

DECLARATION OF ex-MINISTER MR JOHN ZIGHDIS ON THE QUESTION
OF A REVIEW OF HIS CONVICTION

The granting of the possibility of review of the verdicts of the Courts Martial constitutes nothing more than an obvious deceit lacking all originality, since the military regime tried the same thing last year, and in its application the measure proved void of any substance.

But Mr Pipinelis had to bring something with him to confront the Foreign Ministers of the members of the Alliance, in order to touch up the humanitarian image of itself the regime wanted to present, regardless of the fact that in their embarrassment, the Colonels, on the very eve of the Nato meeting, resorted to a worn and worthless ruse.

Finally, the correlation between the measure and the conviction of Mr Zighdis, goes beyond the boundaries of the comic, for, as a result of it, the regime is attempting to show that Mr Zighdis, who was sentenced to four and a half years imprisonment and a crippling fine for making highly constructive and well-founded statements on the Cyprus issue in the paper Ethnos, is at this moment prepared to beg the regime to permit him to resort to military justice and request redress for the "judicial crime" of his conviction, which military justice itself committed by its verdict in the first place. Thus an effort is being made to present the picture that Mr Zighdis accepts the fact that he actually committed an offence, and that the regime's military justice is indeed capable of dispensing justice. And further, that he is willing to involve himself in a procedure that, given the best of circumstances, will take many months if not years.

A sly play of the Junta's... and for this reason also slightly comic.