

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Annual report 1st June 1967—31st May 1968



Introduction

by the Chairman of the International Executive Sean MacBride S.C.

1968 is an important year in the work of Amnesty International. In the first place, its designation as International Year for Human Rights provides an admirable framework in which Amnesty's work, which is first and foremost concerned with the protection of human rights. can be given a new impetus. As its major contribution to Human Rights Year, Amnesty has designated 17-23rd November "Prisoner of Conscience Week" and plans a massive campaign, with the assistance of other nongovernmental organisations, to draw the attention of individuals throughout the world to the plight of such prisoners and to the need to do something to help them. It is to be hoped that all national sections, groups and supporters of Amnesty will take an active part in making this campaign a success in their respective countries.

Action to secure protection at the international level for those imprisoned in violation of the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights forms an important part of the activities being undertaken during Human Rights Year. In this field Amnesty International is giving full support to the resolution adopted by the United Nations International Conference on Human Rights held in May 1968 at Teheran. This resolution calls, among other measures, for the treatment as prisoners of war or political prisoners under international law of those who struggle against minority, racist or colonial regimes which refuse to comply with the decisions of the United Nations and the principles of the Universal not directly or exclusively relate to prisoners of conscience, rewarding one.

Amnesty considers it to be of sufficient importance to give its full backing to the efforts now being undertaken to ensure its implementation.

1968 is also an important year in the internal workings of Amnesty International. It is a year which will see brought to fruition, at the International Assembly, the adoption of a new statute reorganising and strengthening the organisation and structure of the movement. It is also significant for the appointment of a new Secretary-General, Martin Ennals, whom I am happy to welcome to the organisation and to whom I wish every success in the tremendous task which faces him.

I would not wish to note Mr. Ennals' arrival without paying a deep-felt tribute to Mr. Eric Baker, to whom Amnesty International owes a profound debt of gratitude. Mr. Baker, Chairman of the British Section and already fully-occupied by his professional activities, generously consented to fill the breach caused by the absence of a secretary-general and for eighteen months carried a burden that must at times have been very hard to bear. It is not too much to say that, but for Eric Baker's devotion and hard work. Amnesty might well have collapsed during the difficult period when he was bearing the brunt of its problems. I know I express the feelings of all members in thanking him from the bottom of our hearts,

1968 is above all a year in which to look to the future. With a new organisational structure, and a new Secretary-General, as well as the exciting possibilities for United Nations and the principles of the Universal expansion opened up by the work done during Human Declaration of Human Rights. While this proposal does—Rights Year I am confident that that future will be a



This is one of a Greek prison



Amnesty in Human Rights Year

Human Rights Year marks the twentieth anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It has offered a time for reflection on the meaning of liberty and a time for action in its defence. It has been a time when non-governmental organisations put new vigour into their campaigning, and a time when many

governments responded with hollow words, or silence. By the end of the period covered by this Report, major campaign, scheduled for November 1968 "Prisoner of Conscience Week" -- was still five months away. Yet already much had been achieved. The Year

delivered in London the inaugural Amnesty Human Rights Day Lecture. This was a notable occasion and a fitting tribute both to the aims of the movement, and the life-long work of Mr. Reuther for international human rights.

Even before Human Rights Year had begun, request had gone from the International Secretariat asking all National Sections to cooperate with the national Human Rights Year Committees being set up under the aegis of the United Nations, The Sections responded well, in many instances helping in the formation of national HRY Committees and local HRY Groups, Concern for prisoners of conscience therefore permeated through the Human Rights Year move-

ment, and added strength to Amnesty's world-wide work. Among many activities resulting from Human Rights Year, were two conferences, one in Geneva for nongovernmental organisations and the other in Teheran for governments and non-governmental observers. The Swiss Section represented Amnesty at Geneva and we were represented in Teheran by Mr. Sean MacBride, Chairman of the International Executive Committee. Of particular interest at Teheran was a Resolution by the governments of India, Czechoslovakia, Jamaica, Uganda and the United Arab Republic. This noted that "minority racist or colonial regimes which refuse to comply with the decisions of the United Nations and the principles of the Universal Declartion of Human Rights frequently resort to executions and inhuman treatment of those who struggle against such regimes; and considered that such persons should be protected against inhuman or brutal treatment and also that such persons if detained should be treated as prisoners-of-war or political prisoners under international

It is central to Amnesty's belief that governments are influenced, not only by the disciplines of International Law but also by the power of international public opinion. One of our main functions is to mobilize this opinion

and direct it towards those governments that stifle free political, religious, intellectual and artistic opinion. In the last twelve months, this work has been amply justified. Through the representations of the International Secretariat, the efforts of local Groups, and through the co-ordinated appeals made by members of our Postcards for Prisoners Campaign, prisoners of conscience have been released in such countries as Burma, Spain, Czechoslo-Human Rights Year was only half completed. Amnesty's vakia, Malaysia, India and Greece, Amnesty's specific contribution to their release is difficult to define. In many cases, letters from ex-prisoners confirm the connection; in others there can be no conclusive proof. But it is began officially for us on 10 December, 1967, when the certain that the constant, nagging persuasiveness of our emminent American trade unionist Victor Reuther, appeals does often achieve a humane response.

Our successes are nevertheless overshadowed by the infringements of human rights that take place minute by minute across the globe. Few governments have an unblemished record and all too many are guilty of persecuting minorities and inflicting long terms of imprisonment, even torture, on dissenters within their communities. Where possible, Amnesty has sent investigators to such countries -- for example, Greece -- and observers to attend

A notable example of national initiatives in this field was the all-party parliamentary delegation to Greece in August 1967. Led by Bent Knudsen, our Scandinavian Sections helped to brief the twelve members of parliament and organise

the visit. The delegation spoke to imprisoned Greek MPs and raised many issues concerning human rights with the Greek Government. The information they gained and their presence in Greece was of great value.

Whilst the movement's first priority has naturally been to help its adopted prisoners, considerable attention has been given during the year to the organisation and financial security of the International Secretariat. The difficulties faced by the movement in the early months of 1967, though successfully overcome as the year progressed, necessitated a re-assessment of the administrative and financial structure. Thanks to the sustained loyalty of all sections of the movement, and the work of sub-committees of the International Executive, the Secretariat was able to establish itself on a basis that restored the confidence both of the membership and a wider, interested public. As a result, Amnesty is now able to enter its eighth year in the knowledge that its growth will spring from an efficient, economically viable central organisation. This fact, together with the practical help it has given to many victims of persecution, is the fundamental achievement of a critical year in Amnesty's history.



The International Executive Committee met in Lon- overall deficit, don twice during the year, in October 1967 and February 1968. Both meetings were primarily concerned to re- directing the Secretariat fell on Eric Baker, a founderestablish the financial security of the movement and to member of Amnesty and Chairman of the British Section. guarantee the maximum efficiency and effectiveness of. Filling the breach, he piloted the movement through the International Secretariat. All through the summer of a difficult period, holding it together, maintaining the 1967, sub-committees of the International Executive had—confidence of the public and sustaining the energies of been working to this end. One committee looked at the the staff. The February meeting of the International financial position, another at how field operations were. Executive considered the problem of finding a permanent planned and executed. A third considered the day-by-day workings of the International Secretariat itself. Mr. Göran-Claesson and Drs. Cornelis van der Vlies devoted many weeks of their private time to this task, visiting London and preparing detailed recommendations.

The findings of the sub-committees were submitted to the International Executive at its meeting in October. Together they established basic staff requirements and responsibilities, laid down firm procedures for field operations, and approved a budget of £20,000 --- a figure based on a realistic assessment of National Sections' contributions. The budget required National Sections to contribute towards the running of the International Secretariat, on the basis of £30 for every constituted Group, Further, some of the National Sections volunteered to make additional contributions to meet the against adoption.

Throughout the year, the main responsibility for Secretary-General, and since no suitable candidate had been recommended by other National Sections, this was made the responsibility of the British Section. Subsequently Mr. Martin Ennals was recommended, his appointment confirmed by the International Executive, to take effect on July 1, 1968. The Executive Committee also appointed Mr. Anthony Marreco Honorary Treasurer,

A further development in Amnesty's re-organisation was the decision of the Executive Committee to establish a Borderline Committee, to adjudicate when there is some uncertainty about the adoption of cases. The first issue brought before the committee was the imprisonment of three men for their part in a political demonstration against the Greek Embassy in London, The Committee upheld the decision of the International Secretariat

National Sections Consolidate

International Secretariat have been reflected in the shown the most consistent growth has been the Swedish policies adopted by our 19 National Sections and 516 Section, forming 47 new Groups and raising a high Local Groups. Their main purpose has been to ensure income. Significantly, Amnesty is also beginning to make the stability of the movement as a whole rather than to its presence felt in new areas. expand the range of their own activities. This has meant a particular emphasis on guaranteeing their financial commitments to the Secretariat,

The number of National Sections and Groups have remained fairly constant during the year, the number of new Groups compensating for Groups that have disbanded. Overall, however, Groups have been working would be successful.

The developments that have taken place within the more effectively than ever before. The Section that has

After facing difficulties for some time, the original French Section ceased to function. Mr. Robert Bengel, together with Dr. Gustavo Comba of the Italian Section, have been working to establish a new French Section. At the year's end, there was every indication that this

Prisoner of the Year Freed

Koumandian Keita, the schoolmaster and trade unionist from Guinea imprisoned since 1961 for criticising the government, was freed in November, 1967. This news was reported directly by the Guinean Government to Mr. Sean MacBride, who had previously visited Guinea and discussed the case with President Sekou Toure.

Amnesty fought hard to free Koumandian Keita since his adoption as Prisoner of Year on Human Rights Day 1965. In 1966, a Danish lawyer, Niels Groth, was sent to Guinea to help secure his release, Mr. Groth was himself arrested, tried for "espionage" and sentenced to 10 years hard labour. He was released 22 hours after sentence but Koumandian Keita remained a prisoner.

