

TURKEY. — National Assembly Elections. — Party Victory. — New Government formed by Demirel.

General elections were held in Turkey on Oct. 12 in which the Justice Party led by the Prime Minister, Mr. Süleyman Demirel, was returned with an increased overall majority. Final results are announced by the High Electoral Council were as follows showing comparison with the 1965 figures :

	1969		1965	
	Seats	Votes	Seats	Votes
Justice Party	256	4,229,712	240	4,908,125
Republican People's Party	143	2,487,006	134	2,675,808
Reliance Party	15	597,818	—	—
Nation Party	8	254,695	—	—
Turkey Party	6	197,929	19	346,514
Labour Party	6	292,961	31	582,710
National Action Party	2	243,631	15	276,101
Independents	1	275,091	11	208,696
Total	13	511,023	—	296,528

Demirel was elected in May 1967 by 33 dissident former deputies of the Republican People's Party—see 22115 A.

Demirel was elected in October 1966.

Party called Republican Peasants' Nation Party—see 20914 B.

At the time of the dissolution of the Assembly elected in 1965 the distribution of seats was as follows : Justice Party 260, Republican People's Party 95, Reliance Party 33, Nation Party 12, Turkish Labour Party 14, New Turkey Party 15, National Action Party 6, Turkey Party 1, Independents 12, vacant 2. The changes were due to the split in the Republican People's Party (see above) and (b) that 25 deputies of the Nation Party, the Turkey Party, and the National Action Party had either rejoined the Justice Party or formed a group of Independents.

The above figures for some of the parties.

Of the electorate of 14,788,552, only 64.35 per cent went to the polls, compared with 71.3 per cent of the electorate of 10,154 in 1965. Of the 9,516,035 votes cast, 429,739 were invalid; in 1965 the invalid votes amounted to 441,115 out of a total vote of 9,748,678.

As a result of the considerable abstention rate, the elections were marked by a growing polarization of the vote between the two leading parties, while all the smaller parties, except the Nation Party, suffered heavily through the new electoral system under which the elections were fought. The Electoral Reform Bill approved by the National Assembly in March 1968 had limited the allocation of a fixed number of seats to national parties and had introduced a general system of straight proportional representation, the electorate in each province being divided into party lists and the number of deputies elected from each list being decided by simple majorities. The smaller parties which could not count on concentrated local support found it difficult to return a deputy were therefore at a disadvantage as there was no longer any pooling of locally "wasted" votes on a national basis, with the possibility of winning seats from national lists.

The Justice Party, though obtaining nearly 700,000 votes less than in 1965 and only 46.53 per cent of the total poll against 52.9 per cent in the previous elections, nevertheless increased its number of seats from 240 to 256 and nearly reached the total it had held at the time of the dissolution of the old Assembly.

The Republican People's Party headed by Mr. İnönü, the veteran statesman and former Prime Minister, which had campaigned for a moderate policy in home affairs and a less Western-orientated foreign policy, received nearly 200,000 votes less than in 1965; its share of the vote, however, only dropped from 28.7 to 27.36 and it was able to make up the reduction in strength it had suffered in the previous election through the formation of the Reliance Party, by winning more seats than in 1965 and 48 more than at the time of the dissolution.

The Reliance Party, with a poll of 6.6 per cent, had its representation in the new Assembly compared with the old Assembly.

The Nation Party lost half its voting strength compared with the previous elections, with its polling percentage down from 6.3 to 3.2, and the number of its seats fell to one fifth of its strength in 1965 at the time of the dissolution.

The Turkish Labour Party on the extreme left lost over 30,000 votes and its polling percentage was reduced from 3 to 2.7, and lost 13 seats compared with 1965 and 12 against the total it held at the time of the dissolution.

The neo-Fascist National Action Party, though actually polling more votes than in 1965 and increasing its percentage from 12 to 13.5, only secured one seat, compared with 11 in 1965 at the time of the dissolution, while the ultra-conservative New Turkey Party, which polled 143,000 votes less and dropped from 3.7 to 2.8 per cent of the total, had its representation cut from 19 in 1965 to 6 at the time of the dissolution to six.

