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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE TURKISH WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

*Bora İYİAT**

Abstract

The concept of intelligence has been one of the subjects of great curiosity and interest. Human beings' interest in the unknown and the secrecy inherent in the activity called intelligence are undoubtedly the main reasons that increase this interest. In general terms, intelligence is a phenomenon based on learning the intentions, capabilities and weaknesses of states, groups or individuals with whom they are in competition or who are likely to be in competition, in order to protect the existence of states and to realize their goals, as well as to prevent activities directed against them. There is a need for cadres who can carry out this activity at home and abroad, analyze it, archive it for use when necessary, share it or carry out operational activities. This has led to the emergence of intelligence organizations over time. To summarize, intelligence agencies provide governments with information-analysis, especially on issues concerning national security, provide early warning information on possible crises and threats, prevent counterintelligence activities, protect state secrets and conduct covert operations to protect national interests. This study has been prepared to examine the intelligence activities carried out during the War of Independence, in which the Turkish nation fought for its existence as a whole.

Keywords: Intelligence, War of Independence, Operation, Secret Activities, Occupation

TÜRK KURTULUŞ SAVAŞINDA MİLLİ İSTİHBARAT

Özet

İstihbarat kavramı, üzerinde çok fazla merak duyulan, ilgi uyandıran konulardan birisi olmuştur. İnsanoğlunun bilinmeyene olan ilgisi, istihbarat adı verilen faaliyetin özünde barındırdığı gizlilik kuşkusuz bu ilgiyi arttıran sebeplerin en başında gelir. Genel anlamıyla istihbarat, devletlerin varlıklarını korumak, hedeflerini gerçekleştirmek amacıyla, rekabet halinde oldukları veya olması muhtemel devlet, gruplar veya şahısların niyet, imkân, kabiliyet ve zaaflarını öğrenmekle birlikte aynı şekilde kendisine yönelen faaliyetleri engelleme üzerine kurulu bir olgudur. İşte bu faaliyeti yurt içi ve yurt dışı yürütebilecek, analiz edebilecek ve son aşama olan gerektiğinde kullanmak üzere arşivleyecek, paylaşımı yapacak ya da operasyonel faaliyeti yürütebilecek kadrolara ihtiyaç vardır. Bu zaman içerisinde istihbarat teşkilatlarının doğmasını sağlamıştır. Özetle istihbarat kurumları; hükümetlere başta ulusal güvenliği ilgilendiren konular olmak üzere bilgi-analizler sunar, muhtemel kriz ve tehditlere yönelik erken uyarı niteliği taşıyacak bilgiler verir, karşı istihbarat faaliyetlerini önler, devletin sırlarını korur ve ulusal çıkarları korumak adına örtülü operasyonlar yürütür. İşte bu çalışma Türk milletinin top yekûn olarak var olma mücadelesi verdiği kurtuluş savaşı sürecinde yürütülen istihbarat faaliyetlerini incelemek üzere hazırlanmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: İstihbarat, Kurtuluş Savaşı, Operasyon, Gizli Faaliyetler, İşgal

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Introduction

After the great war, the Ottoman Empire wanted to be torn away from Anatolia. More than an armistice signed in Mondros, it symbolized the eternal captivity of a nation and was a document that would prepare it. With both open-ended expressions and round sentences seen in the treaty, a nation could be occupied under any pretext and, more frighteningly, a nation could be completely erased from the stage of history. This was the real intention. In fact, the basis of this intention was the same with all the treaties and wars imposed on the Ottoman Empire when it was weakened. This was a historical problem called the Eastern Question by the Western World and it had to be solved. Although the word "Orient" refers to the East, the concept of "Eastern Question" directly refers to the Ottoman Empire in the eyes of westerners. Emerging in 1815, the Eastern Question aimed at the complete disappearance of the Ottoman Empire. Even though the pronunciation of the concept points to this date, its historical and intellectual depth was much older.

