

## ATATÜRK IS 100 YEARS OLD

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1981 is the Centenary of the birth of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk who was a great leader of all times. His success stemmed from his extremely realistic appraisal of the situation, his profound knowledge of the innate desires of his own people, and finally the ability to know his people's potentialities and limitations<sup>1</sup>.

Atatürk was an hero of anticolonialism. He was animator of World's peace; builder of modern Turkish State, an exceptional reformer.

UNESCO recognized these qualities in e General Conference and an Executive Board resolutions.

*The General Conference resolved as following:*

"The General Conference,

Convinced that eminent personalities who workes for international understanding, co-operation, and peace, should serve as an example for future generations,

Recalling that the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey, will be celebrated in 1981,

Bearing in mind that he was an exceptional reformer in all the fields coming within Unesco's competence,

Recognizing in particular that he was the leader of one of the earliest struggles against colonialism and imperialism.

Recalling that he set an outstanding example in promoting the spirit of mutual understanding between peoples and lasting peace

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1) Altamur Kılıç, **Turkey and the World**, Public Affairs Press, Washington D.C. 1959, p. 35.

between the nations of the world, having advocated all his life the advent of an age of harmony and co-operation in which no distinction would be made between men on account of colour, religion or race,

1. Decides that Unesco shall co-operate on the intellectual and technical planes with the Turkish Government for the organization in 1980, at that Government's financial expense, of an international symposium designed to bring out various aspects of the personality and work of Atatürk, the founder of the Republic of Turkey, whose action was always directed towards the promotion of peace, international understanding and respect for human rights;

2. Requests the Director - General to take the necessary steps for the implementation of this resolution."

*The Executive Board of UNESCO resolved as following:*

"The Executive Board,

1. Recalling that in its resolution 3/1.5 & 2.3/4, the General Conference decided, at its twentieth session that Unesco should co-operate on the intellectual and technical planes in the organization in 1980 of an international symposium designed to bring out various aspects of the personality and work of Atatürk, who had set an outstanding example in promoting the spirit of mutual understanding between the nations of the world,

2. Noting that in application of this resolution, a meeting is to be organized in spring 1980 in Turkey, at the invitation of the Turkish Government and with the intellectual and technical assistance of Unesco, and that the aim of this meeting will be to prepare the Atatürk international centenary symposium,

3. Considering that it would be desirable for this symposium to be held at Unesco Headquarters in 1981, the hundredth anniversary of Atatürk's birth, and that it should contribute to the study of the various development and modernization processes in Member States.

4. *Requests* the Director - General, under these circumstances to include any provisions he may consider appropriate for this purpose in the Draft Programme and Budget for 1981-1983".