

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
1, Mitre Court Buildings, Temple, E.C.4

NEWS SHEET FOR BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL THREES GROUPS

TOTAL number of adopted prisoners in Great Britain, approx. 720
TOTAL number of adopted prisoners abroad, approximately, 300

These do not include Roumanian or Egyptian cases still on record. Whilst it is now known that almost all Roumanian and Egyptian political detainees are freed, the library had the overwhelming task of having to find something like 300 replacement case sheets. By and by this is being done. New reports of imprisonments are coming in, and in approximately another two months' time, we shall be in a position to supply all existing sections with the long awaited replacements. During this time we also need to supply newly formed Groups with material. These are springing up in rapid succession.

FUNDS - We are no longer adequately equipped. Research work - at present undertaken by one full-time librarian and two or three volunteers, whose family commitments allow them no more than a few hours a week - should now be undertaken by at least one additional full-timer. It would also need several qualified people to travel abroad for investigation. Needless to stress, a great deal of funds are required, which we do not have. Your contributions have always been welcome. But more is needed. Over the weekend an anonymous cheque for £250 was received, and a London group has sent us £50 as their annual contribution, and many other Groups have already sent us their £10 annual contribution. A number of other very active Groups are holding meetings on or about Human Rights Day to raise funds, as well as to make known our aims. This in turn will produce new members. We are very grateful indeed for all the help given us by such activities - some of which will be mentioned below. However, we feel, that far more Groups could help us, and, in turn, we would find ourselves on financially more stable ground, better able to collect material to help you. Please forgive the urgency for more money, when all of you are leading such busy lives already.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

CORB Y GRAMMAR SCHOOL - Human Rights Day - We are planning our own vigil for the 9th December. We had a meeting and decided that the best thing we could do to attract attention was to have an all-night vigil in the Market Square, possibly with some kind of barbed-wire compound in which we would sit. The headmaster has given the go-ahead and the children are very keen. We will have to get in touch with the police, and the Telly, newspapers, etc. to ensure plenty of publicity.

Jazz Singer Aids "Prisoners of Conscience" Fund - A concert on the 29th November was organised by Keith Diggle founder of the Corby Grammar School Jazz Club and leader of the school's AMNESTY Group. At the concert will be Ronnie Scott and also Mark Murphy. The concert was expected to attract a big crowd.

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL GROUP OF THREE - ILFORD - "Our main concern is still the raising of funds to subsidise the education of our Ghanaian prisoners' children. To this end we have decided to hold a wine and cheese party on Human Rights Day. We hope this will enable us to donate a

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more substantial amount than that which we have been able to do in the past' The Christian Council very generously helped with £25 to pay the school bills.

LOUGHBOROUGH TOWN - Home Produce Stall - The stall showed a net profit of £28.10s.10d.; reasonable for a first effort, but we are convinced that a minimum of £50 can be made next year.

Human Rights Day - we are now organising an 'informal musical evening' on Saturday 5th December. In addition to music, Nelson Mandela's record will be played and Mr. Wayne will talk briefly on AMNESTY and its aims. A torch is to be lit and the whole effort is to be associated with Human Rights Day.

STREET - Human Rights Day - The following programme has been announced for Thursday, 3rd December at 7.45. The film "Cry the Beloved Country" will be shown (this film, can be loaned from : Connoisseur Films, 58, Wardour Street, W.1. for 6 gns.) This will be followed by excerpts of the recording of Nelson Mandela's speech "Why I am Ready to Die". (This record - EMBER CEL 905, can be bought locally or ordered from EMBER records, Empire Way, Wembley, Middx.

A Concert has been arranged for Thursday 10th December in the Library of the Wells Theological College (by kind permission of the Principal) and there will be a silver collection.

J.F. MACKESON of UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF SOUTH WALES - "In order to raise funds to help AMNESTY. I am having a sale and exhibition of about 25/30 of my own paintings (oils and water colours)"

AYLESFORD AND REDBOURN - are holding a Cheese and Wine Party on 12th December for Human Rights Day

N. EDINBURGH - This Group has arranged for a special prayer to be said on Sunday, 13th December in St. Giles Cathedral, as well as in two other churches to commemorate Human Rights Day.

BULGARIA - This is a quote from a letter Miss Blaikie sent to two newspapers 'Regarding Nedyalkov Batakov,'; Miss Blaikie was getting really angry with the silent Bulgarians, and wrote to the Spectator and the Observer and sent a copy to the Bulgarian Ambassador. The response was startling. (Miss Blaikie's letters can be circulated at request).

OXTED - A GARDEN EVENING was arranged on 30th September, which included a concert and a talk about the work of AMNESTY by the Group's Chairman. There was a retiring collection and good press publicity. They are joining with the local U.N.A. to commemorate Human Rights Day.