2.8, was able, because of more concentrated representation from one at the time of dissolution to eight. The Independents likewise achieved a surprise success, obtaining about 215,000 more votes than in 1965 and raising their polling percentage from 3.2 to 5.62, with the number of seats up from 12 to 13. One of the most prominent Independents elected was Professor Necmettin Erbakan, a right-wing extremist who had left the Justice Party and who was returned at Konya.

Subsequently one of the Independents joined the Justice Party and another the Republican People's Party, increasing the overall strength of the former to 257 and of the latter to 144 and reducing the number of the group of Independents to 11.

The newly elected National Assembly met for the first time on Oct. 22 and re-elected Mr. Ferruh Bozbeyli, the Justice Party deputy for Istanbul, as its President; Mr. Bozbeyli (42), who had first been elected President of the Assembly in 1965, received 340 of the 401 votes cast.

Mr. Demirel submitted his Government's resignation to President Sunay on Oct. 22 but was asked by the President to form a new Government. He succeeded in doing so on Nov. 3, when the membership of his new Cabinet was announced as follows :

- *Mr. Süleyman Demirel . . . Prime Minister.
- Mr. Gürhan Titrek . . .
- *Mr. Hüsamettin Atabeyli . . . Ministers of State.
- Mr. Turhan Bilgin . . .
- Mr. Refet Sezgin . . .
- Mr. Yusuf Ziya Önder . . . Justice.
- *Mr. Ahmet Topaloglu . . . National Defence.
- Mr. Haldun Menteseoğlu . . . Interior.
- *Mr. İhsan Sabri Çağlayangil . . . Foreign Affairs.
- Mr. Mesut Erez . . . Finance.
- Professor Orhan Oguz . . . Education.
- Mr. Turgut Gülez . . . Public Works.
- Mr. Ahmet Dalli . . . Commerce.
- *Mr. Vedat Ali Özkan . . . Health and Social Welfare.
- Mr. Ahmet İhsan Birincioglu . . . Customs and Monopolies.
- Mr. İlhami Ertem . . . Agriculture.
- Mr. Nahit Mentese . . . Communications.
- Mr. Seyfi Öztürk . . . Labour.
- Mr. Selâhattin Kiliç . . . Industry.
- Mr. Sabit Osman Avcı . . . Power and Natural Resources.
- Mr. Necmettin Cevheri . . . Tourism.
- Mr. Hayrettin Nakiboglu . . . Reconstruction and Housing.
- Mr. Turhan Kapanlı . . . Rural Affairs.
- Mr. Hüseyin Özalp . . . Forestry.
- Mr. İsmet Sezgin . . . Youth and Sports.

*No change.

Mr. Bilgin was specifically placed in charge of the Press and Information and Mr. Atabeyli remained in charge of Religious Affairs.

The new Cabinet was drawn exclusively from Mr. Demirel's liberal wing of the party, the right wing, which had hitherto been represented by eight Ministers, being excluded. In addition to the four Ministers who retained their posts, eight members of the previous Government changed their portfolios, including Mr. İlhami Ertem (formerly Education), Mr. Seyfi Öztürk (formerly a Minister of State), Mr. Refet Sezgin (formerly Power and Natural Resources), and Mr. Haldun Menteseoğlu (formerly Housing and Reconstruction).

The new Cabinet received a vote of confidence in the National Assembly on Nov. 12 by 263 votes to 165.—(Turkish Embassy Press Department - Le Monde - Neue Zürcher Zeitung) (Prev. rep. Elections, 21464 C ; 21037 A ; Cabinet, 22021 A.)

B. BOTSWANA. — General Elections. — New Cabinet.

General elections, the holding of which had been announced by the President, Sir Seretse Khama, on Aug. 29, took place on Oct. 18 and resulted in a victory for the ruling Botswana Democratic Party, although with a reduced majority.

The following parties contested the elections.

The Botswana Democratic Party led by Sir Seretse Khama based its election programme on its record since Independence and in particular its policy of coexistence with South Africa despite fundamental differences.

