



# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

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## BULLETIN

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### EDITORIAL

This number of the Bulletin coincides with the Second Birthday of the AMNESTY movement. It also coincides with a period when political prisoners have been more frequently under discussion than for some years. The importance which the issue has recently assumed is mainly due to circumstances over which we have had no control:- the execution of Julian Grimau and what has been called "The end of the Rule of Law" in South Africa.

Although we have had no part in the events which have led up to these acts of political vengeance, we share our responsibility for them. If the AMNESTY movement had more influence, no Government would dare flout the basic principles of humanity, because there would be an enraged international public opinion strong enough to protect lonely beings from senseless vengeance.

It is easy on the occasion of a birthday to look back with satisfaction, or forward with anticipation. In the case of this movement, when we look back it is with a sense of deep shame that we have at times thought more about ourselves than others. And when we look forward, it is in the knowledge that our resources - and, we ourselves - are inadequate to meet a challenge which is not of our making. But if we fail, let it never be said that we have not thrown the last ounce of energy into the struggle, or scraped the skin off our knuckles, rapping at the prison doors.

## THE CONSTITUTION OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Those who support the AMNESTY movement in its efforts to secure the release of prisoners are not generally concerned with points of order, and all the formality of stuffy meetings. But it may be of interest to know how the International Movement works.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL is an Annual Meeting consisting of two representatives of each National Section of the movement. It decides the main outlines of policy. Founded in 1961, it has entrusted the secretarial work for the time being to the British Section.

This year's meeting is at the Adam Stegler Haus, Königswinter (on the Rhine) near Bonn, Germany, from Friday 20th to Sunday 22nd September. Any supporter is entitled to be present as an observer: (for further details write to the London office).

Each National Section has its own constitution. Some Sections are registered as charities. "The Prisoners of Conscience Fund" which appears at the bottom of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL writing-paper is a charitable fund centred in Britain for the benefit of prisoners and their families everywhere.

The British Section constitution provides for the Groups of Three to be directly represented on its Executive Committee.

The work of all Groups of Three is co-ordinated from the Threes Department at the London Office, but several countries have their own Threes' Organiser.

Each Group of Three is a separate entity and elects its own officials and pursues its own activities within the general framework of AMNESTY policy. It is expected to contribute £10 each year (on 10th December) to pay for the work of the Threes Department in London.

Each National Section fixes its own contribution rate for individual members. Supporters living in countries where there is as yet no National Section may join AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL by contributing £2 direct to the London office.

Resolutions for the future policy of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL are submitted by National Sections to the Annual International Meeting. Any individual member may submit his own resolution provided that it is endorsed by his own National Section. Members in countries without Sections may submit resolutions provided they attend the International Meeting in person.

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REPORT OF THE AMNESTY CONFERENCE ON  
"PERSONAL FREEDOM IN WESTERN EUROPE"  
(published May 1963)

Free to £2 p.a. members. 5s. otherwise.

ASYLUM IN AFRICA SOUTH

(A report of a conference held in London on Saturday 18th May 1963)

Two sentences, each from a paper circulated at the conference held under AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL's auspices, highlighted the problems facing those taking part:

"Passports are not given to South Africans with political records; and to very few non-whites."

"...any person who presents himself to an Immigration Officer without being in possession of a valid travel document is a prohibited immigrant..."

The first sentence comes from one of the many very enlightening background papers<sup>#</sup> that were prepared especially for the Conference: the second is from a Statement made by the Government of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in response to an invitation to state the Federation Government's case.

The question as to whether a state of "armed conflict" exists in South Africa as a consequence of which the International Red Cross could be asked to intervene evoked a majority reply that it did, though there were some interesting dissensions and reservations. Solly Sachs, Secretary of the London office of "Defence and Aid" maintained unequivocally that a political war was being waged. The continued detention of Sobukwe and Sharpeville, he felt, pointed to this. He was convinced that an AMNESTY Commission of Enquiry to the Transkei would gather sufficient evidence to enable the intervention of the IRC to be sought. Patrick Duncan on behalf of P.A.C. disagreed and felt that the nearest South Africa had come to armed conflict was the Pondoland disturbances of 1961 which he felt could not be justified to the IRC as armed conflict. Robert Resha of the African National Congress doubted whether it was right to wait for the conflict to come into the open. There undoubtedly was a "struggle" going on and the Africans were mobilising as far as they were able; the legal position was complex especially as the Africans themselves did not recognise the oppressive legislation of the Government. Was assistance to be delayed until the legal position had had time to be clarified?

