

pen names of Abram Tertz and Nikolai Arzhak.

The two men, both aged 40, face a possible seven years in prison followed by five years' exile from Moscow. But they were not expected to get the maximum sentence.

[In London, Russian author Valery Tarsis said he had been told before leaving Moscow earlier this week that the prosecution and defense had already agreed that Sinyavsky would get three years and Daniel two years in jail, according to the Manchester Guardian.]

The official news agency Tass, virtually the only source of up-to-date news on the trial, said today that the court's purpose was "to determine the degree of the defendants' guilt."

It declared that Sinyavsky had smeared the Russian people in his book "Thoughts Unaware," calling them a "nation of thieves and drunkards, incapable of creating culture."

Both Sinyavsky and Daniel, a journalist-translator, have pleaded not guilty.

Asked by the prosecutor what his aim had been in sending his "monstrous slander" to the West, Sinyavsky replied, according to the Soviet government newspaper Izvestia: "I wanted to tell people about the nation's spiritual needs."

This brought laughter in the court, the newspaper added. Laughter also greeted his professions of love for the Russian people.

Like Sinyavsky, Daniel also claimed that his works were of a predominantly literary and non-political nature, Izvestia said. In answer to the prosecutor's question, it went on, "Daniel gets confused, twists and turns, plays the buffoon, like the most banal of criminals."

As the court began discussing "The Trial Begins," Sinyavsky's best-known work, the newspaper continued, "the same familiar grating words about 'the right of an artist to self-expression—about literary conventions, hyperbole, and so on are heard."

TRIAL OF WRITERS—A

Cuba Rejects Was Intervenor

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y.

Feb. 11 (AP)—Latin Americans have the right to overthrow their governments and anyone who helps them is not guilty of intervention, Fidel Castro says.

In an eight-page letter to U. N. Secretary General U. Thant yesterday, the Cuban Premier rejected charges made by 18 Latin American governments that the Havana conference of revolutionaries last month intervened in their domestic affairs.

U.N. delegates of every major Latin American country but Mexico said in a letter to the Security Council on Monday that the Havana conference violated the sovereignty of U.N. members by promoting violent revolution.

Castro brushed aside the charges and said these 18 governments "constitute just the most servile instruments of Yankee imperialism in Latin America."

Peerless