According to Europeans, the beginning of the Eastern Question can be traced back to the Migration of Tribes, which led to the division of the Roman Empire into two and then to the end of the political existence of the Eastern Roman Empire. Because the Hun Turks had upset the balances of the Roman Empire where the church was active. For this reason, Europeans hated the Turks, who were foreign to them and disrupted all their affairs, and they tried to send the Turks back to where they came from from the day they set foot on the European continent. In line with this, the Eastern Question became a Turkish-European struggle rather than an Islamic-Christian conflict. The French historian Siniobos places the clearest beginning of the Eastern Question in the eighteenth century and says that it was in the nineteenth century that the issue was given a name. Albert Sorel, on the other hand, mentions that an Eastern Question emerged from the moment the Turks set foot in Europe, and that Russia, after becoming a European state, sought to resolve this issue in line with its own interests. According to Borjva, the historical and geographical boundaries of the Eastern Question are expanding even further. Borjva defines the Eastern Question as the clash between Christian and non-Christian tribes since the beginning of the Middle Ages. According to Edward Deriyo, the Eastern Question is the conflict between Muslims and non-Muslims. Soloviyef, on the other hand, emphasizes that the issue is the clash of Europe and Asia since unimaginably ancient times. Almost all sources converge on the view that the Eastern Question began when the Turks crossed from Asia to Europe. Moreover, the extermination of Turks would also mean the expulsion of Islam from Eastern Europe and Western Asia.¹ On May 15, 1919, with the encouragement and provocation of the British, the Greeks landed in Izmir and started to occupy Anatolia. This occupation developed very quickly. So much so that by the beginning of July 1919, a significant part of Anatolia, including Aydin, Manisa, Urla, Cesme, Ayvalik, Akhisar and its environs were under Greek control. Mustafa Kemal Pasha, on the other hand, started a liberation struggle in Anatolia, established a national assembly, and he and his comrades-in-arms and the last Turk would try to save his homeland. During this process, Fevzi Pasha, who was the Chief of Erkan-ı Harbiye-i Umumiye at the time, would send a communication to General Milne, the commander of the British Armies, on January 27, 1919, giving a list of the weapons he proposed the Turkish Army to keep. Pursuant to this communication, Fevzi Pasha determined the weapons to be left as 40801 infantry rifles, 756 machine guns and 632 cannons. After long negotiations, on May 29, 1919, although the number to be left in rifles was determined as 50878, the number of machine guns was reduced to 240 and the number of cannons to 256. The remaining weapons were requested to be handed over to the Entente and this order was fulfilled. A very large proportion of the ammunition left to the Turkish Army was stored in occupied Istanbul.² The number of soldiers that can be equipped with the weapons available in the troops scattered in Anatolia was at most four divisions. It was not possible to wage a long war of liberation with an army left in this situation. If a liberation struggle was to be waged, its success could only be possible by gathering enough weapons, ammunition and human resources. Therefore, the most important activity that had to be put into practice was to smuggle the huge amounts of weapons and materials held by the Entente in Istanbul to Anatolia and to ensure the passage of patriotic officers to Anatolia. Another task was undoubtedly the transfer of information

¹ Sayan Ulusan, *Şark Meselesi'nden Sevr'e Türkiye*, Çağdaş Türkiye Tarihi Araştırmaları Dergisi VIII, İzmir 2009, p. 229

² Bora İyiat, *Türk Devlet Geleneğinde Milli İstihbarat*, Kripto Kitaplar, Ankara 2020, p. 148

notes from reliable sources to Anatolia urgently through intelligence gathering in occupied Istanbul. The most important condition for a country whose territory was under occupation to carry out its struggle for independence was undoubtedly to have good intelligence.³

1. Intelligence Concept and Intelligence Organizations

Mankind's interest in the unknown and the secrecy inherent in the activity called intelligence are undoubtedly the main reasons that increase this interest. Intelligence is a concept that needs to be examined at the level of information and the process of analyzing that information. As is well known, knowledge is the basis of every being. Every phenomenon and event that provides the development that gives its name to the ages in the line called history, which extends to the present day with the existence of human beings separated from other living things with the ability to think, has been shaped as a result of the existence of a single concept. That concept is the concept of "knowledge". For scientists, knowledge is expressed as a concept that is difficult to define in a nutshell, and as a general opinion, it is described as the most important element in the survival, development, shaping of people's thoughts and behaviors. For me, knowledge equals power. The most powerful weapon that has been discovered since mankind has existed in the world and will be discovered until doomsday is the weapon of "knowledge". Those who hold, develop and utilize knowledge in the most appropriate ways will be the most powerful. Realizing this, mankind has realized that the emphasis on this concept while organizing its tribal and later settled life and state relations, which are simultaneous with its own history, actually strengthens them as well as protecting their own existence, and the necessity of having accurate information, especially about competitors, has come into being. The process of transforming information from raw to processed and ready for use is actually one of the definitions of intelligence. Spies, services, information and operations exist for one thing: "Intelligence", and intelligence is the security of the state and the necessity of its continued existence.

