

IRKF.Y

Date of Elections: 29 November 1987

Purpose of Elections

Elections were held for all the seats in Parliament following premature dissolution of this body one year before the end of its normal term. General elections had previously been held in November 1983.

Characteristics of Parliament

The unicameral Parliament of Turkey, the Grand National Assembly, comprises 450 members* elected for 5 years.

Electoral System

All Turkish citizens who reach the age of 20 years during the election year, except military students and persons serving their compulsory military service, are entitled to vote. Disqualified are the insane, prisoners and persons ineligible for or withdrawn from public service.

Electoral registers are revised every four years. Voting is compulsory, abstention being punishable by a fine of TL 12,500 (approximately US\$ 10).

Qualified electors who are at least 30 years old and have completed their primary education may be candidates for Parliament provided they have completed their compulsory military service (for men) and have not been convicted of certain crimes listed in the Constitution or sentenced to imprisonment of at least one year. Judges, prosecutors, members of high courts, university professors, members of the Higher Educational Council, certain public officials, civil servants and public employees, and members of the armed forces may not stand for election unless they resign from their posts.

Candidates may either be nominated by political parties or run as independents. They must be supported by a given number of electors (which varies according to the population of the constituency) and make a monetary deposit, which is reimbursed if they are unsuccessful.

For election purposes, Turkey is divided into 104 constituencies. In each, selection of Assembly members is according to a party-list proportional representation system and the d'Hondt method, with restricted options and a double barrier (at the local and national

* See section *Chronicle of Parliamentary Elections and Developments XXI* (1986-1987), p. 19.

level). A candidate from a political party can only be elected if the party has (a) completed its organization in at least half of the provinces and one-third of the districts within these provinces; (b) nominated two candidates for each parliamentary seat in at least half of the provinces; (c) obtained at least 10% of the valid votes cast nationwide; and (d) received, in the constituency in question, valid votes at least equal to the total number of valid votes cast divided by the number of Deputies to be elected in the constituency.

Subject to certain conditions and exceptions, by-elections are held to fill Assembly seats which become vacant between general elections.

Background and Outcome of the Elections

The general elections were held a year earlier than due on decision of the Grand National Assembly following the popular referendum of 6 September 1987, which lifted the ban on the political rights of former politicians imposed in 1982. The polling date was originally set for 1 November, but then moved back to 29 November on 17 October. The normal term of the Assembly would have lasted until 6 November 1988.

Among the six parties confronting the ruling Motherland Party (ANAP) of Prime Minister Turgut Ozal were mainly the centre-left Social Democratic Populist Party (SDHP), headed by Mr. Erdal Inonii, and the centre-right True Path Party (DYP) led by Mr. Suleyman Demirel. The participation of both Mr. Demirel and Mr. Biilent Ecevit, former Prime Ministers, was made possible by the above-mentioned referendum results. Debate during the 10-day campaign focused on the country's economy, specifically the question of its modernization. Mr. Ozal defended his overall record in this sector and advocated further free-market policies, including privatization of State industries. He also favoured Turkey's joining the European Community.

On polling day, the conservative ANAP took advantage of the divided opposition to sweep to victory with an even greater majority, capturing a total of 292 of the expanded Assembly's seats. SDHP and DYP were the only other parties winning the necessary 10% of the popular vote for obtaining parliamentary representation. Support for ANAP was also attributed to the voters' desire for continued political stability.

Prime Minister Ozal thus won a second five-year term and announced the composition of his Council of Ministers on 21 December.

Statistics

1. Results of the Elections and Distribution of Seats
in the Grand National Assembly

Number of registered electors.	26,376,926
Voters	24,603,541 (93.27%)
Blank or void ballot papers.	631,912
Valid votes.	23,971,679

Political Group	Number of Candidates	Votes obtained	<i>o</i>	Number of Seats	Number of Seats held prior to Dissolution	Number of Seats won at Previous Elections**
Motherland Party (ANAP)	450	8,704,335	36.31	292	250	211
Social Democratic Populist Party (SDHP)	450	5,931,000	24.74	99	54	
True Path Party (DYP)	450	4,587,062	19.14	59	45	
Democratic Left Party (DSP)	450	2,044,576	8.53	—	27	
Prosperity Party (RP)	450	1,717,425	7.16	—	—	
Nationalist Labour Party (MCP)	450	701,538	2.93	—	1	
Revolutionary Democracy Party (IDP)	450	196,272	0.82	—	—	
Independents	61	89,421	0.37		20	
				450	395	

* Plus five vacancies.

** The other two political parties, i.e. Populist Party and Nationalist Democracy Party, that won seats in the November 1983 elections were both dissolved and merged with other parties.

2. *Distribution of Deputies according to Profession*

Engineers.	94
Lawyers.	83
Public administrators.	69
Trade and private managers sector.	50
Members of local administrative bodies	35
University faculty.	31
Contractors.	30
Pharmacists.	19
Medical personnel.	17
Governors, administrators.	15
Architects.	12
Public officials.	12
Banking	10
Financial advisers and accountants.	9
Industrialists.	9
Trade unionists.	9
Farmers.	8
Press-publication, journalists.	8
Military (including retired).	7
Authors.	6
Tourism management	6
Dentists.	5
Judges, prosecutors.	5
Teachers.	5
Members of the higher courts.	3
Others.	12
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* Because some members have more than one occupation, total number of professions is higher than total membership.

3. *Distribution of Deputies according to Sex*

Men.	444
Women.	6
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	450

4. *Distribution of Deputies according to Date of Birth*

1901-1910.1
1911-1920.7
1921-1930.69
1931-1940.118
1941-1950.199
1951-1953.56
		450