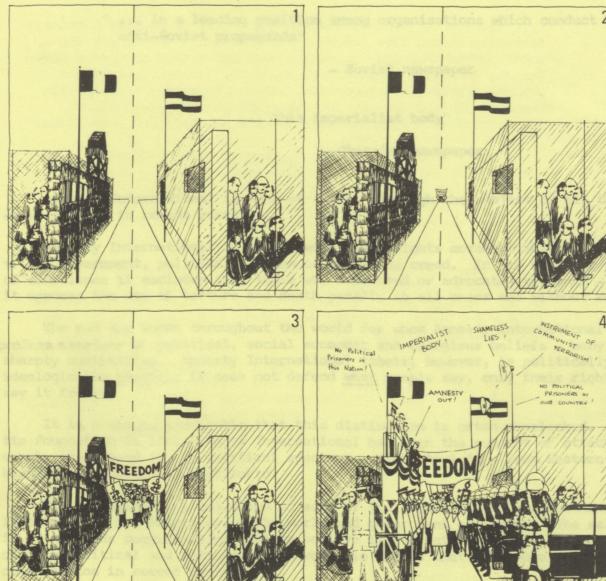
amnesty international



...in quotes...

Amnesty International ... In Quotes ...

... instrument of Communist terrorism

- Brazilian newspaper

" ... in a leading position among organisations which conduct anti-Soviet propaganda"

- Soviet newspaper

" ... this imperialist body"

-Ghanaian newspaper

Amnesty International is none of these, although the subject of all the above charges in recent years.

Amnesty International is a worldwide human rights movement which is independent of any government, political faction or religious creed. In its work for prisoners of conscience it excludes only those who have used or advocated violence — although it opposes the use of torture and death penalty in all cases and without reservation.

The men and women throughout the world for whom Amnesty International works profess a varietr of political, social economic and religious beliefs - many often sharply contrasting. Amnesty International itself, however, is politically and ideologically neutral: it does not defend what people say, only their right to say it freely.

It is, perhaps, inevitable that this distinction is often overlooked. Since its foundation in 1961 Amnesty International has been the subject of attack from nearly every band in the political spectrum - right to left - from Eastern bloc, Western and so-called Third World.

The following is a selection of some of the statements made about Amnesty International by newspapers of the world and government officials. The selection is by no means comprehensive, but we believe it reflects accurately the broad range of often critical and occasionally favourable things that have been said about the organisation in recent years.

The quotations are arranged alphabetically according to the country of origin. In each instance the quotation is preceded by a line or two about the circumstances which gave rise to it.

A juxtaposition of some of the comments might tell its own story.

BRAZIL

In September 1972, Amnesty International issued a major Report entitled report on Allegations of Torture in Brazil's. Subsequent trials of alleged terrorists have occasionally tried to link them with Amnesty International. The Ministry of Justice's censorship board also ordered Brazilian newspapers to ignore all Amnesty statements on Brazilian issues.

terrorism which, from London, aids guerrillas throughout the world. This 'Amnesty' promotes campaigns around the world for Amnesty terrorist criminals by means of lies and defamations against democratic governments. It has conducted a systematic campaign against Brazil, inventing tortures, assassinations and acts of violence, in order to promote communist objectives."

- O Cruzciro, Rio de Janeiro, September, 1972.

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"... a campaign has been organised by the organisation 'Amnesty International', which has been organising its agencies in Europe, as well as other multinational agencies that operate in Western Europe, in order to agitate public opinion against Brazilian authorities ..."

- Report on trial in Fortaleza of Manuel Conceicao dos Santos, accused of guerrilla activities, Jornal do Comercio, September 21, 1972.

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"... Pauline Reichstul "Silvana", native of Czechoslovakia ... of the terrorist organisation called VSRSP ... Was in league with 'Amnesty International', collaborating actively in the defamation campaign against Brazil undertaken abroad by this foreign association ..."

- Report on six alleged terrorists,

Diario de Pernambuco, Recife,

January 11, 1973.

BRITAIN

Amnesty statement on the estimated numbers of political prisoners in the world.

"... the prisoner of conscience, as adopted by an organisation such as Amnesty International, is a real object of concern, and the evidence is that governments can sometimes be shamed into releasing people they hold.

