

## OVERSEAS

# Stiff prison terms in Athens but no death sentences

From MARIO MODIANO

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The Athens special military court today disregarded the prosecution's call for harsh penalties in the sedition trial of 34 Greek intellectuals, and sentenced the chief defendant, Professor Karayorgas, to prison for life. It gave 19 others gaol terms from one to 18 years, and ordered the release of the remaining 14, seven of them with suspended sentences. There were no death sentences.

All stood up in the crowded courtroom when the judges returned after deliberations lasting almost five hours. As the civilian president, Appeal Judge Atsalis, flanked by the four military judges, solemnly read out the verdicts and sentences, the silence was suddenly broken by Mrs. Karayorgas. "Oh, my God, I thank you", she cried, when she heard that her husband was not to die.

The heaviest sentences were reserved for seven defendants who were found Guilty of illegal possession or use of explosives.

Professor Dionyssios Karayorgas, whose anti-regime activities were discovered when he lost half his right hand in an accidental explosion, was given a life sentence for sedition, as well as 18 years on counts of attempted arson and illegal possession of explosives.

Assistant Professor George-Alexander Mangakis, who admitted possession of explosives, received a total of 18 years on this count as well as for sedition. Eighteen-year sentences were also passed on Jean Starakis, the Greek-born French journalist, and Spyridon Loukas, a chemical engineer, who, in spite of the repudiation of their police confessions, were found Guilty of detonating several bombs in Athens last summer.

Of the three other defendants involved with explosive, one was sentenced to 15 years, two to 10 years each.

It was significant that all verdicts on the sedition charge were returned on a four-to-one vote. The civilian president, it was assumed, had been convinced by the argument of the defence that the sedition law, introduced 23 years ago against communist subversion, was not applicable in this case since none of the defendants was a communist.

Had the dissenting judge been able to convince his colleagues

of this, only 10 of the 34 would have been convicted.

Instead, the court imposed heavy prison sentences on 13 of the defendants, though they were unrelated to the bomb explosions. Retired General Iordanides, Mr. Haralambos Protopappas, president of the Greek Socialist Union, and six others who admitted discussing the political future of Greece, and in some cases issuing illegal proclamations, were sentenced to between six and eight years.

Five received sentences of between three and five years for sedition, seven others suspended sentences and seven were found "unanimously" innocent.

The court's verdicts, by absolving the chief defendants of moral instigation of the bomb explosions, accepted that the accused did not belong to any particular anti-regime organization but to small groups.

The lawyers for the defence, whose pleading ended at 2 a.m. today, had based their case on the arguments first that the anti-sedition law concerned communist activity and was not applicable in this trial, and, second, that the explosive devices used were fire-crackers, not bombs.

Mr. George Mangakis (a cousin of the defendant) winding up for the defence, said: "Why charge the defendants under the sedition law when they had nothing to do with communism? Why does not the Government simply pass a law to punish its critics?"

He told the court that he had been warned of plans to arrest him because he had used a legal device to read out in court torture statements by the defendants. There was, he pointed out, no question of prosecuting the torturers as there had been no witnesses.

"One day, however," Mr. Maneakis added, "when it will be possible to sue, this will be done and all the culprits will be made to pay dearly, very dearly."

The court's decisions can be seen as proving that the Greek judiciary was not influenced by the admonitions of Mr. Papadopoulos, the Prime Minister, to pass harsher sentences. But in foreign diplomatic circles it is believed that the Prime Minister may have made his remarks to demonstrate how independent the Greek judges are. Officials here, however, reject any thought to such ulterior motives.

Mr. Pipinelis, the Foreign Minister, last night strongly denied that the relaxation of martial law, announced on Friday, was designed to placate the Foreign Ministers of the Council of Europe who will be discussing Greece in Strasbourg on Wednesday. They will have before them a draft resolution condemning Greece for violations of human rights and authorizing the release of a report on Greece.

Mikis Theodorakis, the imprisoned composer who has tuberculosis and has suffered a relapse, has been transferred to the Sotiria sanatorium near Athens, his family reported today. An International Red Cross physician who examined him four weeks ago recommended immediate hospital treatment.

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## on point of in India

IAZELHURST

for personal power and gain. Since no single party had an absolute majority, they forgot their election pledges and defected.

The politicians are forgetting he adds that defection from one party to another was almost certain to boomerang on the system and the politicians themselves.

Another new strain on the system was the growing number of parties seeking power. He discloses that 75 official parties are already registered. This number must be reduced