Amnesty International

REPORT TO THE
12th INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL 1979
FROM THE INTERNATIONAL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
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This report covers the period 1 May 1978 – 30 April 1979

The audited Final Accounts for the year to 30 April 1979 are available upon request from: Amnesty International
10 Southampton Street, London WC2E 7HJ, England.
Introduction
by Thomas Hammarberg, Chairperson, International Executive Committee

"Let there be no mistake about who is being honoured here today," said Suriya Wickremasinghe when she accepted the United Nations Human Rights Prize on behalf of Amnesty International.

"It is everyone who has ever put their name on the bottom of an Amnesty International appeal. It is everyone who has ever written a letter asking for the release of a prisoner of conscience. It is everyone who has ever stood in a vigil mourning the death of a political prisoner.

"It is everyone who has ever handed out leaflets, stuffed envelopes, licked stamps, kept membership lists, done the accounts and helped out behind the scenes...""

There have been questions about whether Amnesty International has changed after the international awards it has been given during recent years, whether we have grown into a part of the establishment. The answer is "no".

Amnesty International is still an organization built on voluntary work by individuals, financed by its members and their fundraising efforts. It still plays the role of a watchdog on government hypocrisy. It uses polite language but refuses to negotiate with those in power.

Our concern is not to receive praise or recognition, but to get results. This makes it necessary to discuss and continually reform our organization and working methods.

Amnesty International is now going through a period of radical change. We are discussing our mandate, we have started a process of decentralization and we are working out a system of long-range planning.

But are these not the first signs of creeping bureaucracy? Of petrification? No. These steps are a necessary response to an unprecedented, almost explosive growth of the organization.

The size of our movement and the volume of our activities make it necessary for us to plan our work systematically. And to decentralize. The growing demand from the outside—from the news media, other organizations, politicians, concerned people—has forced us to clarify our mandate. These reforms must be undertaken to make the organization more effective for the defense of basic human rights.

We must explain clearly what we are and what we are not. We are not disturbed by the fact that we have a limited mandate. On the contrary it is important that we do not allow our thin resources to be scattered where we have little experience and where there are few possibilities for us to do good work. In fact this limitation is our strength.

Even within our limited mandate there are questions to resolve, some of them controversial. These issues were discussed by the Mandate Committee which will report to the International Council this year. The next step is a thorough discussion on our working methods: what "techniques" are most effective.

This questioning is also part of the decentralization process. A committee is working out the details of decentralization proposals and will also report to the International Council.

The next step will be to start systematic membership training programs. Every member within the movement must have the opportunity to learn about Amnesty International, its history, aims, structure and methods; about local and international human rights standards; and about patterns of repression. We shall remain an amateur movement—but with members who know. This is our reply to the demand for improved quality: the answer is not to employ more staff.

These developments make strict planning necessary. National sections have already received a draft plan for 1980-82. This was the first attempt at planning. The first opportunity to discuss the draft plan will be at the International Council in September. The structure and approach of such plans must be improved and adjusted next year and in the years ahead.

Even in such organisational matters our approach should be sound, thorough and dynamic. Without such an approach, we would fail in our responsibility to make our movement more effective.
The International Executive Committee (IEC) at its meeting on 23 September 1978 appointed Thomas Hammarskjöld as Chairperson and Dirk Börner as Vice-Chairperson. Kevin White was elected Treasurer (1977) by the International Council. Nigel Rodley was elected representative of the staff by the International Secretariat.

Meetings


Functions

The IEC acts as a collective body and accepts collective responsibility for its decisions. At the same time, it assigns specific members and staff responsibilities, to be taken, when necessary, on the basis of the full IEC. Standing sub-committees were devoted to research in the various regions, administration and finance, international organisations, and International Council Meeting (ICM) resolutions. Other IEC sub-committees, constituted as the need arose, covered planning (October 1978 and March 1979), information techniques (December 1978, January 1979 and July 1979), development (August 1979). With the announcement that Martin Ennals would be leaving the International Secretariat in 1980, after twelve years of service, the IEC was faced with the task of replacing a person whose marked capabilities have been central to the progress of AI. A special sub-committee has been constituted to assist the full committee in the recruitment of a new Secretary General (February 1979, April 1979, July 1979).

Early in the year, at the invitation of the 11th International Council, the IEC appointed special committees with national section participants to deal with key concerns affecting AI's constituent sections. These committees dealt with decentralization (November 1978, February 1979, July 1979), mandate (December 1978, March 1979), techniques evaluation (April 1979, July 1979), budget techniques (January 1979 and July 1979) and the IEC election system (via correspondence). From one to three IEC meetings took part in each committee, either as members or consultants. The IEC was also represented by one or more of its members at the March 1979 meeting of national section representatives to discuss financial matters, the May 1979 meeting of coordination group representatives, the 4th World Congress of Human Rights (Thessaloniki, October 1978) and the 3rd World Congress of Human Rights (London, February 1979). The IEC was also represented at the March 1979 meeting of national section representatives to discuss financial matters, the May 1979 meeting of coordination group representatives, the 4th World Congress of Human Rights (Thessaloniki, October 1978) and the 3rd World Congress of Human Rights (London, February 1979).

Major issues

Over the past year, the chief preoccupation of the IEC is with the campaign against the death penalty. In conformity with the request of the 10th International Council, the IEC has been to extend to AI a role in the movement to abolish the death penalty, to coordinate the International Secretariat's efforts, to prepare reports and to seek action at the national level. This movement has been supported by a great many national sections and many prominent individuals and organizations.

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In the annual report on the work of the IEC for 1978, the International Secretariat (IS) presented a comprehensive account of the progress of AI in the field of international human rights, including a review of the activities of its various committees and sections, a summary of the main events of the year, and a financial statement. The report also included an update of the IEC's work on the death penalty, including a review of the progress made in the campaign and an analysis of the main events of the year. The report concluded with a summary of the IEC's work on the death penalty, including a review of the progress made in the campaign and an analysis of the main events of the year.

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The growth of the movement was the theme of last year's report to the International Council. Consolidation is the theme this year.

During 1977 the pressures resulting from the growth of AI pointed to the need for decentralization. In 1978 the 11th International Council, meeting in Cambridge, expressed its concern that expenditure at the center was growing without effective restraint. The Council therefore decided to freeze the contingency provisions in the budget for the year commencing May 1979. This action was accompanied by the establishment of new international committees to bring about the decentralization of the movement and the development of stronger national section structures; a re-examination of the mandate and AI's action techniques; the use of more sophisticated budgeting methods; and greater concentration on planning within the movement, and in particular, the International Secretariat (IS).

The IS has spent much time in streamlining procedures, strengthening its program capacity and improving internal coordination. Staff increases have been minimal. Faced with a dramatic increase in staff costs as a result of the growth in membership of the IS has been the need to stabilize staffing levels and activities during the year. The IS has faced substantial reductions in staff changes and the slow process of recruitment for vacant posts also created problems as internal organization which are only now being slowly resolved. These problems are reflected in this report.

