

Athens trial men may face firing squad

from DAVID TONGE

ATHENS, 11 April
THE Greek Prime Minister's last-minute attempt to dictate to the Athens Court what verdict it should return in the climax to the dramatic trial of nine leaders of the Democratic Defence has created an obvious dilemma for the judges.

In his extraordinary intervention, Colonel Papadopoulos told the judges that they would be regarded as 'criminals' if they allowed humanitarian feelings to influence them.

This is seen here as the clearest possible indication that the Greek military junta will be satisfied with nothing less than the death sentence for at least Professor Karageorgeas, and perhaps some of the other leading defendants who include a second professor, a journalist, a general, an economist, an electrical engineer and two lawyers.

There is widespread feeling here that the trial will result in some of the accused being condemned to the firing-squad, thus creating the regime's first martyrs.

While this will produce a deep revulsion among the regime's opponents the trial has helped to make it clear that active resistance inside Greece is no longer possible and that major changes can only be initiated from outside the country. Here lies the crucial importance of the long-awaited recommendations which the American Ambassador, Mr Henry S. Tasca, has finally sent to Washington.

Through its control of arms supplies and its international prestige, America alone is thought to have the power to influence the Colonels. But the Pentagon and Administration are at complete odds as to whether they should use it.

World pressure 'saved' Greeks

Mr Andreas Papandreou, the former Greek Minister and resistance leader, said in Stockholm yesterday that world opinion had prevented death sentences being passed at the trial of 34 prominent Athenians.

He said: "We are grateful that our appeal has not passed unheard among Governments, democratic political movements and individuals throughout the world."

"We hope now that the NATO countries have reached the inevitable conclusion that the Pentagon's support for the Junta in Athens constitutes a clear and present danger to humanity, democratic values and peace."

"We pray that the 34 intellectual Greek resistance men's sacrifice will not have been in vain. It is now high time for the Western Governments to point out to the United States that they are unwilling to share the moral responsibility for the rape of Greece."

The West German Government expressed its concern yesterday about the severity of the sentences in the trial. A spokesman said Bonn would discuss with its partners in the Council of Europe what action could be taken to bring about a review of the verdicts.

The Federal Minister of Justice, Herr Jahn, said he feared that relations between Bonn and Athens would be seriously disturbed.

The sentences were: Life imprisonment: Professor Karayorgas, plus 18 years on bombing and possession of explosives charges. Eighteen years: Professor George Manghakis, aged

48; Ioannis Starakis (35), journalist; Spiridon Loukas (31), chemist. Fifteen years: Ioannis Kombotiatis (34), cable office clerk. Ten years: Dimitrios Kotsakis (36), taxi driver, and Antonions Mihalakeas (34), judge.

Eight years: General George Iordanidis (69); Charalambos Propopapas (50), lawyer; Nicholas Constantopoulos (28), student; Athanassios Filias (41), engineer; Ioannis Vassiliou (28), assistant professor. Seven years: Ioannis Papadopoulos (44), doctor; Constantinos Tsakaressios (44), electrician. Six years: Dimosthenis Konaris (29), lawyer.

Five years: Emanuel Deloukas (47), lawyer; Victor Papazissis (33), publisher; Petros Kapagerof (20), student; Theoharis Papamarghais (32), economist; Vassiliki Zografou (35), clerk; Christos Rokofilos (39), lawyer; Venetia Stavropoulous (37), lawyer; Constantinos Maniatis (35), clerk. The sentences on Zografou, Stavropoulous, Maniatis, and Rokofilos were suspended.

Three years: Throfanis Pakos (28), student; Michael Mihopoulos (30), student; Fotini Misailidou. The sentences on the last two were suspended. One year, suspended: Professor Petros Papadopoulos (42).

The following were acquitted: Panayotis Andritsakis (49), accountant; Panayiotis Tsanarakis (45), engineer; George Kosmas (37), judge; Athanasios Michaelakeas (31), judge; Constantinos Droutsas (35), clerk; Evangelos Nitsopoulos (33), clerk; and Theofanis Matsoulis (33), lawyer.