

Six Plead Not Guilty to Plot Charges

By JOHN KIFNER

HARRISBURG, Pa., Feb. 8—The Harrisburg Six, as the persons charged with conspiring to blow up heating tunnels in Washington and kidnap a Presidential adviser, Henry A. Kissinger, have become known were arraigned today.

The defendants, three Roman Catholic priests, an ex-priest, a nun and Pakistani scholar, stepped before Federal District Judge R. Dixon Herman one by one this afternoon to enter their pleas of not guilty.

The Rev. Philip F. Berrigan, the 47-year-old Josephite priest now serving sentence in the Federal penitentiary in Danbury, Conn., for napalming draft board files in Catonsville, Md., stood before the judge in a slight slouch, his hands in his pockets.

Eqbal Ahmed, 40, a fellow at the Adlai Stevenson Institute in Chicago, shrugged his shoulders and grinned as he returned from the bench.

The Rev. Neil R. McLaughlin, 30, and the Rev. Joseph R. Wenderoth, 35, Baltimore slum priests who have said publicly that they destroyed draft board files, wore clerical collars rather than the open-neck shirts they normally favor.

Sister Elizabeth McAllister, 31, a professor of art history at Marymount College, wore a deep blue dress and a blue, and purple scarf. She entered her plea in a barely audible voice.

Anthony Scoblick, 30, a former priest who has also said he destroyed draft board records, hugged his mother and father, who, after having difficulty gaining admission to the tightly guarded Federal Building, slipped into seats behind him just before the proceedings began.

The arraignment was delayed from 11 o'clock this morning until 2 P.M. to allow the defendants to meet. Father Berrigan was not brought into Harrisburg until early this morning.

Meetings on Defense

The five other defendants, along with seven persons accused as co-conspirators but not indicted, and their lawyers and supporters, met this weekend in motels, churches and private homes here to work out their defense plans. Many of the discussions focused on a desire to have what some term a "straight" legal defense.

"We have no reason or hopes for disruption," Dr. Ahmad said at a news conference this afternoon. "Given a fair trial and a fair judge, we will prove our innocence and will prove the additional guilt of the Government. We wish to set a tone of responsibility that has been so badly lacking among the highest officials of the country."



United Press International

The Rev. Joseph R. Wenderoth, left, and Rev. Neil R. McLaughlin on way into Federal building in Harrisburg, Pa.



Eqbal Ahmad, left, and Anthony Scoblick arriving at court



Associated Press

Sister Elizabeth McAllister, right, accompanied by Sister Jogues Egan, who was named co-conspirator in plot.

At today's arraignment, the defendants presented the following team of lawyers: Leonard B. Boudin of the Harvard Law school, the Rev. William C. Cunningham of the law faculty of Loyola University in Chicago, Thomas P. Sullivan of Chicago, Henry W. Sawyer 3d of Philadelphia, Francis X. Gallagher of Baltimore, Addison Bowman of Washington and Thomas Menaker of Harrisburg.

The judge lifted travel restrictions on the five defendants who are free on bail, allowing them until next week to travel to cities where there are other defendants or lawyers for meetings. Because of the travel restrictions, the arraignment was the first time the defendants had been able to meet jointly with their lawyers.

After the arraignment, the defendants and alleged co-conspirators held a news conference at a near Y.W.C.A.

Sister Elizabeth rear a statement that said:

"We are 13 men and women who state with clear conscience that we are neither conspirators nor bombers nor kidnapers. In principal and in fact we have rejected all acts such as those of which we have been accused."

The statement said that while "anguish" over the war had led all to "nonviolent resistance" and some to the destruction of draft records, "unlike our accuser, the Government of the United States, we have not advocated nor engaged in violence against human beings."

Berrigan Sentence Upheld

RICHMOND, Feb. 8 (AP) — The United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit upheld today the validity of a six-year prison sentence imposed on Father Berrigan when he was convicted of pouring blood over draft board records in Baltimore.

The priest had appealed the refusal of Federal District Judge

Edward S. Northrop to reduce the sentence.

Father Berrigan is serving his sentence in the Baltimore case concurrently with a three-and-one-half-year sentence in the Catonsville case.