In the early months of the year the IEC reviewed and rationalized its own working methods and its relationship with the IS and the national sections. A number of changes have been introduced as a result of the need to improve the effective and efficient use of resources without diminishing consultation or control over policies and their implementation.

Research

The new Head of Research joined the IS in January 1979 and is now given full responsibility for the Research Department in March. During the prolonged period without a head of the department Clayton Yeo was acting Head of Research and subsequestly Deputy Head of Research pending recruitment of a new Head of Research. The work of the department however, has been relatively constant. The appointment of Derek Rootoeck as Head of Research was controversial both outside and within the move. The IEC made the appointment, having taken a considered view of the need for a Head of Research, having taken into account the maturity of AI documents and the general trend of events.

The Program Department on the other hand faced the need for consolidation almost before it had an opportunity to establish its planned structure. The new, and first, Head of Program joined the IS in September 1978 and was immediately involved in adapting the structure of the department. Adjustments were being made on the basis of experience and into account staff changes, including the departure of Martin Ennals after so many years of pivotal activity within the IS and the movement. Some of the experiments in planning program activities and production had not been successful. The research and training teams submitted to the 12th International Council reflect efforts to solve production problems but both the Press and Communications Unit and the Publications Unit are understaffed as a result of difficult working conditions and low recruitment. Nevertheless, the Program Department is effectively involved in an ongoing study. Coordination with the Research Department, Legal Office and Documentation Center is much improved. The development of multiprojecting with the Scottish Development, the improved information services to the news media, the increase in professional and target group work and the contribution of the Coordination Unit to the cohesion of the movement and the development of AI in new areas are all recognizable results of immense efforts made within the Program Department in the past ten months.

Consolidation of information services and systems cannot be undertaken without planned development. The Documentation Department is making slow but steady progress towards the implementation of a standardized system of filing and information storage and retrieval. Such a system is essential if the movement and the IS is particularly to meet the 1980s with an efficient and partially automated system wherein personal or group data can be retrieved with a high degree of completeness. Computerization cannot be effective without complex patterns of information handling and that the IS will be too great for the members of staff. The IS has made reasonable efforts not to be too complicated or costly. They do demand precision and care. Much increased demand at the IS means that something is sometimes a highly individual approach to filing. Overworked staff lack the time and resources to restructure the storage of their information. This is an understandably sensitive aspect of the work of the IS and the coordination system is beginning to produce results. The first steps in mechanized information handling will be reported in 1978/80. A first experiment was conducted in the current year but for a variety of reasons was not fully successful and operational outside the program. The experience gained on all sides is being evaluated and further steps are being taken for the future. The strengthening of the Documentation Center by the appointment of an individual documentalist is referred to in this report: the benefit is felt in the Program and Research Departments. The Documentation Center must be understood as a central reference point and as a key to the administration of AI resources for effective work for prisoners.

Management

The Administration Department is vital to the efficiency of the IS and to the consolidation and better use of its resources. Management and administration lack glamour and excitement but without them the IS would falter. While much effort has been put into the organization of accounting procedures in recent years, not enough consideration has been given to the overall management of the IS.

Training of staff, both at the time of recruitment and during service, is an aspect of management. Strengthening of internal procedures and departmental administration is another. Consolidation in some areas requires professionalization and in some more bureaucracy. Belief in the enthusiasm of the staff is an asset but without it the rest of the IS would founder. While much effort has been put into the organization of accounting procedures in recent years, not enough consideration has been given to the overall management of the IS.

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Legal

The Legal Office is in part a service unit for the Research and Program Departments - providing legal advice on laws, constitutions, statutes, conventions and international human rights complaints machinery. It is also an action unit working for improved international standards of information and documentation of resources for law enforcement officers and assistance personnel and for abolition of torture and the death penalty. It is also responsible for co-ordinating AI's relations with international organizations, both governmental and non-governmental.

Human Rights Award

The 1978-79 Amnesty International Human Rights Award was won by Mrs. Emma Bonino, Secretary General of the Women's International Democratic Federation (FID) for her work in the Balkans and the Middle East, with special reference to her efforts to aid estimated 20,000 refugees of various nationalities from the Middle East and some 40,000 Palestinians. Mrs. Bonino has been a leading voice in the international community in support of the Palestinian people, and her dedication to the cause of human rights has been recognized by the presentation of numerous awards and honours in her honour. She is a highly respected and influential figure in international human rights activism, and her work has been widely recognized for its impact and effectiveness.

AI and governments

The United Nations Human Rights Award is one of the most prestigious and highly coveted honors given by international human rights organizations. It recognizes outstanding contributions to the protection and promotion of human rights, and is awarded to individuals or organizations that have demonstrated exceptional dedication and commitment to advancing human rights causes. The award is presented annually by the United Nations Human Rights Committee to individuals or organizations that have made exceptional contributions to the protection and promotion of human rights. The award recognizes the importance of human rights in promoting justice, peace, and equality, and serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for freedom, dignity, and respect for all.

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by the groups and sections in correspondence to governments or on behalf of prisoners. However, it is only one reminder that AI's work is serious and is taken seriously by governments. During the year there was, if anything, an increase in the number of governments who expressed willingness to talk with AI about human rights violations in their own countries. In some countries such as in inspiring detail—how helpful this work is. In some countries ledging groups' activities on their behalf and saying—sometimes in setting their own standards. In some countries prisoners were released en masse, or institutional reforms were undertaken, apparently in response to AI activity. In some countries such positive developments were not forthcoming, but the government did respond to AI by publicly and defensively rejecting AI's complaints.

Future development

This widespread recognition of the work of Amnesty International emphasizes the need for a major effort of development of the movement in areas where there are virtually no AI members or sections. In the years ahead, the strength of AI will depend to a large extent on the capacity of the organization to take the fight for human rights into the countries where we see the most direct and immediate need to be ready for a major, sustained effort on all fronts: for the release of prisoners of conscience wherever they exist, for fair and early trials for all political prisoners and against torture and the death penalty.

**Work for individual prisoners**

CASEWORK

The concern of Amnesty International for individual victims of human rights violations is translated into practical action through a continuous program of casework. Research into cases of possible prisoners of conscience is carried out by the Research Department. Prisoner dossiers are compiled and then sent by the Coordination Unit to adoption groups and national sections throughout the world. Each group works on behalf of at least two prisoner cases in countries other than its own. These countries are balanced geographically and politically to ensure impartiality. The groups adopt cases of prisoners of conscience and work for the prisoners' immediate and conditional release from prison. The groups may investigate cases of possible prisoners of conscience if conclusive information is lacking to justify full adoption.

