

## Mass based resistance to the regime

# Greek students challenge military junta

By KOSTAS KOSTAKIS

The massive mobilization, and now resistance, of students in Greece has deeply shaken the Greek junta for the first time in its brutal six year history, opening a new phase in the bitter struggle for Greek freedom.

The students have smashed, once and for all, the myth that the Greeks are contented with the small gang of military-intelligence officers who, using NATO plan Prometheus, crushed the popular movement of the '602 by taking over a month before the elections scheduled for May 27, 1967. But more importantly, the students seem to have laid the groundwork for mass-based resistance to the regime.

In Athens, where martial law still reigns, three to five thousand students (one-third of them women) occupied the law school in the heart of the city on February 21. The sit-in was the culmination of a series of protests and strikes which actually began in January at the polytechnical school and spread quickly as students of law, medicine and philosophy at Athens university each in turn added their forces to the movement. Sensing that it was losing its grip on the situation, the junta issued a decree on February 14 providing for the withdrawal of army deferments for those engaged in or "inciting" strike activities.

The following day, thousands of students joined in a peaceful demonstration at the polytechnical school, and the police, cautious before, were finally unleashed by the regime. Over one hundred students were arrested and both students and faculty were beaten viciously as police invaded the building of the school, trashing, for good measure, the Chancellor's office as well. The chancellor and the faculty senate resigned in protest. Hundreds of law students, demonstrating in sympathy at the law school in another part of the city were also greeted by police clubs.

Sunday the 18th, 11 students were tried for "insulting authorities" in a trial which one of the lawyers described as "being conducted under conditions of terrorism." Even the lawyers are being harassed by security police. Several episodes broke out in the courtroom as security police tried to prevent students from following the trial. Former prime minister Panayiotis Kanellopoulos and many other prominent political leaders testified in defense of the students.

When, on the following day, students of law, medicine and philosophy gathered for a protest, they found the Athens university "closed for repairs."

The next day, the 21st, was the day of decision. In thousands they gathered at the law school for a mass meeting and then took over the building. After maintaining their occupation for 30 hours, isolated by heavy police forces from supplies of food and from the thousands of other students and parents who came to support them, they left peacefully having agreed to a ten day moratorium of protest during which professors were to negotiate with the junta. Ignoring the compromise move worked out by students and professors, the junta flatly rejected a reconsideration of the draft decree.

At the same time, the Greek press, which had pushed the junta's press law to its limit during the sit-in, was stopped from publishing any article or photograph relating to the "disturbances." Wire service out of the country was cut off. Not since the first days of the coup had such strict measures been imposed.

What followed on Saturday and Sunday was a transformation from a generally peaceful student protest movement to a mass uprising. The police, confronted by thousands of angry students, now joined in some numbers by their parents, workers and shopkeepers, went wild. Hundreds were injured, many seriously,

and reports began to filter out of student deaths.

And then, the startling news of massive student demonstrations in Salonica began to reach the outside world. With its lack of foreign correspondents, Salonica is more easily hidden from the eyes of the world than the capital. Radio Paris announced the death of two.

The news blackout within Greece has almost quelled any reporting in the foreign press. While BBC and Radio Paris still carry short and tantalizingly vague accounts of "incidents," "clashes" and "injuries", the New York Times of Feb. 26, for example, carried a photograph of students being beaten by police, but no news article. Greece was not among the subjects "fit to print" on Monday.

When the junta took power in April 1967, it seemed to have everything going for it. With computerized efficiency, the coup of colonels struck at all levels arresting politicians, labour and student leaders. American support was automatic, since the National Security Council, according to Marquis Childs, had given the green light for the coup in February. And support continued, extending to American lobbying activities on the junta's behalf by Secretary of State William Rogers when the Council of Europe

moved to expel Greece from its ranks in December 1969, finally deciding that the junta practiced "administrative torture". The U.S. interestingly enough, denies any knowledge of torture in Greece despite the fact that the notorious ESA (Military Police Headquarters) interrogation center is next door to the American embassy in Athens.

Except for the spontaneous demonstration of 500,000 Greeks during the funeral of George Papandreou (leader of the Center Union party) in November 1968, resistance has remained on a low level in Greece. While the junta has remained totally isolated from all strata of the Greek population, active resistance to it has been carried out by small groups. They plant bombs on symbolic targets and are arrested regularly.

While over the almost six years of dictatorship their numbers run into the hundreds and their daring acts and proud court martials have kept the spirit of democracy alive in Greece, they have been unable to shake its structure of power.

The student movement has changed all this and we will not likely have to wait long to see the results of the slogan which became the clarion call of the February uprising: "People — Join Us!"



Students on the roof of the Law school at the University of Athens.

## Quebec students continue strike in defiance of court injunction

MONTREAL (CUPI) — In defiance of a court injunction, students at the Université de Québec à Montréal plan to continue their boycott of classes, now in its second month. About 3,000 of the university's 13,000 students voted overwhelmingly at a rally at Paul Sauve arena Monday night in favour of continuing the strike.

The students are striking to protest the university administration's attempts to impose a deadline for payment of academic fees. The students are demanding the right to pay their fees in installments during the three years after they leave the university and only if they find work in their field of study.