Sir Seretse Khama had defined his policy in his address to the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 24 in these words : " A prosperous non-racial democracy in Botswana, immediately adjacent to South Africa and Namibia (South West Africa), will add to the problems South

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of "privileges and monopolies"; (7) democratization of education and access to culture; (8) respect for the opinion of youth; (9) a study of the causes of emigration from Portugal; (10) promotion of the social status of women; (11) freedom of organization and action for unions; (12) a full study of the problems of housing, agriculture, and small industry; (13) a free debate on the anti-guerrilla wars in Portugal's African territories; (14) the political organization of democrats for national representation.

Two smaller Opposition groups had previously stated their views in public in January 1969.

A group of Liberal Catholics in January 1969 called for complete opposition to the principles of Dr. Salazar's State which, they stated, Dr. Caetano was perpetuating. At a church sit-in in Lisbon they proclaimed that the central issue in Portuguese politics was the war in Africa, and said that liberal reforms at home would not come unless agreement was reached with the African nationalist rebels.

Forty-four prominent opponents of the regime, including professors, students, writers, journalists, and other professional people created late in January 1969 a commission for the encouragement of an "enlightened civic conscience." Promising co-operation with Dr. Caetano to ensure that "for the first time in years the forthcoming elections should be an authentic consultation so that the nation might freely and conscientiously choose their representatives," they asked that their manifesto should be published and that they should be allowed freely to use all means of communication for their civic campaign.

The Election Campaign and Results.

The election was eventually contested by Opposition candidates in 17 of the 18 metropolitan districts (including the Azores and Madeira), some of these candidates even opposing each other. As stated above, the principal Opposition groups were organized in two electoral commissions, as follows:

(a) The Democratic Electoral Commission (CDE) representing Socialists, progressive Catholics, and Republicans, and led by Professor Francisco Pereira de Moura (a liberal Catholic)—generally regarded as a left-wing group.

(b) The United Democratic Electoral Commission (CEUD), consisting of Social Democrats, Lisbon Monarchists, and some ultra-Conservatives from Braga, and led by Dr. Soares.

A liberal group calling itself "Democratic and Social Action" declared on Sept. 27 that it would not take part in the elections, and the poll was also boycotted by the Royalist followers of Dom Duarte Nuno Bragança (who had been permitted to organize as a political party), and by the extreme left, including the banned Communist Party.

Of the candidates whose names the Opposition submitted to the Government for approval, five (two in Braga and one each in Lisbon, Leiria and Santarém) were rejected on the ground that their views were "contrary to the established order," while seven others nominated in Mozambique by militant and socialist groups were declared ineligible because they could not prove that they were Portuguese citizens.

The election campaign was marked by violence against some of the Opposition groups, offices, candidates, and party workers. The CDE headquarters in Lisbon were sacked on Oct. 16 by 60 men believed to be members of the para-military Portuguese Legion. Senhor Urbano Tavares Rodrigues, a writer and Opposition candidate, was assaulted in Béja by 12 men, two of whom he alleged were members of the secret police.

On Oct. 23 a delegation from the Socialist International, led by Herr Jannischek (Austria), with members from Britain, Ireland, Sweden, Italy, and Austria, which had come to observe the elections, were expelled because a critical statement which they had issued was held to be "intolerable interference."

The results of the elections, officially announced on Oct. 28, showed that the *União Nacional* had obtained 980,000 votes (88 per cent of those cast) and had won all 130 seats, whilst the Opposition received 134,046 votes (12 per cent) without winning any seats.

Of 1,809,780 registered voters in metropolitan Portugal, 1,114,846 went to the polls—i.e. 38.4 per cent abstained. The percentage poll of the *União Nacional* varied from 98 in Vila Real and 95 in Braga to less than 40 in working-class suburbs in Lisbon.

Provisional figures, given on Oct. 27, revealed that in metropolitan Portugal alone the *União Nacional* obtained 707,855 votes and the Opposition groups 91,640 votes, details for Lisbon being: *União Nacional* 72,934; CDE 18,599; CEUD 6,523; and Monarchists 1,672. In the Azores and Madeira only 69,450 registered voters (out of a total of 116,654) went to the polls, with the *União Nacional* obtaining 64,241 votes and the Opposition 5,105 votes. Two Opposition candidates who obtained over 20 per cent of the votes, in Setúbal and the Azores, had their expenses reimbursed, as provided for in the electoral law [see above].