This year, the International Secretariat learned of the release of 1,805 prisoners whose cases had been either investigated or adopted. It took up 1,783 new cases. The monthly figures are given below:

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<td>new cases</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>125</td>
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<tr>
<td>releases</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 1978</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>new cases</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>releases</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 1979</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**30TH ANNIVERSARY APPEALS**

Amnesty International launched 24 special appeals during 1978, the 30th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. By the end of the year appeals had been issued on behalf of 70 prisoners of conscience; 32 prisoners were still detained despite the appeals. The 70 prisoners, from 18 countries, were chosen to represent symbolically the many thousands of prisoners all over the world who are detained by their governments in defiance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Of the 70 prisoners, 22 were detained without charge or trial. Twelve are now free. An appeal for amnesty was made on behalf of a group of 31 prisoners in one country. While no amnesty was granted, 19 of these prisoners have since been released. No Jew has yet been received of a missing prisoner, who disappeared on arrest in 1976 but who is believed to be still alive, and who was also the subject of a 30th Anniversary appeal.
Country campaigns

Al's major country campaigns during the year focused on violations of human rights in Argentina, Guinea Conakry, El Salvador, Romania, Ethiopia and Tunisia. In addition to numerous smaller country actions there were also follow-up special actions on Argentina and South Africa.

A campaign on Argentina was held to coincide with the June 1978 World Football Championship. Al used the opportunity of this international event to inform the public about the human rights situation in Argentina and to press governments for higher quotas for refugees from Argentina. For the first time all national sections took complete charge of group participation. Most sections and groups produced imaginative actions and materials, obtained extensive news media coverage, mobilized various target sectors and in some cases helped to obtain increased refugee quotas. In the spring of 1979 a follow-up action was organized to maintain public pressure on the question of disappearances.

The Guinea Campaign was timed to coincide with the 20th anniversary of Guinea's independence on 21 June 1978. The campaign was principally designed to give widespread publicity to prolonged incommunicado detention without trial, torture and deaths in detention and the use of summary and secret trials. Campaign participants, who were principally groups working with country action dossiers, campaigned for fair trials and better treatment for political prisoners. Campaigns were offered detailed recommendations on approaches to political organizations and governments and to private companies with commercial links with Ethiopia. Special material was prepared for use when approaching women's and students' organizations.

The Romania Campaign in the spring of 1970 focused on the imprisonment of trade unionists arrested in January 1978. The objective was to urge the government to pardon an amnesty to all Romanian prisoners of conscience and to allow an independent commission of inquiry to visit Romania to investigate allegations of torture and maltreatment. The 10 campaigns were held to coincide with the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the Trade Union Emancipation Front. The campaign was launched by an Al Briefing Paper. At the time of the campaign, no Al groups were working on Romania because adoption of a new constitution did not change the status of the country's human rights situation. 'Unofficial' sections of the Roman Catholic Church in that country. News coverage was limited but extensive group work and approaches to political organizations and governments and to private companies with commercial links with Ethiopia. Special material was prepared for use when approaching women's and students' organizations.

The Tunisia Campaign in the spring of 1979 focused on the trials of political prisoners in Tunisia. The objective was to urge the government to rescind the law of 4 June 1978 which criminalized political beliefs and absolved political authorities of responsibility for political and religious beliefs. The campaign was launched by an Al Briefing Paper. At the time of the campaign, no Al groups were working on Tunisia. News coverage was limited but extensive group work and approaches to political organizations and governments and to private companies with commercial links with Ethiopia. Special material was prepared for use when approaching women's and students' organizations.

The Yugoslavia Campaign in the spring of 1979 focused on the trials of prisoners of conscience in Yugoslavia. The objective was to urge the government to release all prisoners of conscience and to conduct general research. The campaign was launched by an Al Briefing Paper. At the time of the campaign, no Al groups were working on Yugoslavia. News coverage was limited but extensive group work and approaches to political organizations and governments and to private companies with commercial links with Ethiopia. Special material was prepared for use when approaching women's and students' organizations.

The Nigeria Campaign in the spring of 1979 focused on the trials of political prisoners in Nigeria. The objective was to urge the government to release all prisoners of conscience and to conduct general research. The campaign was launched by an Al Briefing Paper. At the time of the campaign, no Al groups were working on Nigeria. News coverage was limited but extensive group work and approaches to political organizations and governments and to private companies with commercial links with Ethiopia. Special material was prepared for use when approaching women's and students' organizations.

The Greece Campaign in the spring of 1979 focused on the trials of political prisoners in Greece. The objective was to urge the government to release all prisoners of conscience and to conduct general research. The campaign was launched by an Al Briefing Paper. At the time of the campaign, no Al groups were working on Greece. News coverage was limited but extensive group work and approaches to political organizations and governments and to private companies with commercial links with Ethiopia. Special material was prepared for use when approaching women's and students' organizations.

The Ethiopia Campaign in the spring of 1979 focused on the trials of political prisoners in Ethiopia. The objective was to urge the government to release all prisoners of conscience and to conduct general research. The campaign was launched by an Al Briefing Paper. At the time of the campaign, no Al groups were working on Ethiopia. News coverage was limited but extensive group work and approaches to political organizations and governments and to private companies with commercial links with Ethiopia. Special material was prepared for use when approaching women's and students' organizations.

The Argentina Campaign in the spring of 1979 focused on the trials of political prisoners in Argentina. The objective was to urge the government to release all prisoners of conscience and to conduct general research. The campaign was launched by an Al Briefing Paper. At the time of the campaign, no Al groups were working on Argentina. News coverage was limited but extensive group work and approaches to political organizations and governments and to private companies with commercial links with Ethiopia. Special material was prepared for use when approaching women's and students' organizations.

The South Africa Campaign in the spring of 1979 focused on the trials of political prisoners in South Africa. The objective was to urge the government to release all prisoners of conscience and to conduct general research. The campaign was launched by an Al Briefing Paper. At the time of the campaign, no Al groups were working on South Africa. News coverage was limited but extensive group work and approaches to political organizations and governments and to private companies with commercial links with Ethiopia. Special material was prepared for use when approaching women's and students' organizations.

The Colombia Campaign in the spring of 1979 focused on the trials of political prisoners in Colombia. The objective was to urge the government to release all prisoners of conscience and to conduct general research. The campaign was launched by an Al Briefing Paper. At the time of the campaign, no Al groups were working on Colombia. News coverage was limited but extensive group work and approaches to political organizations and governments and to private companies with commercial links with Ethiopia. Special material was prepared for use when approaching women's and students' organizations.

The Chile Campaign in the spring of 1979 focused on the trials of political prisoners in Chile. The objective was to urge the government to release all prisoners of conscience and to conduct general research. The campaign was launched by an Al Briefing Paper. At the time of the campaign, no Al groups were working on Chile. News coverage was limited but extensive group work and approaches to political organizations and governments and to private companies with commercial links with Ethiopia. Special material was prepared for use when approaching women's and students' organizations.

