

# air

amnesty international review



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of news and comment  
on international  
human rights**

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One Shilling**

AIR this month reports the decisions of the Sixth International Assembly of AMNESTY held at the Riksdagshuset, Stockholm over the week-end August 24th and 25th. Over 200 delegates attended, representing 12 National Sections. In addition 47 observers were present from interested organisations.

The approval of the Statute of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL introduces a new phase of our existence. The aims are clearly defined and the means to be used to achieve them. Financially AMNESTY has survived a difficult period but is still very insecure. Too much is being demanded of those who are already contributing the most.

Prisoner of Conscience Week provides each group and National Section with an opportunity of tapping sources not normally associated with AMNESTY work.

Since the Assembly AMNESTY observers have been sent to the trial of students and teachers in Tunis and a report in French is available with a summary in English. Another observer attended the appeal of 8 Malawians sentenced to death. The appeal was rejected but there is hope that the sentences will not be carried out. AMNESTY was represented at the Human Rights Conference in Paris from September 16th to 20th by the Secretary-General and recommendations submitted by AMNESTY were accepted. The recommendations included the appointment of a High Commissioner for Human Rights; the establishment of a register of crimes against humanity and of prisoners of conscience; the appointment of a special representative of the Secretary-General of the U.N. to be responsible for obtaining ratification and implementation of U.N. decisions, particularly in the field of Human Rights.

The next issue of AIR may have a different format and we will try and include more information about all levels of AMNESTY action. The editor would welcome suggestions, letters, criticism and articles not necessarily in English. The next issue will appear in January so contributions must be received before Christmas. Finally AMNESTY Christmas cards are available from the International Secretariat. They are for you, your friends and for prisoners. Please buy them.

MARTIN ENNALS

## **Conclusions of the International Conference on Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights held on Friday, August 23rd.**

Convened by the Swedish Section of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL with the support of the Swedish Committee for Human Rights Year, this International Conference consisting of 240 participants from 13 different countries was invited to consider the best means of giving effect and reality to the provisions of Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, namely:

“No one shall be subjected to torture or cruel inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”

Notwithstanding the provisions of the Universal Declaration (1948) of the European Convention for the protection of Human Rights (1950) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) the Hague Conventions (1899 and 1907), the Geneva Protocol (1925) and of the Geneva Conventions (1949) this International Conference in the light of the evidence produced is satisfied that torture, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment continue to be inflicted and are widespread throughout the world.

This International Conference is convinced that the mounting violence and brutality, which disgraces the era in which we live, is in no small measure due to the direct or tacit encouragement which some governments give to the use of such methods. This is so particularly in periods of armed conflicts whether international or not or situations of political stress. Indeed, the International Conference noted with regret that even governments which do not countenance such methods themselves, with a few notable exceptions, remain silent in the face of such inhuman practices.

This International Conference considers that, in addition to any other specific measures which may be taken at the international level, it is vitally important to encourage in every country the formation of a strong forthright public opinion which will not accept in silence the infliction of inhuman or cruel treatment on anyone. In this task it is essential to enlist the active co-operation of the non-governmental sector. In particular the political, trade union, cultural, youth and religious leaders have a special role to play and should be invited to co-operate actively.

Without prejudice to the foregoing general considerations, this International conference therefore

### **1. Rules for the treatment of Prisoners**

*Noting* with appreciation the work done by the United Nations in regard to the revision and implementation of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, this Conference

*Urges* governments to respond to the invitation of the United Nations to give favourable consideration to the adoption and application of the Standard Minimum Rules, these rules being of general application and representing a consensus of contemporary thought regarding the treatment of detained persons.

*Recognising* that the Rules prescribe a minimum standard only.

*Urges* that the treatment of persons who are imprisoned because of their political or other opinion, or as a result of legislation directed against them because of their colour, language or ethnic origin should in no case be less favourable than that of untried prisoners (Art. 84-93).

*Considers* that such persons should in fact benefit from the application of a special standard.

*Urges* that in any further elaboration of the Minimum Standard Rules, special provisions should be incorporated granting a more favourable status and treatment to prisoners of conscience and other political prisoners.

*Urges further* that consideration be given to the abandonment of the practice of solitary confinement for such prisoners.

