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# Greek paper closes after trial

From Our Correspondent

Athens, April 3

The Athens evening newspaper Ethnos closed down today, 36 hours after a military court sent three of its owner-publishers and two editors to prison and imposed fines totalling £18,750.

The announcement which said that the newspaper was "suspending publication indefinitely" was made on behalf of the imprisoned proprietors by the acting editor and the chief accountant. Ethnos was first published in 1913.

Its closure as well as the harsh penalties imposed on its management by the military court for publishing a text urging the restoration of democracy, has shocked many Greeks—not necessarily all of them opponents of the regime. Letters offering financial help to keep the newspaper going were received in significant numbers at the Ethnos offices today.

The decision to close was clearly influenced by the financial sanctions included in the verdict—the fines and the suspension for five months of the newspaper's privilege of importing newsprint at cut-rate duty.

Mr. George Mavros, a leading liberal politician, today told the special military court trying 34 Greek intellectuals accused of sedition that the answer to the communist threat was democracy, not dictatorship.

Mr. Mavros, who is generally regarded as the acting leader of the Centre Union party, was among the last witnesses examined for the defence, as 14 of the 34 defendants renounced their right to call witnesses. After a brief session today, the court adjourned until Sunday.

Answering the Crown Prosecutor, Mr. Mavros, said that there were laws, within the context of a democratic regime, affording the nation full protection from the communist danger. He also said it was absurd that the indictment should describe the defendants as communists.

Antonios Parianos, one of the defendants, who had been excused by the court because he suffered from cancer, died today. A commercial agent, aged 38, he had been accused of using the duplicating machine of the Athletics Federation, of which he was secretary-general, to print proclamations of the "Democratic Defence".

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