The word intelligence is the plural form of the Arabic word, which derives from the root "news". In general terms, intelligence is a phenomenon based on learning the intentions, capabilities and weaknesses of states, groups or individuals with whom they are or are likely to be in competition in order to protect the existence of states and to realize their goals, as well as preventing activities directed against them in the same way.⁴ According to M. Herman, a British intelligence officer, intelligence represents rationality. In this sense, statesmen who reject the power called intelligence and do not use it are turning their backs on two important tools, reason and the scientific method, which have been used by mankind since Aristotle, the great philosopher of antiquity, to open the horizons of mankind forward.⁵ According to FM 2.0, the intelligence field manual prepared by the US military and a training-planning-execution resource for all NATO member states, intelligence is the support and analysis of all the information a commander or leader needs to conduct battles, agreements, and similar tasks. In a nutshell, intelligence allows us to learn about the adversary's force capacity, how it is organized, how it is equipped, how it is trained, how it is employed and how it is controlled.⁶ Intelligence, which we recognize as a science, is also an art.⁷

Owing to the close relationship between the words intelligence and information gathering, intelligence and information are often perceived to be the same. However, the difference between information and intelligence is as clear as the difference between a raw mineral and its utilized form. The total value gained as a result of all kinds of mental activities aimed at understanding human beings, the universe and values is called knowledge. However, after the focus and processing of this information, which includes the purpose determined by experts, the processed form of this information, together with the compilation that will lead to the result, is called intelligence or espionage.

³ Metin Ayışığı, *Milli Mücadele Döneminde İstanbul'dan Anadolu'ya Yapılan Silah Sevkiyatı ve İstihbarat Meselesi*,

⁴ T.C. Başbakanlık Devlet Arşivleri Genel Müdürlüğü, *Arşiv Belgelerine Göre Osmanlı'da İstihbarat*, Yayın No: 148, İstanbul 2017, p. 15

⁵ Ümit Özdağ, *İstihbarat Teorisi*, Kripto Yayınları, Ankara 2008, p. 22

⁶ Headquarters Department of the Army, *Field Manual FM 2.0 Intelligence*, Washington 2004, p. 1

⁷ Özdağ, p.11

The most important feature of the information to be used for intelligence is that it must be detailed, precise and accurate in order to reach accurate judgments. Defining intelligence and distinguishing it from raw information is not an easy task, contrary to popular belief. Intelligence can be considered as processed information that is intended to help a particular recipient make a decision. What transforms information into intelligence often lies in the perception of those who possess it. In the security context, intelligence helps the recipient to identify threats, i.e. to be aware of when to act. In addition, it supports him in planning and implementing field operations or policy activities. While one decision-maker may consider a certain piece of information as intelligence because it fulfills his or her needs, another decision-maker may consider the same as raw data and mere information. In this respect, not only the acquisition of intelligence but also its analysis is important.⁸

Fundamentally, intelligence analysis is an intellectual endeavor. No matter what data is available to an analyst, what emerges as a result of the process that leads to processed data will be shaped by the analyst's skills and intuition.⁹ Intelligence analysts must therefore be conscious of their reasoning processes. Analysts need to reconsider not only their knowledge but also the decisions they make.¹⁰

There is a need for cadres who can carry out this activity domestically and internationally, analyze it and, in the final stage, archive it for use when necessary, share it or carry out operational activities. This has led to the emergence of intelligence organizations over time.¹¹ It should not be forgotten that no matter how big and powerful a state is, it cannot survive without a well-organized intelligence agency.¹² Intelligence can only be carried out by qualified staff whose tasks and competencies are pre-determined through proper organization.¹³ The organizations established to carry out this activity have their own working principles and terminology in line with the nature of this work.¹⁴ These organizations were designed as bureaucratic structures, just like other state institutions.¹⁵

The existence and power of intelligence agencies is directly related to the existence and power of the state to which they are affiliated and on whose behalf they work. This is because intelligence prevents states from being exposed to surprise threats and attacks, provides a long-term projection and an over-the-horizon view, provides information support to decision-makers by helping them formulate policies, and protects state secrets.¹⁶

The main task and responsibility of intelligence agencies is to provide supportive, accurate, reliable and fully analyzed information to political decision-makers by using all human and technical means. To summarize, intelligence agencies provide governments with information-analysis, especially on issues concerning national security, provide early warning information on potential crises and threats, prevent counterintelligence activities, protect state secrets and conduct covert operations to protect national interests.¹⁷