## 2. Human Rights in Armed Conflicts

Recognising that the existing rules relating to the behaviour of belligerents and the treatment of all persons during armed conflicts which are contained in the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, the Geneva Protocol of 1925 and the Geneva Conventions of 1949 are neither fully applied, nor sufficiently comprehensive.

Notes the need to afford special protection under international law to prisoners who are the victims of colonialist or racist regimes.

Urges the rapid implementation by the United Nations of the resolution adopted by the U.N. International Conference on Human Rights held at Teheran April 22nd-May 13th, 1968, on "The Protection of Human Rights in Armed Conflicts."

## 3. U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights

Noting the long delay in the establishment of a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Urges the importance of appointing a U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights with an independent status equivalent to that of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees at the earliest possible date.

4. Noting the importance of recording adequate information relating to acts amounting to "torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment" and of recording information concerning prisoners of conscience and other political prisoners,

Urges the United Nations to keep registers in which full records will be kept of

- (a) All complaints received concerning the infliction of torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;
- (b) All persons who are imprisoned by reason of their political, religious or other conscientiously held view or by reason of their colour, language or ethnic origin.

5. Until such steps are taken by the United Nations as will guarantee the humane treatment of all political prisoners in circumstances of political tension or internal strife

the Conference urges AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL to support the International Committee of the Red Cross in the full exercise of its traditional right of humanitarian initiative in favour of all individuals suffering as a result of such situations.

the Conference also recommended that in circumstances of this nature AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL should:

1. Vigorously draw the attention of world opinion to:
  - (a) the unjust detention—with or without trial—of prisoners of conscience, and
  - (b) the inhuman treatment to which both prisoners of conscience and other political prisoners are frequently subjected.
2. (a) work persistently for the release of prisoners of conscience and  
(b) use all means in its power to bring to an end all inhuman treatment of prisoners of conscience and political prisoners.

In this context the Conference considers as fundamental the total abandonment of such methods of treatment which involve violence to life and person, in particular murder of all kinds, cruel treatment, torture, outrages upon personal dignity and in particular any form of treatment calculated to humiliate and degrade the individual.

The Conference also considers that in carrying out their humanitarian activities the International Committee of the Red Cross and AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL should employ as their standards at least the minimum rules for all prisoners as adopted by the United Nations.

The following resolution was referred to the International Executive for inclusion in the final report:

That as a means towards abolishing the use of torture to obtain confessions, the following provision should be included in any international convention concerning Human Rights:

That no admission or confession may be received in evidence in any court unless it has been taken in the presence of the legal adviser of the prisoner, and that if the prisoner has no legal adviser one should be provided for him, selected from a panel prepared by the ruling authority of the Bar of the country in which the prisoner is to be tried.

## Resolutions adopted by the Assembly

### Capital Punishment

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has already placed itself on record as being in favour of the total abolition of capital punishment in all cases. This General Assembly reaffirms this policy.

Until the total abolition of capital punishment is universally accepted and implemented, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL requests the United Nations and all governments and parliaments to use their best endeavours to ensure that in states where capital punishment is still used:

- (1) that in no case shall a death sentence be carried out unless there has been a fair public trial, an appeal to an independent judicial tribunal and until the proper constitutional authority empowered to do so has refused to exercise the prerogative of mercy and reprieve;
- (2) that capital punishment shall not be used in any case related directly or indirectly to racial or political issues;
- (3) that if, nevertheless, a government persists in utilising capital punishment in any case related directly or indirectly to a racial or political issue, a "cooling period" of not less than six months shall be allowed to elapse between the date of the rejection of the appeal and the execution.

That this resolution be transmitted to all the appropriate United Nations organs, to all governments and non-governmental organisations interested, and furthermore be made a feature of Prisoner of Conscience Week.

### Spain

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL urges the Spanish Government to reconsider its recent policy in the Basque areas.

The suspension of those articles of the Constitution concerning search without warrant, imprisonment without trial and exile to other parts of Spain; the re-enactment of the death penalty for strikes, political action and "banditry"; and the re-imposition of a partial state of emergency throughout Spain has resulted in the arbitrary detention of some hundreds of individuals, including priests, journalists and lawyers, unconnected with any violent resistance movement.

Reports of disturbances in the Basque areas would not appear to warrant the withdrawal from democratic methods implied by the measures recently imposed.

