

Jurists barred from Athens sedition trial

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

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Nine foreign jurists who came to Athens as observers for the trial of 34 Greeks on sedition charges said today they were seeing Foreign Ministry officials tomorrow in an effort to reverse the order which has barred them from the court-martial since yesterday afternoon.

Professor Gunter Stratenwert, of Basle University, said the observers, including two representatives of the International Commission of Jurists, had attended by permission of the court's president until an officer turned them back invoking "new orders".

When the hearings were resumed today Dr. Kapsaskis, the chief medical examiner, was questioned on allegations of police brutality made by Professor George Mangakis, one of the defendants. Dr. Kapsaskis, who had visited the professor after charges filed by Mrs. Mangakis that her husband was being tortured, admitted today that he had not given him a full medical examination.

"He bore no traces of ill-treatment in the neck, the face, the head or his hands. He gave me his word of honour that he had been subjected to no ill-treatment and that the behaviour

of the police had been impeccable", he stated.

At this point Professor Mangakis rose and said he had not revealed to Dr. Kapsaskis how he had been treated because he wished to protect his wife after promises by the police that she would not be prosecuted.

At last night's session defence counsel read out a statement from Christos Rokofyllos, a 38-year-old lawyer who, he said, was suffering from cancer, claiming that his confession followed "the undescrivable mental ordeal" of being convinced "through tape-recordings or hallucinogens or both", that he had heard his wife being tortured to death.

Nicolaos Constantopoulos, a former president of the Centre Union youth organization, alleged that he was beaten and tortured by military police.

A prosecution witness, Athanassios Geraris, a student, described today how one of the defendants had given him three time bombs with instructions to plant them at the Athens Hilton Hotel.

Greek newspapers, for the first time, have published verbatim reports of the hearings, including the full texts of the statements alleging police brutality.