

4  
June 1964

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

British and International Section

NEWS SHEET FOR THREE GROUPS

**PUBLICITY AND FUND RAISING** Schoolgirls 'adopt' six prisoners. This was the headline in a June edition of the Surrey and Hants News. **FRENESHAM HEIGHTS SCHOOL** has now increased the number of prisoners to nine. Their leader is fifteen-year old Lesley Clough, and the Group consists of 18 members. Their press publicity was a result of a musical coffee evening, when members of the school performed parts of Britten's War Requiem.

**LIVERPOOL** arranged a concert of classical music on 12th May in the Bluecoat Hall, Liverpool. Six pages of advertising in the 1s. programmes helped to bring their total profits to £90, as well as publishing Amnesty activities.

**ALTRINCHAM** held a successful coffee evening with a bring and buy stall. £22 were raised.

**CENTRAL SOMERSET GROUP** organised a barbecue on 17th June.

With all these functions publicity played an important part, and many new members were enrolled.

**NEWS OF PRISONERS - TURKEY** - Standards of prison conditions for prisoners' of conscience in Turkey seem favourable measured by those of many other countries. Dr. **CAMMEL**, former Director of the Cancer Research Institute of Ankara, detained in Ankara prison since August 1963 writes quite freely to the Group in Mansfield. Conditions must be reasonable for her, for she is able to have a transistor set in her cell, on the other hand she complains bitterly about all the many restrictions imposed on her by the prison authorities.

**CELAL BAYAR**, former **PRESIDENT OF TURKEY**, has been ill for a long time now and requires treatment beyond that available at the prison hospital. The West Bristol Group, who obtained valuable information from their contact, but no reactions from government officials, made an all-out effort to send greetings to Mr. Bayar on his 81st birthday with the co-operation of Bristol University, Manchester and Oxford University Groups. Several letters of thanks were received. Here is a message sent to the Birmingham University Group.

"Profoundly touched by the letter which you kindly have sent me on the occasion of my birthday. I must present to you as well as to all honourable members of Amnesty International my thanks and sincere greetings for, besides the interest shown towards me, the human aim you are all endeavouring to reach through your noble activities"

Sincerely yours,  
Celal Bayar.

**PORTUGAL - Dr. Julieta Gandra (adopted April 1962)**

Many protests and long correspondence with Portuguese Vice-Consul in Cardiff, during which references were made to the Reports of Mr. Neville Vincent and Lord Russell of Liverpool, have produced the following :-

- (a) On 30th April 1964, the Vice-Consul (on advice from the Portuguese Government) stated "according to the competent authorities there has not been detected in Dr. Maria Julieta Gandra any sickness requiring now special treatment, her health conditions being manifestly satisfactory" (Information was received from unofficial sources in July 1963 that "she suffers constantly from liver attacks and from a stomach ulcer").

- (b) On 7th March 1964 the Vice-Consul stated "medical treatment, including specialised medical treatment is available free of charge to all prisoners in Portugal when they need it".
- (c) On 16th March 1964 the Vice-Consul stated that "subject to Prison Regulations, the International Red Cross or any similar organisation could contact any prisoner in Portugal".
- (d) In the same letter, the Vice-Consul said that "all prisoners in Portugal are allowed to receive mail, subject to the precautions required in relation to each case". He has not yet advised us of the position with regard to Dr.Gandra, The Group has received no replies from her.
- (e) On 27th April 1964, the Vice-Consul stated that on 10th August 1960 Dr.Gandra was sentenced to "four years imprisonment, loss of political rights for fifteen years, and security measures". He observed that the fixed period of detention will end this August "and it is very likely that the period of preventive detention, foreseen by the Court's sentence, will then begin but it would not be possible at this stage for me to express an opinion as to its probable duration because it depends entirely on the prisoner's behaviour".

NEWS OF RELEASES

Peter Sieg, E.Germany	- Battersea
Rogaven Kistensamy, S.Africa	- Shrewsbury
T.Xerotagaros, Greece	- Leeds Unitarians
P.H.Simelane, S.Africa	- Newport, I.o.W.
Elliott Ndziba, S.Africa	- Marylebone
Evaristo Givenel Loran, Spain	- St.Christopher Sch.Letchworth
Jan Anastoz Opasek, Czech	- Frensham Heights School
Dr.Anis Mahmoud, Egypt	- Guildford
Dr.Raymond Douek, Egypt	- Liverpool
Jerry Khumalo, S.Africa	- Durham University
Stavros Evangeidis, Greece	- Letchworth
Heinz Brandt, E.Germany	- Thanet
Sister Clara Rujia, Rumania	- Chester
Gweneth Dladla, S.Africa	- Derby
Jonas Seitschecego, S.Africa	- Exter College, Oxford
Lucas Tyumre, S.Africa	- Manchester University
Wilhelm Schneider, Poland	- Clevedon, Som.
Daniel Motika, S.Africa	- Redland, Bristol
Ivone Dias Lourenco, Portugal	- Piccadilly
Stefan Nenitzescu, Rumania	- Eltham
Salomom Semilian, Rumania	- Liverpool
Paul Zarifopol, Rumania	- Lewes
Valentina Popescu, Rumania	- Liverpool
Erwin Giers, E.Germany	- Canada
Maria Clementina da Conceicao Coelho, Portugal	- Denmark 4.
Herbert Tschirner, E.Germany	- Denmark 5
Andoni Jauregi Urrutikoetxea, Spain	- Denmark 5
Julio Ferrer, Spain	- Denmark 6
Karl Heinz Waschnerski, E.Germany	- Denmark 11
Rev.Joaquim Pinto de Andrade, Portugal	- Ireland
Fulgencio Moya Hernandez, Spain	- Italy
Ahmed Morjan(awaiting confirmation)Sudan	- Norway-Falkenberg
Manuel Rodriguez Gonzalez, Spain	- Switzerland - Geneva
Georg Dertigner, E.Germany	- U.S.A.California

E.GERMANY Please delete Rudolf Weckerling from your list of friendly contacts.