The release of Mr. Keita marks the successful outcome Amnesty's efforts to free all its Prisoners of the Year. In 1962, the Prisoner was Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the Pakistani "Frontier Ghanki", who was released in 1964. In 1963 the Prisoner was Heinz Brandt, a West German trade unionist imprisoned in East Germany, 1964's Prisoner was Julieta Gandra, a Portuguese doctor imprisoned in Lisbon until her release the following year.

Because of the continuing imprisonment of Koumandian Keita in 1966, he was re-adopted as Prisoner of the Year for 1967. His release came just a few weeks before Human Rights Day, when the barbed wire candle would once again have been lit in his name.

The Greek Mission

A year ago, it became clear that Amnesty could work efficiently for the thousands of Greek prisoners of conscience in prison and detention as a result of the April coup only if it established its own sources of information inside Greece. Reports of arrest and ill-treatment were legion, but the obstacles in the way of any objective system of confirmation and assessment in London were virtually insuperable. The International Secretariat therefore decided to try and establish an office in Athens where an Amnesty representative could collect casedetails from the families of those in police custody and eross check reports.

In August, a short preliminary visit to Athens was made by Dr. Gustavo Comba. His report showed that the prevailing climate of fear would make any long-term investigation a difficult task. It was not, therefore, until the end of December that we were able to find two investigators with the necessary qualifications to undertake the mission.

On 30th December, Anthony Marreco, a Member of the English Bar and a member of British Counsel at the Nurembourg Trial and James Becket, a member of the American Bar, arrived in Athens; Anthony Marreco had already undertaken an investigation of political imprisonment in Paraguay, while James Becket speaks Greek and had previously travelled widely in the country. The International Secretariat asked Mr. Marreco and Mr. Becket to report on two separate matters: the extent and implementation of the amnesty for political prisoners announced just before Christmas and the general situation of the dependants of those still in prison. When Mr. Marreco and Mr. Becket lest after a four-week investigation, they were able to report that the much-publicised amnesty had not in fact applied to the 2,777 people remaining in detention on the islands of Leros and Yaros, but only the 284 prisoners sentenced by court martial after the April coup, many of whom were not then set at liberty but merely transferred from prison to detention on the two islands under Law 509. The report went on to say: "In addition there are numerous prisoners held without trial in prisons and police stations throughout Greece. It is believed that of those detained some 500 may have been active or potentially active communists. The remainder cannot be described as "communists" in any accepted European sense of the word, and large numbers of them are old and infirm, having been arrested on security files prepared in many cases twenty years ago. It seems a feature of the present regime that the Government treats such persons as expendable outcasts to be deprived of all political rights". Mr. Marreco and Mr. Becket brought back the particulars of 800 of those detained on Leros and Yaros. They said: "The prisoners come from all walks of life and include parliamentarians, professional people, intellectuals and artists. Many remain in prison only because they refuse to sign the Declaration of Loyalty".

Mr. Marreco and Mr. Becket also reported that no office openly established in Athens could hope to collect accurate information; the risk of police interference with Greeks who made contact with an Amnesty representative would deter the majority from doing so and endanger the few who did.

While Mr. Marreco and Mr. Becket were in Athens, they heard reports of brutality by the police during interrogation of those arrested for political reasons. The International Secretariat therefore asked them to investigate whether these allegations were supported by reliable

Mr. Marreco and Mr. Becket interviewed sixteen individuals who had themselves been tortured by the

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Security Police in order to extract information about political opposition to the present Government; they also collected reports about 32 others who were still in prison. but who appeared to have undergone similar treatment. Even to Amnesty, which receives reports of ill-treatment from all over the world, the methods employed by the Greek police are deeply appalling. Mr. Marreco and Mr. Becket reported: "The standard initial torture reported from every Asphalia station is the so-called falanga. The prisoner is tied to a bench and the soles of his feet are beaten with a stick or pipe, Between beatings the prisoner is usually made to run around the bench under a heavy rain of blows. One prisoner now in Averoff prison had his foot broken under this torture. As he went without medical attention, the bones have not set properly and he is crippled." They brought back evidence of cases where torture had been, sexually-orientated, where various forms of psychological pressure had been used, where electric shock treatment had gone on for lengthy periods and, in all, listed eighteen different forms which police brutality had taken to their knowledge.

For Greece, torture is a question with far reaching legal, as well as humanitarian, implications since she is a signatory of the European Convention of Human Rights and has therefore undertaken not to allow the use of inhuman or degrading treatment'. This provision, contained in Article 6, is one from which no country can derogate, no matter what its domestic situation, while remaining a member of the Council of Europe.

A report of Mr. Marreco and Mr. Becket's investigations was circulated at the January Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, and received widespread press, radio and television publicity in a number of countries. The report was strongly attacked by the Greek Government on the general ground that it was untrue, and, more specifically, that since no names had been mentioned allegations of torture could not be believed. As testimony had been taken from the sixteen released prisoners on the specific understanding that they would remain anonymous, these names could not be

In March, the Greek Government invited Mr. Marreco to return to Greece to continue his investigation with official co-operation. Influential representations had been made that world opinion could be satisfied that Amnesty's allegations were unfounded only if Mr. Marreco saw for himself the inside of prisons and police stations and then modified his earlier report. Full facilities were given to him, and he was told he could visit any prison, police station or detention camp and speak with any prisoner. This undertaking was honoured by the Government. However the interviews which Mr. Marreco conducted with the assistance of Dennis Geoghegan. another Amnesty representative, only confirmed the substance of his initial report. Out of a total of 12 prisoners seen in the presence of police and prison officials, nine said they had been tortured and one said he preferred not to answer the question, Mr. Marreco gave the nine names to Mr. Pattakos, the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, said that he believed there was at least primafacie evidence that these individuals had been tortured, and suggested that the Greek Government should order an immediate public inquiry into the matter or institute criminal proceedings against the officials named by the prisoners as having conducted the torture. Mr. Pattakos categorically refused on the grounds that all the prisoners, including Gerassimos Notaras, were known communists. Mr. Notaras is a leading member of the Centre Union Party and on internationally known sociologist.

Amnesty published Mr. Marreco's second report in April. The Greek Government simultaneously published

reports made by the International Red Cross after their barred by guards. He obtained an interview with two inspections of the detention camps of Leros and Yaros early in 1968. The intention appears to have been to refute Amnesty's allegations on the grounds that the Red Cross reports make no mention of torture. Amnesty however has never suggested that torture, or indeed interrogation, has taken place in the detention camps, nor did Mr. Marreco make any mention of the conditions on the islands in either report. Moreover, the Red Cross are themselves sharply critical of conditions. The reports stated that the camp on Yaros should be closed down immediately as it is not suitable as a place of detention, while the two camps on Leros are unsuitable for long term detention.

Soon after the first Amnesty reports had appeared, the three Scandinavian countries, Norway, Sweden and Denmark extended their case against the Greek Government before the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg to allege that, by employing torture, it had broken article 6 of the Convention of Human Rights.

Amnesty has gained a considerable amount of publicity for the investigation into the use of torture, and, though less publicised, group work on behalf of prisoners of conscience has continued on a considerable scale and with some success. Of about 100 prisoners adopted since July 1967, 30 have been released. Undoubtedly some of these would have benefitted by the small-scale amnesties which have occurred this year, but it seems certain that we can fairly claim some credit for the majority of these releases

Vice-Presidents of the Court, who were courteous and friendly but insisted that the courtroom was already crowded. Mr. Sörheim stressed that the objective report of a foreign lawyer on the trial could only do good. Although no entry ticket was granted, officials listened to his explanation of Amnesty's aims and work and did not argue against them,

Information about the proceedings given to the press by official sources cannot be regarded as being trustworthy, but it is likely that while Dobrovolsky pleaded guilty to the charges, the other accused did not. They also denied having links with the NTS and the currency offences. The verdict was: Yury Galanskov --- seven years; Alexander Ginsburg - five years; Alexei Dobrovolsky two years: Vera Lashkova -- one year (she is now free). They are serving their sentences in labour camps,

Mr. Sörheim's visit to Moscow received widespread publicity in Scandinavia and was reported in the West European press. Although he was not able to get the first-hand information that we had hoped for, his mission showed that the Soviet government still finds it necessary to deal with dissenters in unconstitutional secrecy.

We are indebted to the Norwegian Section for having arranged Mr. Sörhiem's visit, to Mr. Sörheim himself and also to Professor Torkel Opsahl of Oslo University and Mr. Edward Lyons, Labour M.P. for Bradford East, England, who stood by ready to go to Moscow at the various times when the trial appeared about to open.

Mission to Moscow

In January 1968 Amnesty was informed through unofficial channels that a trial of four dissident young Russians was imminent. Their names were Yury Galanskov, Alexander Ginsburg, Alexei Dobrovolsky and Vera Lashkova and they had been engaged in the preparation and private publication of "Phoenix 1966", a mimeographed magazine containing poetry and prose works not blessed by official sanction. Ginsburg had also collected various documents about the Sinyavsky/Daniel case which were published in the West at the end of 1966. The charges were reported to be anti-Soviet propaganda, contact with the NTS -- an emigré organisation. and currency offences. Disturbed at the growing number of prosecutions of this kind and the subsequent incarceration of those convicted in harsh regime labour eamps, Amnesty decided to send an observer to the trial, to obtain some first-hand information about the case and in the hope that the presence of a foreign observer would ensure that justice was seen to be done.

