

The Guardian, 6.4.70.

Accused defy regime at Greek trial

Athens, April 5

A young woman today told a court-martial trying 34 Greeks of plotting to overthrow the Government that she lied in a loyalty declaration so she could visit her dying fiancé.

The young woman, Fotini Misailidou, aged 25, a clerk whose fiancé, Antonias Parianos, aged 38, died from leukemia last Friday—is on trial here with university professors, judges, lawyers, an Army general, and other prominent Athenians.

Misailidou, dressed in mourning, said: "My only aim was to fight the present military regime which I oppose, as did my fiancé." She had attended his funeral yesterday, and could now tell the truth.

She admitted that she had helped her fiancé and his friends by typing and duplicating anti-regime leaflets, but added: "I did not myself belong to the Demokratiki Aynna (of which the accused are said to be members). But I wanted to restore parliamentary rule and normal political conditions in Greece."

Altogether, nine of the accused today made their final plea to the court, as required by Greek law. All said that they did not belong to the underground organisation, but agreed with Demokratiki Aynna's motives. Some said they might have helped the organisation at various times without knowing it.

Nearly all the nine pleading today denounced as inaccurate written statements they had made to police during six months' solitary confinement. They said the statements had resulted from "exhaustion caused by long interrogations," and all denied charges that they had plotted to set up a Communist-styled administration. They also rejected prosecution witnesses' claims that they were linked with Communist organisations.

Strict security measures have been in force both inside and outside the court buildings since the trial, now in its ninth day, started on March 27.

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Accused puts Greek junta in the dock

The Guardian, 8.4.70.

Athens, April 7

Dionysios Karageorgas, aged 39, economics professor and the main defendant at the trial of 34 people accused of plotting to overthrow the Greek regime, told a court martial today that it was the regime which had overthrown political order in Greece.

He and 33 others are being tried for sedition. All could be sentenced to death if found guilty.

Asked whether he wanted to overthrow the present political system in Greece, Karageorgas replied: "The system is a democratic monarchy. Such a system does not exist and is not functioning in Greece. It was abolished by a group of officers. It is nonsensical to be accused of the overthrow of the political order by the very officers who overthrew it."

He admitted that he printed leaflets attacking the regime of the Prime Minister, Mr Papadopoulos, and that he set off a bomb at a service station. The bombing was in protest against the Government for the abolition of freedom, he added.

Karageorgas was arrested in the summer when a time-bomb he was setting exploded and blew off his right hand. He denied charges of plotting to establish a Communist State but said he wanted to restore democracy and King Constantine to his throne. He admitted he was a member of Democratic Defence.

'Torture' claim

Both Karageorgas and George Manghakis (48), a law professor, said that they had been tortured by police to make them sign confessions.

Manghakis admitted receiving 13 explosive devices from abroad for use when all other means of bringing down the Government had failed. He said: "In this moment when I face charges which could get me a death sentence, I would not make false allegations of torture which could deteriorate my position in court."

"During my five months of interrogation I went through a human tragedy and my life has become a nightmare. When I was taken to an ordinary prison after five months of solitary confinement I thought I had returned again to human society."

Manghakis's wife, Angeliki,

aged 45, is serving two years in prison on charges of spreading false rumours when she claimed last summer that her husband was being tortured.

Manghakis denied that, he wanted to overthrow the regime and bring communism in the country. He said he did not belong to Democratic Defence but that his field of activities was much wider.