They plan to campaign for support among CEGEPS and other universities in Montreal. Besides organizing a study day for later in the week, they will hold a demonstration Friday, March 2 in front of the Pailais de Justice, or "court-house" when 10 UQAM students are to appear on charges of violating the injunction and of causing disturbances while picketing. Students of the Rosemont CEGEP are planning to hold study sessions until the UQAM injunction is lifted.

The strike began on Jan. 26, and on Feb. 16 Rector Leo A. Dorais announced the university was suspending classes and activities for a "period of reflection". The students, with support from the teachers union and the non-academic employees union have kept the university effectively closed since the end of January.

The student strike had forced the administration to withdraw its Jan. 26 deadline for the payment of fees. (The university would have expelled students failing to pay by that time.) On Feb. 6 the Quebec government lifted all province-wide deadlines and said each university could decide for itself how to collect fees.

Last week the Conference des recteurs et principaux des universités du Québec officially withdrew its dictum calling for strict fee payment.

Then the government's tactics changed: on Feb. 21, Quebec education minister Francois Cloutier said the time had come to restore order on the UQAM campus.

On Feb. 22, the Montreal police drove their motorcycles through student lines, injuring at least three students, as the UQAM administration tried to forcibly end the strike which has kept the university closed since Jan. 26.

Only when the riot squad appeared on the scene in the morning did the students disperse, but they returned for mass picket lines in the afternoon.

The university faces a double problem with the student

strike and its support. The administration is currently negotiating with non-academic staff on a new contract, and the workers may legally strike by the end of March. They staged a strike last year and received support from both students and faculty. The faculty strike last year also received student support.

The UQAM administration said Feb. 19 it wanted to consider the student idea of three-year fee payments, but until it devises a new system, it insisted on the old fee deadlines.

Meanwhile the University of Sherbrooke withdrew from the provincial fee regulations and said it wanted to devise a satisfactory arrangement for payment with students. At nearby Bishop's University, the administration has set a Feb. 12 deadline but is reportedly being lenient with students who cannot afford immediate payment.

But the Bishop's administration has sent letters to all debtor students advising them they are expelled from residence and disallowed food services. The administration has devised a new system for next year ordering students to pay their first term fees by September registration and their second term fees by Jan. 15, 1974.

## CIA needs grads

WASHINGTON (CPS-CUPI) — The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has been encountering difficulties in recruiting competent college graduates for its worldwide operations. The CIA has come under attack because of its past infiltration of campus groups and disclosure of its clandestine operations in Southeast Asia. These factors have hurt the CIA's reputation, and removed some of the glamour of being in the "spy business". The agency continues to need people to staff its worldwide positions, and uses both open and covert solicitation to recruit college students. The covert method used in recruiting students is exemplified by ads placed in daily newspapers for foreign linguists. The ads are usually for employment in Washington, D.C., with a provision that the individual be willing to serve abroad. The student applying for such a job is not told that the employer is the CIA. The work of such linguists generally consists of translating foreign language tapes, but where the tapes come from, and how they are obtained, is left unanswered.

## News Briefs

### Brock to use deficit financing

ST. CATHARINES (CUP) — The students' union of Brock University has endorsed a report demanding the university administration solve its present financial crisis through deficit financing. A special committee composed of student, faculty and administrative members was mandated to find a solution to the financial crisis. An occupation in protest over the announced firing of five full-time faculty, ended when the university agreed to retain the five. All committee members agreed that although the financial problems are serious, they do not warrant the massive cutbacks proposed by the administration.

### U of T and Ottawa emerge unscathed

(CUP) — The University of Toronto (U of T) and the University of Ottawa are the only Ontario universities to emerge unscathed by a province-wide decrease in 1973-74 university applicants, according to raw data released by the Ontario Universities Applications Centre. Seven hundred more students than last year have indicated U of T as their first choice, with about the same members as last year picking Toronto as their second and third preferences.

The much smaller University of Ottawa was the only other university to buck the trend, by receiving an impressive increase of 100 applications.

### Qualifications are first consideration

(CUP) — Qualifications are more important than nationality in selecting university professors, says the president of the University of Western Ontario (UWO). The UWO administration is presently under fire from some students and faculty members for releasing several Canadian faculty members from the American-dominated department of sociology. Of the 36 UWO sociology faculty members, 18 are American and 14 are Canadian. Two and possibly four Canadians and two non-Canadians will be released at the end of this year to meet the university's budget problems. Professors are being released in other departments also. Many students and professors believe a subject as culturally sensitive as sociology should not be taught by foreign professors. A total of 61 UWO faculty members will not have their contracts renewed next year and most of these, apparently are Canadian.

### U of T gets faculty raises

(CUP) — University of Toronto faculty members are joining colleagues elsewhere in gaining salary increases for next year, despite the institution's serious money shortage. The more than 2,100 U of T academics will get an across-the-board increase of 3.5 per cent. Minimum salaries now range from \$9,200 for lecturers to \$18,300 for full professors. The increase contrasts sharply with a 22 per cent cut in the budget of the U of T advisory bureau, a progressive counselling service generally considered superior to facilities provided elsewhere at U of T and on other campuses. Salary money will also be available for merit increases averaging \$700 per person for teachers earning less than \$26,000 a year and \$400 for those earning more, provided they are not already earning more than the ceiling in their rank.