No advance mention of the trial appeared in the Soviet press, but after a series of false alarms Mr. Ingjald Orbeck Sörheim, a lawyer working in the Norwegian Labour Party's Parliamentary Group, generously undertook the mission, and left for Moscow on January 10th. He had obtained a tourist visa for the journey but, before leaving Oslo, declared his wish to observe the trial. Earlier attempts had shown that the Soviet authorities answered all visa applications specifically made for an Amnesty observer by saying "that they were without

Under Soviet law all trials must be public unless state secrets are involved. In this case, the latter proviso did not apply and the Soviet authorities have always maintained that it was "open". On arrival at Moscow City Court Mr. Sörheim found his entry to the courtroom

Mission to Czechoslovakia

On July 3rd 1967 the trial of a young Czech writer, Jan Benes, and a television producer, Karel Zamecnik. opened in Prague, Arrested and detained the previous September, Benes was accused of subversion, speculation and attempted fraud, while Zameenik was accused of "damaging Czechoslovak interests abroad". Mr. Paul Sieghart, a London barrister, kindly agreed to attend the trial as Amnesty's observer and after some initial difficulty about visas succeeded in getting to Prague by July 4th. Although the trial was officially open, admission was by ticket only and a crowd outside the court was being kept out, on the grounds that the public gallery was full. Mr. Sieghart persuaded the President of the Court to give him a ticket and joined Benes's wife and mother-in-law in the otherwise empty gallery. He noted that the trial itself was conducted properly, Benes and his lawyer were able to cross-examine witnesses and a stenographer noted down all that was said. In spite of this, Mr. Sieghart felt that the verdict had been decided upon in advance. Zamenik was later acquitted but Benes, although acquitted on the charge of speculation, received a five-year prison sentence.

Unfortunately, Mr. Sieghart was obliged to leave Prague on July 5th to attend to commitments in Switzerland. Before leaving, he received assurances that his visa was in order for re-entry. On his return he was stopped at the airport, searched, detained for six hours and finally driven to the Austrian border where he was put down in the rain in the middle of the night. The presence of a foreign lawyer at the Benes trial had been warmly appreciated by many Czechs and Mr. Sieghart later received expressions of regret at his treatment from private people, although the government did not withdraw their assertion that "he had misused his visa".

Amnesty in Action

Amnesty's investigations now reach into nearly 70 countries. They span the Iron Curtain and encompass countries within the New, the Old and the Third World. They have exposed many hundreds of cases of injustice and brutality, though many thousands of similar cases remain beyond sight. They have brought freedom to a number, though many more remain prisoners. In this International Year For Human Rights, they have vindicated our purpose, whilst demonstrating the terrible extent of persecution that goes on unchecked.

The following reports, covering only a few of the countries with adopted prisoners of conscience, illustrate some of Amnesty's problems — and some of its successes during the year.

Algeria

While the number of political prisoners in Algeria has increased substantially in the past year, Amnesty's position has altered little. The new prisoners were arrested after Colonel Zbiri's attempted coup in December 1967 and the assassination attempts on President Boumedienne and Ahmed Kaid, the leader of the F.L.N. in early 1968. Arrested in connection with violent uprisings they do not qualify as Prisoners of Conscience. We are however trying to find out more about individual cases and some adoptions may result.

These political upheavals have reduced the chances of release for prisoners arrested earlier. Twice in the past year the Algerian government announced the forthcoming release of all political prisoners, but these statements have been merely empty gestures. Unless greater stability is achieved, the government is unlikely to release any of its former opponents.

For the last few months nothing has been heard of Moise Tshombe, one-time Premier of the Republic of the Congo, illegally held in Algiers since his plane was high-jacked on June 30th 1967. His family and friends are deeply concerned about his state of health as rumours of ill-treatment persist and appear to be substantiated by the refusal of the Algerian authorities to allow his family or any legal adviser to visit him.

Burma

At the end of February 1968 General Ne Win announced an amnesty for nearly three hundred of the more prominent political prisoners, most of whom had been detained in military jails without charges, hearing or trial since the day of the coup d'etat in March 1962. Amongst those released were almost all the political prisoners adopted by Amnesty, Whether by chance or not the amnesty coincided with the fifth anniversary of General Ne Win's military rule and considerable speculation has followed as to the political factors behind this debate, gave rise to the hope that the country's prisons apparent change of heart. Certainly there have been for some time reports of mounting internal unrest and increasing hostilities from the minority races. As a result of the overnight freeze in Sino-Burmese relations after the imprisonment in July 1967. anti-Chinese demonstrations in Rangoon and Mandalay in the summer of 1967 the underground communist parties renewed fighting in various parts of the country and reaffirmed their determination to overthrow the military regime. But whatever the pressures which affected the

General's decision, Amnesty welcomed it as the first positive sign that he intends to restore fundamental freedoms and liberties to his citizens.

Owing to her enforced isolation from the rest of the world. Burma has for some time presented special difficulties for Amnesty. Travel restrictions to and from the country, in addition to the strict censorship operating in Burma, have made sure that the outside world remains largely in ignorance of the internal situation. For this reason we have felt it to be of particular importance to focus attention on the deplorable state of civil liberties under General Ne Win's military rule,

Starting this year, a special campaign was mounted on behalf of Sao Hkum Hkio, the former Foreign Minister in the U Nu administration, imprisoned in solitary confinement in Insein Jail until his release at the end of February 1968, Hkun Hkio's experiences were typical of many other hundreds of political prisoners arrested with him. He was arrested in a pre-dawn raid on the morning of General D Win's coup and detained without charges or trial on the vague grounds that he was a threat to internal security. In all the five years that he remained in prison he was only allowed four brief visits from his wife and a carefully censored letter from his close family once a week. His health gave rise to considerable anxiety and he lost weight. His English wife had suddenly and inexplicably been expelled from Burma in April 1967 and returned home to England. He is now living in Rangoon awaiting permission to leave and join his family in England.

Our latest estimates still put the figures of political prisoners in Burma as high as several thousand. It is hard to imagine how General Ne Win will be able to restore political stability in his country without extending the amnesty to all political prisoners, and altering the policies of arbitrary arrest and imprisonment which have been undermining Burmese society for five years.

Traditionally, China has never recognised the concept of the rights of the individual. This has been enormously emphasised in the course of the Cultural Revolution and in the last year persecution has been extremely widespread in China. Despite this, Amnesty makes no adoptions and does not take up individual cases. At the moment we feel we have no alternative --- even if we could get accurate details of prisoners, the prevailing atmosphere of suspicion and xenophobia would probably mean that Amnesty intervention harmed rather than helped.

Czechoslovakia

The democratisation in Czechoslovakia that in early 1968 overthrew the Stalinist President, Antonin Novotny, and brought a sudden outburst of uncensored public might at last be emptied of prisoners of conscience. With Novotny's fall in March 1968, came the good news of the release of Jan Benes, the writer sentenced to five years

In May an amnesty was announced under which nine hundred people were reported to have benefited, although it was not known how many of them were prisoners of conscience and no names were given. Most of Amnesty's adopted prisoners have been Roman Catholic priests, some of whom were given prison sentences of up to 16 years imprisonment in 1961 on charges of treason. In spite of general optimism that they would be released, at least four, and probably one or (wo more, were still in prison. Enquiries made by Amnesty to the new government were not answered and it was impossible to discover what were their prospects for release.

Considerable relaxation of the formerly rigorous state—offences. control over the Roman Catholic Church has permitted, two Bishops to regain control over their diocesan affairs and many priests formerly imprisoned or obliged to work in factories, have been rehabilitated and allowed to take up their parish duties again.

Ghana

Ghana is slowly returning to civilian rule and democratic institutions. The great majority of the thousands of prisoners arrested by the N.L.C. since Nkrumah's fall (far more than during the whole of Nkrumah's rule) have been released. Several of those still imprisoned have been convicted of corruption or other offences and only a small number remain who are candidates for Amnesty.

Hong Kong

Large-scale demonstrations, riots and strikes took place in the summer of 1967. They began as a labour dispute, but rapidly grew into what was regarded as a political confrontation between the Administration and the Communist opposition. The situation was further inflamed by the events of the Cultural Revolution inside China.

Between May and September (official figures) some 3.560 people were arrested, of whom 40% were later convicted in the courts. Violence was used by the demonstrators and — allegedly — by the police. In the course of the disturbances, 37 people died and 326 were wounded. Lengthy deterrent sentences were given for unlawful assembly, possesion of inflamatory posters and similar

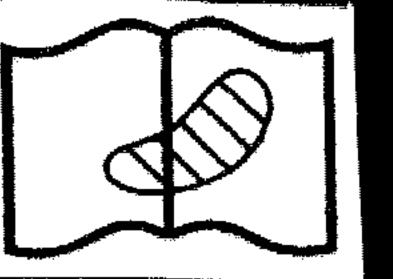
The Emergency Regulations were amended to allow the Administration greater powers when dealing with demonstrators. Two extensions should particularly be noted. The Colonial Secretary may now order a man's detention for a period of one year during which time he appears before no court, nor is he told the reason for the order. The maximum sentence which can be imposed by a District Court — in which no legal aid is available

--- has now been raised from five to ten years. The situation faced by the Hong Kong administration was undoubtedly one in which short term emergency powers were necessary. Nonetheless, Amnesty hopes that these two provisions will be reviewed as soon as possible.

During 1968 for the first time a Prisoner of Conscience was adopted in Israel and several other cases are being investigated. Most of these are Arab students alleged to be connected with so-called terrorist organisations. We have recently received reports alleging ill-treatment of Arab political prisoners or detainees and these charges will be enquired into thoroughly.

The Arab minorities in Israel and in the occupied territories have been subjected to restrictive legislation which even the tension on the borders with neighbouring Arab countries does not entirely justify. There is also evidence of a certain degree of discrimination.





At the beginning of the period under review there were some two hundred prisoners of conscience detained under the Defence of India Rules, Many of them had been adopted by Amnesty. In January 1968 the State of Emergency, which had been in force since 1962, was ended, and with it the validity of the Defence of India Rules. All our adopted prisoners were then released, and our efforts in India were then directed entirely to vigilant surveillance of all cases of imprisonment where a political motive could be suspected.

Iraq

In Iraq only a small number of Jews were arrested and there have been no reports of atrocities. However legislation similar to that in Syria has been enacted, penalising Jews severely, both socially and financially (Jews for example, are not allowed to attend a university or to possess a passport).

Kenya

The political rapprochement between the Kenyan and Somali governments has eased the situation in the North Eastern Region, but for some unexplained reason, has not yet brought about the release of the 21 Somalis arrested by the British Administration before Independence and held without trial by the Kenyan government ever

Harrassment by the government of the opposition Kenya People's Union has increased, opposition supporters have been subjected to intimidation and, in some cases, to physical assault and the official Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Odinga, has experienced difficulties in leaving the country. Draft legislation has been prepared prohibiting parliamentary candidates from standing as independents and other measures have been mooted which are clearly designed to restrict freedom of expression and consolidate the position of those in power. New arrests of K.P.U. members have been made and at the end of May the number of opposition supporters in detention or prison was exactly double (i.e. 12) what it had been a year earlier.