The Mexico Campaign in the spring of 1979 focused on the trials of political prisoners in Mexico. The objective was to urge the government to release all prisoners of conscience and to conduct general research. The campaign was launched by an Al Briefing Paper. At the time of the campaign, no Al groups were working on Mexico. News coverage was limited but extensive group work and approaches to political organizations and governments and to private companies with commercial links with Ethiopia. Special material was prepared for use when approaching women's and students' organizations.

The Brazil Campaign in the spring of 1979 focused on the trials of political prisoners in Brazil. The objective was to urge the government to release all prisoners of conscience and to conduct general research. The campaign was launched by an Al Briefing Paper. At the time of the campaign, no Al groups were working on Brazil. News coverage was limited but extensive group work and approaches to political organizations and governments and to private companies with commercial links with Ethiopia. Special material was prepared for use when approaching women's and students' organizations.

The Iran Campaign in the spring of 1979 focused on the trials of political prisoners in Iran. The objective was to urge the government to release all prisoners of conscience and to conduct general research. The campaign was launched by an Al Briefing Paper. At the time of the campaign, no Al groups were working on Iran. News coverage was limited but extensive group work and approaches to political organizations and governments and to private companies with commercial links with Ethiopia. Special material was prepared for use when approaching women's and students' organizations.

Missions

May 1978 – April 1979

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Delegates</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td>to observe the trial of two men charged with the murder of a former police officer and facing a possible death sentence</td>
<td>Herbert Sonnen (American)</td>
<td>June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesotho</td>
<td>to attend a United Nations Commission on Human Rights conference in Maseru on political imprisonment in South Africa</td>
<td>Jose Ray (International Secretary)</td>
<td>July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>to observe the trials in Sfax and Souss of trade unionists arrested following the one-day general strike on 26 January 1978</td>
<td>Martin Erennas, Martin Hill (International Secretariat)</td>
<td>August/September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania/Guinea</td>
<td>to talk with mainland and Zanzibar governments about prisoners of conscience, and meet recently released prisoners in Athens and Dar es Salaam</td>
<td>June Ray (International Secretariat)</td>
<td>September/October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tunisia</td>
<td>to observe the trial by the State Security Court in Tunis of leaders of the General Union of Tunisian Workers; AI's delegate was refused entry</td>
<td>(International Secretariat)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Czechoslovakia</td>
<td>to observe the trial of three Al-adopted prisoners charged with incitement for copying and distributing material “inimical to the socialist and state order of the Republic”. AI's delegate travelled to Brno but was detained for five hours. The trial was postponed.</td>
<td>Dr Wolfgang Aigner (Austrian)</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>general research mission</td>
<td>Kevin Deyer (International Secretary)</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica/Honduras</td>
<td>to visit refugees from Nicaragua in the camps in Costa Rica and Honduras</td>
<td>Michael McCloskey (International Secretary)</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>to introduce AI to the new government and to discuss the government's statements on human rights; to discuss cases of prisoners of conscience, the trials of political prisoners and prison conditions; to conduct general research</td>
<td>Munstaz Sosyal (Turkish)</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>to meet previously detained political prisoners and conduct general research</td>
<td>David Emil (American)</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia/Singapore</td>
<td>to bring to the attention of the governments AI's concerns regarding political imprisonment without trial and the use of cruel and degrading punishment</td>
<td>Thomas C. Jones (American) (International Secretary)</td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>to attend the Chilean Catholic Church's Symposium on Human Rights; to talk with officials about AI's concerns in Chile; and to conduct general research</td>
<td>Martin Erennas (International Secretariat)</td>
<td>November/December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>to observe the trial of 17 people, mainly students, alleged to belong to the Movimiento Pela Emancipacio do Proletariado and who had been charged with violating the law of national security by distributing &quot;subversive propaganda&quot;</td>
<td>Drn. Vera Adao e Silva (Portuguese) (International Secretary)</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanzania</td>
<td>to attend a conference on African refugees organized by the Organization of African Unity and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees</td>
<td>Martin Hill (International Secretariat)</td>
<td>January/February</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Action</td>
<td>Dates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rhodesia</td>
<td>Discuss concerns with Rhodesian authorities in Salisbury</td>
<td>January/February</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>Discuss the application of the death penalty and attend the Supreme Court hearing of a review petition of the death penalty on trial in Pakistan</td>
<td>February</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>Observe the trial of two people charged with failing to report an alleged comment agent</td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
<td>Discuss an individual death penalty case with the Governor of Alabama</td>
<td>April</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>General research mission</td>
<td>April</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Discuss the cases of Breton autonomists facing trial by the Court of State Security</td>
<td>April</td>
<td></td>
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**Amnesty International news releases**

- **`AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TODAY`**
  - Called President Ernesto Geisel of Brazil asking him to do all in his power to end a hunger strike of nearly all of the country's political prisoners. (4 May 1978)
  - Urged President Nur Mohammed Tarakki of the newly proclaimed Democratic Republic of Afghanistan to interfere to prevent further political killings of those associated with the former administration. (4 May 1978)
  - Welcomed the opportunity to undertake a study of conditions inside the "special prisons" in Italy. (23 May 1978)
  - Released the report of its mission to Pakistan which reflected the organization's concern at the introduction of a set of stern martial law provisions. (15 May 1978)
  - Referred an interview with the former administration. (4 May 1978)
  - Issued a statement regarding the British government's public response of 6 June to AI's report on allegations of police maltreatment in Northern Ireland of persons detained under the emergency legislation. (13 June 1978)
  - Called for the immediate release of Royal Ulster Constabulary Constable William Turbett, whom the Provisional Irish Republican Army have said they are holding for "interrogation." (18 June 1978)
  - Called upon President João Figueiredo of Portugal to express concern at the widespread use of detention without trial in Guinea and urged President Ahmed Sékou Touré to take immediate and effective action to improve the human rights situation. (21 June 1978)
  - Protested to the Government of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh about a recent move which will render secret a public inquiry into allegations of torture and killings of political prisoners. (23 June 1978)
  - Presented the edition of its Informe Anual de 1977, que trata de las violaciones de derechos humanos en 117 países, en decir, más de dos terceros de los países miembros de las Naciones Unidas, y es con sus 278 páginas—el más extenso de los publicados por AI en sus diecinueve años de historia. (26 June 1978)
- Called upon President Alfredo Stroessner of Paraguay to release Dr Domingo Latino, a former deputy and vice-president of the authentic Radical Liberal (center opposition) party, who was arrested in Asuncion on Friday, 7 July. (6 July 1978)
- Expresed concern over the scale of official repression of human rights activists in the Soviet Union since the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in June 1975. (11 July 1978)
- Welcomed the Indonesian government's announcement on Wednesday, 26 July of the release of 4,000 political prisoners held without trial. At the same time it called on the government to release immediately and unconditionally the tens of thousands of other political prisoners held in Indonesia without trial, many of whom have now been in prison since 1965. (28 July 1978)
- Expresed concern at the decision of the Criminal Court of So Paulo, Brazil, to transfer the cases of 101 trade unionists to the State Security Court in the capital, Tumba. (17 August 1978)
- Dissociated itself from the film "Midnight Express", in particular from any tendency which could be interpreted as a generalized denigration of Turkey and the Turkish people, and from its proceeds. (21 August 1978)
- Called President Jorge Rafael Videla of Argentina to express the organization's profound concern about persistent violations of human rights in the country. (24 August 1978)
- Expresed his concern at the situation as more de 1,500 pressos politicos, acusados en Chile desde el golpe de estado de 11 de setiembre de 1973, y cuya detencion es negada por las autoridades chilenas. (14 September 1978)
- Called on President Alfredo Stroessner of Paraguay to investigate the murder at the end of August of peasant farmer Dorsion Grandell. (14 September 1978)
- Appealed to President Leopold Brochowski of the Soviet Union not to force a number of Ethiopians studying in the USSR to return to Ethiopia. (18 September 1978)
- Reported that former Philippine Senator Jose Dikmas in the 1978 Sean MacBride lecture had attacked "fashionable justifications" for authoritarianism in Asian developing countries as "racist nonsense and lies." (21 September 1978)
- Called for a worldwide campaign for ratification of the United Nations international human rights covenants by the above 100 countries which have not yet done so. (24 September 1978)
- Said that an AI representative was detained by Czechoslovak police on 3 October and questioned for a total of five hours. (5 October 1978)
- Criticized the Irish government for rejecting the recommendations of an independent committee set up by the government to advise on safeguards for people in police custody and for the protection of the police from unfounded allegations of maltreatment. (9 October 1978)
appealed to the Government of Poland, General Zia-ul-Haq, to grant clemency to former Prime Ministers Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Mian Muhammad Abbas, Asad Iqbal, Ghulam Mustafta and Rana Iftikhar Ahmad. (6 February 1979).