"Amnesty has done this by being politically impartial, by

collecting its facts as fully as possible, and by concentrating the efforts of its membership ... Thus a small group of people can concern themselves over one particular prisoner. He can be told of their interest. This gives him the first thing every such prisoner needs - hope ..."

- Editorial, "Behind the Bars", The Times, London, December 24, 1968

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The 10th anniversary of the foundation of Amnesty International.

"... Amnesty's contribution must be reckoned, however, in more than the arithmetic of freed prisoners; it is more enduring and subtler; is found in a network of intangibles; the dilution of bitter attitudes; the flares of hope lit in the minds of the prisoners; the residual memories of past help in the hearts of the new men of power; the permanent friendships between released prisoners and Amnesty group members throughout the world ... Amnesty's impartiality brings with it a kind of coolness. Hot heads can't last. There is too much at stake, in terms of other people's lives, for tub-thumping, sensation-seeking, or impetuous publicity ..."

- Pat Williams in The Observer Magazine, May 23, 1971

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Michael Tobin was adopted by a Swiss Amnesty Group as a Prisoner of Conscience, after being sentenced to two year's imprisonment in Britain for possession of copies of pro-Irish Republican Army leaflets offering money to British soldiers who deserted or handed over their officers to the IRA.

"... Tobin, only the second English prisoner to be adopted by Amnesty International, is presumably seen as a suitable candidate for martyrdom. But the organisation's sympathy is monstrously misguided ... Tobin might be as much a fool as a villain. But he is not worth shedding any tears over. And if Amnesty International champions undeserving causes like his it can only devalue the organisation's efforts to help victims of repressive regimes like Russia and Brazil. If Amnesty International is looking for martyrs in the United Kingdom it might consider more than 100 soldiers who have been killed in Northern Ireland."

- Editorial entitled "The Unlikely Martyr" in The Chatham, Rochester & Gillingham News, Kent, England, December 8, 1972.

Amnesty report 'Political Prisoners in South Vietnam'.

"The motives of those who claim to be defending human rights become suspect when they resort to selective outrage. Many of the charges assembled in the Amnesty report on political prisoners in South Vietnam are pretty wobbly in themselves. But the most striking thing about the report is that only 2½ of its 36 pages are devoted to the question of Vietnamese civilians in communist hands. Twice as much space is given to to charges that South Vietnamese interrogators have used torture, but there is no hint of the well-established fact that the Vietcong certainly have too.

"It is not good enough for the compilers to excuse themselves on the ground that there is an 'imbalance of information available' — although the fact that it is easier to find out about tiger cages on Con Son Island than about what happens to Quang Tri villagers taken captive by the North Vietnamese says a lot about the difference between the two Vietnams. To begin with, there are few signs that the Amnesty investigators have bothered to check their very limited sources ... Second, the Amnesty team applies a double standard for evaluating information coming from each side ..."

- "Numbers Game", The Economist, London, July 14, 1973

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Allegations were made in July 1973 that Portuguese troops had massacred African villagers in Mozambique. The widespread publicity, which came at the time of Prime Minister Marcello Caetano's official visit to Britain in connection with the 600th anniversary of the Anglo-Portuguese alliance, resulted in a debate on the question in the House of Lords.

"Lord WADE: My Lords, would the Portuguese Government allow a body such as Amnesty International to make an inquiry in a case such as this? It is precisely this kind of case where a body known not to be ideologically biased, should, if possible, be called in. I think that that would set at rest the uneasiness felt by a great many people."

- From the official record of the House of Lords debate, July 11, 1973

GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC (EAST GERMANY)

Simultaneous publication of series of Amnesty International reports on prison conditions in Portugal, East Germany and other countries.

"... The report on Portugal is excellent, but it is absurd to focus on East Germany, as there are no political prisoners in East Germany; anyone looking for violations of human rights in that part of the world should concentrate on West Germany ..."

- Berliner Zeitung, East Germany, 1966

GHANA

Statement by Amnesty International Secretary General, Martin Ennals, expressing concern at large-scale detention without trial in Ghana and reminding the present head of the regime, I. K. Acheapong, of a number of suggested improvements in the treatment of prisoners which Amnesty International had sent him three months earlier.