The next point discussed, whether there was co-operation between the police forces of the Federation, South Africa, the Portuguese colonies and the High Commission Territories, left no one in any doubt that there was. The only differences here were theories as to whether this was at high or low levels of command. Many instances were cited of individual South African police being seen in the High Commission Territories on official business, but it was felt by some of the delegates present that this might be co-operation at local rather than ministerial level. Basil Davidson was in no doubt that there was careful Governmental integration of such

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ASYLUM IN AFRICA SOUTH cont'd

services. Dr. Andrew Martin, acting as Chairman of the afternoon session, referred to the Federation statement, claiming the right to refuse admission to "potential saboteurs" as evidence of collusion with South Africa.

Interest returned again and again to this statement: Muir Hunter (AMNESTY's observer at the Burundi trials) dealing with it at length pointed out that the writer worked on the assumption that anyone trying to enter Rhodesia without a passport was a criminal. He felt the statement that "neighbouring territories" might be involved in the "illegal traffic" of immigrants through the Federation was outrageous, a clear reflection on Tanganyika. He suggested the introduction of the "commonwealth passport" for those without documents, and emphasised the need to find asylum for the families of escaped leaders, for some leaders themselves and for students. Mr. Kozonguizi, the spokesman of the South West African Congress, was very quickly on to the cases of the students who despite international scholarships were being arbitrarily refused passage through Southern Rhodesia.

Peter Benenson pointed out that one test whether the Geneva Red Cross Convention applied to South Africa was whether the opposition was "collective"; he asked if the different policies of ANC and PAC, S.W. Africa and Swaziland could be reconciled to present at least a collective welfare organisation. In considering replies both Patrick Duncan and Robert Resha stated that they would put the proposition to the bodies which they represented, but that they personally welcomed the suggestion.

In a final statement thanking all those who had contributed to the discussion it was pointed out that many suggestions had been made as to how AMNESTY could help. Resources are ever short in funds though growing in human endeavour. It was necessary to create a proper awareness and compassion for the problem south of the Zambesi. Whereas open conferences might not be the best places to deal with technical problems, he was sure that the various Relief Organisations represented would join in working out a practical scheme to help individuals. This is what AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL is for - a realistic organisation to channel goodwill and resources to help as many as possible.

NOTE Gerald Gardiner, Q.C., who took the chair at the first session of the Conference, will explain the significance of recent South African legislation at a PUBLIC MEETING (organised by Christian Action) at Friends House, Euston Road, London, N.W.1 on Monday, 10th June at 7.30 p.m.

FINANCIAL HELP for the persecuted in South Africa. We are frequently asked about the most effective way of giving money.

1. For legal defence and the support of families of those imprisoned:-  
To Defence and Aid, 2 Amen Court, London, E.C.4.
2. For the families of those in exile, for the "banished" and for those under house-arrest; also for the cost of sending international legal observers to South Africa:-  
To The Prisoners of Conscience Fund, 1 Mitre Court Buildings, Temple, London, E.C.4. (administered under AMNESTY's auspices)

OF A PRISONER OF THE MONTH

Penal servitude for life! This inhuman sentence together with other sentences of penal servitude ranging from 6 to 15 years were handed out to five young men all between 16 and 18 years whose only proven "crime" seems to have been that they founded a Western-style jazz club in East Berlin.

The first intimation of this shocking affair appeared in the teachers' magazine "Lehrerzeitung" in September 1961. Here, amid a great deal of polemics against Western culture, the magazine revealed how these young lads crossed into West Berlin and went to the cinema. In common with many thousands of teenagers throughout the world they were struck with the idea of forming a fan-club for the West German equivalent of Elvis Presley. The fan-club was advertised in a Munich magazine and after several replies became the venue for a number of wild parties. To quote from "Lehrerzeitung":

"...these clubs with their 'hot music' are an important instrument of the psychological warfare of NATO..."