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THREE DECADES after the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, countless men and women are in prison for their beliefs. They are being held as prisoners of conscience in scores of countries throughout the world, in crowded jails, in labour detention camps. The entire political process within the community of nations is therefore an act of collective commitment of its members to the rights and fundamental freedoms of all people.

The violations of these rights and freedoms is an insult to all people and a threat to international peace and stability. This has been a major cause for concern. The International Bill of Human Rights has finally entered into force and 52 governments have adopted the standards of protection of human rights, torture has been reported. Almost all have reached the conclusion that such acts are an affront to human society. They degrade and make a mockery of our common humanity. The silencing of each voice has diminished us all. We are determined that these principles be respected by all governments, political movements and citizens.

THAT COMMITMENT to human dignity has not been honoured: freedom, justice and peace have become the broken promises of our time. The victims of economic, social and political injustices have been denied even the right to defend their rights. Prisoners of conscience are known to be detained in at least 70 countries. In at least 50 countries detention without trial is permitted or is taking place. Numbers of political prisoners are being kept in prolonged detention awaiting trial. From more than a quarter of the countries whose governments have not ratified the protection of human rights, torture has been reported. Almost all retain the death penalty and in a score of nations, disappearances and political murders have become commonplace.

The 30th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is not an occasion for celebration. This Anniversary should be a commemoration of all those who have met their deaths and who have been silenced in the streets and in the prisons, death cells, camps and torture chambers. Each killing has been a scandalous and shameful act of torture has disfigured our common humanity. The silencing of each voice has diminished us all.

WE, the members of Amnesty International, are determined that this commemoration of the victims who have suffered and who continue to suffer despite the Universal Declaration of Human Rights shall be a signal for change. We call for the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience wherever they are held. We call for the creation of all acts of torture and cruelly inflicted upon prisoners.

We demand that all political prisoners held without charge and without trial be given a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial court, with full rights of defence.

We reaffirm our total opposition to the imposition and without trial be given a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial court, with full rights of defence.

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The research and communications unit is responsible for giving advice and guidance to the AI membership for action in the movement. The Program Department consists of five units. In January 1970, the IEC decided to amalgamate three of these: Press and Communications, Publications and Multilingualism. At the time of writing, this structural adjustment had not been completed and, as the main functions of the new unit will include those of the three original units, the work is described below under the old headings.

The Task of Program is responsible for the overall planning and coordination of the work of the different units. This Office also coordinates the monthly meetings of the national sections and the administration of the Action Calendar in its various stages.

Coordination Unit

The Coordination Unit is responsible for liaison with the membership, including both national sections and individual members, with AI member organizations in countries where there are no national sections. The unit coordinates AI development programs in Asia, Latin America and Africa and maintains liaison with the Regional Liaison Officers. It also provides the secretariat for the International Council.

Campaign Unit

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Press and Communications

The Press and Communications Unit services the international news media based in London, prepares and distributes AI international news releases and organizes international news conferences. The unit is responsible for the production and distribution of the Amnesty International Newsletter, leaflets, and promotional material. It maintains contact with national section press officers and assists the publicity work of national sections. The work of the unit also includes the development of information materials, including audio-visual, to enable AI to reach a wider and more international public.

Publications and Multilingualism

These units are responsible for the implementation, supervision and development of Amnesty International Publications.
The Documentation Center provides the central storage and retrieval of information for the organization, including the storage and research into existing audio-visual materials. It provides information services on request and maintains a reference library and archives. It collects, files and indexes all material produced by the IS as well as public material from all national sections. The department is responsible for development of a common Al information system, the AI Index, the establishment of guidelines for responsible handling of information. It also provides all units and departments of the IS with public information related to AI objectives including press cuttings, documentation from other organizations.

**DOCUMENTATION CENTER**

By far the greatest proportion of the work of the Research Department this year consisted of such services membership activities on behalf of known individual prisoners of conscience, torture victims and victims of death penalties and politically-motivated killings.

4,153 cases were under adoption or investigation by AI at groups at 30 April 1979. The department prepared new case sheets for adoption or investigation by AI groups, initiated Urgent Action appeals on behalf of individuals in 34 countries and appeals for the 30th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (on behalf of prisoners of conscience in 18 countries) as well as four individual appeals for each issue of the Amnesty International Newsletter. The department also initiated relief payments reaching a total of more than $50,000 during the year.

The organization's orientation towards individual prisoners was effected in the use made of other techniques as well. National sections, coordination groups and adoption groups were asked to undertake actions for individual prisoners or groups of prisoners. The Amnesty International Newsletter, news releases, external documents, campaigns—all were used to give much-needed publicity to individual prisoners. AI publications, including country reports and the Annual Report, offered opportunities for making individual cases of concern to AI more widely known. In some instances AI sent missions to intercede on behalf of individual prisoners, or to observe their trials. Research staff were involved in organizing and servicing these missions. The department turned increasingly to the still developing AI medical groups to strengthen the accuracy of Al's information on individual prisoners and the authority of appeals on their behalf.

