

- 1) On the 25th ~~MAY~~ May, by special law, a short tin-limit was granted for the exercise of review against the verdicts of Courts Martial. The measure was put into effect on the eve of the summer meeting of Nato in Rome, in order to allow Mr Pipinelis to present a more humane image of the military regime. The measure lacks any real substance, as its application demonstrated in 1969.
- 2) Substantial objections to the review:
  - a) The right of the Royal Prosecutor to accept or reject the applications according to his own absolute judgment.
  - b) Even if the application is accepted, the period of proceedings is completely indefinite. In the best of circumstances several months will pass before the trial is held and postponements could delay it even further.
  - c) A very likely outcome is that the convicted men may have their sentences reduced slightly, or else they may be released on suspended sentences. In the event of the latter possibility, those that are released will, in effect, be prisoners of the Junta, in that they will not be permitted any freedom of activity. And in either case their conviction is likely to be used by the "Constitutional Court" to exclude them from political life in the future.
  - d) It would be impossible to conduct a new trial without reference to the Cyprus issue. A new discussion of the Cyprus issue before a public would benefit the regime.
  - e) It is also possible that in the event of acquittal exile may follow.

Besides the above there are, of course, questions of principle - recognition, for example, that the Junta's justice is capable of putting right a judicial crime (the original verdict of the Court Martial, etc).

Involvement in these proceedings may not lead to acquittal, therefore, but runs the risk of leading to quite contrary results. At the same time the convicted men lose the psychological and substantial argument of illegal imprisonment, which presses for an amnesty or a similar measure. The Junta leadership has often declared that a measure was being taken to free X detainees or Y prisoner, whenever international pressure became too great. But after the measure was utilized to throw dust in the eyes, it was hastily forgotten. And with it the convicted men.

What we are asking for: Amnesty for gross offences or else application of the Law of Bardou, which was passed especially in order to free Mr Evangelos Averoff when he was convicted.

Great care is therefore needed. Let official assurances be given and not just empty words. Let our friends not prove themselves once again to be "gullible westerners" and we ourselves naive.