However the Kenyan government has given permission for K.P.U. detainees to study while in prison and adopting Amnesty groups are paying for their courses. In many countries this is accepted as a right, but Kenya sets a precedent among newly independent African states which it is hoped other governments will follow. Despite this concession, the conditions of extreme isolation in which the detainees are kept are to be deplored.

The shortage of staff and the obstacles encountered in our work in Latin America have made it necessary to concentrate our investigations in a few countries rather a number of political figures among them. Most of these than diffuse them over the whole continent. For this were subsequently released, reason Amnesty's work throughout the year has been Nearly two hundred determined the second continent. for their beliefs and all too often denied the due processes

Although there are obviously considerable national differences, there are certain factors in Latin American life as a whole which give rise to a pattern of difficulties in the course of our investigations. In the first place, the extent of our work is largely governed by the prevalence of guerilla activities and the committment to violence as a means of bringing about political and social change. Unless we are able to establish a network of contacts who can reliably judge whether any particular case may be considered as a prisoner of conscience, the blanket charges of rebellion and subversion become difficult to investigate. There is a dangerous tendency of the Governments of these countries to label all political opposition as acts of subversion and thereby claim the right to hold trials in military rather than civilian courts.

Another problem is that Latin America suffers from an extremely poor coverage in the world press and our information about trials, arrests and imprisonment has to be obtained from contacts on the spot, This has proved to be harder than was anticipated, due in large part to the irregularities of the local postal systems which may delay letters for up to several months or lose them

In Brazil it was discovered that many of the prisoners adopted in the previous year were not serving their prison sentences but had escaped or were in hiding. The number of adopted prisoners is therefore now considerably lower investigations about new prisoners have been hampered by a disappointing lack of communication with our regular contacts in Brazil. We have, however, made successful approaches to various branches of the church and Trade Union organisations and it is hoped that these may result in closer cooperation in the future.

In both Peru and Paraguay our approaches to new contacts have met with little response and Groups working on already adopted prisoners have found it difficult to make headway. It has, however, proved easier in Venezuela and we have been able to build up a detailed picture of imprisonment there. Earlier this year the Government announced an amnesty in which 140 political prisoners were released, some of them into exile. All the prisoners adopted by Amnesty were included in the amnesty but there still remain hundreds in prisons and military camps, many of whom have been detained for a number of years without being brought to trial or having access to a lawyer. Some of these cases are to be adopted by Amnesty.

Malaysia

Amnesty's work in Malaysia has been facilitated by the existence of a small but active parliamentary opposition, which has been able to obtain information about detentions from the government. Although the press is not directly censored, it operates under a system of licences. This makes it cautious about displeasing the government, but it is able to report arrests and releases of political prisoners.

The most regrettable act of the year was a wave of arrests which followed the rioting in protest against the government's devaluation policy in November and Decem-

Nearly two hundred detainees were released in August primarily concerned with Peru, Paraguay, Venezuela, 1967, in an amnesty to mark the 10th anniversary of Argentina and Brazil. In all these countries our attention independence, but some 500 remain political prisoners. has been brought to flagrant violations of the freedoms of the individual and to hundreds of persons imprisoned security situation has been very difficult. In West Malaysia it has been usual to detain large numbers of political activists before elections.

Pakistan's State of Emergency remained in force, and Decree number 35042, which gives the PIDE the several hundred political prisoners are detained under the Defence of Pakistan Rules. Most of these are in East Pakistan where popular sentiment in favour of provincial automony is very strong. Some of our adopted detainees have been held without trial for more than ten years, usually because of leftwing sympathies. Nearly thirty Pakistani prisoners are under adoption, but the work of Groups has been hampered by the widespread fear of censorship and victimisation among potential sympathisers in Pakistan.

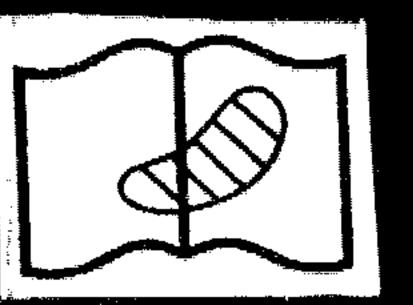
Portugal

There is, unhappily, very little evidence in the past year's events in Portugal to suggest that the Salazar regime Throughout the year political trials have been held in the Plenario Criminal in Lisbon at an alarmingly consistent rate. The result has often been heavy sentences for 'acts against the security of the State', with the accompanying deprivation of political rights for periods of between 5 and 15 years and security measures which provide for indefinite imprisonment after the expiry of the fixed sentence. Many of these cases have been adopted by Amnesty bringing the figures of adopted prisoners up

power to arrest and detain a suspect for an effective six months without trial, has been invoked extensively and arbitrarily throughout the year. In practice this has led to a person being arrested and released any number of times without being charged and without recourse or redress. The most notorious example of this type of PIDE action is the case of the well-known lawyer and social democratic opponent of Salazar, Dr. Mario Soares. He has been arrested thirteen times in recent years although he has only been brought to trial once. He was most recently arrested in December 1967 and held for two and a half months before being released. After an interval of three weeks he was rearrested and taken to Caxias prison for interrogation. On March 21st 1968 Dr. Soares was exiled to the island of Saô Tomé off the Coast of Guinea. The exiling authorised under the Decree Law 36387 of 1947 which empowers the Council of Ministers to restrict to any part of metropolitan or overseas Portugal any person whose activities may give ground to fear the commission of crimes against the State. This is moderating its attitude towards political opposition or action provoked an international outery of protest. There relaxing its repressive measures against the people, was a similar reaction to the arrest of the Lisbon journalist, Dr. Raul Rego, in May 1968. His arrest followed the publication of a booklet which attacked the Catholic hierarchy for its silence over the imprisonment of hundreds of Salazar's opponents. Dr. Rego was released after a month at the intervention of the Cardinal-Patriarch of Lisbon, Dom Manuel Cerejeira.

However, for most victims of repression in Portugal there is little hope of attracting world-wide attention or an ecclesiastical deus ex machina and the suffering both to the prisoners and to their families is inestimable.





During the past year, Amnesty has again concentrated on providing relief for the families of detained and restricted Africans.

In January, Mr. Lardner Burke, the Minister of Law and Order, told Parliament that 549 people were under detention or restriction at the end of 1967, compared with 607 at the beginning of the year. Of these, over 200 are adopted by Amnesty groups who aim to send regular payments to cover rent and food for the families, school fees for many of the children, and the costs of correspondence courses for those restrictees who want to study. These payments are sent through the Salisbury and Bulawayo offices of the Christian Council, which has now been given official recognition as a relief organisation under the name Christian Care. There is little restriction on the number of letters written by restrictees, and many are in regular correspondence with Amnesty Groups throughout the world.

Sierra Leone

The assumption of power by the military National Reconstruction Council (NRC) in a counter-coup after the arrest by Brigadier Lansana of both the Prime Minister and Governor General, following the general election in 1967, led to a number of short-term arrests which were investigated at the time by Amnesty. The third

military coup (spring '68) which restored parliamentary government, has led to the arrest of a number of supporters, both of the defeated S.L.P.P. led by Sir Albert Margai and of several members of the N.R.C., as well as some of the soldiers involved in the coup which brought the present government, led by Siaka Stevens, back into power. A number of Margai supporters are currently on trial for alleged complicity in the first coup.

The number of political prisoners in Singapore has been dropping steadily since 1963, when, in the light of the potentially violent opposition to Singapore joining Malaysia, some hundreds were detained.

Some have been released after making statements denouncing Comunism and their former comrades, others have been deprived of citizenship and deported. A particularly scandalous case is that of a trade union organiser, Low Tai Thong, who was arrested in 1956 while Singapore was still a colony. Mr. Low was born in Sabah, now part of Malaysia, but is not entitled to Malaysian citizenship, and in May 1967 he was deported to China. The Chinese authorities refused to admit him, and he was returned to Singapore in June on the same ship. Since then he has been detained as a remand prisoner, under

detainees. Mr. Low is an adopted Amnesty prisoner, and the Group which adopted him (Sweden 25) has been working to obtain permission for him to come to England, to study law.

threat which was the original pretext for these detentions -- the 'confrontation' with Indonesia -- ceased to exist

South Africa

in 1966.