### Czechoslovakia

The Assembly of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Condemning the arrests of Alexander Dubcek, Oldrich Cernik and others in Czechoslovakia as a violation of Human Rights and a negation of the aspirations of Human Rights Year

Urges that every precaution is taken to prevent executions or punitive retroactive persecution and trials and urges observance of constitutional procedures.

Calls for the release of prisoners of conscience and political detainees in connection with the recent events in Czechoslovakia.

## STATUTE OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Adopted by the Sixth International Assembly, Stockholm, August 25th, 1968

### OBJECTS

1. The objects of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL shall be:
  - (a) to ensure for every person the right freely to hold and to express his convictions and the obligation on every person to extend a like freedom to others: and in pursuance of that object to secure throughout the world the observance of the provisions of Article 5, 9, 18, and 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.<sup>1</sup>
  - (b) Irrespective of political considerations, to work for the release of and provide assistance to persons who in violation of the aforesaid provisions are imprisoned, detained, restricted or otherwise subjected to physical coercion or restraint by reason of their political, religious or other conscientiously held belief or by reason of their ethnic origin, colour or language provided that they have not used or advocated violence (hereinafter referred to as "Prisoners of Conscience").

### METHODS

2. In order to achieve the aforesaid objects, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL shall:
  - (a) promote as appears appropriate the adoption of constitutions, conventions, treaties and other measures which guarantee the rights contained in the provisions referred to in article 1(a) hereof;
  - (b) support and publicise the activities of and co-operate with international organisations and agencies which work for the implementation of the aforesaid provisions;
  - (c) take all necessary steps to establish an effective organisation of national sections, affiliated groups and individual members;
  - (d) secure the adoption by groups of members or supporters of individual Prisoners of Conscience;
  - (e) provide financial and other relief to Prisoners of Conscience and their dependents and to persons who have lately been Prisoners of Conscience or who might reasonably be expected to become Prisoners of Conscience if they were to return to their own countries and to the dependants of such persons;
  - (f) work for the improvement of conditions for Prisoners of Conscience and political prisoners;
  - (g) provide legal aid, where necessary and possible to Prisoners of Conscience and to persons who, if convicted, might reasonably be considered likely to become Prisoners of Conscience and, where desirable, send observers to attend the trial of such persons;
  - (h) publicise the cases of Prisoners of Conscience or persons who have otherwise been subjected to disabilities in violation of the aforesaid provisions;
  - (i) send investigators, where appropriate, to investigate allegations that the rights of individuals under the aforesaid provisions have been violated or threatened;
  - (j) make representations to international organisations and to governments whenever it appears that an individual is a Prisoner of Conscience or has otherwise been subjected to disabilities in violation of the aforesaid provisions;
  - (k) promote and support the granting of general amnesties of which the beneficiaries will include Prisoners of Conscience;
  - (l) oppose by all appropriate means the imposition and execution of death penalties for political prisoners;
  - (m) adopt any other appropriate methods for the securing of its objects;
  - (n) at all times maintain a just balance between its activities on behalf of Prisoners of Conscience in countries adhering to the different world political ideologies and groupings.

### ORGANISATION

3. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL shall consist of national sections, affiliated groups, individual members and corporate members.

<sup>1</sup> *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

Art. 5: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Art. 9: No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Art. 18: Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Art. 19: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

4. The directive authority for the conduct of the affairs of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL is vested in the International Council.
5. Between meetings of the International Council the International Executive Committee shall be responsible for the conduct of the affairs of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL and for the implementation of the decisions of the International Council.
6. The day to day affairs of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL shall be conducted by the International Secretariat headed by a Secretary General under the direction of the International Executive Committee.
7. The office of the International Secretariat shall be in London or such other place as the International Council may determine.

#### **NATIONAL SECTIONS**

8. A national section of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL may be established in any country, state or territory with the consent of the International Executive Committee. In order to be recognised as such, a national section shall (a) consist of not less than two groups or 10 members, (b) pay such annual fee as may be determined by the International Council, (c) be registered as such with the International Secretariat on the decision of the International Executive Committee. National sections shall take no action on matters that do not fall within the stated objects of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. The International Secretariat shall maintain a register of national sections.
9. Groups of not less than three members or supporters wishing to adopt Prisoners of Conscience may, on payment of an annual fee determined by the International Council, become affiliated to AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL or a national section thereof. Any dispute as to whether a group should be or remain affiliated shall be decided by the International Executive Committee. An affiliated group shall accept for adoption such prisoners as may from time to time be allotted to it by the International Secretariat, and shall adopt no others as long as it remains affiliated to AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. No group shall be allotted a Prisoner of Conscience detained in its own country. The International Secretariat shall maintain a register of affiliated groups. Groups shall take no action on matters that do not fall within the stated objects of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.