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The department initiated and serviced international actions on Argentina, Ethiopia, El Salvador, Guinea, India, Peru, Taiwan, Tunisia, Romania, South Africa, Uruguay, USSR and Western Europe (regarding imprisonment of conscientious objectors). As a means of giving advance notification to the AI membership, all of these actions were included in the Action Calendar prepared by the IS during the year. The department also initiated a number of actions by the membership without such lengthy advance notice when developments made this necessary.

Reports were prepared for publication on the People's Republic of China, Guinea, the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland), India, Ethiopia, Pakistan, Peru and Tunisia. The department also prepared documents suitable for public use by the membership on more than 30 other countries during the year, as well as internal briefing material for the membership. Research staff also prepared material for use in the monthly Amnesty International Newsletter, and twice during the 12 months under review in May and June 1978 and again in April 1979—the department prepared the country sections of the Amnesty International Report.

The IS frequently has to communicate directly with government about developments of concern to AI. Research staff have increasingly been involved in preparing such direct approaches to governments. They also prepared, and in many cases participated in, missions to Taiwan, Bolivia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brazil, Pakistan, Italy, the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), Tunisia, Mozambique, Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, Tunisia, Peru, Romania, Chile, Venezuela, the USA, Iran, Honduras, Costa Rica, Israel, Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan. Other missions were due to take place as of the end of the year. AI approaches to governments sometimes involved submission of detailed research material, for example a lengthy memorandum on treatment of prisoners which AI submitted to the FRG government during the year.

Research staff also attended meetings of the Organization of American States, the Council of Europe and the Coordinating Committee of the Bureau for the Placement and Education of African Refugees. Submissions were prepared for submission to the United Nations on Argentina, Chile, Ethiopia, Kampuchea, Namibia, Rhodesia/Zimbabwe, South Africa, Uganda and Uruguay.

A constant part of the work of the department involves meeting needs both inside and outside AI for information and guidance on matters related to AI's concerns. The work of AI constantly generates fresh possibilities for human rights initiatives. Many of these require servicing that cannot be supplied by any of the established techniques outlined above, they must be serviced with individual briefings. Similarly AI's work and prestige generate constant requests for the organization to respond to urgent or intractable problems. Requests come from a variety of sources: governments, non-governmental organizations, the news media, and individuals. Such requests demand a considerable expenditure of time from research staff because the subject is complex or involves new types and areas of AI action. The volume of research work devoted to such matters is large and its importance must be recognized.

Throughout the year the Research Department has been particularly aware that expectations for the accuracy and timeliness of Al's research and reporting have continued to grow both publicly and within the movement.
Relief Program

The IS relief program continues to provide assistance to adopted and former prisoners of conscience and their families, either directly or through trusted distributors and relief organizations. Inevitably a large part of relief resources is concentrated on more easily accessible areas such as Indonesia and Rhodesia but the IS has been able to open channels in Tunisia and Mexico this year. It has expanded its work in Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Argentina, and has also increased its help to refugees (former prisoners of conscience or people who would have become prisoners of conscience if they had stayed in their own countries) from Uganda, Ethiopia, Malawi, Swaziland, Eastern Europe and Latin America.

Income and expenditure
Total expenditure by the IS on relief has risen to £253,000 in 1978/79, against a figure of £190,000 in 1977/78. Most of this is made up of funds which arrive at the IS already earmarked by the donors, but some relief programs are also funded from unearmarked donations from the national sections and the British Prisoners of Conscience Fund. Unearmarked funds are allocated to relief programs by the Relief Committee. This committee was established by the IEC and is chaired by the staff-elected member of the IEC. It also includes the Secretary General and the Head of Research (or their deputies) and the Administrative Manager.

In 1978/79 the Relief Committee received approximately £187,000 from national section funds for allocation for relief purposes. It also received funds from the European Economic Community (EEC) as a result of the decision of the European Parliament to vote funds for non-governmental organizations working in the human rights field. The IEC decided that the IS should not apply to the EEC for funds other than for relief purposes. In November 1978 an application was made to the Commission of the European Communities for relief funds and in January 1979 a grant of £80,000 was received.

During the year some national sections found they had raised large sums for relief purposes which could not be disbursed to their adopted prisoners through groups and coordination groups. In December 1978 the Dutch, FRG and Swiss Sections transferred £35,000 into the Relief Account. At the end of November 1978 the IS was holding £61,000 in relief funds, of which only £2,000 was unearmarked. By the end of January 1979 the funds on hand stood at £204,000, of which £123,000 was unearmarked and available for allocation by the Relief Committee. There are still funds held by the French and US Sections which have not been used.

This sudden increase in funds has provoked much thought about whether the IS relief program can or should be indefinitely expanded. National sections' fundraising capabilities may be overtaking the IS capacity to disburse relief funds. The IS is investigating ways of increasing expenditure but this is limited by the availability of appropriate channels and, at present staffing levels, there is certainly a limit in some areas as to how much time can be devoted to setting up and maintaining relief programs. There is therefore a need for a policy decision on how much of the movement's research and fundraising efforts should be concentrated on relief.

Policy and procedures
The 11th International Council requested the IEC to review relief procedures. A revised paper on procedures was prepared in the IS and presented to the meeting of national section representatives to discuss financial matters in March 1979 and to the April 1979 IEC meeting. The IEC approved the paper as amended by the finance meeting. These procedures incorporate the principle of more detailed reporting and consultation on relief activities between the IS and national sections.

At the moment the total extent of the relief work undertaken by the whole movement cannot be evaluated or even calculated. More important, the establishment of a consistent policy on relief is impossible while there is so little consultation between the various parts of the movement on who and what are the objects of our relief work. A review of that policy is currently being undertaken by the IEC member responsible for relief and the Relief Committee. This review will provide an opportunity for discussion both in the International Secretariat and national sections.
The Program Department has a staff of 43 people and is coordinated by the Campaigns, Publications, and Communications Unit. The Department is tasked with making fuller use of the information provided by the Research Department and to enable them to make the best use of the resources for action within the movement.

The department officially came into existence in May 1977. The first head of Program began work at the IS in late September 1978.

There have been many problems in the department, and a number of staff changes. More than half the present staff in the department joined the IS after January 1978. The department’s first task (and one it is currently performing) is putting into effect the restructuring of the Coordination Unit. This was agreed in November 1978, and by early 1979, and development of a Human Rights Education program, also be with this office. The Office of the Head of Program is trying to develop close links with national sections and to represent national sections’ views within the IS planning and decision-making meetings.

CAMPAIGN UNIT

Among its new tasks, the Campaign Unit has begun work on the program for abolition of the death penalty, has coordinated planning for the seminar on torture to be held in Mexico in November 1979 and has started to evaluate certain AI techniques on a regular basis. The unit has also tried to decentralize some tasks to AI medical and legal groups and to provide new information tools for target sector work among trade unions.