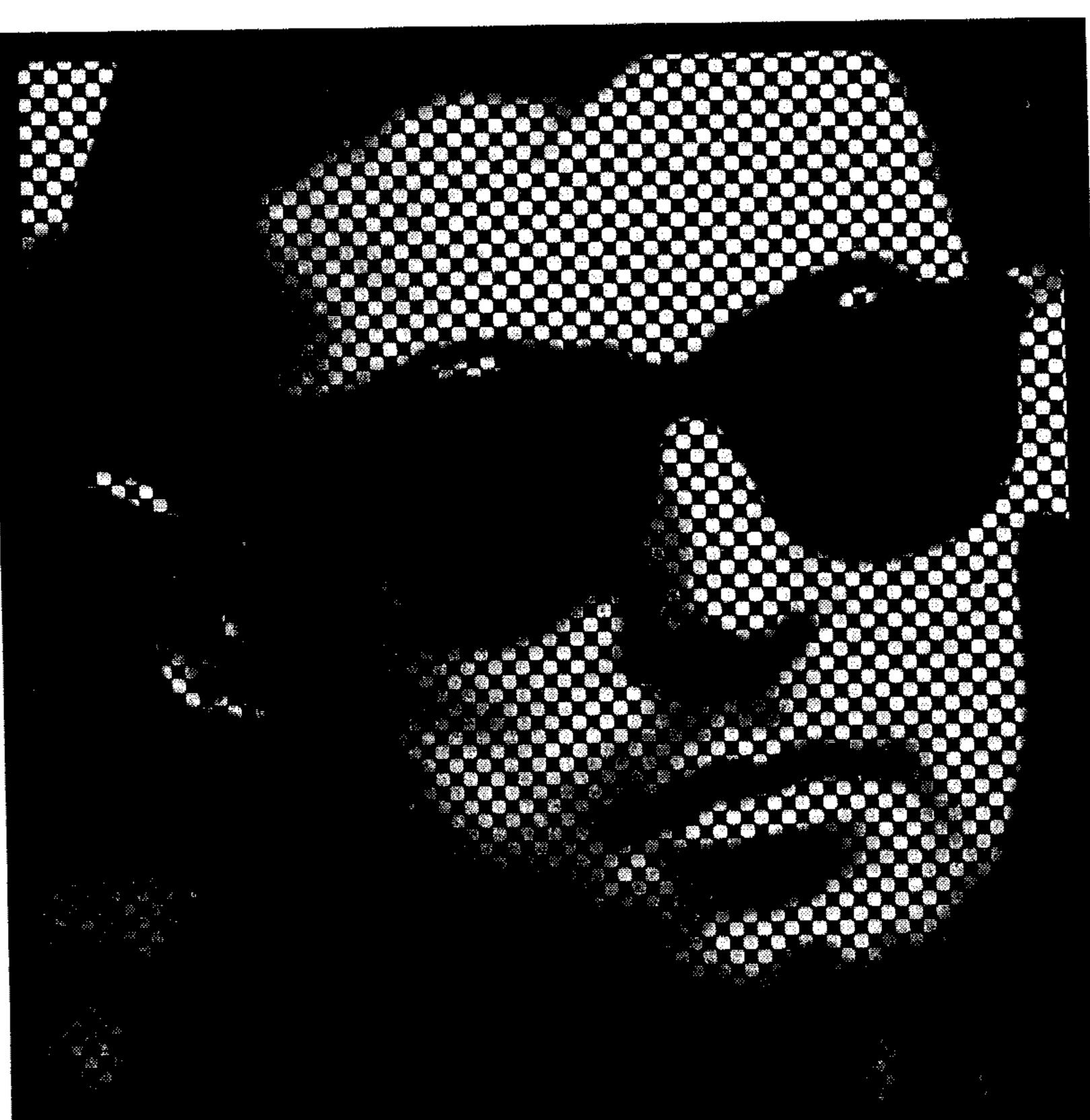
Legal restrictions on individual liberty in the last year have again increased, while arrests, trials and detentions have continued. With one small exception, Amnesty can report no reversal in this trend.

In June, Robert Sobukwe, leader of the banned Pan African Congress, had his term of detention on Robben Island extended by special act of Parliament for a further year. His original sentence, passed after the Sharpeville demonstration, expired in 1963, and he now enters his fifth year of continued restriction.

For those Africans who are released at the end of a political sentence, the pattern seems also to have set. In the Cape, as prisoners leave the prison they are now served with an order endorsing them out of their home

much harsher conditions than are prescribed for political—areas; they are sent from prison, under armed guard, to the Transkei, without being able to return to their homes even to collect possessions. This has happened even where a man had a family in Cape Town, or had worked there for 20 or 25 years. In the Transkei work is hard to find, The government of Singapore has been extremely—and adaptation to rural life is difficult for a man who has secretive about its detainces, and behaved as if it were—always lived in a city. Africans who have no record of ashamed of itself. It has good reason to be. The security having ever lived in the Transkei are being sent to 'resettlement' or 'transit' camps, like Sada or Ilinge Township, near East London. These were originally established to house Africans who could not find work in the cities. Many of the inhabitants are therefore old or ill, and, as no work is available, almost all are destitute. They may not leave, housing and sanitation are primitively inadequate and they have no land on which to grow crops. Health had so deteriorated in March that a clinic in Sada reported an increase in TB from 60 to 196 cases; at that time the population was only 4,000.

In June 1967 the Terrorism Act was introduced for the Republic and for South West Africa. One trial has taken place under its provisions, that of 37 South West Africans who were convicted and sentenced to long prison terms early in 1968. A number of South West Africans remain in detention under the Act. The Act has been widely criticised by lawyers on the grounds that it abolishes many of the safeguards normally provided in Criminal Court procedure to ensure a fair trial and creates an offence which "for lack of clarity and for breadth of scope must be without parallel".





"The Terrerism Act is a piece of legislation which must shock the conscience of every lawyer. Not only does Particular efforts were made during the year on behalf it create offences of such uncertainty and such broad scope that no-one can predict what conduct will fall within its terms, not only does it make those offences retroactive for a period of five years, it goes on to remove most of the guarantees of a fair trial for persons charged under it by providing first for detention for interrogation without the right to counsel, and thereafter for trial at a place and time chosen by the prosecution, by a summary procedure, with the onus of proof largely transferred to the accused, whose guilt is presumed on proof of any one of a number of highly ambiguous acts".

(I.C.J. Bulletin, June 1968)

With such provisions, it must in principle be possible for a prisoner of conscience to be convicted under the Terrorism Act.

In November 1967, Mrs. Helen Joseph's house arrest order expired and was immediately renewed for another precise Associated Status with Britain, is the small island five years: since then other bans have been renewed at group of St. Kitts, Nevis and Anguilla. The Premier, the end of their original duration. Some 780 people in Mr. Bradshaw, took the opportunity when rebellion broke the Republic are now banned. But during 1967, 12 out on Anguilla, to declare a state of emergency and banishment orders were withdrawn by the Minister of arrest Dr. William Herbert and virtually the entire oppoin the same time.

Although the chances that pressure will result in the release of a South African prisoner are slim, more adoptions are made in South Africa than in any other single country, and Group efforts to support the families materially and psychologically have met with considerable success.

Work continues on prisoners of conscience in Spain. of Conscientious Objectors, Some British Groups organised a petition of over 600 signatories protesting at the treatment of Conscientious Objectors by the Spanish Government. The petition was handed in at the Spanish Embassy in London. Representations have been made and continue to be made to the Spanish Deputies, Lawyers and Officials who were convened especially to consider the revision of the Spanish Military Service Laws.

The first West Indian territory to experience serious internal troubles after achieving Independence, or to be Justice — a small gain to offset 78 new banning orders—sition (P.A.M.) leadership, After a series of arrests and re-arrests, they were eventually tried on charges of attempting to overthrow the government by force, but, inspite of attempts to intimidate the judiciary and interfere with witnesses, were acquitted and released. Amnesty adopted all the opposition members detained, helped to publicise the situation in the British, American and West Indian press and to bring it to the attention of the British

Government, the other West Indian governments and the legal authorities there.

We feel that this was a valuable exercise, not only because of the release of the opposition members, but even more since the effect has been to alert liberal and legal opinion in the West Indies to the dangers of the erosion of human rights and constitutional freedom that can accompany re-alignment of political allegiances which so commonly follows the withdrawal of a colonial administration. An Amnesty Section is now in the process of being formed in the area.

Syria

In Syria, as in the U.A.R., political prisoners (including Amnesty prisoners) were released to fight, but there have been rumours that some have since been re-arrested. Little is known about arrests among the Jewish community. but the restrictions imposed on Jewish citizens by the government are themselves in contravention of the most basic human rights. Their effect is to deprive Jewish Syrians of means of employment, trade or the practice of any profession, apart from the most elementary freedom of movement. The situation there is believed to be rather more serious than in Egypt.

Tanzania

The situation has not altered significantly during the past year. Zanzibar, although part of the Union, still appears to act independently of mainland government control and reports of arbitrary arrest and oppression, as well as interference with the rule of law and normal constitutional rights, continue.

There have also been a small number of detentions without trial of political dissidents, mainly associated with the former Minister, Oscar Kambona.

Tunisia

Hitherto Tunisia had an admirable record as far as political imprisonment was concerned and was the only country in Africa, apart from Somalia, where there were no Prisoners of Conscience. The generally 'benevolent' nature of the Tunisian government now appears to have altered. There have been some reports of torture and a Special Court of State Security has been installed where

political prisoners will be tried.

Demonstrations at the University of Tunis, partly in the spirit of the general student protest this spring and partly in support of Ben Djennet, a theology student and leader of the student protest movement, led to a number of arrests which we are investigating. Ben Djennet, the most important political prisoner in Tunisia, is regarded as unsuitable for adoption because of racist statements made during the Middle East crisis. Some protest could be made about the severity of his 20-year sentence.

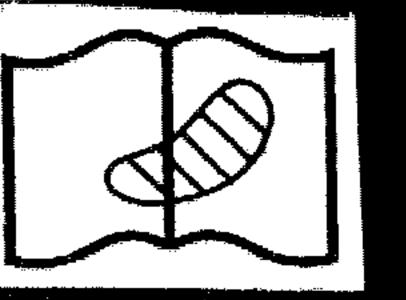
The U.A.R.

In the U.A.R, itself the war directly affected political imprisonment. Many prisoners were freed to fight the enemy, among them the last communist group still held in prison (mostly 'Chinese' communist intellectuals) who were released after the Defence Minister (now himself a prisoner) returned from Moscow. In the emotional aftermath of the war, popular sympathy for the fanatical Arab nationalism and puritan orthodoxy of the Muslim Brotherhood influenced President Nasser to release almost 2,000 Muslim Brothers held without trial in appalling conditions after an alleged plot to overthrow the government and assassinate Nasser and other prominent figures. A prisoner on whose behalf Amnesty had been particularly active, a lawyer detained without trial after he had defended in an unpopular political trial, was released early this year.

Once again the war created many new prisoners. The Jewish community suffered seriously. Almost all Jewish men were immediately arrested and, in the first few weeks of violence and hysteria, subjected to many barbarities since widely reported in the press. The Jewish community was subjected to what can only be described as persecution. In contrast, the governments of the Mahgreb countries, although unable to prevent the first uncontrolled outbursts of mob violence, took immediate steps to protect their Jewish minorities. Several Arab citizens who took part in attacks on Jews or advocated reprisals, were arrested, including a prominent trade unionist in Morocco Although many Jews have been allowed to leave the country, many still remain in detention. Amnesty and other international organisations have been working for the release of the remainder.

