

Papers Sure of Guilt

By M. S. HANDLER Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

New York Times (1857-Current file); Mar 8, 1949; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times

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lic opinion because correspondents attending the trial have had time only for contact with Bulgarian Government officials, and Bulgarian newspaper men have considered the pastors guilty from the start.

They never expressed any doubts concerning the value of the evidence. The men were guilty and had been punished. Any doubts expressed by observers were resented strongly.

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SOFIA, Bulgaria, March 7—A Sofia District Court will sentence the fifteen Protestant ministers tomorrow afternoon at 3 P. M. (8 A. M. EST).

The official newspapers of this country stated the prisoners were guilty of the charges and would be punished. The same newspapers were exceptionally bitter over the fact that opinion in Western countries had even cast a doubt on the guilt of the pastors. According to the papers, there cannot even be a shadow of a doubt.

Judge Konstantin Oundjiev, president of the Court, will read the sentences. Defense counsel and the prosecution have three alternatives open to them after the sentences have been pronounced.

If they are satisfied, they will make declarations to that effect thus signifying they will not appeal. If they are not satisfied they will announce their intention to appeal to the Supreme Court, which can only rule on procedural and not on substantive issues in the case. Finally, if death sentences are handed down, any defense counsel may appeal for clemency to the Presidium of the Bulgarian Government.

An appeal to the Presidium means an appeal must go to a three-man Judicial Commission of the Ministry of Justice for recommendation. The Presidium acts on the recommendation. One of the three members of the Judicial Commission is the chief prosecutor of Bulgaria.

It is difficult to assess the effect of the trial on Bulgarian pub-