"...We know of no previous effort on the part of Amnesty International to advise any previous government on the best way of treating political detainees. That this imperialist body now feels it its duty to prescribe the manner in which our present Government should treat political detainees not only amounts to a wanton interference in the internal affairs of Ghana, but also proves that Kofi Abrefia Busia, busted head of the previous government) is pulling stringssomewhere within the framework of Amnesty International ... Ghana does not frown on advice but advice of such diabolic nature can only breed confusion and disaffection and must therefore be rejected outright with deserving contempt ... Imperialists offer advice and services only when their selfish ends are at stake. The Government must be aware of the wolves that come in sheep's clothing."

> - Editorial entitled "Keep Out Amnesty", in The Weekly Spectator, Accra, Ghana, November 18, 1972.

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Mr. Ennals' official visit to Ghana in May 1973, when he again raised the question of detained members of the previous regime and discussed relief payments by Amnesty International Groups to their families.

"...One may ask: What interest is the Amnesty International serving? If it is a recognised international organisation, as its name suggests, why does it favour a particular group of politicians and cannot be bothered about the fate of others and their families? Can the Amnesty International be correct in its claim that it pays the families of the detainees because the politicians are 'prisoners of conscience'? ... By its action the Amnesty International has shown a bias for Busia's followers and has thereby identified itself as a dangerous international political organisation which pokes its dirty nose in the affairs of other countries ..."

- Editorial entitled "Amnesty and Detainees", The Daily Graphic, Accra, Ghana, May 7, 1973.

GREECE

An Amnesty International news release reported from reliable sources in Athens that at least nine Greek naval officers involved in an alleged mutiny attempt had been tortured.

"Amnesty has repeatedly lied and does so shamelessly again. The matter is an unbridled and malicious figment of imagination."

- Mr. Byron Stamatopolulos, the Greek Government's Press Undersecretary, quoted in <u>The Athens News</u>, June 8, 1973.

HONDURAS

An unidentified Amnesty International publication.

"Throughout the Western world an organised campaign of attack and slander is being organised against three Latin American countries: Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay. Now and then the emphasis and theme change, but the denunciations and accusations are levelled against one country after another. The magnitude of the operations, the language used, the front organisations that do the denouncing, reveal the communist origins of this campaign, which is constructed along lines spread recently through fellow-traveller circles or by useful puppets, and which is financed from funds originating in Moscow。 For some years, an organisation calling itself 'Amnesty International' has existed, whose mission consists of publishing each year a report about torture inflicted on political prisoners ... According to Amnesty International's report, torture in Brazil is not inflicted by police stooges, but by army generals and colonels. The accusers present no proof of this, and their assertions boil down to curses, insults and abuse, without any manner of cvidence to support the truth of the truculent stories contained in the report ..."

- Editorial entitled "The Communist Campaic Against Brazil, Bolivia and Paraguay", La Prensa, Honduras, March 23, 1973.

INDONESIA

Memorandum sent by the Chairman of Amnesty International, Sean MacBride, S.C., who had visited Indonesia in October 1970, to the Indonesian Government drawing attention to 90,000 political prisoners detained since the 1967 coup attempt.

"Sean MacBride S.C. is the Chairman of Amnesty International and the Secretary General of the International Commission of Jurists, a front organisation of the new left, which has its seat in London. Their work is to defend political detainees, especially the communists who are imprisoned in various countries outside the Communist bloc, on the excuse of humanitarianism, human rights and the rule of law, norms which are customarily not needed by the communists themselves, Nevertheless, in order not to be too transparent, now and again they also defend political detainees from non-communist trends. Even though they make a fuss about the fate of political detainees, in various countries, (what they do) has

"more the nature of interfering in internal affairs; but it can be understood they never mention a single word, but remain 'silent in a thousand languages' about the political detainees in communist lands ..."

- Editorial in <u>Angkatan Bersenjata</u>, Indonesian Army Newspaper, Indonesia, May 29, 1971,

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An Amnesty International statement on March 14 urging Indonesia to free 55,000 civilians still detained without trial after seven years.

"... Amnesty is an organisation of jurists which rather obstinately and constantly focuses attention on the question of political detainees in Indonesia ... (Its) reports to the international world on the situation on Buru or on the correspondents (involved in the 1967 coup attempt) show that Amnesty has its own specific view according to its own norms, without any readiness to understand the history and reasons that have given rise to the problem of political detainees in Indonesia."