Following the daubing of anti-Government slogans in the city and a mysterious fire in a slaughter house the five were arrested. There was no direct evidence presented to link the lads with the fire; even if there had been the penalty is oppressive by any standards.

The five: Gerd Resag and Jürgen Hüpfer, schoolboys; Michael Gartenschläger, apprentice; Karl-Heinz Lehmann, locksmith and Gert-Peter Riediger, a painter's assistant, are now confined somewhere in East Germany and their whereabouts, and that of their families, is unknown, a fact which makes the establishing of any sort of contact impossible. It is understood that Gartenschläger may now be serving his sentence in a Jugendhaus, the equivalent of our Borstal. Appeals for mercy can be sent to: an den Vorsitzenden des Staatsrates der DDR, Walter Ulbricht, Berlin-Niederschönhausen, Ossietzkystrasse.

FOR YOUR BOOK LIST

"A MATTER OF LIFE" An anthology of original essays by Schweitzer, Russell, Nehru, Ben-Gurion, Kaunda and others  
(Jonathan Cape) 21s. - all proceeds to AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.

"I WILL STILL BE MOVED" This extraordinary and harrowing account of life in present day South Africa (written by some of South Africa's leading authors) has been hurriedly brought out by AMNESTY to collect funds for South African refugees. It is published commercially by Arthur Barker Ltd. at 18s. Please buy the book, and make sure that your local library orders a copy.

REGULATIONS CONCERNING GIFT-PARCELS TO  
MARXIST/LENINIST COUNTRIES

General Remarks The regulations vary from country to country and so does the value (usefulness) of articles sent, according to the economic situation of the country concerned. In general the basic restrictions to be observed are:

1. parcels may be sent by one private person to another (not by a firm as direct sender).
2. The contents must be for personal use only.
3. The total weight of all parcels received by one person during one year must not exceed 25kg (about 50 lbs). This limit does not apply for Rumania.
4. A prior permit granted by health authorities is required for medicines.
5. Goods in hermetically sealed tins are not allowed.
6. A certificate of disinfection is required for worn clothing.

There is in London a firm called TAZAB (Tazab House, 22 Holland Gardens, S.W.7) which runs an international Mail Order and Gift Parcel business. Details additional to those given below are obtainable from this firm. The firm will also dispatch such gift parcels or will suggest the items most suitable for any stated amount to be sent to any one of these countries.

POLAND The duty payable on most of the goods is paid by the recipient, however there are certain goods, such as medicines and some food items which are duty free. On some items the duty payable is very small and therefore it is still worthwhile sending those goods. Detailed information is obtainable from TAZAB.

A Prisoner may, with the prison's permission, receive one parcel a month. A letter must first be sent asking him to obtain the necessary certificate and to notify the donor when it is issued.

U.S.S.R. As the sender is allowed to prepay duty and to pay Soviet licence, the parcel sending is quite expensive, but effective for the recipient, who will receive the parcel free of any charge. The value of Western goods in U.S.S.R. is extremely high, so any help is enormously appreciated.

HUNGARY One person may receive duty free per year up to:  
11 lbs bacon, ham, meat and sausages, etc.; 11 lbs biscuits, cakes, flour and macaroni; 11 lbs milkpowder or other milk products; 6½ lbs soap powder, soapflakes and washing soap; 11 lbs aliments for children.

From experience the sending of medicines is the most recommended or tokens for any specific amount of money: called "IKKA" and obtainable at Gondrand Freres, 31 Creechurch Lane, London, E.C.3. (Tel. AVENue 5713).

EAST GERMANY Money may be sent to families through the Moscow Narodny Bank (London office, 4 Moorgate, E.C.2).

YUGOSLAVIA Duty-free goods may be sent up to a value of £1 Sterling per parcel.

BULGARIA Practically no possibility exists for sending parcels.

RUMANIA There is a whole list of duty-free gift parcels available at the above firm. There is no limitation; each recipient may receive as many parcels as donors wish to afford.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA High quality goods (woollens, etc.) are worth the duty payable by the recipients. As to food, coffee and tea are preferred, not in tins; their value is very high there, and everybody gladly pays duty therefore.