#### **INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP**

10. Individuals may, on payment to the International Secretariat of an annual subscription fee determined by the International Executive Committee, become members of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. Such membership shall be separate and apart from membership of a national section. The International Secretariat shall maintain a register of such members.

#### **CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP**

11. Organisations may, at the discretion of the International Executive Committee and on payment of an annual subscription fee determined by the International Executive Committee, become corporate members of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. The International Secretariat shall maintain a register of corporate members.

#### **INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL**

12. The International Council shall consist of the members of the International Executive Committee and of representatives of national sections and shall meet at intervals of approximately one year but in any event of not more than two years on a date fixed by the International Executive Committee.

13. National sections may appoint representatives as follows:

2— 9 groups	—	1 representative
10— 49 "	—	2 "
50— 99 "	—	3 "
100—199 "	—	4 "
200 groups or over	—	5 "

National sections consisting primarily of individual members rather than groups may in the alternative appoint representatives as follows:

10— 99 members	—	1 representative
100— 499 "	—	2 "
500— 999 "	—	3 "
1000—2999 "	—	4 "
over 3000 members	—	5 "

Only groups and members having paid their annual fee for the previous financial year shall be represented by their national section. This requirement may be waived by the International Executive Committee.

14. Representatives of groups not forming part of a national section may with the permission of the Secretary-General attend a meeting of the International Council as observers and may speak thereat but shall not be entitled to vote.
15. A national section unable to participate in an International Council may appoint a proxy or proxies to vote on its behalf and a national section represented by a lesser number of persons than its entitlement under article 13 hereof may authorise its representative or representatives to cast votes up to its maximum entitlement under article 13 hereof.
16. Notice of the number of representatives proposing to attend an International Council, and of the appointment of proxies, shall be given to the International Secretariat not later than one month before the meeting of the International Council. This requirement may be waived by the International Executive Committee.
17. A quorum shall consist of the representatives or proxies of not less than one quarter of the national sections entitled to be represented.
18. The Chairman of the International Executive Committee, or such other person as the International Executive Committee may appoint, shall open the proceedings of the International Council, which shall elect a Chairman. Thereafter the elected Chairman, or such other person as he may appoint, shall preside at the International Council.
19. Except as otherwise provided in this statute, the International Council shall make its decisions by a simple majority of the votes cast. In case of an equality of votes the Chairman of the International Executive Committee shall have a casting vote.
20. The International Council shall be convened by the International Secretariat by notice to all national sections and affiliated groups not later than 90 days before the date thereof.
21. The Chairman of the International Executive Committee shall at the request of the Committee or of not less than one-third of the national sections call an extraordinary meeting of the International Council by giving not less than 21 days notice in writing to all national sections.
22. The International Council shall appoint a treasurer, who shall be ex-officio a member of the International Executive Committee but shall not have the right to vote.
23. The International Council may appoint one or more Honorary Presidents of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL to hold office for a period not exceeding three years.
24. The International Council shall from time to time, and not less than once in five years, call an International Assembly consisting of all members of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, of national sections and of affiliated groups. Such an Assembly shall be for the purpose of information, discussion and consultation and shall not have the power to adopt any decisions.
25. The agenda for meetings of the International Council shall be prepared by the International Secretariat under the direction of the Chairman of the International Executive Committee.

#### **INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

26. The International Executive Committee shall consist of five persons, members of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, or of a national section, or of an affiliated group, elected by the International Council by proportional representation by the method of the single transferable vote in accordance with the regulations published by the Proportional Representation Society. Not more than one member of any national section or affiliated group may be elected to the Committee, and once one member of a national section or affiliated group has received sufficient votes to be elected any votes cast for other members of that national section or affiliated group shall be disregarded. Candidates for election to the Committee shall be proposed and seconded by a member of the International Council.
27. The International Executive Committee shall meet not less than twice a year at a place to be decided by itself.
28. Subject to the provisions of this article, members of the Committee shall hold office for a period of two years and shall be eligible for re-election. Of those elected at the first meeting of the International Council, two chosen by lot shall retire after one year (but may stand for re-election) and thereafter members of the International Executive Committee shall retire after two years of service, but may stand for re-election.
29. The Committee may co-opt not more than four additional members who shall hold office for a period of one year; they shall be eligible to be re-co-opted. Co-opted Members shall not have the right to vote.
30. In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Committee, it may co-opt a further member to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the International Council, which shall elect such members as are necessary to replace retiring members and to fill the vacancy.
31. If a member of the Committee is unable to attend a meeting, he may appoint an alternate.

