

Bulgaria Rests Case Against 15 Pastors

By Edward M. Korry

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The government tonight suddenly halted its parade of 60-odd witnesses against 15 Protestant pastors accused of espionage and treason and concluded its case against them. A verdict is expected Monday.

The prosecution dropped 42 witnesses who were scheduled to appear in court, indicating their testimony would have been redundant.

Fourteen of the 15 churchmen pleaded guilty to the charges of espionage, treason and black market activities. Ladin Ivanov Popov, small town pentecostal preacher, confessed only to black marketing.

The court will recess Thursday in honor of Bulgaria's independence day. Friday and Saturday attorneys for both sides will sum up. The sentences probably will come on Monday.

Witnesses today told how the defendants had solicited military data and other information from them. There was no way to distinguish between witnesses for the prosecution and witnesses for the defense. The testimony of all was qually damaging.

For the first time in the five-day trial documents were introduced in court. Both the prosecution and defense submitted letters and articles to support their cases.

Yanko Nicolov Ivanov, supreme supervisor of the Methodist church, heard his son testify against him today. Young Yanko said his father whose name he bears had asked him for information on plane production. The junior Ivanov formerly was a pilot in the Bulgarian air force.