



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

MISSIONS

Morocco: Amnesty International has now received the final report of Dr. Horst Woesner, the last of the three observers sent to attend the trial of 193 members of the Union Nationale des Forces Populaires (UNFP) at Marrakech this summer. Dr. Woesner, a judge of the West German Federal Court, observed the closing sessions of the trial and he comments: "The nature and extent of the sentences reinforce the fear that this trial had a deeper purpose than the simple judgement of criminal offences." Five people were sentenced to death, another six were given life imprisonment, and various prison sentences were imposed on all but 66 of the accused who were either acquitted or received suspended sentences. Dr. Woesner has pointed out deficiencies in the pre-trial treatment of the accused and the conduct of the trial itself, and says the sentences show "a frightening excess which should not be accepted silently by world opinion."

Ceylon: There was considerable press publicity over Lord Avebury's report on his mission to Ceylon. In view of the Ceylon Government's decision to cancel the delegate's visa and issue a public statement, Amnesty published a preliminary summary of Lord Avebury's findings immediately he returned. The mission was undertaken because of the continuing detention without charge or trial of some 14,000 men and women under the State of Emergency imposed on 16 March 1971. Lord Avebury inquired into conditions of detention, plans for release, trial arrangements and the rights of detainees. A full report of his findings has been submitted to the International Executive Committee.

ORGANISATION

International Council Meeting: A report of the decisions of the International Council has been sent to all National Sections. Any member wishing to receive a copy should write direct to the International Secretariat. This is a 20-page document which would be costly to mail to all groups and individuals.

Chronicle of Current Events: Nos. 19 and 20 of the Chronicle of Current Events are now available. Publication of this document has proved worthwhile and it is sent to most countries in Western Europe, the U.S.A. and Australia. The subscription list has grown to over a thousand. Although the costs are now almost covered we would like to enlarge the mailing list and would be grateful for continued publicity efforts. Subscribers to the Chronicle of Current Events who change their address should send a notification to "Amnesty Publications, Room 6" at the office of the International Secretariat, as well as the normal notice to the Secretariat.

Rhodesia: Several released detainees have appealed to their groups for money to help rebuild their houses, having found them dilapidated or in ruins on their return home. Christian Care is providing training in building for certain released detainees and says that if the groups concerned would like to get in touch the work can be done by the trainees. This will give ex-detainees opportunities of employment as well as ensuring that the building is done at a reasonable cost.

Note to Groups with Portuguese or Paraguayan Prisoners: The President of Portugal, Admiral Americo Deus Rodrigues Tomaz, is 77 on 19 November. This would be a good time to write to him, asking - as a celebration of his birthday - for the release of your prisoner. The address is: Presidente da Republica, Praca Afonso de Albuquerque, Lisboa 3, Portugal. Another Head of State, President Alfredo Stroessner of Paraguay, celebrates his birthday on 3 November as a national holiday. Last year on this occasion he ordered the release of an adopted prisoner of conscience. A telegram noting Stroessner's birthday and asking for your prisoner's release may result in another long-awaited amnesty.

Prisoner of Conscience Week: Mr. Ezra Joory, imprisoned in Iraq, who was included in the Prisoner of Conscience Week dossier, has been released.

Italian Section: Correspondence with the Italian Section is now dealt with by Giuliana Mieli, 3 Via Marco de Marchi, 20121 Milano.

COUNTRIES

Paraguay: On 12 October Amnesty International sponsored a press conference given in London by two European lawyers who visited Paraguay in May 1971 and subsequently published a report on political prisoners and the violation of human rights in Paraguay. The lawyers concerned are Mr. Paul Bouaziz, an advocate at the Court of Appeals, Paris, and representative of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers; and M. l'Abbe Michel Schooyans, a professor at the Catholic University of Sao Paulo, Lecturer at the University of Louvain and representative of the International Secretariat of Catholic Jurists and of 'Pax Romana'. Among the topics discussed at the press conference were the conflict between the Catholic Church and the State on questions of individual liberties, the persecution of rural co-operative members and the role of former Nazi war criminals in Paraguay. Amnesty will shortly be publishing a report on Paraguay following two years' research.

Spain: Amnesty has issued a statement expressing concern about the limited nature of the Holy Year 1971 Pardon announced on 1 October. Although the Pardon will result in the release of a certain number of political prisoners, many others will be excluded. The terms stipulate that prisoners who have committed breaches of conduct are not eligible for release or reduction of sentence. Since hunger strikes and the writing of letters of protest come under the heading of breaches of conduct it is feared that many prisoners of conscience will not benefit.