2. Turkish Intelligence During the War of Independence

The most important condition for a country whose territory was under occupation to carry out its struggle for independence was undoubtedly to have good intelligence.¹⁸ Knowing this situation very well, the leading cadres of the national struggle, especially Mustafa Kemal, paid special attention to this situation simultaneously with the military organization efforts. In this process, different organizations would be established especially in the capital. Among the most important of these

⁸ İyiat, p.11

⁹ Sait Yılmaz, *Temel İstihbarat*, Kripto Kitaplar, Ankara 2018, p. 369

¹⁰ Richard J. Heuer, *Psychology of Intelligence Analysis*, Center for the Study of Intelligence CIA, Langley – Virginia 1999, p. 13

¹¹ İyiat, p. 16

¹² Aziz Yakın, *İstihbarat: Casusluk ve Casuslukla Mücadele*, Dışişleri Bakanlığı Akademisi Yayınları, Sayı: 5, Ankara 1969, p. 21

¹³ Özdağ, p. 39

¹⁴ Yılmaz, p. 413

¹⁵ Yılmaz, p. 415

¹⁶ Mark M. Lowenthal, *Intelligence: From Secrets to Policy*, 7th Edition, CQ Press, California 2016, p. 5

¹⁷ İlhan Bahar, *Teşkilat-ı Mahsusa'dan MİT ve İstihbarat Örgütleri*, Kamer Yayınları, İstanbul 2016

¹⁸ Ayışığı, p. 85

groups, secret groups such as Karakol Society, Zabitan Group, Yavuz Group and Müdafaa-i Milliye (Mim-Mim) were established and supported the Anatolian Movement with intelligence, propaganda and ammunition shipment activities.¹⁹

If we take a closer look at these groups;

The first of these groups, which in a sense can be described as the continuation of Teşkilat-ı Mahsusa, is the Karakol Society. After the Armistice of Mudros, the events organized especially by the minorities living in Istanbul and the occupation process had become a major reaction. Especially the Unionists who stayed behind established the Karakol Society in order to stay organized together and to organize against the events.²⁰ Founded under the leadership of Kara Kemal and Kara Vasıf Bey, prominent figures of the Committee of Union and Progress, the motto of the organization was to fight for the expulsion of enemies from Turkish lands until the country became a ruin and the whole nation was destroyed. The organization chose Baha Said Bey's office in the Resne photography studio on Bab-ı Âlî Street as its headquarters. The organization was structured as a cell type. Within this organization, members were registered with code names, and while the codes were usually repetitive numbers such as 55, 555, 88, there were also those registered with name codes. For example, Mr. Şevket Galatalı was known by the code name "İsa", Kara Vasıf by "Cengiz" and Ali Fuat Bey by "Musa". Mustafa Kemal's code name was designated as "Nuh".²¹ The Karakol Society recruited its officers in great secrecy by selecting them from among the young people of Istanbul and people known for their patriotism. Among these people, especially those who were known to be pious were predominant. This situation is of course part of the plan. Among the people of Istanbul, who were under pressure from the occupation forces, these people, who were assured that they would not take any action against the Caliphate and the Sultanate, were monitored less or not at all. The members of the Bektashi Tekke in Merdivenköy and the Uzbekler Tekke in Sultan Tepesi are just a few examples. These dervish lodges acted as a range for those traveling to and from Anatolia. Anyone who came to the tekkes with the motto of the center was accepted and sent to the necessary places.²² The Society's greatest service to the National Struggle was to ensure the smuggling of arms, ammunition and officers from Istanbul to Anatolia, and to inform Mustafa Kemal of the plans and activities of organizations such as the British Correspondents' Society.²³ The association in question has two different faces. The visible one was to work for the Ottoman Empire to become a protectorate of Britain through a mandate administration under British patronage, while the invisible face was to undermine the national consciousness and struggle and to accelerate the British intervention, which was its aim, by creating rebellion and disruption. All their covert activities were monitored step by step by the Karakol Society and reported to Ankara. Structurally, the Karakol Society was organized in five different sections: Department of Politics, Intelligence and Foreign Affairs - Department of National Army, Combat Gangs and Mobilization - Department of Propulsion, Transportation, Communications and Supplies - Department of Finance - Department of Public Affairs and Propaganda.²⁴