The most useful form for sending gifts to Czechoslovakia consists of TUZEKS, i.e. tokens that are issued, and can be bought, in London for any amount. The recipient can exchange such tokens in special shops for high quality goods (including food) of his choice. Tuzeks are available at Zivnostenska Banka National Corporation, 48 Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2 (Tel. LONDON Wall 6795) or Gondrand Freres.

### NEWS OF THREES

HANDBOOK A new Handbook, based on a year's experience of practical working by the Groups, was prepared at Central Office. It runs to 14 pages, and provides the answers to many practical questions; it also deals with a number of theoretical objections which are sometimes raised by those with 'doubts!.

One copy was posted to each Group of Three (or to the local organiser where several groups work in the same district) on 26th May. Further copies are available on application to the London office. But, please note, this is intended to be a Handbook for the Group, not for each member. It is hoped to produce a shortened version, suitable to be given to those interested in joining Groups, in the near future. These shortened versions can be supplied in quantity.

REGIONAL GROUPINGS Already several groups in the same geographical area operate in liaison. There are many advantages to this system of pooling activities and experience. A scheme for establishing a permanent network of Regional Associations is going to be discussed at the A.G.M. of the British National Section on 22nd June. This scheme submitted by the Eltham Group has been modified in the light of one or two suggestions from the THREES Department at Central Office, whose general approval has been given.

NEW THREES Legal Aid Committee, New Delhi, India; University of Aberdeen; Abingdon, Berks (2); Horsham, Sussex (Christ's Hospital); Oxted, Surrey; three London groups - Battersea (Paul Ignotus is one of their members), Westminster and F.o.R. Leyton; Wick Hill; Ampleforth College, Yorks; Widnes, Lancs; Oslo, Norway; Belfast, N. Ireland and Genoa, Italy.

AUSTRALIA We had reports from all sections, and were particularly impressed by the THREES activities in N.S.W. Regular monthly contributions are sent to their five African banished through the Human Rights Welfare Committee. It is to be hoped that in spite of recent police interference this society will be able to continue their courageous work.

LUXEMBOURG Although still in their first stages their 14 members have shown to go about their work with promptness and great efficiency.

DUBLIN Detailed reports were sent to us on six of their prisoners. Amongst them was Felix Arrieta, Spain, who, according to the Minister of Tourism and Information had outraged Spanish dignity by burning the Spanish flag. His seven-year sentence was considered to be a mild and certainly a just one. A copy of this letter was forwarded by the Irish group to Arrieta himself in the hope of obtaining a reply from him with his comment.

A report of the activities of the 18 Groups in Ireland was given to the Irish A.G.M. on 17th May by John Jay, the Irish Threes Groups' Organiser. Over 200 people crowded into the Hibernian Hotel, Dublin, to hear this and other reports of the progress of the Irish National Section.

EDINBURGH A promising start was made with two THREES and requests for further THREES to follow soon.

ELGAR Most of its members are between 20 and 25; the enterprise of its four THREES are impressive; their motto is immediate action; almost daily their secretary, Patrick MacSweeney, is on the telephone to us with a new suggestion or plan of action. As soon as they heard of the sentence of five Ghanaians three telegrams were sent out - one to Dr. Nkrumah, one to Geoffrey Bing, Special Adviser to the President, and one to U Thant. The Ghanaian Embassy was visited, all London THREES were contacted to encourage them to write letters of protest to Nkrumah, and the Ghanaian Embassy was inundated with letters and 'phone calls.

GUILDFORD will give a talk in Frencham Heights School on their three prisoners. It has been suggested that subsequently the upper forms might be stimulated to perform a playlet on 'The Prisoner of Conscience'.

ELTHAM Active and able, as ever, have worked out a plan for a Christmas 'Market' and we advise you to get in touch with Mr. H.C. Warner if you too envisage such an enterprise. Eltham hope to raise several hundred pounds. Once they are in funds Eltham hope to send one of their members out to one of the countries of their concern.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON The U.C.L. Group has taken a promising initiative in starting talks with the Paraguayan Embassy in London. These have resulted in an undertaking to allow a U.C.L. Group representative to visit Paraguayan prisons. The Paraguayan Government is also considering sending an English-speaking spokesman to tour the various British Groups with "adopted" Paraguayan Prisoners, explaining the policy of his Government.