

was detained.

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Greek trial

The latest mass show trial in Greece illustrates the futility of hoping that the Colonels will find their own way back to democratic rule. It reflects both the strength and the potential weakness of the regime. The Colonels have proved more efficient in their application of repression than might have been expected. So far they have been able effectively to smother political resistance to their rule. The regime is anxious to capitalise on this and to suggest to the outside world that the absence of vocal opposition in Greece means that the mass of people are satisfied. It means no such thing. The price of making one's opposition heard in Greece can be frightening. For the moment the mass of the opposition is lying low.

The Colonels are also anxious to smear their opponents by suggesting that anybody who resists their rule is either a Communist or a Communist agent. They will have a difficult job convincing the outside world that this is true of the 55 defendants (20 of whom are abroad) arraigned in this latest trial. The accused represent an impressive cross-section of what in normal times would look like the Greek academic and professional establishment. No group of defendants which includes a Greek general who formerly represented his country at NATO and a Professor of Law at the University of Athens can be caricatured as blood-thirsty Bolsheviks anxious to drag Greece into the Communist block. Interestingly recent pronouncements from Athens suggest that the Colonels fear the Communists less than those who, in their own words, "advocate the anarchy and chaos of society in Western Europe."

The effect of the show trial may be to cow resistance for a further period. But with every step the regime takes in the direction of fully fledged Fascism it narrows its own power base. Already voices sounding alarm have been heard from former supporters of the military coup who are on the extreme Right. With everyone from the Communists and revolutionary Left through the social democrats, republicans, conservatives and monarchists united against his government, Mr Papadopoulos would be foolish to look forward to the kind of period in power which Franco has had in Spain. The Colonels not only need to use the techniques of terror to retain power. They also need continuing good luck with the economy. Any crack in the Greek economy could turn the silent majority into an active and revolutionary majority. When that happens the regime will find that in its use of violence it will reap as it has sown.

Greek minorities in Arab countries. By the time of the second guerrilla attack in Athens—on November 27 a grenade thrown at El-Al's office killed a child—the Greeks had already settled the list of witnesses to be called.

The trial was eventually set for February 17, but rumours spread that witnesses would not attend, causing the trial to be postponed, and so it proved. The Israelis made formal complaints to the Deputy Premier, Mr Patakos, and the Foreign Minister, Mr Pipinellis, and were promised that the Arabs would receive "the maximum penalty." At the same time, according to foreign diplomats, the reaction in America was intense.

With American policy towards Greece in the balance, particularly where full arms supplies are concerned, this point seems to have been decisive. Two days later, the Prime Minister, Mr Papadopoulos promised a leading Jewish figure that the trial would be held within a month.

Achilles Kyriazis, a publisher of the Athens newspaper "Ethnos," gave himself up yesterday. He was wanted in connection with an interview in which a former minister of industry, Mr Ioannis Zigidis, called for a return to democracy. Two other members of the publishing company and the newspaper's chief and managing editors were arrested earlier this week. Mr Zigidis was detained on Thursday.

The attack on the El-Al plane led directly to the Israeli reprisals on Beirut Airport which caused France to suspend its Mirage sales to Israel. The whole incident put the Government here in a bitter dilemma.

At first the authorities seem to have decided to postpone it indefinitely. Throughout the summer various dates were talked of, but nothing happened. Then in November the Athens public prosecutor announced

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Professor 'victim of police torture'

Athens, March 27

A university professor told a court-martial here today that he had been tortured by security police while under interrogation.

George Maghakis, aged 48, professor of penal law at Athens University, was one of 55 on trial before the military tribunal on charges of plotting to overthrow the regime and establish a Communist Administration. The defendants include professors, lawyers, and a general.

In a written statement read in court by his cousin, a defence lawyer, the professor said he had been beaten, dragged by the hair, and kept standing for hours while police interrogated him last summer.

His wife, Angeliki, was sentenced to four years in prison by a court-martial in August when she claimed that he had been tortured in prison. At that time Maghakis was allowed to appear before foreign jour-

nalists to refute his wife's allegations. He said the police had treated him well.

But in today's statement he claimed: "I said so in order to save my wife. I had been assured that if I made that statement the authorities would not take action against her. Unfortunately I had been deceived."

Maghakis said that his statements before police interrogators followed torture and mental pressure. He claimed that the security police chief of Athens, Colonel Tzavaras, tortured him personally.

Earlier a security police major said the accused, alleged members of the underground organisation "Democratic Defence," resorted to bomb explosions, arson and subversion to bring down the regime and replace it with a Communist Government. He claimed that "Democratic Defence" had cooperated with Communist organisations and said Maghakis had lied when he claimed he had been tortured.—Reuters.