Northern Ireland: Allegations of ill-treatment of prisoners continue to be received by the Secretariat, which has requested a meeting between members of the International Executive Committee and the British Home Secretary. A request that Amnesty should be represented by an observer on the Committee of Inquiry (the Compton Commission) established by the British Government has been rejected, but latest indications are that the terms of reference of the Commission will not cover much of the period when ill-treatment of prisoners is alleged to have taken place. Twelve cases have been taken up of internees on whom Amnesty has been able to obtain information.

U.S.A.: A book of special interest to Amnesty members, and worth mentioning outside our list of recommended books is, "If they Come in the Morning: Voices of Resistance", by Angela Davis, Ruchell Magee, the Soledad Brothers, and other political prisoners. There is a complete chapter on Trials of Political Prisoners Today. Among the cases chosen of political prisoners in the U.S.A. are three Amnesty adoptees, Walter Collins, Lee Otis Johnson and Connie Tucker. The book is published by Orbach and Chambers in association with the Angela Davis Defence Committee, price 45p.

South Africa: The prolonged trial of 14 alleged members of the Unity Movement continues. Many of those detained with the defendants in February are still being held - without charge. Groups are asked to write to the Minister of Justice, the Hon. P.C. Pelsler, Department of Justice, Pretoria, appealing for their immediate release.

Arab Republic of Egypt: As it has been announced in Cairo that all remaining political prisoners held without trial have now been released it would be an appropriate time for groups to appeal for the release of Sayyid Loutfi. An adopted prisoner, he has served 12 years of a life sentence for anti-Nasser propaganda. He can only be freed by a special presidential pardon. For further information groups may contact Miss M. Whitehouse, West Bristol Group, 23 St. Edyth's Road, Bristol, BS9 2EP.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

J.F. Brown: "Bulgaria under Communist Rule", Pall Mall Press 1970. £3.15. Father Cosmas Desmond: "The Discarded People", Penguin 1971. 40p. Alex Hepple: "South Africa: Workers under Apartheid," published for the International Defence and Aid Fund by Christian Action Publications Ltd., 2 Amen Court, London E.C.4. 1971. 50p. Denis Langlois: "Panagoulis; le Sang de la Grece," Librairie Francois Maspero, Paris 1969, 5.90 French Francs; Andreas Papandreou: "Democracy at Gunpoint," Andre Deutsch 1971, £3.30. Bela Szasz: "Volunteers for the Gallows. Anatomy of a Show Trial," Translated from the Hungarian by Kathleen Szasz. Chatto and Windus 1971. £2.50. Pierre Vallieres: "White Niggers of America. The Precocious Autobiography of a Quebec 'Terrorist'", Monthly Review Press 1971. £3.50.

POSTCARDS FOR PRISONERS CAMPAIGNSome News of Prisoners who have been on this Campaign:-

Grace Ibingira - Uganda (September 1967), who was released in late January 1971, after the military coup in Uganda, has been appointed Uganda's representative at the United Nations.

Jacek Kuron and Karel Modzelevski - Poland (July 1970). J. Karpinski and M. Kozlowski - Poland (March 1970 - the "Mountaineers" group). All these prisoners -- the last remaining known cases of Polish prisoners of conscience have recently been released.

This month's prisoners:-Mustafa DZHEMILEV - USSR

Mustafa Dzhemilev is a Crimean Tatar, member of an ethnic group formerly based on the Crimean peninsula but brutally deported to Central Asia in 1944 by Stalin for alleged collaboration with the German occupational forces.

Mustafa, born in 1943 or 1944, will not remember the horror of the deportation when thousands died from disease and malnutrition on the crowded railway wagons taking the Crimean Tatars to Central Asia and in the transit camps where they were detained on arrival. Nevertheless, he seems to have been active in the campaign by the Crimean Tatars to clear their name and to obtain permission for their people to return to the Crimea. The campaign took the form of meetings, demonstrations and missions to Moscow by elected leaders. Many have been imprisoned at different times, including Dzhemilev. In 1966 he was imprisoned for two weeks for alleged "hooliganism". Later that year he was sentenced to one and a half years' imprisonment for allegedly trying to avoid military service. After serving this sentence he was re-arrested in 1969 and sentenced to three years labour camp with severe regime for "spreading deliberately false fabrications discrediting the Soviet State", a charge which is frequently brought against people who have criticised the policies of the Soviet regime. At his trial Dzhemilev was accused specifically of producing an issue of the Crimean Tatar bulletin, an unofficial Samizdat journal. In his defence speech he spoke of the struggle of the Crimean Tatars to return to their homeland and of the persecution by the local authorities of those who had attempted to re-establish themselves there.