- Editorial in <u>Pedoman</u>, Jakarta, Indonesia, March 17, 1973.

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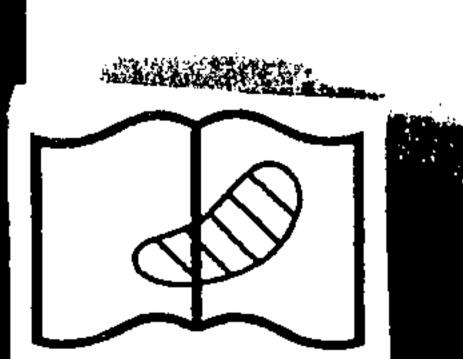
"The Hague, March 19 (Antara).

"Indonesian Ambassador to the Netherlands, H. Alamsjah Ratu Perwiranegara, has said in an interview with Antara that the efforts and concern expressed by Amnesty International towards the Indonesian Government on the fate of political prisoners should be welcomed and appreciated.

"... It should also be pointed out that the Indonesian Government very much appreciated the struggle of Amnesty International for the upholding of humanitarian values, but this should not only be done by criticism but also by conceptional and material contributions for the solution of the problem of improvement of political detainees in Indonesia.

"... Indonesia will appreciate it very much if efforts and attention from Amnesty International would not only be directed to one country only, but her concern and efforts should should also be directed to other countries in the world where there are political detainees ..."

- Interview carried by the Indonesian news agency Antara on March 19, 1973.



Arief Budiman, one of the most active student leaders in Indonesia, published an article in a leading weekly news magazine on the subject of the increasing attention being paid outside Indonesia to the question of its political prisoners.

...Why has the problem become popular now? The reason is of course that there are individuals or groups that campaign against it. It can be assumed that they are Communistsor Communist sympathisers but there are also those who agitate about it purely on grounds of humanity. The latter includes Amnesty International which campaigns against political prisoners in Indonesia and also in other countries, including the Communist countries ...

If the Indonesian government is hostile to this organisation and regards it as a Communist group, then this attitude will bolster the Communist groups which campaign for political purposes. In Europe everybody knows that Amnesty International is a non-political organisation which is viewed with enmity by both the Spanish and Greek governments and the governments in Eastern Europe.

- Problem of Political Prisoners and How to Handle It, by Arief Budiman, Tempo, June 9, 1973.

MEXICO

General article on the whole issue of political imprisonment, by one of the best known journalists in Latin America.

In as much as these prisoners of conscience would not be in jail if governments did not believe that what they say Only one organisation functions in order to defend prisoners of conscience: Amnesty International ... It maintains solidarity with the voluntary sections of the silent masses who feel represented by those who have voiced their opinions and been imprisoned for doing so, have suffered, and frequently are untried, exiled or held incommunicado.

To donate one's time or money to Amnesty International does not necessarily mean that one agrees with what such and such a prisoner of conscience may have expressed, but that one upholds his right to expression.... To persecute someone for voicing his opinions is an injustice. It is, possibly, the great injustice of our age and the need to speak out is probably the greatest necessity of our times.

Many prisoners of conscience have either been released, or their prison conditions ameliorated, or their execution postponed: thanks to the campaigns of Amnesty International. Torturers of every kind fear publicity. Amnesty International uses this one weapon: publicity

- The Idea as a Crime, article by Victor Alba, <u>Siempre</u>, May 23, 1973

NETHERLANDS

A special report called Indonesia Special published by Amnesty International's Dutch Section in March 1973, containing a detailed and illustrated review of the history and suffering of the 55,000 Indonesian civilians detained without trial for more than seven years.

"Amnesty International, a laudable organisation that defends the rights of political prisoners all over the world, is doing great work with its action for the tens of thousands of political prisoners in Indonesia.

"This action deserves all-out support because the only chance for improvement lies in the permanent attention of the public opinion in Indonesia and the whole world for this question.

"In its special publication on the fate of political prisoners in Indonesia, Amnesty International-Holland gives useful and generally reliable information. It is regrettable, however, that the role the Communists played in the coup of 1965, is portrayed rather one-sidedly."

- Het Parool, Amsterdam, March 9, 1973.

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Widespread use of torture in the world and what people can do about it.