According to archival information, the directors and members of the Karakol Society are as follows:

Colonel Kara Vasıf, Galatalı Şevket, Lieutenant Colonel Kemalettin Sami Gökçe, Lieutenant Colonel Edip Servet Tör, Baha Sait, Kara Kemal, Major Ali Rıza, Major Ali Çetinkaya, Attorney Refik İsmail, Circassian Reşit, Muhiddin Bey, Sudi Bey, Captain Baki, Major Hüseyin Kadri, Colonel Arif Hikmet, Arif Bey (Mebus), Major Tolçalı Süleyman, Major İhsan İhsan from Üsküdar, Ahmet Hilmi Bey, Major Çolak İbrahim, Major Cemal Karabekir, Major Naim Cevat, Colonel Ömer Lütfi, Şükrü Oğuz from Yenibahçeli, Lieutenant Colonel Mustafa Muğlalı, a member of the Üsküdar Group, Lieutenant Colonel Hüsamettin Ertürk, President of the Topkapı Group, Mrs. Naciye Faham, President

¹⁹Kübra Kayabaşı, *Felah Grubu'nun Milli Mücadele'deki Faaliyetleri*, Vakanüvis Uluslararası Tarih Araştırmaları Dergisi, Yıl:4 Sayı:2, Sakarya 2019, p. 603

²⁰Serdar Yurtseven, *Milli Mücadele Dönemi İstihbarat Faaliyetleri Örnek Olay İncelemeleri (1919-1922)*, Atatürk Araştırma Merkezi Yayınları, Ankara 2013, p. 48

²¹Ümit Doğan, *Kurtuluş Savaşında Atatürk'ün İstihbarat Faaliyetleri Milli Ajanlarımız*, Kripto Yayınları, Ankara 2017, p. 38

²²Doğan, p.39

²³Erdal İter, *Milli İstihbarat Teşkilatı Tarihçesi*, Milli İstihbarat Teşkilatı Basımevi, Ankara 2002, p. 12

²⁴Mesut Aydın, *Milli Mücadelede Döneminde TBMM Hükümeti Tarafından İstanbul'da Kurulan Gizli Gruplar ve Faaliyetleri*, Boğaziçi Yayınları, İstanbul 1992, p. 31

of the Islamic Women's Union, Yahya Kaptan, Küçük Arslan, Büyük Arslan, İpsiz Recep, Bulgarian Sadık, Dayko, Captain Nail, Yalova İbo, Gebze Rifat Kaptan, Kuşçubaşı Eşref, Demir Hulusi Bey, Üsküdar Gendarmerie Battalion Commander Major Remzi, Gebze Gendarmerie Commander Nail, Kartal Gendarmerie Commander İzzet, İzmit Gendarmerie Commander Kerim, Maltepe Shooting School teachers Captain Fehmi and Hulusi, Osman Kaptan, Captain Ramiz from Adapazarı, Captain Rauf from Hopa, Doctor Raik from Trabzon, Meto Hüseyin, Mehmet Bey, Kadıköy District Commander Senior Captain Uncle Mesut, Şile District Commander Yusuf Ziya Bey, Kartal District Commander İhsan Bey, Beykoz District Commander Murat Bey.²⁵

The organization, which carried out important activities and made significant contributions, began to show some weaknesses over time. Developments such as the members of the organization acting as if they were the owners of the National Struggle, considering themselves powerful enough to make a deal with the Bolsheviks without the permission of Mustafa Kemal Pasha, and the murder of Yahya Kaptan, one of Mustafa Kemal's trusted men, would further deepen the rift between Ankara and the organization.²⁶ After a while, the head of the Karakol Organization, Galatalı Şevket Bey, was arrested and deported to Malta on March 16, 1920 and replaced by new groups.

Of these, the Hamza Group was the first intelligence group to be established with the consent of Ankara and to work under the command of the Government of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. The Hamza Group, which constituted the first nucleus of the Felah Group that emerged later, started its activities on September 23, 1920, and its founder was Staff Lieutenant Colonel Çopur Neşet Bora Bey. Neşet Bey had previously founded another secret organization called Moltke. In addition, small cells were formed under the names Ferhat, Kerimi, Mücahit and Muharip, and it was planned that these cells would replace the Hamza Group in case of any danger, and the branch managers of the group were given code names such as Yıldız, Ay, Vefa and Güneş.²⁷ The Hamza Group carried out important activities during the national struggle and provided both information flow and operational support to the Government of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey. However, unfortunately, on August 9, 1921, an organizational boat returning to Istanbul from Inebolu as a result of an arms shipment was searched by British patrol boats on suspicion, and some documents and seals were seized and deciphered, and the Ankara Government quickly re-organized the group and named it the "Felah Group" on August 31, 1921.