32. The Committee shall each year appoint one of its members to act as Chairman.
33. The Chairman may, and at the request of the majority of the Committee shall, summon meetings of the Committee.
34. A quorum shall consist of not less than three members of the Committee or their alternates.
35. The agenda for meetings of the Committee shall be prepared by the International Secretariat under the direction of the Chairman.
36. The Committee may make regulations for the conduct of the affairs of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, and for the procedure to be followed at the International Council.

#### **INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT**

37. The International Executive Committee may appoint a Secretary-General who shall be responsible under its direction for the conduct of the affairs of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL and for the implementation of the decisions of the International Council.
38. The Secretary General may, after consultation with the Chairman of the International Executive Committee, and subject to confirmation by that Committee, appoint such executive and professional staff as appear to him to be necessary for the proper conduct of the affairs of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, and may appoint such other staff as appear to him to be necessary.
39. In the case of the absence or illness of the Secretary-General, or of a vacancy in the post of Secretary-General, the Chairman of the International Executive Committee shall, after consultation with the members of that Committee, appoint an acting Secretary-General to act until the next meeting of the Committee.
40. The Secretary-General or Acting Secretary-General, and such members of the International Secretariat as may appear to the Chairman of the International Executive Committee to be necessary shall attend meetings of the International Council and of the International Executive Committee and may speak thereat but shall not be entitled to vote.

#### **TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

41. Membership of or affiliation to AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL may be terminated at any time by resignation in writing.
42. The International Council may, upon the proposal of the International Executive Committee or of a national section, by a three-fourths majority of the votes cast deprive a national section, an affiliated group or a member of membership of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL if in its opinion that national section, affiliated group or member does not act within the spirit of the objects and methods set out in articles 1 and 2 or does not observe any of the provisions of this statute. Before taking such action, all National Sections shall be informed and the Secretary-General shall also inform the national section, affiliated group or member of the grounds on which it is proposed to deprive it or him of membership, and such national section, affiliated group or member shall be provided with an opportunity of presenting its or his case to the International Council.
43. A national section, affiliated group or member who fails to pay the annual fee fixed in accordance with this statute within six months after the close of the financial year shall cease to be affiliated to AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL unless the International Executive Committee decides otherwise.

#### **FINANCE**

44. An auditor appointed by the International Council shall annually audit the accounts of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, which shall be prepared by the International Secretariat and presented to the International Executive Committee and the International Council.

#### **AMENDMENTS OF STATUTE**

45. This statute may be amended by the International Council by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the votes cast. Amendments may be submitted by the International Executive Committee or by a national section. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the International Secretariat not less than two months before the International Council meet and shall be communicated by the International Secretariat to all national sections and to members of the International Council and the International Executive Committee.



Requests those responsible in Czechoslovakia to permit access to representatives of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL or the International Red Cross Committee to those at present detained in prison or under arrest.

### **Ethiopia**

That AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL investigates and if necessary sends a delegate to Ethiopia to make a thorough investigation concerning those conditions which according to a report received by the Conference prevail in that country, especially with respect to the Galla tribe.

### **Truong Dinh Dzu**

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL at its sixth international Assembly in Stockholm on August 24th and 25th, 1968 strongly urges the responsible authorities of the Republic of Vietnam to release without delay Mr. Truong Dinh Dzu tried before a military court in Saigon on July 26, 1968, and then sentenced to five years imprisonment with hard labour.

The International Secretariat was requested, in consultation with Göran Claesson, to revise the Standing Orders for the Conduct of the International Assembly for presentation and approval of the first meeting of the International Council.

The Assembly endorsed the conclusions of the Conference on torture held in Stockholm on August 23rd referred to above.

### **Resolutions from National Sections**

As there was not time to discuss a number of the resolutions that had been put forward by national sections, it was agreed that they should be referred to the next meeting of the International Executive which will take place in London over the weekend, November 30th-December 1st.