"... Every country that engages in these activities finds some committee in Holland which wants to use if for publicity. Therefore we prefer the worldwide type of action of Amnesty International, an organisation working beyond ideological frontiers. People often view it as over-zealous. It is accused of easy protest from a distance. But it is indispensible for a vital democracy..."

- Editorial entitled "Torture", Trouw Amsterdam, June 5, 1973

NORWAY

Amnesty International's 10th anniversary.

"Amnesty is a permanent warning to the tyrannical regimes of the world. The political prisoners are not going to be forgotten. In the long run this might influence the regimes to make prison conditions better, or release the prisoners.

"Because the organisation does not lean towards the left or right, and clearly acknowledges that tyranny is not limited to one or the other areas in international politics, this makes it able to speak out forecfully...

> - Editorial in <u>Dagbladet</u>, Oslo, June 1, 1971.

PORTUGAL

In November, 1972, a demonstration was held in front of the Portuguese Embassy in The Hague, led by the head of the Portuguese Social Democratic Party, Dr. Mario Soares, to protest against the detention of political prisoners in Portugal. The following is a commentary on the Reuter's report of the incident.

"... The anti-Portuguese demonstrations which took place in The Hague about a week ago, in front of the Portuguese Embassy, gathered about 700 people in a simulated, symbolic 'concentration camp'. The demonstrators carried banners calling for amnesty for the prisoners.

"This sad, inconceivable spectacle, whose 'star' was Dr. Mario Soares (Professor at the University of Rennes), was dreamed up by Amnesty International, whose headquarters are in London and whose brains are in Moscow ..."

- Diario de Noticias, Lisbon, November 19,

SOMALIA

Letters sent by various Amnesty International Groups to the Government of the Somali Democratic Republic on behalf of Somali prisoners. The following is an extract of a stencilled reply sent to the Groups.

"... I avail myself of this opportunity to express my personal amazement at the interest shown by your Organisation and similar institutions for cases which certainly involve an interference in the internal affairs of the Country, whereas no evidence can be found of your equally strong interest in mobilising the world opinion against crimes which by-pass national frontiers, such as in the case of South African apartheid or in the case of genocide affecting - like in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, for instance the future of mankind and world people. I wonder how you could forget, or rather tried to forget, what is happening in Guinea Bissau, Angola, Mozambique, French Somaliland, Rhodesia, where thousands and thousands of civilians (undiscriminately whether aged people, women or children) are being day after day killed by the colonialists, a synonym of criminals, just because of safeguarding malignantly their sinister interests, while denying the rights of the legitimate peoplesof Africa. The same tragic events are taking place in the Middle East to the Palestinians.

"Why should you therefore betray your conscience and give consideration to the political issues, rather than to these human ones.

"To say the least, the time and resources of your institution could find much better investment and more profitable returns in pleading for the removal of such factors of human hatred and of open violation of the basic human rights, rather than in moving after and worrying for the future of a few individuals who have been taking advantage of their political power to betray their country and to deceive their poeple.

Hoping that you will give due and right consideration to these my reactions, I wish you good luck. May God illuminate you to the right and just path.

Yours faithfully,"

- Captain Geilani Sufi Mudhir, Secretary to President of the Supreme Revolutionary Council of the Somali Democratic Republic, August 20, 1972.

SOUTH AFRICA

Letter sent by Amnesty International Secretary General, Martin Ennals, to Prime Minister John Vorster of South Africa protesting against the forced resettlement of Black Africans.

"Dear Mr. Ennals.

I have been instructed by the Honourable the Prime Minister to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 27th July, 1972, and to reply as follows:

"It is interesting, although typical of Amnesty International, to note that exception is taken to the resettlement of black people in South Africa but that the murder of 80,000 black people in the Sudan, and elsewhere, is apparently condoned or shrugged off.

If you are really concerned about the lot of underprivileged and oppressed peoples, it is suggested that you approach certain prominent member-states of the Organisation of African Unity and your friends behind the iron curtain ...

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH VIETNAM

Amnesty International statement urging the International Conference on Vietnam and Indo-China to place the estimated 100,000 political prisoners in South Vietnam under United Nations control.

"On Thursday, 22nd February, 1973, Amnesty International has issued a news release concerning the question of civilian prisoners in South Vietnam. The Embassy of Vietnam, while it does not question the good faith of Amnesty International, deems it necessary to make the following reservations regarding the memorandum published by that organisation on this subject ... Furthermore, by urging the International Conference, which is mostly made up of foreign countries, to take action regarding a purely internal matter of South Vietnam, well before the expiration of the above mentioned limit of 90 days, Amnesty International shows an unexpected disregard of the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people ...

