

India Trial Of 2 S.F.

Men Delayed

SFChronicle SEP 10 1974
Calcutta

A Calcutta high court indefinitely postponed yesterday the trial of two Americans held for the past 17 months on spying charges.

A defense lawyer said the decision meant the trial of Anthony Fletcher, 30, and Richard Harcos, 27, both of San Francisco, could take months to begin.

It originally was to have started yesterday. But the trial judge said a higher court ordered the postponement to allow for various procedural issues to be decided.

Fletcher and Harcos, in the third month of a hunger strike demanding release on bail and an early trial, at first refused to attend yesterday's hearing.

They said they were too weak to walk to court from a prison van that brought them from jail. But they entered the court after their defense lawyer told them their presence was required.

Both looked weak, although they walked out without assistance.

Fletcher and Harcos were granted bail last week, but their lawyer informed the court that he still had not found a residence for them to rent pending their trial, so they continued in custody.

Associated Press