Structurally, we see that the Felah Group is organized in 5 branches;

1. Intelligence and Propaganda Branch
2. Kıtaat-ı Fenniye Branch (Communication and communication equipment supply)
3. Muamelat-ı Zatiye Branch (Counter-espionage Activities)
4. Ammunition Branch (Supply of war vehicles)
5. Quartermaster Department (Supply of officer needs)²⁸

According to Ergun Hiçyılmaz, who has conducted important research on this subject, the personnel who served in the organization were; Major (Ragıp son) Ekrem, Major (Mehmet son) Aziz Hüdâi, Captain (Süleyman son) Kerim, Captain (Sadık son) İsmail Hakkı, Captain (İbrahim son) Kemal, First Lieutenant (Nezir son) Bedii, Captain (Ahmet son) Fehmi, Captain (Yusuf Ziya son) Cevdet, Captain (Yahya son) Rasim, Lieutenant Colonel (Arif son) Eyüp, Captain (Hüseyin son) Mehmet Emin, First Lieutenant (Osman son) Ahmet Ağa, Captain (Kazım son) Captain Hüseyin Hüsni, Captain (İbrahim son) Mehmet Ali, Svl. Me. (Edip son) Ali Saip, Captain (Mehmet Aziz son) Vasfi, Captain (Osman son) Seyfettin, First Lieutenant (Saim son) Saffet, First Lieutenant (Hüseyin son) Ziya and Lieutenant (Ahmet son) İbrahim Ethem.²⁹

Felah, whose main field of activity was mainly the shipment of arms, ammunition and officers to Anatolia, successfully continued its propaganda (psychological operation) activities simultaneously. According to Ümit Doğan, who meticulously compiled archives and sources and conducted important studies on this subject; Felah Group transmitted news about the situation of the Greek army to Ankara, especially in terms of intelligence. The Felah Group also captured the list of agents sent to Anatolia by the pro-British Damat Ferit Pasha and sent it to Ankara, to the General Staff. During the period in

²⁵ Kaya Karan, *Geçmişten Günümüze Türk İstihbaratı*, Kripto Yayınları, Ankara 2016, p. 169

²⁶ Doğan, p. 50

²⁷ Karan, p. 80

²⁸ Kayabaşı, p. 607

²⁹ Ergun Hiçyılmaz, *Belgelerle Kurtuluş Savaşında Casusluk Örgütleri*, Yüce Yayınları, İstanbul 1981, p. 110

which the group was conducting its intelligence gathering activities, Captain Kemal, who had previously been in France, was able to infiltrate the French headquarters through Hamit Bey, the President of the Hilal-i Ahmer Society in Istanbul. Realizing that it was not possible to meet the Ankara Government's request for arms and supplies with light sea vessels such as engines and taxis, the Felah Group, as a result of systematic, planned and intensive intelligence work, reached an agreement with French and Italian shipping companies and started to provide arms and supplies through Hüsnü Bey, the owner of the Turkiyat warehouse and the Istanbul representative of the Llyod Trieste Italian Steamship Company. One of the ways of providing arms and supplies in Istanbul was to participate in auctions organized by the Ottoman State Liquidation Commission. This commission consisted of the representatives of the Entente States, one Ottoman and one Düyünü Umumiye representative. The Felah Group obtained arms and ammunition from this commission, which auctioned the materials in Istanbul warehouses, by intermediating foreigners, and sent them to Anatolia. Chief Commissars Salih and Saffet Beys were assigned by the Felah Group as couriers in their communications with Ankara. Istanbul Post and Telegraph Director İhsan Bey and Line Sergeant Hacı Mümtaz provided telegraph communication with Ankara via secret line. The group also established a "Radio Listening Center" by installing two crystal detector receivers stolen from the communications battalion in Orhaniye Barracks in the Beylerbeyi house of Osman Nuri Bey, a communications first lieutenant. Another success of the group was to obtain the list of agents sent to Anatolia by Damat Ferit Pasha and deliver it to the General Staff. In addition to news gathering activities, they also ensured that the newspapers "Yenigün" and "Hâkimiyet-i Milliye", which were being published in Ankara, and the magazines, declarations and books brought from Ankara were distributed among all classes of people as much as possible, and the propaganda in favor of the National Struggle was made in Istanbul.³⁰

