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Observers Barred From Greek Court

Bombs Explode In Athens Area



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ATHENS, March 30 (AP).— Eight foreign observers were officially denied access to a mass military trial of 34 persons today after they were told "their presence constitutes an insult to the dignity of Greek justice."

A joint statement by the foreign observers said they were not permitted to be "officially present" in the courtroom where members of the alleged subversive organization "Democratic Defense" are on trial. The trial entered its fourth day today.

The observers were present at the court-martial proceedings for the first two days.

The statement said Dimitrios Zaphyropoulos, director general of the government press department, had told them "precisely... the presence of foreign observers constitutes an insult to the dignity of Greek justice."

Incomplete Mission

"The observers took notice of this refusal," the statement added, "and of the fact they could not complete their mission."

The eight observers represent the International Commission of Jurists, International Federation of Human Rights, Belgian League of Human Rights, Conference of Presidents of the West German Universities, German Jurists Association, French League of Human Rights and the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

One of the foreign observers said the group planned to leave Athens as soon as possible because its presence served no further purpose.

[Speaking to a group of foreign correspondents after the Greek government's decision to bar them from the trial, attorney Karl Jaffary, of Toronto, representing the Canadian Civil Liberties Union, said most of the observers were going back to their countries because their mission had been ended by powers beyond their own, a Reuters dispatch explained.

[Mr. Jaffary said: "I have been quite unhappy about legal proceedings so far. Nothing we heard during the two days we were in court would have been accepted as evidence in any North American Court."

[Mr. Jaffary added: "Police witnesses were saying, 'All these defendants were connected to an organization,' and when they have been asked if they know that from their own knowledge, they said: 'No we know that because sources told us that.'

["They were asked by defense lawyers if they would reveal their sources and their reply was, 'Of course not. We cannot possibly do that. Those are secrets.' That simply is not evidence in any sense that common law understands it."]

Bomb Damage

At today's proceedings, five army demolition experts described the damage caused by bombs allegedly set off by the Democratic Defense.

Most of the explosions took place in central Athens. One bomb that went off under a couch in Olympic Airways' downtown Athens ticket office injured five persons. Five persons were wounded by flying glass when an explosion shattered a large plate glass window of the National Bank of Greece, a semi-state organization.

As the witnesses testified, reports of three explosions circulated through the Greek capital.

One explosion was reported in a suburb between Athens and its port city of Piraeus, a traditional leftist stronghold before the army swept into power 35 months ago and suspended parliamentary rule.

There were no injuries reported from today's blasts, but one explosion knocked down a wall in an empty lot.

It was the first time in more than a month that bombs were reported to have exploded in or near Athens.