- Press release issued at specially convened news conference by the London Embassy of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam on February 23, 1973.

SPAIN

Tenth anniversary of Amnesty International.

"Amnesty was founded ten years ago ,... Since then Amnesty has in fact achieved renown, although not love, in many countries throughout the world. But it has also had its internal problems: people who have tried to use the organisation for obvious political motives. But, generally speaking, Amnesty's behaviour has been clearly correct and its denouncements impartial: South African and Israelis, Englishmen and Indians, Spaniards and Russians have all been subjected to its statements ..."

- Judice, Madrid, July-August 1971

TURKEY

Amnesty International twice sent missions to Turkey in 1972 to investigate allegations of torture of political prisoners. The second mission reported to a news conference in London in December 1972 that efforts to see all but one of 32 prisoners on a list previously agreed with the Turkish Government had failed.

"Ankara, January 25.

Tarkey.

Tarkey

Tarkey

Turkey

Mr. Ferit Melen, the Prime Minister, had been telling Parliament that allegations of torture by Western newspapers, 'Amnesty what's-its-name International' and some parliamentarians at the Council of Europe were part of a mlander campaign against Turkey. The accusations were 'all lies, all false', he said.

Mr. Bulent Ecevit, Chairman of the Republic People's Party, rose and shouted: 'You are lying'. He was promptly attacked by about 15 members of the conservative National Reliance and Democratic parties.

"RPP members defended their leader, and curses and punches were exchanged with Mr. Ecevit in the middle of the scrimmage.

"It was Mr. Ecevit who first publicly alleged the torture of political prisoners in Turkey. Continuing his rebuttal today after order was restored, Mr. Melen said that a representative of Amnesty International who had seen leftist prisoners in Istanbul 'has betrayed us'. Such a mistake would not be repeated.

... Newspapers, Amnesty International and such members of Parliament who alleged torture were participants in 'a campaign of slander directed against Turkey'."

- Report in The Times, London, January 26, 1973

Commenting earlier on a related statement by British Foreign Secretary, Sir Alec Douglas Home.

"... Amnesty International has produced an authoratative and carefully documented report giving evidence of the torture of political prisoners in Turkey. It does not attack the political motives of the Turkish Government, but only its judicial methods. Sir Alec expresses no concern for the victims but instead has the effrontery to tell a Turkish newspaper that he deplores such allegations because they 'encourage disruptive tendencies' ..."

- Editorial in <u>The Observer</u>, London December 13, 1972.

U.S.A.

Letter sent by a member of a Swiss Amnesty International Group to the U.S. Solicitor General, Mr. Erwin Griswold, urging him to investigate the case of Larry Cleveland Vann, imprisoned for refusing military service.

"... I am familiar with Amnesty International and have known about its useful work in many countries. For that reason, I am rather puzzled about the rather indiscriminate number of letters which have recently been coming from various places in Switzerland, and which seem rather obviously not to be based upon the sort of careful groundwork which I have come to associate with Amnesty International.

"... It is my understanding, confirmed by a conversation with an official of the Swiss Embassy here, that there is no provision in Swiss law for exemption from military service on the ground of consciencious objection. In this situation, it is particularly puzzling to me that many letters about cases such as this should be originating from Switzerland. I wonder it this represents the policy of the responsible officers of Amnesty International, or whether it may be that some of the groups are off on what we call 'a frolic of their own' ..."

- Letter from Mr. Griswold, dated July 26, 1972.

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News conference/panel discussion held by the American Section of Amnesty International on April 30, 1973 to launch its national drive in the Campaign for the Abolition of Torture.

"While the flowers were blooming in Bryant Park on a nice spring afternoon last week, a hundred or so grim-faced people across the street on the third floor of the Graduate Center of the City University of New York were devoting nearly three and a half hours to a discussion of torture. The meeting was called by Amnesty International, a dogooding organisation we have long admired because it does good ..."

- Article in The New Yorker, May 12, 1973

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Amnesty International's publication 'Political Prisoners in South Vietnam', and the Campaign for the Abolition of Torture.