Similarly, one of the important intelligence groups operating during the period of the national struggle was the organization called Müsellah Müdafaa-i Milliye, commonly known as "Mim Mim". This organization was initiated by Fevzi Pasha with the approval of Mustafa Kemal Pasha, considering the need for intelligence structures in the national struggle, and continued as a result of consultations with Hüsametdin Ertürk, the former head of Teşkilat-ı Mahsusa, and was made official by the Turkish Grand National Assembly on May 3, 1921. İhsan Pasha was appointed as the head of the organization, the foundation of which was formed by former organizers. In this way, the organization, which was composed of experienced names, established an important network of news personnel in the occupied capital Istanbul in a short period of time and carried out successful activities. Mim Mim, which carried out all of its activities under a single umbrella, would continue its activities in two special sections over time. Among these sections, the Müdafaa-i Milliye Group (National Defense) worked on providing intelligence, identifying members of separatist societies, supplying weapons, ammunition and materials and sending them to Anatolia, while the Musellah Müdafaa-i Milliye (Armed National Defense) worked on propaganda, protecting Muslim Turks in Istanbul against minority gangs, and organizing teams to carry out raids and destructions according to orders.³¹ Based in Ankara, the Mim Mim Group was organized under the command of the Government of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, with a central board in Istanbul and 54 cells in different places in Anatolia. In addition to its own activities, the Mim Mim Group cooperated with the Hamza Group, Felah Group, Muavenet-i Bahriye Group, Yavuz Group, İmalat-ı Harbiye Group, Berzenci Group, Namık Group, which were formed against enemy activities during the National Struggle, and even acted as a coordination group. Due to its important mission and its active style of action, Mim Mim was the organization most closely monitored by British intelligence.

The activities carried out by the aforementioned groups before and during the War of Independence were crucial in winning the war. In the light of the experience of the Turkish state mind for more than a thousand years and the developments in the last period of the Ottoman Empire and the national struggle process, after the establishment of the Republic of Turkey, which is the last Turkish State, the need for an official and strong intelligence organization will be studied with the instructions of Mustafa Kemal himself, successful examples in the world will be examined and today's modern intelligence organization, MIT, will be established in the light of the aforementioned experiences.

³⁰ Doğan, p. 65

³¹ Karan, p. 96

Conclusion

One of the conditions of statehood is the existence of main arteries such as administration, judiciary and legislature in transparent motion, as well as defense reflexes established on the plane below this surface. The main vein that feeds this reflex is the information and the processing of this information, which is dependent on receiving news from everything. Realizing this, mankind has grasped that the emphasis on this concept while organizing the relations of the state with the tribe and later the settled life and the state, which is synchronous with its own history, actually strengthens them as well as protecting their own existence, and the concept of "Intelligence" has come into existence. The total value of what we have gained as a result of all kinds of mental activities collected to understand human beings, the universe and values is called information; however, after the focus and processing of this information, which includes the purpose determined by the experts, the processed form it receives together with the compilation that will lead to the result is called intelligence or espionage. The most important feature of the information to be used for intelligence is that the information received must be absolutely detailed, precise and accurate in order to reach definitive judgments. There is a need for cadres who can carry out this activity at home and abroad, analyze it as mentioned above, archive it for use when necessary, share it or carry out operational activities. This has led to the emergence of intelligence organizations over time. In its simplest definition, intelligence can be considered as processed information that is intended to help a specific recipient make a decision. What transforms information into intelligence lies mostly in the perspective of those who possess it. In the security context, intelligence helps the recipient to identify threats, i.e. to be aware of when to act. In addition, it supports him in the planning and implementation of field operations or policy activities. States do not think like people. Nor do they have feelings or preferences. They look at the whole world as an area of "curiosity" or "threat". As the threat area expands and the vital risk increases accordingly, the need for intelligence increases at the same rate. For Turks, a nation with 2500 years of state experience, intelligence activities in parallel with the state tradition have made it possible to collect information about adversaries, analyze and develop measures. During the liberation struggle of a homeland under occupation after the First World War, Turkish Intelligence, which was organized in different organizations reflecting this tradition, successfully continued its important information gathering, operation and psychological operation activities behind and on the front lines.

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