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IN TURKEY TO-DAY

(continued from previous page)

terms with her former rebellious subjects than with the Soviet Union, the first State to recognise the almost friendless revolutionary Turkish Republic.

The Turks want peace. Unbombed and uninvaded, with an expanding industry and a stable Government, they stand like a rock in the troubled waters of the Near and Middle East; and they can attract allies. The emphasis of their recent pact with Transjordan was all upon peace and solidarity in the Middle East. A pact with Iraq has already been drawn up and simply awaits the ratification of the two Parliaments. There is little doubt that Turkey would welcome similar agreements with other Arab States. With the Arab League, of course, the Turks have nothing to do; they regard the League as an instrument for the Arabs alone. So impressed are the Turks with the need for peace that they make no criticism of the presence of British troops in the Arab countries and in Greece. In fact, they have been sharply criticised in Egypt and elsewhere for not lending their influence to speed British evacuation.

Communism is Un-Turkish

On the other hand they are looking anxiously at the spread of communist doctrine among their nearest neighbours. The Turks measure communism as they measure everything else: by the nationalist yardstick. Is it Turkish or not? They do not regard communism as Turkish, and there is very little of it in Turkey. When they embarked upon a big round-up of communists in Istanbul, they detained in prison 57 persons. That compares with the 10,000 or so who have been punished or arrested in Greece for the same reason.

Turkey's links with Britain have never been closer. The two countries have a treaty of alliance dating from the early days of the war; and for some time now, British Army, Navy and Air Force men have been helping to train the Turkish armed forces. The Turks also invited Englishmen to advise them on their new labour and social insurance legislation. Trade between the two countries would be more flourishing if there were more ships; but Britain still buys Turkish chrome, and Turkey buys British machinery, chemicals, textiles—and even films. It is quite a social occasion when a big British film is shown in Turkey for the first time. And for the moment, English is the fashionable language. In Istanbul, I found the British Council running more than a hundred English classes. There were classes for hospital nurses, classes for insurance clerks; and the workers at a sugar refinery had just sent in a request for an English teacher.

All Turkey's foreign relations have been thrown into sharp relief by the dispute with the Soviet Union over the Dardanelles. The Turks say firmly that in strengthening old friendships and making new ones the last thing they have in mind is the formation of any anti-Soviet bloc. They want from the Russians what they want from the other neighbour States: peace and goodwill. And they have been shocked by what they describe as the "unfriendly" attitude of the Power which was their first sup-

porter 25 years ago. A radio war between the two States has been going on for some time now. The Turks are, on the whole, a stolid and unemotional race; but they do not believe in appeasement. They keep their whole army mobilised, about a million men, according to the unofficial estimates of the Turks themselves. The region of the Russian frontier is a closed military area; no unauthorised person, certainly no foreigner, is allowed to go there. The same applies to the Dardanelles and the region of the Bulgarian frontier. You hear many people criticise the hold which the army has on Turkish life. They say that the success of the new five-year plan will be imperilled if the young men do not soon return to productive work. They say even more strongly that the soldiers are the real rulers in Turkey to-day.

But despite her problems, I thought that Turkey should be numbered among the happy countries. Her progress since the revolution has been uninterrupted by war or internal quarrels. It is impressive to see on the charts hung up at the Ministry of Economy, how every year has added to the numbers of factories built and industries started. There is a lot of mineral wealth in the country; Turkey is warmed by her own coal, and there is still one ton out of every 10 available for export. There is no longer a food shortage; I spent a couple of enviable hours in the great market of Istanbul: mounds of home-produced cheeses, oranges from the Black Sea, fish from the Bosphorus, carcasses of meat curtaining the butchers' stalls, and finally the tinned—or canned—food, sacks of it, all processed in Turkish factories. But if you ask a Turk what gives him his confidence in the future of the country, he is most likely to point to the spread of education. Coming from the war-stricken Balkans, I was impressed because everybody I visited seemed to have, not only a plan and a programme, but the resources to carry them out.

Music From the ZB's

THE piano duettists Ethel Bartlett and Rae Robertson have given many joint recitals throughout Britain, the United States, and Europe. Ethel Bartlett, besides being a talented musician, has the reputation of being one of England's most beautiful women, and her picture has been exhibited at the Royal Academy. Ethel Bartlett and Rae Robertson (Mrs. and Mr. Robertson) met while studying under the late Tobias Matthay. Some of their recordings will be broadcast from 2ZB on Wednesday, August 6, at 9.30 p.m.

SQUIRE'S Celeste Octet, with cello solos by W. H. Squire, will be presented by 2ZB at 4.45 p.m. on Tuesday, August 5. After he had studied for several years at the Royal College of Music, Squire made his debut at the age of 20. Later he was appointed first cellist at Covent Garden, and also played with the Queen's Hall and London Symphony Orchestras.