Also imprisoned as a result of the war were several high-ranking Egyptian officers and senior government officials held accountable for the country's ignominious defeat. They received punitive sentences of 10 to 20 years' imprisonment. The Egyptian government, apparently responding to a public outery for severer sentences has ordered a re-trial, the outcome of which is still awaited. It is probable that several of these men, though not the officers involved in Field Marshal Amer's abortive coup. may be considered as cases meriting intervention by

Opposition to America's participation in the Vietnam war on conscientious grounds has resulted in the sentencing of an increasing number of young Americans. Some of the prisoners originally adopted by Amnesty have been released on the completion of their sentences, but the number of cases being prepared for adoption or investigation is now over 300. A disparity in the severity sentences imposed on political conscientious objectors is observable-sentences for roughly similar offences vary between sentences of 6 months or probation and ten years and a heavy fine. Amnesty is planning a study of the background to these divergencies.



Although the treatment of the five Ministers arrested for months in total solitary confinement, has been improved and they are now reported, with one or two exceptions, to be in good health, the condition in which they and other political prisoners are held continues to fall below the minimum standards agreed upon by international conventions. The Ugandan government has been approached by Amnesty and other international organisations during the last year and the subject has been given wide publicity in the press and debated in the Ugandan parliament. At the present moment a memorandum is being prepared for presentation to President Obote which it is hoped will lead to the rectification of a situation which continues to damage the reputation of one of the most developed black African states,

U.S.S.R.

In October 1967 we received a list of 200 imprisoned dissident Baptists, prepared by an organisation called the "Council of Prisoners Relatives". It gave each prisoner's name, date of birth, place of residence, date of arrest, length of sentence, the article of the penal code according to which he or she was sentenced and the number of dependants involved. Attached to the list was a copy of a letter to U Thant from the Council which described the difficulties encountered by dissident Baptists in daily

A document of this kind is almost unprecedented. It and some of the other prominent political prisoners kept—is something of a mystery how those who collected the information, which covers an area stretching from Byelorussia to Central Asia, were able to do so successfully.

Unlike members of the official Baptist organisation, who are careful to conform to the restrictive state laws on religion, the dissident Baptists, asserting their constitutional rights to freedom of religion, continue to hold religious services, seek converts to their faith and to give religious instruction to children. The authorities take an even more serious view of proselytizing or the involvement of children. Most of the hundred people adopted since October were arrested in 1966 and received 3 - 5 year labour camp sentences.

While the world press gave wide coverage to the Moscow trial in January there was a marked lack of interest in two trials in Leningrad in November 1967 and March 1968. In the first, a professor of Tibetan studies was sentenced to fifteen years hard labour for allegedly plotting to overthrow the regime. According to reports, he and his associates had stockpiled arms for this purpose. In the second trial, seventeen people received labour camp sentences for belonging to philosophical groups which, roughly speaking, had as their aim a parliamentary democracy in Russia with the Russian Orthodox Church playing a feading role.

More information became available about Ukrainians serving labour camp sentences for protesting at what they considered to be the Russification of their country. We received copies of letters written by them in the camps

and addressed to leading Communist Party functionaries. The letters were very useful as they reproduced the act of indictment, a document that had previously been unobtainable, but they also give a detailed account of the events leading up to the individual's arrest, the interrogation, trial and living conditions in the labour camp.

A significant development over the last year has been the sudden flow of information about Soviet prisoners of conscience.

The fact that we received the text of letters written from labour camps revealed a new awareness of human rights and the plight of those denied them, that previously did not appear to exist.

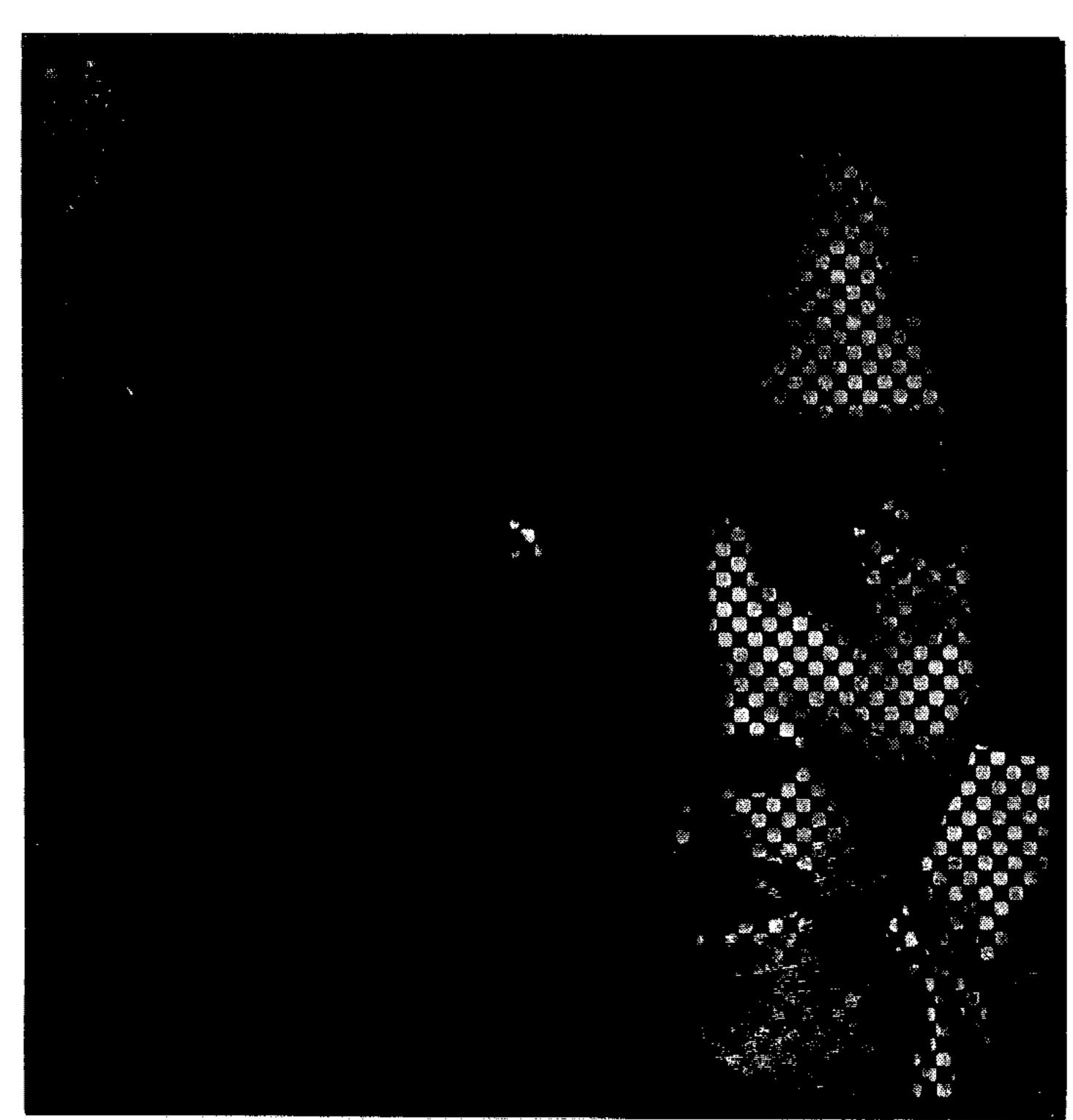
Paradoxically the increased volume of information made the preparation of case sheets a slower and more complicated task, since the analysis of the sometimes contradictory and inconclusive material was more difficult. Amnesty groups may also have found the same problem in the latter case. It is unfortunate that the response of the Soviet authorities to Group letters has not improved, but there have been interesting instances where replies were received, even though little information was gained. Experts feel that enquiries of this kind may not bring about a prisoner's release but they may ensure that he received better treatment than he would otherwise do. It has also been said that interest abroad in human rights in the Soviet Union may have done more to prevent than to cure.

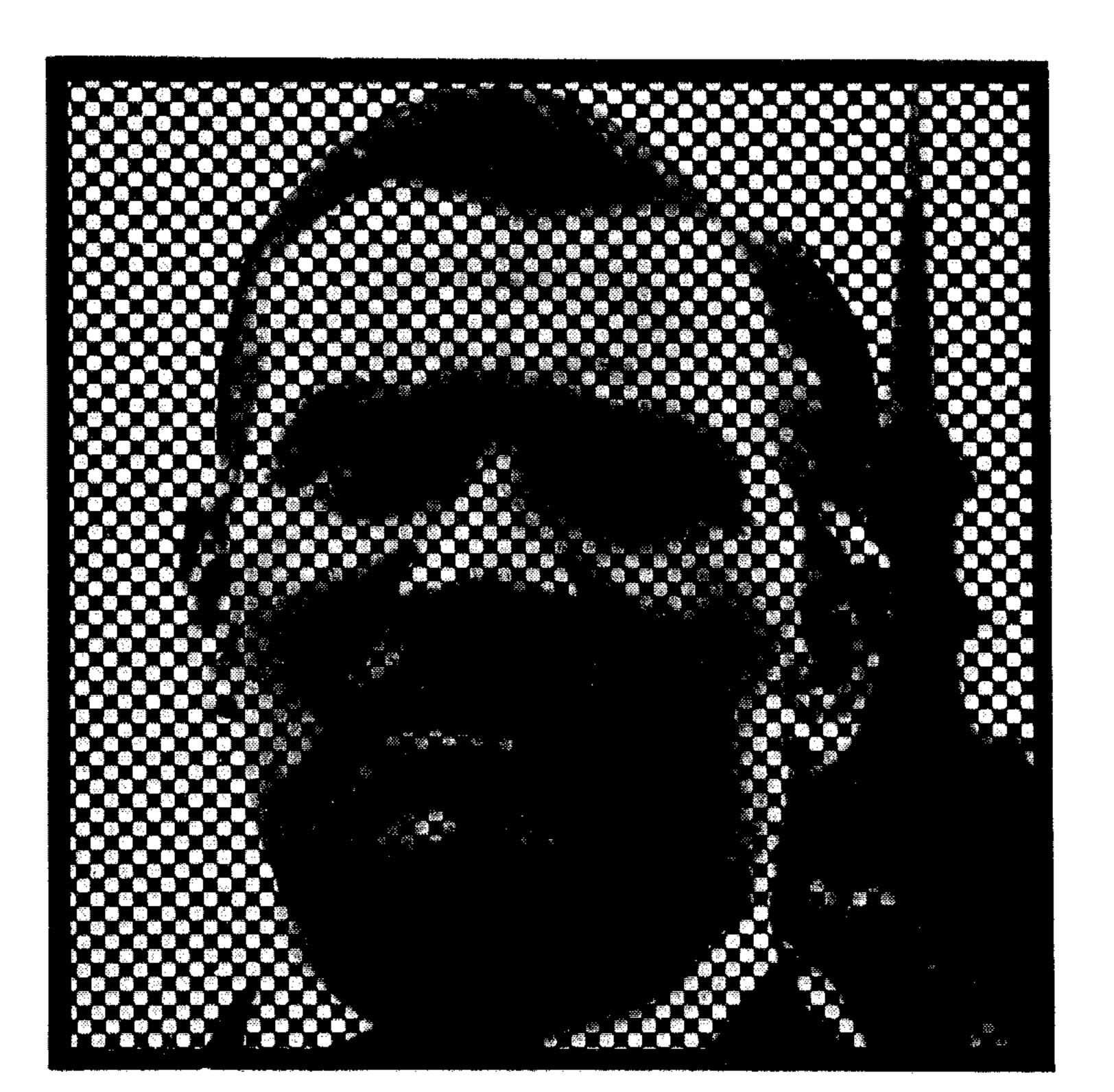
West Africa (Nigeria)