### **International Executive Committee**

Treasurer: Anthony Marrelo (ex officio).  
The following five members were elected:

Sean MacBride, S.C. (Ireland).  
Dr. Hajo Wandschneider (Germany).  
Adv. Hans Göran Franck (Sweden).  
Eric Baker (Britain).  
Arne Haaland (Norway).

## **Regulations for the Conduct of Field Operations**

### **1. Selection of Assignments**

First priority should be given to those cases where there is a strong possibility that a prisoner may be executed at short notice. If necessary, an AMNESTY representative should be sent to negotiate with the government of the country concerned.

The International Secretariat should draw up in a rough order of priority, a list of the countries and problems on which further information is required or on which opportunity should be sought to take action.

Some of the stronger national sections may wish to follow up their own keen interest in one or other country in which there are prisoners of conscience by sending out their own representative and, in so doing, may or may not inform or consult the International Secretariat. Where an individual travels either in a private capacity or as an individual member of another delegation, no issue arises. Where, however, he travels explicitly as a member or representative of AMNESTY then, even though he has been sent only by one national section, his responsibility to the whole movement and the responsibility of the movement for him arise. For, whatever may have been the view of the national section in sending him, to those who receive him, he is not the representative of a single national section but of the movement as a whole. Thus, what he says and does will have its effect on other efforts which are being made elsewhere. Subsequently, if he is unaware of what is being planned by the International Secretariat and it is unaware of what he is doing, the result may well be disaster.

All field operations should be conducted in the name of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL and should be under the sole authority of the International

Secretariat, i.e. of the International Executive Committee to which it is responsible. This is as far as concerns formal responsibility, however, the initiative will frequently come from a national section and we should expect that there would, in fact, be full co-operation between the Secretariat and the national section throughout.

**Agreed: Field operations should be undertaken in the name of Amnesty International as a whole, i.e. on the authority of the International Executive or of the International Secretariat acting on its behalf or by a National Section with the approval of either of these bodies.**

## 2. The Financing of Assignments

Where an AMNESTY representative is being sent out in order to forestall the execution of a prisoner, the costs of the mission can be met from the Karin O'Donovan Emergency Fund which was established for this purpose. It should be maintained at an agreed level.

For other assignments funds must normally be raised outside the annual budget. But:

- (a) **No conditions should be attached which would in any way give the donor grounds for attempting to control or contest any aspect of Amnesty's general policy either at that or at any future time, i.e. the grant must be unconditional;**
- (b) **where the grant is for a specific enquiry, the object for which the money is given should be stated and should be compatible with Amnesty's general policy;**
- (c) **the source of the funds should be reported to the International Executive at its next meeting.**

## 3. Selection of Personnel

In the past this has depended on who was available at short notice, especially where representations to governments, sending observers to trials or relief work have been concerned. There would, however, be a great deal to be said for the International Secretariat inviting national sections to draw up panels of men and women whom they would consider suitable representatives of the movement. In making this request, the Secretariat should ask national sections to bear in mind not only professional qualifications but also personality before putting an individual on the panel. In recommending the individuals on this panel, national sections should indicate his/her

- nationality, age, marital status
- professional qualifications, current and past employment
- other relevant experience in either paid or voluntary work (including any work he has carried out for the national section)
- experience of living and/or working (or simply visiting) other countries than his own; competence in foreign languages
- in confidence*: an assessment of his standing within his own profession and of his personality
- among personality characteristics of particular importance are, e.g., acuteness in observation, reliability and discretion
- the kind of assignment(s) for which he would be most suitable (see section 3).

It should be understood, however, that where it appears essential, the Secretariat should be empowered to select a person not on the panel.

## 4. The 'Briefing' of Personnel

This should, in every case, be the responsibility of the International Secretariat and particularly of the Research Department. Where a national section has particular requests and/or information this should be included in the briefing supplied by the International Secretariat.

The briefing should include:

- i. A background statement about the country/problem.
- ii. The object of the assignment spelled out as clearly as under the circumstances may be possible.
- iii. List of names and addresses (and other particulars) of men and women to get into touch with (including names of relevant legal personalities, interested journalists, local individuals willing to help as interpreters.)
- iv. Arrangements for communication with the International Secretariat while abroad.

