



AP Wirephoto

EQBAL AHMAD
Still on trial

Two Charges Dropped in Plot Trial

Harrisburg, Pa.

A Federal judge yesterday dismissed two charges against one of the Harrisburg Seven defendants but he denied a defense request to throw out the entire case against the anti-war activists.

Judge R. Dixon Herman ruled that the government had improperly charged Egbal Ahmad, a Pakistani scholar, with writing a letter proposing to kidnap Henry A. Kissinger and smuggling it into the Lewisburg federal penitentiary.

Ahmad is still charged along with the Rev. Philip Berrigan and the others with conspiracy to kidnap Kissinger, a presidential aide, blow up heating tunnels in Washington and raid draft boards in nine states.

Herman also struck from the court record the only concrete evidence which connected Ahmad with the alleged anti-war plot. That was FBI informer Boyd F. Douglas' identification of Ahmad's voice on two tape recordings made by the FBI. The voice was the only one on the two tapes which had a foreign accent.

One tape was made at a press conference here and the other was made of a radio program broadcast from Chicago in which Ahmad had participated.

"The voice identification was so suggestive as to present a substantial likelihood of misidentification," Herman said.

Striking of the voice identifications left little chance that Ahmad would be found guilty of participating in the alleged conspiracy.

Ahmad, at a press conference following the morning session, repeated earlier statements that Kissinger was not the only one discussed as a possible target for kidnaping.

He said others whose names were mentioned as possible targets of a political kidnaping were President Nixon, secretary of defense Melvin Laird and General William Westmoreland.

Ahmad emphasized, however, that the idea of a political kidnaping was rejected "because it could not be done nonviolently."

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