

## One in Solitary for Month

### Pentecostal Pastor Denies He's Traitor At Trial in Sofia

By Edward M. Korry-

Sofia, Bulgaria, March 1 (U.P.).—

A small-town Pentecostal pastor stood up in Sofia district court today and denied that he spied against or betrayed Communist Bulgaria.

He was Ladin Ivanov Popov, 36, the twelfth of 15 Protestant pastors to testify and the only who did not plead total guilt and beg repentance for espionage, treason and black market currency dealings.

Testimony of the 15 ended today, and the three-member court, rushing toward a Monday sentencing deadline, called 21 of 80 scheduled witnesses before it adjourned until Wednesday.

All the witnesses testified that the defendants had asked them for information.

Popov admitted he carried out illegal financial transactions and repented for that. But under steady hammering of the prosecutor, he maintained, "I transmitted no information . . . my conscience is clear on that."

The other seven ministers heard today stayed within the previous pattern of the trial, confessing to all charges, repenting and asking mercy. But where those before them had wept and wailed, most of those who testified today were calm.

The session brought forth the first hint of how authorities uncovered the alleged plot against the government.

Defendant Mitko Mateev Dimitrov, 39-year-old Baptist pastor from Sofia, said his conscience began to bother him in 1948 and "thus three months before my arrest I told about my involvement to the authorities." Dimitrov was arrested last summer.