Continuing tasks include maintaining the Urgent Action network, assisting the Research Department and national sections with major country campaigns. Helping national sections to develop campaign techniques and structures, and coordinating AI’s professional groups and target sector work, particularly in the medical, legal and trade union fields.

The Office of the Head of Program has taken over responsibility for planning the Action Calendar, although the unit maintains responsibility for helping to plan, carry out and evaluate major country campaigns.

Country campaign, action techniques and structures

The unit assisted the Research Department in planning the strategy, timing, schedule, techniques, levels of participation, preparation of materials and coordination of the campaign with a view to creating a constructive national action. It has contributed in a significant way to developing the movement in Asia, Africa and Latin America. It has helped to organize and maintain sections in Europe and North America. It has prepared discussion papers on some key issues relating to national sections’ work on violations of human rights in their own countries and the role of AI in protecting and promoting human rights links with international and bilateral economic, military and cultural transfers. It has evaluated old techniques and methods and is trying to develop new ones.

The Office of the Head of Program is responsible for the functioning of the Department and for several national groups that directly affect the membership. It has the responsibility for developing the Action Calendar, and for the major plan of action for the whole movement. It produces an action program – the Action Calendar – based on the planning and coordination with the Research Department. In early 1979 there were two new action programs: a new program for the abolition of the death penalty, and a new Action Calendar for the Second Intersessional Meeting in November 1979.

In response to the growing interest in evaluating AI’s techniques the unit evaluated the organizational aspects of several country campaigns as well as the effectiveness of “Urgent Actions” and “30th Anniversary Appeals.” At present it is working on a revised distribution for national sections as a discussion document.

The Department has also established a new task force to examine the relationship between the Research Department and the Action Calendar. The task force is examining the possibilities for a more integrated approach to the development of action programs.

Thematic Campaigns and Programs

The unit is now responsible for AI’s program for the abolition of the death penalty. In June 1978 representatives from five national sections met to make recommendations for AI’s work against the death penalty. The Unit subsequently set several targets for 1978/79:

- to provide information to national sections on the present AI membership on the death penalty issue;
- to engage the AI membership in more actions on behalf of individual death penalty victims;
- to provide basic documentation, including a leaflet and a number of articles containing general arguments against the death penalty;
- to plan strategies on specific countries for work over the next several years to begin at the time of publication of the Death Penalty Report (which will be published in September 1979).

The 12th International Council is expected to outline the rules on work in a country with regard to the death penalty.

AI’s continuing Campaign for the Abolition of Torture (CAT) focused on exposing specific instances of torture through country case reports, and planning for the seminar on torture to be held in Mexico in November 1979. The unit prepared a paper for AI’s work at the seminar on torture in Latin America, the unit has begun to coordinate the organization of a Seminar on Torture, Killings and Disappearances, which is to be held in Madrid in December 1979.

The unit also organized a list of prisoners on behalf of individual victims in the form of CAT Appeals and Urgent Actions. During 1978-79 there were 17 Urgent Actions on behalf of 209 individual prisoners. A new list was prepared in late 1979 for the 11th International Council. The list was finalized at the 11th International Council.

Professional Group and Target Sector Work

The phrase “AI professional groups” refers to specialists groups from a particular profession that are a part of AI. The term “target sectors” refers to individuals and bodies belonging to a particular profession or group within a country. The Professional Group and Target Sector work is aimed at mobilizing special interest groups or “target sectors” to provide information to national sections for the planning of a document addressed to the Third Conference of Latin American Bishops in May 1979.

Also in January 1979, the unit prepared a paper for AI members giving basic information about international human rights organizations and guidance on target sector work with national trade unions. Members received simultaneously the first number of an “Information Sheet” focusing on professionals who are workers, peasants and trade unionists. The Information Sheet also gives an overview of the work of AI in trade unions and their elaboration of their work on behalf of prisoners of conscience. The unit has sent several “Information Sheets” to national sections and is evaluating their usefulness.

Work with International Union organizations included the following:

- personal visits to European and Latin American offices of international trade union organizations;
- briefing for AI members in India, Central America and USA and regional representatives to attend some international and national congresses;
- regular mailing of the Amnesty International Newsletter and other information to a large number of international union organizations;
- advising other departments within the IS on the best way of working with these organizations on behalf of prisoners.

COORDINATION UNIT

Decentralization

The decision of the 11th International Council called for the strengthening of national sections and the coordination of planning and training at all levels of the movement as part of the preparation for the new Deconcentration Sub-Committee has established a new task force on the suggested Working Rules for AI professional groups and will report to the 12th International Council.

The focus of the unit’s work with AI medical groups and the AI Medical Advisory Board has been to involve them more closely in the daily work of the IS. For example, the Swedish Medical Group is now working closely with the IS on behalf of prisoners of conscience. This type of work has required the deconcentration of certain tasks, such as medical actions for specific prisoners. With the help of the Danish Medical Group, the IS is able to organize letter-writing, publicity, and embassy visits by many AI medical groups and organize conferences in need of medical attention. Both the Medical Advisory Board and the IS have recognized an increasing need for expert medical advice to IS.

Members of both established and potential AI lawyers’ groups met for the first time during the 12th International Council. The meeting resulted in the writing of a report on the work and interests of these groups, which has been arranged in cooperation with the Dutch Section. Since early 1979 the unit has organized special mailings for the 12 AI lawyers’ groups now operating.

Historically, one of AI’s main techniques has been to mobilize special interest groups or “target sectors” to provide this work with a more effective, the unit has prepared special action material for religious groups, trade unions, the medical and legal professions and other target sectors for use in country campaigns, special actions and individual case appeals.

The unit has just begun attempts to organize in-country medical, legal and trade unions. In the past, the unit was responsible for the preparation of a document addressed to the Third Conference of Latin American Bishops in May 1979.

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Professional Group and Target Sector Work

The phrase “AI professional groups” refers to specialists groups from a particular profession that are a part of AI. The term “target sectors” refers to individuals and bodies belonging to a particular profession or group within a country. The Professional Group and Target Sector work is aimed at mobilizing special interest groups or “target sectors” to provide information to national sections for the planning of a document addressed to the Third Conference of Latin American Bishops in May 1979.

Also in January 1979, the unit prepared a paper for AI members giving basic information about international human rights organizations and guidance on target sector work with national trade unions. Members received simultaneously the first number of an “Information Sheet” focusing on professionals who are workers, peasants and trade unionists. The Information Sheet also gives an overview of the work of AI in trade unions and their elaboration of their work on behalf of prisoners of conscience. The unit has sent several “Information Sheets” to national sections and is evaluating their usefulness.