SHREWSBURY - are holding an 'EVE OF HUMAN RIGHTS DAY COMMEMORATION' in the presence of His Worship the Mayor of Shrewsbury.

LINCOLN - have approached all the secondary schools in the area to commemorate Human Rights Day. They have also sent us a generous contribution for AMNESTY Funds.

SOUTHAMPTON - Human Rights Day - The Group in conjunction with the U.N.A. and many other organisations in the city have arranged a programme to be held in the Conference Room of the Civic Centre in the presence of His Worship the Mayor. There will be the ceremonial lighting of the AMNESTY Candle followed by a film show and address by a member of Head Office.

HAMPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL - are holding a Cheese and Wine party at which they hope to raise enough money to send some to the central office and help towards sending an observer to one country by the end of two years. They are having an exhibition, and have a promise from the local paper to give them all the publicity then want, and a promise from the editor of the school magazine to publish an article. The Group are using the morning school service of December 10th for the commemoration of Human Rights Day. They also intend writing to all the priests and clergy of the district asking them to remember Human Rights in their Sunday sermons.

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TWICKENHAM - The money raised by the 'Berlin Wall' at a U.N.A. Garden Party was sent to their E. German prisoner, Wolfgang Henner, who has written thanking the Group for the cash and for helping in his release. Letter in file.

PRESS PUBLICITY

The following Groups managed to obtain press publicity in one or more papers since October - Shrewsbury Letchworth Corby, Oxted, Friends, Twickenham, St John's Wood (London), Hampton Grammar School, N Edinburgh, Eltham, Putney, Redbourn, and Haywards Heath.

UNIVERSITIES

The beginning of the new academic year has meant a great deal of encouragement for AMNESTY. Never before was there such a keen desire to interest freshers. Almost all the university Groups requested large quantities of literature and several pleas for more prisoners were heard. The letter we were rather reluctant to supply so soon, a) because we were so short of cases and b) because we knew from past experience that it paid to make quite sure the necessary students were available to set to work.

Oxford University with the help of Head Office organised a one-day conference where 37 students, representing ten colleges attended. Minutes of the conference will be made available to all university groups. Stephen Wasserman of Lincoln College, Oxford, was elected student representative to the Head Office Executive Committee. The last student representative Len Davies, a member of a London Group, joined the I.V.S. He is at present in Bechuanaland.

GENERAL INFORMATION

We have a fair quantity of the enclosed folded sheet and will gladly send a supply on request at minimum cost.

MORE BULLETINS - We have decided to provide you with more than one copy of the Bulletin, if you Group constitutes more than one Group of Three, but we would appreciate receiving 1s per copy.

LETTERS TO EMBASSIES - If you like to be assured of your letter reaching its destination, please send it by RECORDED DELIVERY.

BURMA - Miss Nandi - given as a contact, has been unable to find out any more. Would you, therefore, no longer write to her. We will send information as soon as we know any more.

ROUMANIA - MONEY - Messrs. Hoares Bank informed that you can send drafts drawn in sterling to named individuals in Roumania - but if you want to send L.E.I. (Roumanian currency), it must be sent through Hoares Bank to the State Bank of Roumania, who will forward it to the recipient at the rate of exchange current at the time that they do so.

PARCELS - It is suggested that parcels be sent with a return card enclosed, asking the Roumanian to sign it and return it to you, and if the group does not receive the return card, then presume the parcel has been kept by customs. A copy of Anthony Rhodes' report on his visit to Roumania is enclosed to the relevant groups.

SOUTHERN RHODESIA (copy of part of Mrs. Haddon's letter to Edinburgh II Group)

October 14th, 1964:

".... You will probably have heard about our further 'emergencies' in two Salisbury African suburbs. These have resulted in numbers of people being detained for three months: There are about 1,000 in Wha Wha Camp, which is now a prison, and a further 2-300 in Marandellas Prison. There are now over 200 restrictees, restricted for periods of up to twelve months - at Gonakudzwiaga, and a further thirty-odd at another restriction area, next to Wha Wha prison.

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You can imagine how helpless our little Committee feels when confronted with problems of this magnitude, and therefore how grateful we are for the help AMNESTY branches are giving to individuals whose lives have been so disrupted, and whose families are suffering such hardship. And these are merely the people who are being held without trial; there are thousands more in our prisons having been convicted in our Courts for political offences, under our harsh 'security' legislation. It seems hard to believe that anyone could consider that any attempt to 'test' African opinion on the matter of Southern Rhodesia's independence could be considered 'fair' under these circumstances".

A THANK YOU AND A PLEA - Aviles, 23rd November, 1964: To Amnesty International, 1, Mitre Court Buildings, Temple, E.C.4.

"Dear Friends, Last September, while I was at Madrid I visited a Roman Gomez Monedero, a friend of mine who was in prison during 17 years. He just received 40 or 50 cards from members of your movement sent to him nine months before.

