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Turkish censure move fails

TURKEY'S first Islamic-led government escaped censure last night in a move aimed at bringing it down after eight months in power. Parliament was debating whether the pro-Islamic Welfare Party had threatened the country's secular constitution with reforms which include the lifting of a ban on Muslim headscarves in government offices.

They were topped by speeches at a Muslim festival in the Welfare-controlled town of Sincan at which the introduction of Sharia law was advocated.

The Turkish general staff, which sees itself as the guarantor of the secular republic, sent dozens of tanks into Sincan in a show of strength. — *Chris Nuttall, Ankara*