In 1967 the Crimean Tatars were formally cleared of the charges made against them in 1944 but, apart from a handful of exceptions, Crimean Tatars are still precluded from settling in the Crimea, an area which welcomes immigrants from other parts of the USSR. Please send your cards to:

Mr. N. Podgorny,
Chairman of the Presidium of the
Supreme Soviet of the USSR
Address:
SSSR,
g. Moskva,
Predsedatelyu Prezidia Verkhovnogo,
Sovieta SSSR,
N. Podgornomu.

OR

The Minister of Justice of the
Uzbek Republic, Mrs. Mamlakat
Sabirovna Vasikova
Address:
SSSR, Uzbek SSR,
g. Tashkent,
Ministru Yustitsii Uzbekskoi SSR,
Vasikove,
Mamlakat Sabirovne.

Walter COLLINS - U.S.A.

Walter Collins is a black American. Active in the civil rights movement, he also set up a Southern Regional Office for the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors and organised a network of black "draft counsellors" throughout the South. Mr. Collins lost his student deferment in 1966, soon after he began organising against the Vietnam war. The draft board which classified him I-A was entirely white, although two thirds of the people in the area it served were black. Only one of the board members

lived in the area and the chairman of the board lived in a different county. These factors were in direct violation of the draft law. Further, Mr. Collins was wrongly informed when he tried to apply for the status of conscientious objector, and twice when he reported for induction and handed out anti-war literature he was sent home. Finally indicted on six counts of refusing induction, he was convicted of five. He was sentenced to five years on each charge, to be served concurrently, and was fined £2,000. An appeal was lodged, based on the improper make-up of the draft board, but the U.S. District Court in New Orleans rejected the appeal. The same court, however, freed a white man on a draft charge because only two members of his draft board were residents in the area it served.

Carl Braden of S.C.E.F. and Virginia Collins, Walter's mother, have been touring the U.S.A. since April in a campaign to free him. Walter Collins has himself recently sued to stop prison officials from interfering with his mail, reading matter and visitors. He also has a suit pending in U.S. District Court at New Orleans, asking that his sentence be cut to time served. Please send your cards to: Mr. George J. Reed, Chairman, U.S. Board of Parole, 101 Indiana Avenue, Washington D.C. 20537, U.S.A.; or the President of the U.S.A., The White House, Washington D.C., U.S.A.

Badria MUSSA, Fawzia MUSSA

Nasreen Mohamed HUSSEIN, Wajiha YUSUF

Nasra MOHAMED, Helem NASSOR

- TANZANIA (ZANZIBAR)

Early in 1964 the radical Afro-Shirazi Party (ASP), claiming to represent the largely African majority on the island, came to power in Zanzibar. Under its leader, Sheik Abeid Karume, a repressive regime nominally committed to socialism and democracy has ruled the country for the last seven years. The Arab-Asian minority, which prior to the revolution numbered about 80,000, constituting between a fifth and a quarter of the population, has been singled out especially for persecution. Its numbers have been drastically reduced by departures following the killings which took place in the weeks immediately following the revolution.

In 1966, ostensibly with the aim of creating a classless multi-racial society, Sheik Karume promulgated a Presidential Decree designed to foster inter-racial marriage. During 1970, the provisions of this decree were abused by the Zanzibar Revolutionary Council, which began to threaten whole families with detention or expulsion because of their alleged resistance to the decree. Thirty-one families, numbering about 120 people, were affected. In September and October 1970, a new stage began with the arbitrary seizure of the six girls named above, who are of Persian or Arab descent. They were taken from their homes by truckloads of armed soldiers, transported to ASP headquarters, and forcibly married to members of the Revolutionary Council. Several of their relatives were jailed for protesting but later released. The girls are now kept in their "husbands'" houses, subjected to physical violence, and allowed no communication with their families. At least four of the girls were engaged to be married before their abduction. This action by the Zanzibari Government against the six girls and their families is a direct violation of the Tanzanian Law of Marriage Act, of Moslem Law, and of articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which declare illegal a marriage made without the free and voluntary consent of both parties.

Please send your cards to: President Julius Nyerere, The State House, P.O. Box 9120, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; or Hon. S.A. Maswanya, Minister for Home Affairs, P.O. Box 9223, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.