RUMANIA If any member is visiting Rumania shortly will they please get in touch with J.L.Seddon, Plas Newton Hostel, Plas Newton Lane, Chester, as he would like them to take a parcel of medicines to a recently released prisoner which cannot be sent through the post.



RUMANIA has recently adopted a policy of developing economic links with all states, whatever their social system. The Rumanian Central Committee condemned Soviet ideas on supernational planning, and in fact have just completed successful negotiations with the U.S.A. for technical aid. Presumably in order to set the right climate for discussions in the U.S.A. the Rumanian government is understood to have issued a decree on 13th April authorising the release of about 3,000 political prisoners. Several hundreds of them have already arrived in Bucarest. On June 14th the Rumanian government announced that not only had they already released thousands of political prisoners but also that they planned a general pardon in August that would liberate "practically all" such prisoners by the end of the year.

We suggest that all groups with Rumanian prisoners should double their efforts to find out whether their prisoner has been released. It is easier and more satisfactory that groups should do this than the Central Office should enquire about a whole block of prisoners.

NEWS FROM THE A.G.M. The following members represent the THREES GROUPS on the Executive Committee

Geoffrey Bindman	-	London
Ken Cottman	-	Guildford
Alan Cooper	-	Sevenoaks
Gwen Lawrence	-	Oxford
Pat MacSweeney	-	Elgar, London
Max Meyer	-	Sheffield
Len Davies	-	Universities in Great Britain

#### NEWS FROM ABROAD

Encouraging reports have been received from Sections and Groups abroad. Mrs. Wositzky, the Secretary of the VICTORIA SECTION IN AUSTRALIA, writes:-

"Our groups are working very well this year, and John Greenwell and I both find we have less to do in writing letters for the groups. This leaves us time to concentrate on organising and administrative matters. Our Amnesty Bulletin has now been accepted by the P.M.G. for transmission as a periodical, and this means it can go at very much less postage. We now pay only a few shillings to send it to our 150 members and friends, and we hope to send it out every month to keep everyone in touch with what is happening in the groups. I will send you copies. We have also just purchased a second hand Gestetner duplicating machine which is going to help in getting the Bulletin and other things copied. In time I hope to make copies of all the information you send us, and this will save your postage. (Will have to line up some typists now...)"

Mr. Greenwell, the President, is leaving for Mexico shortly and has undertaken to make enquiries about prisoners there.

The DANISH SECTION duplicated the minutes of the meeting of the International Secretariat in Antwerp in April and distributed them to all the Scandinavian groups -- now 12 in Denmark, 6 in Norway, 3 in Sweden and 1 in Finland. Several members of the Danish Section are planning to combine holidays in Spain and Portugal with making enquiries about specific prisoners and possibly visiting families. Also, a Danish M.P. hopes to investigate some cases for us in East Germany.

From WEST GERMANY we received a very interesting report on the meeting of the Cologne Groups in April. Although the well-known problem of contacts has caused some difficulties, it appears that all these groups have succeeded in finding contacts of their own who may be able to help them. Travellers on business and on holidays have been asked to make enquiries in Greece, Rumania and Paraguay and in one case a contact has been established even in Czechoslovakia. Unfortunately, there is no space to quote from Mrs. Carola Stern's correspondence with the South African writer, Alex La Guma. The West German Section are preparing a television programme where his case will be featured. Here is one brief quotation from the report in translation :-

"Mrs. Stern tried to get in touch with the press attache of the Spanish Embassy in Bonn on behalf of her Spanish prisoner, first of all by letter, and when there was no reaction, by telephone. When she indicated to the press attache that she would turn to the German press if she failed to receive any information

there was no reaction, by telephone. When she indicated to the press attaché that she would turn to the German press if she failed to receive any information, the attaché was very upset and assured her that he would try everything possible and let her know the results".

IRELAND sent some group reports which showed a variety of activities including the sending of parcels of cigarettes through the Indonesian Red Cross to an Indonesian prisoner.

ITALY reported new members and asked for some more prisoners.

Letter from Wilhelm Schneider who had been adopted by a British Group.

(Translated from the German)

Lodz, 24.5.64.

Dear Sister Sonja Späth,

I received your kind Christmas and New Year greetings and wishes only last month when I left the prison walls behind me and I was very glad to have them.

As Jehovah's Witness I spent my life already during the war in the concentration camp of Stutthof (Poland); in 1950 I was sentenced for the same reason to life imprisonment, but was released again after 6 years and 4 months. Now I have spent a further 4 years in prison. At the age of 66 I now affirm again that Jehovah helps his witnesses as marvellously as he did at the time of Daniel and his three young friends. At this the heart rejoices into old age.

Wonderful and splendid are the ways on which Jehovah guides his faithful servants in all parts of the world into old age. I now praise our heavenly Father once again in the midst of my children and grandchildren within our great God-given family.

Wishing you and all your family Jehovah's blessing, help, support and protection and including you all in my prayers, I send you my warmest greetings.

your brother in the Lord,  
W.L.Schneider,  
Lodz, ul.Piotrkowska 83 m.19.  
Poland.

FINALLY, an urgent plea to ALL GROUPS from whom we have not heard for some months : PLEASE, let us know, however briefly, how and what you are doing. Negative results are as important to us as positive ones, if not more so. We know it happens sometimes that a group for some reason has to give up work, but we would like to be told, as in that event we can and indeed must give the prisoners to another group.