Dr. Melo e Castro said after the elections that the vote was in favour of "a policy of evolution, which will put into effect the reforms which the Government desires." The Opposition said that the widespread abstentions were largely due to fear of disbelief in the Government's sincerity in holding the vote, and the expense and complications of having registration assigned by a notary for all those who were not civil servants or members of the armed forces.

Dr. Soares said that the result showed that it was not possible to fight electorally with success against a one-party regime.

The Ministry of the Interior announced on Nov. 8 that the Opposition "commissions," which had been permitted to exist for the purposes of the election, were no longer legal and should be disbanded. The Ministry noted that, although the commissions should have ceased to function once the votes had been counted, some party offices had not closed down but had continued to engage in political activities; civil authorities and police and security forces had therefore been ordered to see that this was enforced.

Commenting on this statement, D. José Manuel Galvão, a lawyer who had been a CDE candidate in Lisbon, said: "The commission has been disbanded, but the movement continues. Despite the Government ban, the two principal Opposition groups met on Nov. 9 to decide on joint action directed at securing the right to constitute political parties and to ensure the continuation of a democratic Opposition. At a meeting early in December they decided to create a democratic Opposition movement."

Opening of New National Assembly.

President Tomás, opening the first session of the new National Assembly on Dec. 1, declared that there could be no talk of any revision of the Constitution. He defended Portuguese policy in Africa and emphasized that its object was not domination, but the forging of "ever closer links which unite the Portuguese of various races who compose the national community." Referring to Portugal's stabilizing influence in Africa, he denied that she was being militarily assisted by NATO.

Dr. Franco Nogueira, replying on behalf of the Assembly, said: "It would be absurd if we Portuguese, who have at our disposal an extensive economic space favoured by solid institutions, were to destroy the one and break the other, abandoning a creation where we have everything, in order to integrate ourselves in something else which is dominated by others and where we should be nothing."

Transfer of Functions of Secret Police.

On Nov. 18 the functions of the *Policia Internacional e Defesa do Estado* (PIDE), the secret police, were taken over by a new Directorate-General of Security at the Ministry of the Interior, headed by Major Silva Pais.—(Le Monde - New Zürcher Zeitung - Times - Daily Telegraph - Guardian - Financial Times - Economist - New York Times - Cape Times) (Pres. rep. 22959 A.)

A. CONGO (Brazzaville). — Abortive Anti-Government Plot. — Alleged Plotters sentenced by Military Court. — Deterioration of Relations with Congo (Kinshasa). — Earlier Political Trials. — Plan for New Constitution. — Nationalization of Railway and Harbours.

President Nguabi announced on Nov. 8 that the Army had the previous night foiled an attempt to overthrow his Government, and that the conspirators had been led by M. Bernard Kolela (a party secretary under the Youlou regime, who had been sentenced to death *in absentia* on June 22, 1965, reprieved in July 1968, and been made an official in the Foreign Ministry) and one M. Batsimba (an agriculture official), who had escaped. M. Kolela and some 40 other persons had been arrested. The President added, and enough arms and ammunition seized to equip a battalion.

At a mass meeting on Nov. 9 which demanded the hanging of the conspirators, President Nguabi declared that the "people's verdict" would be carried out. He asserted that the weapons found were American-made and had been brought across the river Congo from the Congo-Kinshasa, adding: "We cannot understand why our brothers in Kinshasa, who wish to form one people, should want to assassinate us." Major Raoul, the Prime Minister, said on the same day in Paris, on his way for an official visit to Rumania, that the attempted coup had been aimed at a counter-revolution, which would not be allowed to succeed.

Immediately after the President's announcement the National Revolutionary Council (C.N.R.) decided to set up a special court as well as a military court to deal with "attacks on the revolution" and also to establish "vigilance brigades,"