with the Institute for the European Studies of the University of Geneva and with the International Relations Department of Gazi University, Ankara, a conference on "Turkish-EU Relationship in the Post-Cold War Era". In addition to scholars from Geneva University and Turkish universities, experts from IISS, CERI and NATO participated in the conference. After the keynote speech by Ambassador Onur Öymen, Undersecretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, participants elaborated on economic, political and security problems between EU and Turkey and discussed the Customs Union Agreement. The seminar document was published as "SAM Papers No 4", which can be obtained from us upon request.

In March 1997, Donald B. Kursch, Deputy Chief of Mission United States to the European Union spoke on "U.S Towards Turkey and EU". Again in March Prof. Dr. Ulrich Karpen from Hamburg University, also a member of the State Parliament of Hamburg, joined as speaker in a series of conferences organised by the Centre on "EU-Turkey Relationship", in Istanbul and Ankara.

In April 1997, a conference was arranged at SAM with Ambassador Guillermo Kirkpatrick, Permanent Representative of Spain to the European Council, on "Enlargement of NATO and EU".

In May 1997, Ambassador Yaman Baskut, adviser at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, gave a conference on "Central and Eastern European Countries and Turkey in the EU's Enlargement Process" at SAM.

In June 1997, the Centre organised a seminar on "Integration Process within a changing European Architecture" in Antalya. The seminar was a joint initiative of Turkey and Poland. Representatives, observers and academics from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Romania, Latvia, Lithuanian, Poland and Turkey participated in the seminar. Under the CO-chairmanship of Ambassador Onur Öymen, Undersecretary of the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Jan Borkowski, Polish Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, participants exchanged views in an informal setting on integration processes with EU and NATO in a changing European architecture.

Again in June, SAM jointly organised with the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) a workshop in Ankara entitled "Turkey and the West: Relations after the NATO and EU Summits". In

addition to Turkish scholars, academics and experts from IISS, RAND Co-operation, NATO, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP), John Hopkins University, Keele University and St. Anthony's College of Oxford University participated in the workshop. Turkey's Foreign Policy, Turkey-U.S Relations, Turkey and the EU after the 1996-1997 IGC and Turkish contribution to security and NATO enlargement were discussed. The document of the workshop will be published shortly as "SAM Papers No 5".

Other conferences that took place at SAM are as follows:

1. Conferences on "Oil and Energy Resources", March 1996, and "Trans-Boundary Waters", June 1996, by Ambassador Temel _skit, Deputy-Undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey. The texts of these can be made available upon request.
2. Conference on "Preventive Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution" by Mr. Jack Maresca, now an independent consultant and writer, Senior Adviser to the Open Media Research Institute (OMRI). (September 1996)
3. Conference on "Israel in the Middle East Peace Process" by Ambassador Uri Gordon, Israel. (October 1996)
4. Conference on "European Security and NATO Enlargement" by Dr. Bo Hult, Director of International Relations Institute and President of the Defence College of Sweden. (May 1997)
5. Conference on "Science and Technology Policies in the World and Turkey's Agenda" by Dr. Cemil Ar_kan, Deputy President of the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TÜB_TAK). (May 1997)
6. Conference on "The Political Economy of Syria's Regional Policy" by Dr. Volker Perthes, Research fellow (currently speaker of the Middle East section) at the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Ebenhausen, Germany. (June 1997)
7. Conference on "The Eastern Mediterranean as a Major World Logistic Hub" by Dr. Josef Vardi, the Principal of International Technologies Ventures and a long time peace negotiator. (June 1997)

SAM has also organised briefings on Turkish Foreign Policy issues for European Association of Turkish Academics (EATA) in August 1996, for Centre des Hautes Études Militaires (CHEAM), France, and L'Institut des Hautes Études de Défense Nationale (IHEDN), France, in April 1997.

SAM has, for the first time, organised a "Conflict resolution workshop/training session," jointly with the Bilkent University in Ankara, where representatives from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Russia and Turkey have participated together with American experts from George Mason University's Conflict Resolution Centre (Director Dr. Kevin Clements) and from Tufts University (Dr. Eileen Babbitt), in June.
