

A FEW hours before the accidental bomb explosion which blasted away three fingers and the palm of his right hand and led to his arrest, Dionysios Karagiorgas, Professor of Public Finance at the Panteios school of graduate studies in Athens, was asked by a friend why he was prepared to take such enormous risks in opposing the junta.

He replied: "It couldn't be otherwise. We, the professors and the professional men, the intellectual world, must take the lead. Only in this way will the rest follow."

Resistance in Greece now straddles all social classes but the point which troubles the regime and is emphasised by the show trial of 55 alleged members of Democratic Defence which opened in Athens yesterday is the zeal and commitment of the highly educated. For the Greek population still regards the highly educated as natural guides and leaders.

Imagine, for example, the impact of a British trial in which two senior Oxbridge professors and a retired general were the principal defendants. This is precisely the position in Greece. Alongside Karagiorgas stand General George Iordanides, a 69-year-old former Greek representative to NATO and a well-known leader writer, and Professor George Manghakis, the 48-year-old professor of law at the University of Athens.

The indictment lists 35 people who will appear in court and a further 20 who are Greek nationals living abroad and foreign nationals, and gives their occupations as lawyers, judges, engineers, university teachers, and student leaders.

As one indicted Greek abroad said on seeing the front pages of the Athens newspapers, complete with pre-arrest pictures of confident-looking men used to public life: "At first glance it looks just like the

View of defendants, with retired General George Iordanides in the front row on the right

The Guardian, 28.3.70.

Shadows on show for their necks

CAMPBELL PAGE

on the new trials of Greece

Indeed, the massive scale of the trial and the unrestricted publicity so far establish the defendants as some kind of alternative government and set the seal on their credentials for the time when the present military regime crumbles.

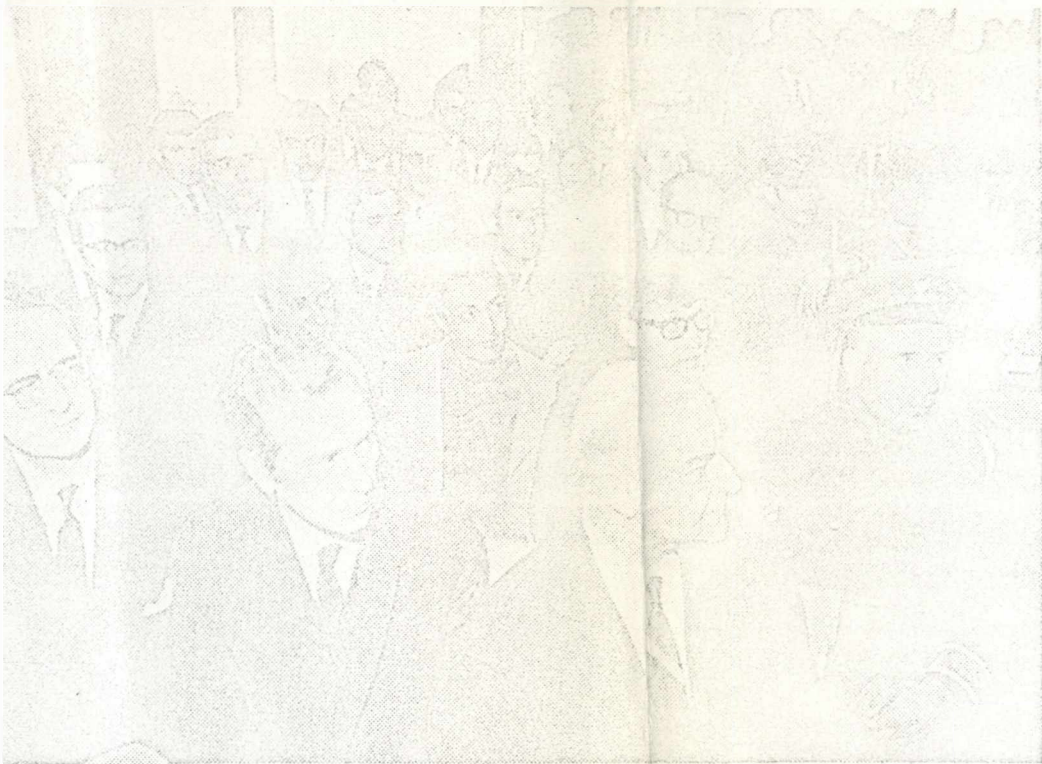
The defendants, arrested mainly in three sweeps between July, when Professor Karagiorgas was injured by the accidental explosion, and October, are charged with attempting to overthrow the regime by force. The leaders face possible death sentences under a 23-year-old anti-sedition law.

