

## Letters to the Editor of The Times

### Greece Under Junta

To the Editor:

In his recent defense of the Greek military dictatorship [letter March 29] Eugene Feraldis makes two assumptions which warrant examination. The first is that the April military coup was necessary to save Greece from a "red dictatorship"; the second is that the junta "was and is a temporary measure."

Mr. Feraldis offers no proof of the first assumption, for the reason, in my opinion, that none exists. The junta's Deputy Premier Stylianos Pattakos has disclosed that he believed a "revolution" was necessary as long ago as 1963, under the conservative Government of Premier Constantine Caramanlis. Asked why he and his associates did not stage a coup at that time, he replied, "Because we did not have the opportunity."

In other words, the colonels would have toppled even Mr. Karamanlis to "save the country from Communism"; but, lacking the opportunity, they bided their time until April 1967, when they found a weak political situation which they were able to turn to their advantage. The Communist threat came after their coup, not before. It is a red herring created to justify their actions and an insult to a people whose sufferings from a Communist insurgency have already been too real.

### Colonels' Constitution

Mr. Feraldis's second assumption, that the junta is temporary, can be proved only by the junta's departure. In the meantime, a disturbing indication to the contrary is the fact that the colonels have resigned from the army to run in "elections" held under a Constitution of their own devising. This

"Constitution" will be the only one in Greek history not drafted by an elected Assembly, but imposed on the people by a Government whose only mandate is the force of its arms. In these circumstances the referendum scheduled to approve it will be as empty as the one-party elections in the Soviet Union.

Thus the lack of confidence in Greece so deplored by Mr. Feraldis is due to the threat confronting the Greek people that the junta's rule of the gun will be codified into "constitutional law." It is also due to the estimated 2,500 Greek citizens presently held without charge or access to judicial procedure, and by the brutality of the junta's security police recently documented by Amnesty International.

ELIAS B. M. KULUKUNDIS  
New York, April 9, 1968

*The writer is the author of "The Feasts of Memory: A Journey to a Greek Island."*