## 5. Mode of Operation

AMNESTY's representatives should, as a general rule and whenever possible, operate openly, declaring their business and carrying with them a form of accreditation (Order of Mission) signed by the Chairman of the International Executive and the Secretary-General, supplied by the Secretariat and valid for that particular assignment only.

## 6. The Evaluation of the Operation and the Processing of Reports

In addition to any interim reports which he has made, the AMNESTY representative should, at the completion of each assignment, prepare a final report in which he should not only summarise the conclusions to which he came on the matters into which he had been asked to enquire (or make representations) but should also include comments on the worthwhileness and/or success (since the two may not be identical) of his work. These comments should be written with an eye to any points which might be improved for the benefit of others undertaking similar work later. (He should also report on any matters not directly relating to his mission but which would be relevant to other aspects of AMNESTY's work).

**No information concerning the observer's mission should be given to the press except after consultation and agreement with the International Secretariat. The detailed arrangement for interviews and for the issue of press releases and of the final report should be agreed before the observer begins his journey.**

## Prisoners of the Year

As 1968 is Human Rights Year the Assembly decided that three Prisoners of the Year should be chosen. The following prisoners were selected.

### Daniel Madzimbamuto— Rhodesia

Mr. Madzimbamuto is a committed African nationalist, a member of the banned Z.A.P.U. He has been detained since 1964 and, under his present order, will remain in detention until 1970. It is very probable that he will not be released even then, but will merely be served with another detention order.

Mr. Madzimbamuto has been the subject of a lengthy and complex court case. Early in 1966, soon after U.D.I., his wife Stella brought a legal action challenging the right of the Smith Government to detain Mr. Madzimbamuto on the grounds that its Unilateral Declaration of Independence in November 1965 had made it an unconstitutional and illegal regime. Mrs. Madzimbamuto's case became not only an attempt to obtain her husband's release, but also a constitutional test case in that the Rhodesian Bench had to decide the legality of the Smith regime before they could rule on the legality of a detention order made by its officials.

Early in 1968, after two years of litigation, the Rhodesian judges dismissed the case on the grounds that, since there was no alternative, the Smith regime must be regarded as the de facto government of the country. Mrs. Madzimbamuto then brought an appeal against this decision before the Privy Council in London, whose jurisdiction, as the highest court in the Commonwealth, is no longer recognised by Rhodesia.

Her appeal was successful and in July the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council ruled that the Smith regime was not a legal government and that Mr. Madzimbamuto should be released.

In choosing Mr. Madzimbamuto as prisoner of the year, AMNESTY is campaigning for more than the release of a single prisoner of conscience. It is pressing the British Government to recognise specific responsibilities in Rhodesia by acting on the Privy Council's decision to effect the release not only of Mr. Madzimbamuto but of the hundreds of others detained in similar circumstances.

**Nina Karsow—  
Poland**

(Nina Karsow was released sometime between the end of August and the early part of September)

Aged about 27 Nina Karsow is a Polish Jewess who was recently converted to Roman Catholicism. Arrested in April 1967 she was detained in prison for eighteen months. In October 1967 she was eventually brought to trial behind closed doors and accused of possessing personal notes and material relating to recent political trials and with planning to publish them abroad. The sentence was three years imprisonment.

**Eleni Voulgari—  
Greece**

Eleni Voulgari was sentenced to ten years in prison in 1966 on the grounds that her family had sheltered her brother-in-law, a communist and a former resistance fighter in 1954. She was eighteen at the time.

In 1954, Eleni Voulgari avoided arrest because she was away from home when the police came and took six of the family. In 1961, her mother was released from prison and went with Eleni to see the Royal Prosecutor of Larissa. He assured them that as Law 375—the measure under which she would be charged—was about to be abrogated, there was no need for her to obtain a special “liberating decision” to clear her name.

In February 1966, a special amnesty decree was passed and those imprisoned under Law 375 were released. In August 1966, she was arrested and in November tried by court martial under Law 375 and convicted. She was pregnant when she was arrested, and in February 1967 gave birth to a son in Averoff prison.

Eleni Voulgari was unable to benefit from the February 1966 amnesty for the technical reason that it applied only to those in prison at the time it was published.

In early April 1967, the Embassy wrote saying that if Eleni Voulgari applied for a royal pardon—the only clemency procedure open to her—there were “no objective reasons” why it should not be granted. An application was immediately made by her family, but on 21st April, before it could be considered, the military coup took place.

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