But the régime faces a series of delicate problems in its handling of the trial. Will the Greek people regard the proceedings as an inspiring or cautionary tale? Should the sentences be light, showing the confidence of the regime and its lack of concern at "trivial" resistance activities or should the court-martial give punitive sentences? Will

extensive newspaper reports confirm the vigilance and efficiency of the security services, or will they give valuable lessons in what to do and what not to do when you take on the junta? Will the trial be a primer in mistakes to be avoided and a display of the achievements possible to people starting from scratch in opposition?

In the indictment the regime tries a Communist smear and also shows its concern at the growing accord between the resistance movements. The Left-wing Democratic Defence is said to have had links with "the Communist-front organisation, Patriotic Front," and "the illegal Left-wing organisation, the Panhellenic Liberation Movement," led by Professor Andreas Papandreou. And one defendant, John Starakis, correspondent of a French newspaper, who had a breakdown after "Falanga" torture while in custody, is said to have been "recruited into

the inclusion of a new
including unemployment
other soft spots in the economy



both Democratic Defence and the Patriotic Front."

General Iordanides is described as "holding the chairmanship of the central committee of Democratic Defence from May 1969," and as having held meetings at his home and elsewhere attended by George Kouvelakis, a judge now in Paris, Nikolaos Constantopoulos, a student leader, Panagiotis Tsangarakis, an electrical engineer, and Demosthenes Konaris, a student leader, and others.

The indictment acknowledges the eminence of Professor Manghakidis by noting "the persuasion and the influence exercised on them (other members of Democratic Defence) by reason of his authority as professor in the law school of Athens University."

Professor Karagiriorgas, who has suffered gravely in custody and has been denied adequate medical treatment, is said to have joined the resistance "animated by left-

wing opinions," to have taken a leading part in it, and to have "participated, in a leading capacity in a band of dynamiters."

Others named are Athanasios Filias, electrical engineer and brother of the economist Vassilis Filias now serving a long sentence for his opposition to the regime, who "demonstrated the handling of bombs . . . to the dynamiters," and Charalambos Protopappas, lawyer and president of the Social-Democrat League, who was "animated by Communist ideas."

Christos Rokophoulos, a lawyer, is said to have worked with one other person in placing a bomb at the offices of Esso-Pappas, the firm run by a well-known pro-junta businessman. Victor Papazis, a publisher, is described as having "made his private yacht available for the transport of explosive and other materials from Italy to meet the needs of the organisation."

And in one tiny but telling illiberal gesture, the indictment describes one of the foreign defendants, Jules Dassin, the film director and husband of Melina Mercouri, not as an American citizen but as "an American Jew."

If the régime's handling of the trial misfires, the rôles of prosecutor and defendant could be reversed. What kind of regime forces men with so much to give to a democratic society into the dock as members of an illegal organisation? Is it a regime which deserves to survive?

Already two members of the old democratic establishment have stepped forward to act as defence lawyers, and well-known politicians have offered to appear as defence witnesses. And already the regime has roused foreign concern but diminished knowledge abroad of the trial by refusing entry, yesterday morning, to a four-man Parliamentary delegation of observers from Scandinavia.