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Former Premier Tells Court Greek Resistance Is Justified



Panayotis Kanellopoulos

Israel, Syria In Big Battle

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Syrian tank explode in flames only a few yards from a United Nations position. Pilots later reported hitting positions throughout the rear lines of the Syrian force established in the region.

An Israeli captain was reported to have been killed in one of the exchanges in the Nahal Geshur area, the scene of the heaviest fighting.

Waves of Israeli planes crossed the cease-fire lines throughout the day, soldiers reported later. At one point, Syrian artillery opened fire on Kuneitra, a largely abandoned Syrian town under Israeli occupation.

Israeli jets rather than artillery were called in to silence the Syrian firing, observers said. By late afternoon the firing had spread along most of the line, with the only exceptions being the mountainous region in the far north and the deep valley in the south.

Reports from Arab radios heard here said that the Syrian Air Force flew a low cover over Damascus for most of the day. Damascus airport was reported to have been closed after noon.

By Israeli accounts, the action today brings to 20 the number of Syrian Migs downed since the end of the six day war to two Jet losses for Israel.

Russia Assails U.K. Defense of Tear, Smoke Gas

GENEVA, April 2 (AP).—The Soviet Union today denounced the British claim that tear and smoke gases are not covered by the 1926 Geneva protocol banning germ and chemical warfare.

Britain, which adheres to the protocol, says it does not apply to such chemical agents as the CS smoke gas. The chief British delegate to the disarmament conference here, Lord Chalfont, has argued that such a gas could be used in warfare for "humanitarian reasons" such as taking prisoners.

The United States, which has not ratified the Geneva protocol and uses CS gas in Vietnam for smoking out the Viet Cong, has thus

ATHENS, April 2 (Reuters).—Defense witnesses for 34 prominent Athenians charged with plotting to overthrow the government said today the Greek people are justified in resisting a regime that curbs their freedom.

The trial, now in its seventh day, reached a climax last night when the Conservative leader, Panayotis Kanellopoulos—deposed as premier by the military-backed regime nearly three years ago—said he approves of the methods of the accused to bring down the government.

The defendants stood and applauded the 67-year-old leader of the Conservative National Radical Union party when he said: "The military rulers should have known that their violence would provoke violence.

"That is why the responsibility for the bomb explosions does not lie with the defendants but with others."

The defendants, including university professors, judges, lawyers and a retired army general, are charged with using bombs to topple the regime and establish a Communist-style administration in the country.

All are being tried under an anti-sedition law passed 22 years ago to quell a Communist uprising. The maximum penalty is death.

The prosecution claims the defendants belong to an underground organization known as Democritiki Amyna (Democratic Defense).

Prosecution witnesses have alleged that Amyna has cooperated with pro-Communist organizations like the Patriotic Front to attain its aims.

Many of the accused have claimed in court that their confessions were obtained by police torture.

Athanassios Mihas, former deputy speaker in the Athens parliament, rejected the prosecution claim that the army takeover was necessary to cope with a Communist threat.

"Only the legal government at that time was competent to say so," he said. "In that case, the constitution provided for the suspension of a few of its articles dealing with civil liberties, but only for a limited period, and this after parliamentary approval."

"God forbid, if the people would have accepted without any protest and resistance a regime that abolished their freedom. It is gratifying that Greeks everywhere offer resistance to the present regime."

Other defense witnesses included retired generals, high-court judges, diplomats and university professors. All testified the defendants are not Communists but democrats, belonging either to Socialist or Conservative parties.

The verdict is expected next week.

Jurists Protest Bar

GENEVA, April 2 (NYT).—The International Commission of Jurists said today that the Greek authorities have "once more publicly demonstrated their indifference to the rule of law" by barring foreign observers from a military court trying 34 persons on charges of subversion.

Two representatives of the commission, a private agency, were among the foreign lawyers who protested Monday that they had been denied access to the Athens courtroom.

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ATHENS, April 2 (AP).—Athens military court today handed down stiff prison fines yesterday to men and a former held responsible for an interview calling for the abolition of democracy. Yiannis Kapsis, anti-regime newspaper editor, was fined 100,000 drachmas.

No One to For Val Avalanch

PARIS, April 2 (AP).—The French government commission of inquiry into the avalanche at Isère on Feb. 10 said it could not officially be held responsible for the disaster.

The commission of inquiry, headed by Interior Minister René Hurel, will report in a few days after determining if anyone was involved in any way.

The avalanche killed 30 people and packed youth hostels. The rescue operation took time, taking one of the victims to a hospital in French mountains.

Some officials in the commission said the relatives of the dead were not given adequate precautions taken and that the poorly constructed buildings prompted a government inquiry.

The commission said it "confirms the responsibility can be official anyone."

The commission found all authorizations for building of the hotels properly obtained, and the quality of the construction not be criticized.