The tragic development of the Nigerian civil war is well known. In the violence and confusion of a war situation of this kind the normal framework of law and human rights within which Amnesty operates is inevitably suspended. A careful watch is being kept on the situation and information on the legal background to the detentions in Federal Nigeria has been forwarded to the I.C.J. At present Amnesty has only one adopted prisoner, Wole Soyinka, the poet and playwright.

Yemen

In the Yemen and the former British Protectorate of South Arabia, the change of regime was an indirect result. The Saudi Arabian government's offer of financial aid to the U.A.R. after her disastrous defeat was hedged with conditions, not least the latter's agreement to remove her troops from the Yemen and halt the supply of arms to President Sallal's republican government. The members of the nationalist Republican Delegation held in Cairo since their arrest in 1965 (all adopted by Amnesty) were released by President Nasser. They returned to the Yemen, almost immediately ousted the abandoned and discredited Sallal and formed a new government independent of Egyptian control. It was hoped that this government might be able to reach a modus vivendi with the Royalists and bring the war to an end, but these hopes have not







South Yemen

appeared indisputably the most powerful opposition force, and more discreetly Egyptian-backed N.L.F. destined to take over once the British withdrew. Many in 1966 was primarily concerned with investigating allegations of ill-treatment of F.L.O.S.Y. detainees),

which drew its support predominantly from the up-country sultanates, established its supremacy with unexpected rapidity during the bitter in-fighting between the oppo-

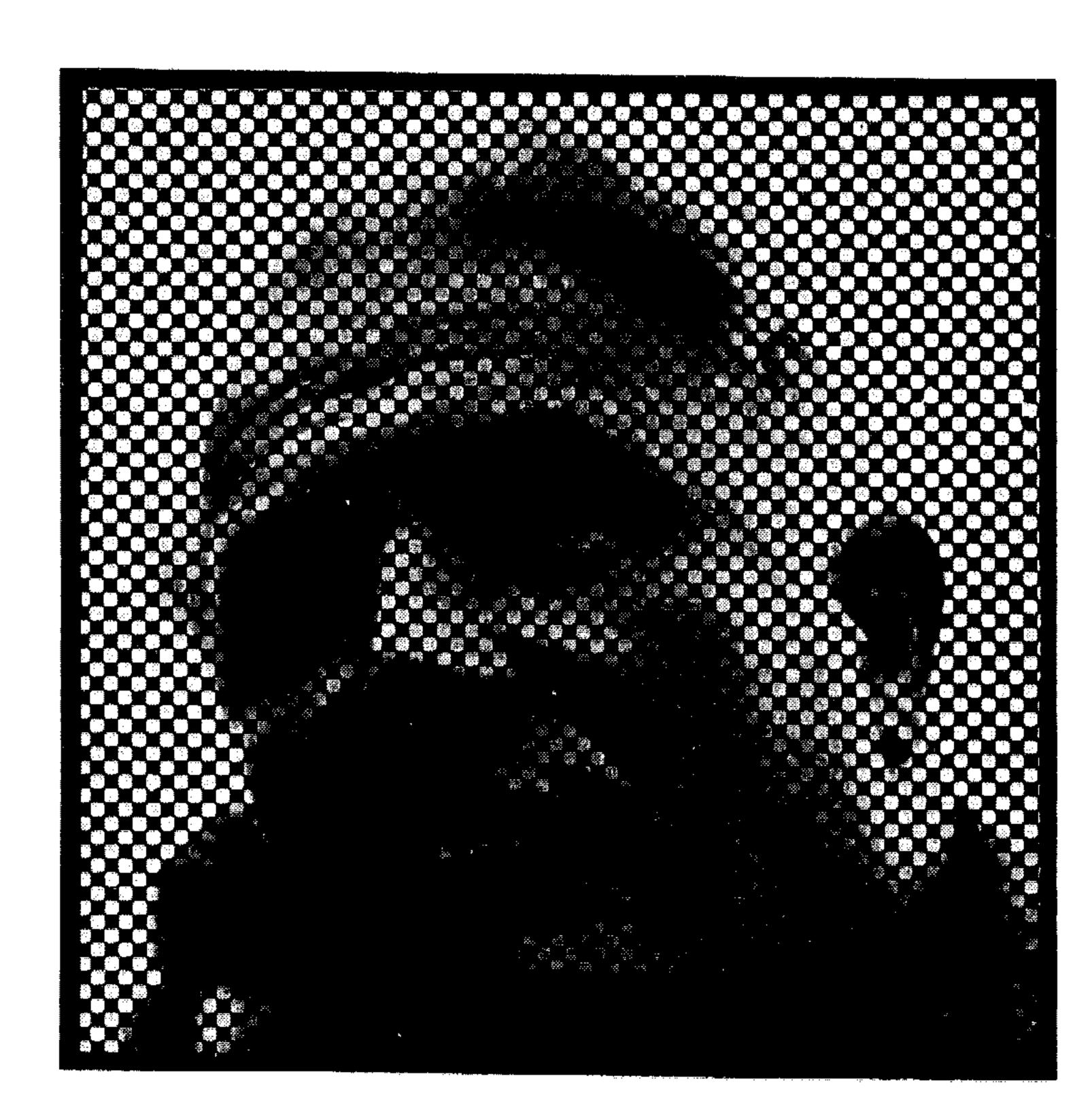
The failure of Egyptian policy in the Yemen in turn—unions and immigrant Yemeni workers. It was openly affected the course of the revolution in its neighbour, supported by Egypt and identified with Egyptian political South Arabia. The British government had planned to aims. (Several N.L.F. members, including the new Prehand over power on their withdrawal to the unpopular, sident, had indeed been detained at one time in Cairo), hastily-formed Federal Government of South Arabia, Egypt's loss of prestige after the war, the humiliating which excluded the nationalist guerilla movements. Before reversal in the Yemen and her temporary inability, or Independence F.L.O.S.Y., the official Egyptian protegé, unwillingness, to provide the practical support necessary, with an office in Cairo and impressive overseas contacts, swung opinion behind the uncompromised, locally based

