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Class. CHANGED TO: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

Auth: DDA 28/7/83

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Date: 21 MAR 1946

COUNTRY Turkey

DATE: 25X1X6

INFO. [Redacted]

SUBJECT Controversy Concerning League for the Rights of Man

DIST. 11 December 1946

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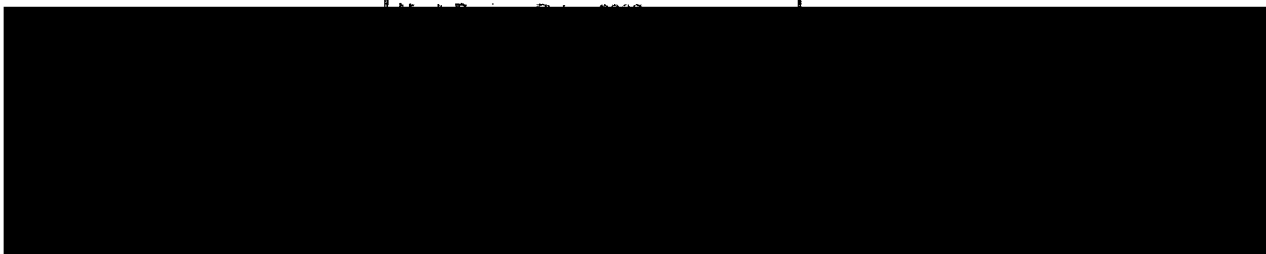
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SUPPLEMENT SO-1578

ORIGIN [Redacted]

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1. It is now believed that pressure is being exerted on Celal Bayar by members of the Democratic Party to issue a statement dissociating himself from the League for the Rights of Man.* At the same time, students of the Istanbul University have appealed to Marshal Fevzi Çakmak to withdraw completely from the League. It is common knowledge that the Marshal has always been anxious to retain the good will of the Turkish youth by whom he was enthusiastically acclaimed during his campaign as an Independent deputy, and he counts on their support in the realization of his political aspirations to be the next President of the Republic.
2. Strong efforts are at the same time being exerted to eliminate Dr. Tevfik Rıhtı Aras and the Messrs. Sertel and Baykurt, the liberal members of the League, as their membership is chiefly responsible for the development of the controversial issues. It is anticipated that with the elimination of these three men the prevailing tension will subside.
3. To illustrate this tension, the statements made by Dr. Aras at the reception held at the Iranian Embassy on 26 October may be of special interest. Aras pointed out that the founders of the association are determined to fight it out and combat all possible opposition, irrespective of its origin. He also claimed that Marshal Fevzi Çakmak had no intention of resigning, in spite of the pressure exerted by the student body. He mentioned having been offered the post of Secretary-General of the League which he has now agreed to accept. Aras stated also that Sertel and Baykurt would not be permitted to resign, since they were not regarded by the association as having leftist tendencies; that there was no intention of lending to the association the appearance of a political party; and that membership was open to everybody, the goal of the association being the realization of the Four Freedoms. He regretted that the exercise of these liberties did not as yet exist in Turkey.
4. Aras then expressed the opinion that, insofar as the country's foreign policy was concerned, the association would be entirely neutral, but he believed that Turkey should not follow either a pro-British or a pro-Russian policy.
5. Speaking about his own plans, Aras intimated that he now felt that the moment had come for him again to take an active part in politics, and that he might resume his political career in the near future.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment: ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~, disseminated on 26 November 1946, sets forth in greater detail the present controversy between the students and Gakmak on the subject of the inclusion in the League of such men as Dr. Aras, Zekeriya Sertel, and Cami Baykurt.

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