

TURKEY

The Turkish Republic

The Republic of Turkey is located between Europe and Asia. It is bounded to the south by Syria and Iraq, to the east by Iran, Armenia, Georgia and to the west by Bulgaria and Greece. The land area is 780,576 km² with 97% in Asia (the Anatolian Plateau) and 3% in Europe (the Thrace). Trakya or Thrace (European Turkey) is a rolling, cultivated plain with mountains on the north and south. Asian Turkey, except for coastal plains, is an elevated plateau (mainly 6000 -10.000 ft) crossed by many high ranges, especially east of the Mediterranean, and cut by river



FIG. 1.- Turkey.

valleys. The plateau, partly cultivated is largely semidesert, with alpine pasture and evergreen forest on higher slopes and in the east. The population is, at present, about 65 million. The capital is Ankara and the largest port and chief city of Turkey is Istanbul, one of the most historical and beautiful cities of the world situated on the Strait of Istanbul where it joins the Sea of Marmara, including historic Constantinople and Galata-Pera (the old foreign quarter) on the European side and Scutari on the Asian. Other major ports are Izmir, Mersin, Iskenderun and Samsun.

At the end of the thirteenth century, the Turks took control of the Asiatic territories of the Byzantine Empire and the Ottoman Empire came into being. The Turkish Republic was founded in 1923 by ATATÜRK after the war of Independence. Since then, many Western reforms were introduced and economic problems were tackled. Turkey joined the Balkan Entente (1934) but remained neutral in the second World War until 1945, when it declared war on Germany and Japan. It joined the United Nations (1945), NATO (1952), the Balkan Pact (1954) and the Central Treaty Organization (1955).

The Turkish Republic is a parliamentary democracy and a secular State based on human rights and social justice. People exercise sovereignty through the Grand National Assembly elected by suffrage. The present President of the Republic is Süleyman DEMIREL.

Geographically, Anatolia is a high plateau rising progressively towards the east and broken by the valleys of about fifteen rivers including the Tigris and Euphrates. The highest peaks are Büyük Agri or Ararat (16,946 ft) and Suphan (13,697 ft). There are numerous lakes and some (such as Van Lake) are as large as inland seas.

Turkey is surrounded by the Black Sea, Aegean Sea and Eastern Mediterranean. The Aegean Sea is connected through the Strait of Çanakkale, to the Sea of Marmara and the Strait of Istanbul to the Black Sea. The coastline of Turkey's four seas are more than 7,000 km long.

Agriculture is very important for the Turkish economy. The main agricultural products are cotton, tobacco, cereals (esp. wheat), olives and olive oil, silk, dried fruits, dairy products, rice, grapes, nuts, almonds, sesame, figs, citrus fruits etc. Industry is rapidly developing and diversifying. The main manufactures and industries are as follows: mining, textiles, iron and steel, fishing, cement, paper and pulp, carpets, glass, pottery, hydroelectricity, silk, sugar, leather, chemicals, vegetable oils, oil refining etc. There is a wide range of mineral production. Mineral resources include coal, petroleum, iron ore, uranium, chrome, sulphur, copper, manganese, salt, tungsten and lignite. Recently, tourism has played a very important role in the Turkish economy mainly on the Mediterranean and Aegean coasts; the latter is particularly suitable for tourism associated with yachting.

Currently, Turkey has a total of 3,633,000 tons of merchant shipping, excluding fishing vessels and pleasure craft.

Hydrographic Service

The Turkish Navy began to give importance to hydrography and marine cartography in the sixteenth century. PIRI REIS, the well known Turkish Admiral, prepared the famous Sailing Directions of the Mediterranean Sea under the title "Kitabi Bahri" (the Book of the Sea) in 1513.

This book contains descriptions and drawings of the Mediterranean shores together with valuable information on navigation. An important contribution to

cartography is the chart drawn by Admiral PIRI REIS himself which shows all the sea routes known in the sixteenth century.

The first official hydrographic body was set up in 1909 and was attached to the Ministry of the Navy. During the late 1920s, the Bureau was attached to the General Directorate of Geodetic Survey and became its Naval Charts Division. In 1950, the Bureau was again incorporated into the Turkish Naval Command, under the name of the Department of Navigation and Hydrography. In 1972, the name of the Department was changed to the Department of Navigation, Hydrography and Oceanography to indicate the three main functions of the Office.

Today, the Turkish Hydrographic Office remains based in Istanbul and has a total of 182 naval and civilian personnel. At present, it has one off-shore survey ship and two in-shore research and survey boats.

The survey ship ÇUBUKLU (650 tons) carries the latest modern equipment and has been used for surveying since August 1986. ÇUBUKLU which has been designed for medium and deep water missions, has a length of 40 metres, and can accommodate 10 scientific staff and 34 crew. The ship's propulsion is diesel and the ship is capable of surveying at 12 knots: main deck equipment for oceanographic data collection consists of several winches, an A frame and cranes. The ship also has an underwater TV-camera, Automatic Survey System (TRAC C), BOTTOM CHART Multibeam Survey System, Differential GPS (SERCEL) and Side Scan Sonar system. Both inshore survey boats are especially built for hydrographic and oceanographic studies in shallow waters.

The Department maintains 167 charts covering the seas surrounding Turkey. All nautical publications, which every ship must have for its navigation are being produced and published regularly.

The Turkish Hydrographic Department has been a member of the IHO since 1950. In addition, it belongs to several other international maritime organizations such as the Mediterranean and Black Sea Hydrographic Commission and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

The present Hydrographer is Eng. Captain Hüseyin YÜCE since 24 July 1992.