I also was in prison during 10 years first and 1 year more last. I am still waiting for a trial with other fourteen on account of our ideas. So I was very touched to know that there are somebody in the world who is sincerely interested by prisoners everywhere in the world.

I wish also to be a member of your movement. I hope you will tell me the necessary conditions.

I also wish to write with members of your movement in french, English or Spanish language.

I would like to know you write a friend of mine. I knew in prison and he is still there since 17 years. His name is Angel Fernandez Vicente. And his address Reformatorio de Adortos de Ocana (Toledo), Spain.

Nicolas Muniz Alonso.

c/o Rivero, 66, Aviles, Asturias, Espangol.

We would like to thank all those Groups who have kept us informed of progress made with their prisoners. Particular mention should be given to the Central Somerset Group who sent out a list of their eight prisoners with addresses and last days of mailing to all supporters in the area for the posting of Christmas cards.

Letter written about Erika Kargus to Mrs Paddy M. Coyle, Guildford Group.

Translation

10.9.64.

Dear Mrs. Coyle,

I sent you a telegram on 2.9.64 notifying you about Erika Kargus's release. I hope this message did not draw undue attention to you in your district.

Both women are of the opinion that without your help Erika would not have been released as yet. No case is known of such an early release of prisoners sentenced for such a 'crime'. Eventually your letters found their way to the prisoners dossier and the prosecutor proposed that Erika should be released because of her good conduct.

It is not probably that her release comes into the category of the daily release of about 50 prisoners which has been going on for the last six weeks. (Such releases are kept in secret). In any case, I should like to thank you personally, Dear Mrs. Coyle, as well as all those who work for AMNESTY, for all you have done. Mother and daughter Kargus send you their grateful thanks.

As for Erika Kargus, who has been indoctrinated to hate, it is quite incomprehensible that strangers, and especially people from the 'West', former enemies, should be doing so much to help others, as you respectively "Amnesty" having been doing for her

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Erika Kargus's release is not unconditional. For five years she will have the Damokles Sword of the S.S.D. over her head which leaves the door open for any arbitrary action to be taken. Nevertheless, Erika Kargus is in very good spirits.

Before her release Erika was in solitary confinement and could not see her mother on the 31st August, which was the visiting day. The poor woman did not understand why she could not see her daughter and took back home everything she had brought her. Then, on the evening of September 1st Erika appeared. Mother and daughter were re-united, and no words can express their joy ...

Ever since then Erika has to go day after day to some authority or other to report, otherwise she is not under any restriction. She can take any job, she is not restricted in her choice of residence, and has not to report to the police. She can work in her own profession, which is not at all the usual case. She has applied for a job and will start working on the 14th September in the office of the 'Hsndels-Organisation' (commercial organisation).

I have not written to you sooner, dear Mrs. Coyle, because I wanted to wait for things to settle down, and so be able to place you in the picture. I should be glad if your connection would not come to an end, and I am willing to help you wherever I can with all my strength and knowledge.

Thank you very much for all your kindness and for all you have done and do for others.'

(There are three lines in English, and the letter is signed HZ.
It also says that it is a fictitious sender)

NEWS FROM INTERNATIONAL SECTIONS

The News Letter of September 1964 concluded with the promise of more news from the Group abroad in the next issue:-

The number of these Groups has risen steadily. More Groups have been formed in Denmark (16), Norway (9), and Sweden (4), with probably more to follow. Cornelis van der Vlies, Rotterdam, has now formed a Group in the Netherlands. The W.German Groups have extended further and now number 18, including a Group of Conscientious Objectors. In Israel there are five Groups, one in a Kibbutz and one in a secondary school. Canada, too, has now four.

By now, the larger sections are well organised. The Irish section supplies its twenty Groups with printed report forms, which, when filled in, are sent to us for scrutiny, comment and advice. We also receive the minutes of the Section's meetings, and are therefore always well informed about Amnesty activities in Ireland. The indefatigable Secretary of the Danish section, Bent Østergaard, is in constant touch with the sixteen Groups in Denmark, and this is, no doubt, a vital factor in the success of this section. Interesting reports arrive from individual Groups as far away as Tasmania, and we send material to potential Group Organisers in remote places like the Faroes.

Groups may be interested to hear that one of the Norwegian Groups has been joined by a professor of Oslo University, who has intimate knowledge of Hungary, and is willing to investigate difficult cases. He is going to Hungary again in March of next year. If any Group would like to make use of his offer, would they please write to us in January, giving all the information possible about their prisoner, including all the steps they have taken on his behalf.

Not all Groups, or Sections have reported recently, but we know that those in Belgium, Victoria (Australia), Denmark, Israel, Norway and Sweden have had special publicity in the press.

As for the adopted prisoners, there has been a certain amount of 'coming and going', reflecting the general 'movement out of prison' as it was called in the October issue of Eustomy. To all Groups who have not yet had their replacements, we extend our

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