International makes an almost sanctimonious effort to remain politically neutral; individual cases are carefully investigated to prevent the organisation from being used for essentially nonpolitical crimes ..."

- Amnesty for the Defense, Time Magazine July 9, 1973.

U.S.S.R.

Letters sent by Amnesty International Groups appealing on behalf of various political prisoners in the Soviet Union. The following article called the letters "provocative" and the senders "do-gooders".

"...The persons who send such letters are ordinary clerks in the local organisations of this so-called 'Amnesty International', which even according to the bourgeois press is in a leading position among organisations which conduct subversive anti-Soviet propaganda.

"In order to appear a philanthropic organisation, Amnesty International on all its official stationery stresses the fact that it is not involved in either politics or parties. But this camoflauge is destroyed as soon as one peers into the sanctum sanctorum and becomes familiar with that stands behind the splendid words.

"Amnesty International emerged in England in 1961.

At that time the sadly labelled cold war had already made some breaches. Imperialist circles began adopting the most subtle methods of anti-Soviet propaganda, began searching for channels of penetration into the socialist camp.

The headquarters of the new organisation were set up in London, while subordinate sections and groups were created in 65 countries. They are not at all concerned with the racist regime of apartheid in South Africa, nor the bloody war of the USA against the Vietnamese people, nor the persecution of Catholics by Protestant extremists in Southern Ireland.

"Instead, Amnesty International, is concerned with former Banderites, Vlasovites, persons who violate Soviet laws on religious cults.

'Amnesty International disseminates falsified materials in in capitalist countries which are expected to convince the public that believers are persecuted in the USSR, that in our country the church allegedly to be found in the catacombs, and so on. In addition, the philanthropists resort to crude slander.

"In order to distract attention, to misinform the public, Amnesty International, sends numerous petitions, appeals, and letters into our country. Truly it is not by chance that the leaders of Amnesty International are closely allied with the secret services of the USA and England."

- Article entitled "Wrong Address, Gentlemen", Pravda Ukrainy, November 1, 1970, reprinted in the Digest of the Soviet Ukrainian Press, December 1970.

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Parcels and letters sent to Soviet prisoners of conscience confined to mental hospitals, and publicity on the subject. The reference to issue No. 64 of Izvestia concerns an unfounded allegation that Amnesty International had used the signatures of Danish Communists without their permission.

"Especially zealous is the notorious 'Amnesty International', whose unscrupulous methods we have already related to you in the pages of Izvestia (no. 64). One of the reports of the British Section of this organisation states that representatives of the intelligensia in the Soviet Union are sent off to psychiatric hospitals 'without any trial'. Tales of 'psychiatric isolation cells for healthy persons' are unfailingly accompanied by a hypocritical refrain from 'martyrs', condemned, apparently, to spend the rest of their days behind impenetrable walls. In reality, we are dealing with persons who have committed socially dangerous actions while of unsound mind, or who have, during the course of the investigation, the trial, or after the sentence has been passed, become mentally ill, thus making it impossible for themselves to take account of their own actions or control them ... The Western ideological saboteurs who babble all kinds of rubbish about mentally ill persons, do not even notice what a ridiculous position they are putting themselves in ..."

- Article in <u>Izvestia</u>, entitled "Zealots of Falsehood in the Slough of Slander", signed by K. Bryantsev, October 24, 1971.

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Inquiry by West German Group of Amnesty asking for information about Ukrainian author Taras Myhal who was mistakenly thought to have been arrested. Myhal, who wrote a number of pamphlets attacking Ukrainian nationalism and who is alleged to be a member of the KGB, heard of the inquiry and published an indignant reply in pamphlet form.

"The Amnesty International Organisation was founded in the first place to carry out anti-Soviet propaganda, by means of treachery and hypocrisy (and) beneath the mask of Pharisaic charity and humanity, to penetrate with the

"repulsive espionage feelers the internal affairs of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries. If this international organisation really concerned itself with the fate of the repressed, the adjudged, of all who need protection, then it would not seek prisoners in our country, but rather where they really are, where the persecution of the individual forms the basis of capital(istic) state policy ...'

- Taras Myhal, "Is roymakhu daly makhu", Visti z Ukrainy, Kiev, No. 23, June 1973.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS
53 Theobald's Road London WClX 8SP England
August 1973