

EAN D. H. 57-14

The colonels who now govern Greece profess their allegiance to the so-called Greco-Christian civilization. Just where this "civilization" is leading can be deduced from the state of Greek education just over a year after the colonels took over.

For example, only 5,000 new students will be accepted by the Greek universities, it has been announced, in the coming academic year. This compares with the figure for the current year of well over 10,000.

Some 10 per cent of those admitted, moreover, will be selected under Law of Necessity 40/1967 on the basis of their "high moral and irreproachable character". Those considered (Royal Act 454/1967, art. 14, par. 2) as belonging to the opposition will be excluded from higher education.

These and other changes seem to bode up to the emasculation of Greek education. At a moment when universally the trend is towards keeping children at school up to the age of 15, obligatory schooling (under Law of Necessity 129/1967) has been brought down to the age of 12 as compared to 15 under the previous law.

Furthermore, the duration of primary teacher training has come down (Law 129/1967) to two years instead of three.

To complete the picture—while during the period 1964-67 some 3,373 primary and infants' schools were created or promoted to a higher grade, not even one new school has been created since the coup. In many regions of Greece there are no schools and in many other regions students are overcrowded in the existing schools.

POSTS STILL VACANT

During the last three years before the coup some 5,600 new school teachers were appointed and all vacancies were immediately filled. Since the coup only 562 new appointments have been made and there remain 600 vacant teaching posts.

In addition, out of 15 inspector-general posts in primary education, only one has been filled, while out of 200 posts of primary inspectors some 140 still remain vacant.

The language of the primary school has always been the living language of the country, the so-called *demotiki*. The official language, *Katharevousa*, was taught only in the later classes of the primary school and only on a restricted

scale. Now this practice is reversed. *Katharevousa*, a language that children do not understand and find great difficulty in mastering, is now imposed after the third year of schooling, that is to say on children 8-9 years old. At school, teachers and pupils are forbidden the use of *demotiki*.

All but three members of the Pedagogic Institute, as well as a large number of senior secondary teachers have been eliminated. Twenty-four secondary heads and seven heads of sections of the general services of the Ministry of Education have been dismissed. Out of 11 directors of the same services six have been compelled to resign. Thirty-four posts of general inspectors of secondary education still remain vacant.

Again, the division of secondary education into two circles of studies has been cancelled. Entrance examinations to the gymnasium have been reintroduced, though the candidates have successfully passed their graduation examinations from the primary school.

DOCILITY REWARDED

The authorities have dismissed arbitrarily the lawfully elected leaders of the Secondary Education Teachers' Union and replaced them by persons docile to the regime.

At the level of higher education, the regime (through Constitutional Act IE/20.12.1967) has abolished the autonomy of universities and given the Council of Ministers the right to veto the appointment of any new professor.

The regime has further decreed that to be eligible as professor every candidate has to submit a Security Police certificate that he is not a communist and that he has been nationally active.

Constitutional Acts G and T give the authorities the right to dismiss on political grounds any professor or lecturer. Already 56 of them have been so dismissed, and have been denied a passport permitting them to travel abroad.

A word should be said in conclusion on conditions prevailing in university campuses and in the students' unions. University porters are acting as informers spying on students and professors alike. Students are shadowed openly and police informers are present at the lectures.

All student union officials have been replaced by reliable supporters of the government, while at regular intervals the Security Police make numerous and indiscriminate student arrests with the purpose of terrorizing the student body and nipping in the bud any attempt at free thought.