

The new position of the MGK

İsmet İnönü said that an army that wages a revolution is like toothpaste that comes out of a tube; just as you can never put toothpaste back in once it's out of the

tube, it's also very difficult to get an army that leaves its barracks back in.

Mustafa Kemal, the immortal Commander-in-Chief of the Turkish Army, took Mahmut Şevket Pasha, his commander in the Operations Army, as his role model and always sought to keep the army out of politics. Both men had experienced and learned from experience the consequences of an army engaging in politics.

Therefore, Atatürk stated, commanders must be careful not to let political considerations influence their decisions when considering and fulfilling their military duties and responsibilities.

They should not forget that there are other officers whose job it is to consider political matters. Thus, Atatürk separated the Turkish Army from direct administrative responsibility.

Kenan Evren, the leader of the September 12th Coup, also said in a speech to the students of the Military Academy on September 30, 1980, immediately after the coup: "At this time, absolutely do not get involved in politics. If we are involved in politics today, it is because we believe it is our duty to save our country from a disaster... The army has begun to lose its discipline every time it has entered politics... We can see the greatest example of this in our recent history, the Balkan

War. Therefore, I ask you three agencies to consider abstention

intervention as an example; never get involved in politics..."

In line with this principle, the army, which organized the May 17th coup, decided not to enter barracks again and to cut off its relationship with politics.

In order to regulate the situation, the 1961 Constitution established the National Security Council.

Thus, the military would exercise tutelage over civilian politicians, whom it did not trust, without interfering too much with daily politics, even if the decisions taken at the MGK were of an "advisory" nature.

Subsequently, those who perpetrated the September 12th coup took this relationship a step further and tightened the tutelage. Under the 1982 Constitution, decisions made by the MGK would be prioritized by the Council of Ministers. Another significant change was the establishment of the MGK General Secretariat, which became a central locus of power.

However, it would be impossible for an institution with such authority and power to enter the EU, where liberal democratic institutions and rules prevail. Since achieving a similar partnership with countries outside the EU, such as

Russia or Iran, remains a pipe dream, a change in the structure of the National Security Council was inevitable.

Today, the change in question has taken place, with the MGK becoming an advisory body and the powers of its General Secretariat being narrowed.

In Demirel's words, "Türkiye has put on a new outfit."

Now, it's up to the 59th government, which implemented this historic change, to act in accordance with this new dress code. The government must act responsibly and fulfill the requirements of the "new dress," avoiding all political overtures and populist behavior.

Atatürk's advice to leave politics to the politicians seems to be coming true after a long time.