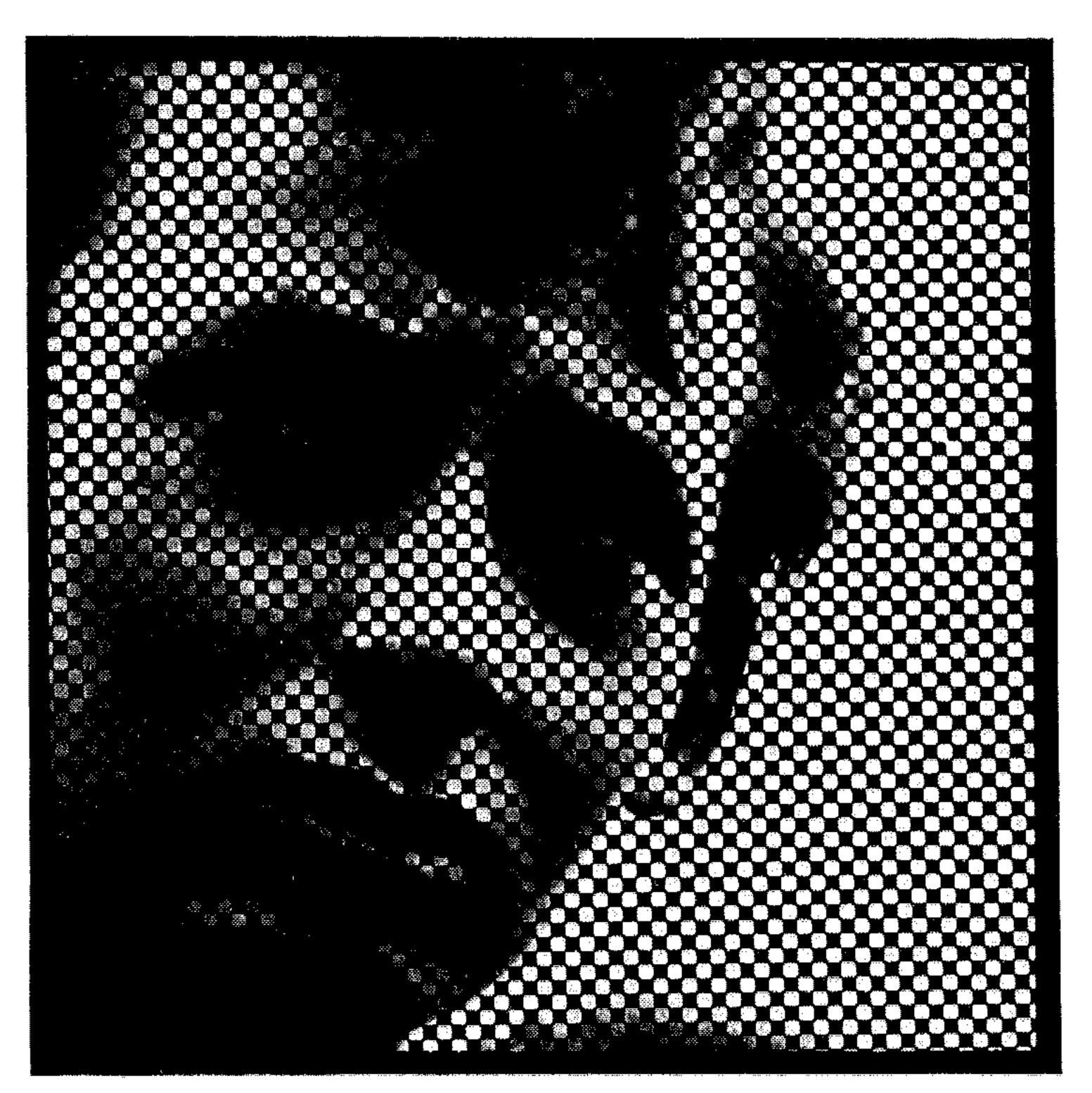
The new revolutionary government emptied the of their members were detained under the colonial gov- prisons, both in Aden and the former sultanates, but the ernment's emergency powers. (Amnesty's mission to Aden empty places were soon filled. Amnesty protested to President Qahtaan as-Shaabi against the death sentence, later commuted, imposed on some of the more prominent In the event the comparatively unknown N.L.F., political prisoners by arbitrarily-formed military tribunals. The numbers of prisoners is very considerable. They include members, supporters and employees of the Britishbacked, former Federal government, members of the sition groups which precipitated the removal of the British families or administration of the up-country sultanates presence ahead of schedule. This success appears to have—and F.L.O.S.Y. supporters. The exact figure is unknown, been due to two factors: the party's considerable mem- but some estimates have put it as high as 5,000, Rumours bership in the Federal Army (mostly recruited from up- of torture and ill-treatment, frequent and disturbing, country) - ultimately the deciding factor — and its more appear to be not without foundation. Amnesty is deeply overtly nationalist character. F.L.O.S.Y., more moderate—concerned by these developments, but effective interand politically experienced, drew its support mainly from vention to protect human rights in such an area, so fresh Aden, where it was strongly represented among trade—from revolution, presents almost insuperable problems.

In the last year recent moves towards legal reform of a new Code of Criminal Procedure. One particularly welcome feature of this is found in the provisions dealing with the accused's right to legal defence. The revised Code gives considerably greater rights to the defence and under its predecessor. Appropriately, the Code was introduced on I January, the first day of Human Rights Year.

Traditionaly, Yugoslav political stability has been threatened by the separatist demands of its component nationalities. Today this is reflected in the pattern of different areas have continued to arouse Amnesty's concern in the last year; the Albanian minority in the Kosmet now in jail as prisoners of conscience.

Since 1966, the economic and cultural position of have been continued and consolidated by the introduction—the Albanians has undergone a marked improvement. Increased participation in local government and the civil service and greater provision of Albanian-language educational facilities at all levels have gone hand in hand with sizeable central Government grants for the developmuch stronger protection to the accused than existed ment of this economically backward area. But those Albanians who in 1963 and 1964 were given heavy sentences for demanding just these reforms remain in prison. A typical case is that of Adem Demaci, a 31-yearold poet and writer from Pristina who was given a 12 year sentence in 1964 on a charge of making 'hostile imprisonment. Instances of imprisonment from two very propaganda' in articles which, apparently, did no more than describe the plight of his people. For some time Amnesty has asked the Yugoslav Government for a review and young Croat nationalists in Zagreb. Neither has a of the sentences of Demaci and those imprisoned in similar tradition of non-violent protest but groups from both are—circumstances. In a situation containing such potential for tension between central government and the largest







of its minorities, justice at an individual level can only

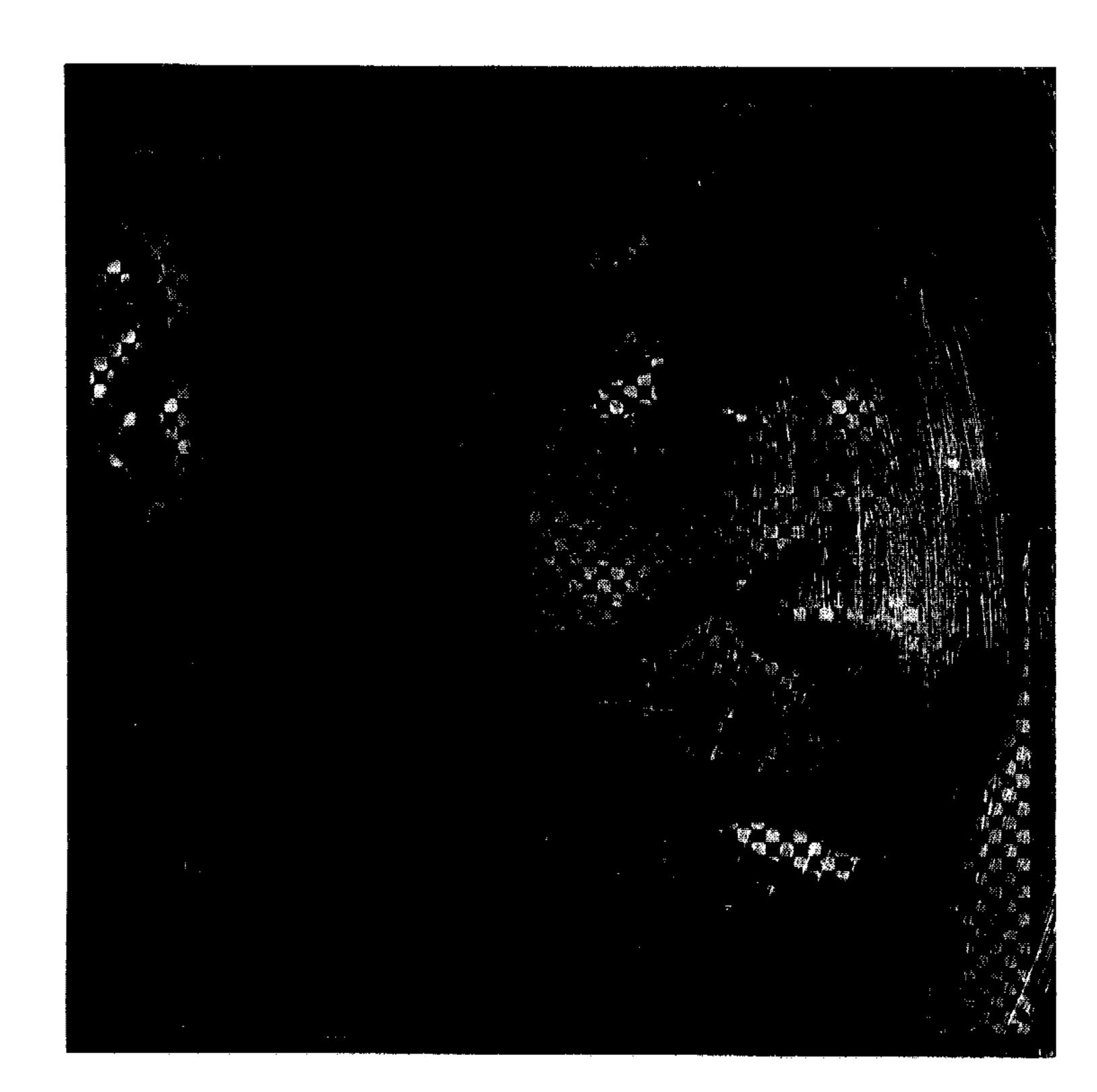
reduce the legitimate grievances of the Albanians.

In 1967, 140 Croatian linguists and scholars signed a declaration asking that the Croatian language should become a fourth official language of the Federation. They criticised the imposition of Serbian on Croat speakers and the consequent relegation of Croatian to the level of a local dialect. As the two languages are essentially similar this was regarded as a political rather than a strictly linguistic demand. The Declaration aroused serious political controversy, a few of the signatories were expelled from the Communist Party, several were officially warned, and some withdrew their support. No-one was prosecuted. But a year later, in May 1968, six young Croats who had

imprisonment. They join a number of other young Croats sentenced for a similar offence in 1966.

In October 1967, Mihajlo Mihajlov's four-and-a-half year sentence was reduced on appeal by one year on health grounds. A psychiatric report submitted to the court said that he had 'a psychopathic personality insufficiently balanced for social adaptability'. Mihajlov was then moved to a hard labour prison at Posarevatz where he was put to work enamelling iron plates at a furnace.
He refused to work, on the grounds that this was unsuited to his educational and cultural qualifications — a right accorded to prisoners in Yugoslavia. He was put in the punishment cells, went on a hunger strike and as a result But a year later, in May 1968, six young Croats who had distributed leasters supporting the Declaration and advocating autonomy for Croatia were tried and convicted of reported to be in solitary confinement as a result of his spreading 'hostile propaganda'. The leader, Vinko demands to be treated as a political prisoner — a status Knezovic, was sentenced to three-and-a-half years strict—which is not recognised in Yugoslav law.

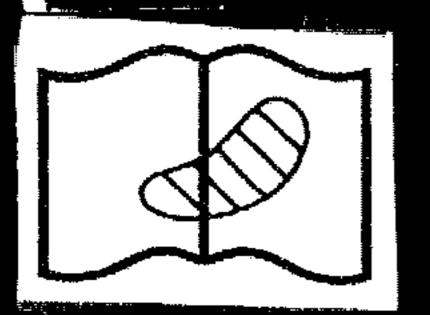
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