Work with International Union organizations included the following:

- personal visits to European and Latin American offices of international trade union organizations;
- briefing for AI members in India, Central America and USA and regional representatives to attend some international and national congresses;
- regular mailing of the Amnesty International Newsletter and other information to a large number of international union organizations;
- advising other departments within the IS on the best way of working with these organizations on behalf of prisoners.
out under the supervision of the Coordination Unit. In April and May 1978, the IS visited 20 national sections: Austria, Belgium (both branches), Canada (both branches), Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, FRG, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Lebanon, Netherlands, Norway, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and USA. The survey covered 14 national sections and paid particular attention to the formation of new national sections, the establishment of a branch office, the development of a training program, and the establishment of a regional office.

The results of this questionnaire have been circulated to all national sections (see Decentralization and Communication with Groups, ORG 31/02/79). The results of this questionnaire have been used to prepare a report to the 12th International Council, which will be presented at the end of 1979.

The Coordination Unit has a particular responsibility to ensure that requests from national sections are responded to in a timely manner and that the sections and groups are provided with the tools with which to act effectively on behalf of prisoners. Unluckily, the lack of resources within the unit itself has meant that further initiatives in this area—such as more frequent visits to national sections by the Membership Coordinators—have not been possible.

The Coordination Unit is responsible for servicing the work of the committee which will operate for a two-year period up until the International Council in 1980. The committee will present an interim report to the 12th International Council in 1979.

The work of the Coordination Unit is related to the process of decentralization and the strengthening of national sections and relations with coordination groups. Every effort is made to ensure that national sections are aware of the need for coordination and the strategy adopted by the IFJ. Initial contact with the national sections on this subject has been made, along with the provision of advice and support.

The Coordination Unit has collected together existing training material from national sections and has prepared a preliminary inventory. This will be circulated in order to encourage inter-national communication and exchange of materials and experience in this field.

Visits by national section members to the IS and by members of the IS to national sections are also part of the training process. The Coordination Unit has ensured that every member visiting the IS for whatever purpose is given the opportunity of receiving a general introduction to the work of the IS. At the beginning of 1979, the unit has arranged briefing sessions for representatives from national sections so that the visit to the IS is used to the maximum extent. Attention has also been paid to the experiences of visitors from outside Europe to visit other national sections.

Exchanges between national sections in the same or similar regions and between national section members to other sections have been discussed further and guidelines for such visits have been drawn up. The training needs of national sections depend on the national section itself and the level of the membership, which is the target for the training. Although training material has to be prepared on a national level, there are certain basic guidelines which need to be prepared by the IS for use by national sections and also by the Regional Liaison Officers. The Coordination Unit has initiated consultation with other units and departments of the IS in order to prepare proposals for these training materials.

Group Work

One of the main tasks of the Coordination Unit has always been the allocation of cases to groups and the maintenance of group records. At the beginning of 1979, there were 13 national sections allocating cases to groups in their own section. The Coordination Unit is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the procedure and the regularity of the response. The results of this questionnaire have been circulated to all national sections (see Decentralization and Communication with Groups, ORG 31/02/79).

The Coordination Unit has a particular responsibility to ensure the wide participation of national sections in the discussion and decision-making process. Several committees established by the Executive Committee—Mandate, Decentralization, Techniques Evaluation, Budget Techniques—have provided an opportunity for national sections to have a direct input into the decisions of the Unit. The Coordination Unit has prepared a report on the results of the 11th International Council document on the participation of national sections on: (a) Planning (POL 05/01/79) and (b) National Sections' Activities Concerning Their Own Countries (ACT 01/16/78).

The Coordination Unit has prepared proposals for the establishment of national sections from among the members of the unit in response to the results of the questionnaire. The Coordination Unit is currently preparing proposals for the establishment of national sections in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, where the organization is developing strong ties with individuals and institutions.
Information Materials

The unit participates in the implementation of the International Council decision concerning the use of simple language in all external AI information material. The Council agreed that all basic information provided by the IS should "be presented in consistent and simple language" and that "such a text should be a second language, therefore the basic principle should be to aim for consistency and cohesiveness in the output of AI information.

The need to hold greater stocks of French and Spanish language publications, which the IS stock rooms were being used by the movement as a central storage depot rather than as a central clearing house, made it necessary to arrange for fixtures in London. It is hoped that further decentralization of English language production will reduce this pressure on stocks.

Deposits by air or by freight has considerably increased, particularly to the Spanish speaking countries. It is proving an efficient and relatively inexpensive method of moving bulk orders orders. The need for MI material in the next ten months following the award of the Nobel Peace Prize has decreased, leaving print units for English language editions once more at a predictable level.

Multilingualism

With the decline in the production of AI publications in English production facilities have been used to handle other material. The list of freelance professional transcriptions and reviewers has increased over the past year and now uses some 25 languages. The AI Glossary, originally compiled in Spanish, has been translated into Portuguese and the Arabic, the Statute, as amended by the 11th International Congress, is to be printed in Russian, Arabic and Portuguese. The Indonesian edition of Indonesia: An Amnesty International Report was printed, and the summary of the report, Political Implication in the People's Republic of China, was translated into Chinese. It is also planned to translate a number of AI leaflets into Portuguese and the possibility of producing certain AI publications in languages other than Chinese, Arabic and Hebrew is being examined.

Translations in Denmark, Vietnam, Poland and Romania were prepared to meet internal IS needs. The following texts were translated in London:

The following were revised in London: 27

Audio-visual work

The unit has made more use of audio-visual material over the past few months. The organization of audio-visual resources on the IS Film and Video Unit and an audio-visual unit in London was an important step forward. The need to produce records to explain international practice and provide background information to support the work of the IEC Sub-Committee on Human Rights has been increased. The unit has made more use of audio-visual material over the past few months. The organization of audio-visual resources on the IS Film and Video Unit and an audio-visual unit in London was an important step forward. The need to produce records to explain international practice and provide background information to support the work of the IEC Sub-Committee on Human Rights has been increased.

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Publications and Multilingualism

In the latter part of 1979 the new multilingual leaflet "Political Implication in the People's Republic of China at an international conference held in London. To assist national sections in preparing publications for the report and answering inquiries from their national press, the Press and Communications Unit prepared a number of publications for this purpose. A 27-page summary of the report, which was translated into Spanish and Chinese, and a shorter version of the report, which was translated into Russian and Arabic, were distributed to all national sections who had not translated the report into their own language. They were able to translate the summary instead and send it to their national press. A feature article entitled "Chinese Dissidents" was also prepared together with a list of possible questions and answers on the report. The feature article has since been reproduced in full by a number of magazines and journals around the world.

Publications

During the discussion on Publicity and Fundraising at the 11th International Congress of Amnesty International the difficulties of recruitment were noted. This situation has obviously led to the movement becoming increasingly dependent on its own resources. The need for additional funds and manpower has been recognized in recent years. This has led to the establishment of a new unit to handle all aspects of publicity and fundraising.

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Prisoners of Conscience Week and giving a list of names and copies of these booklets were sent to all the mailing list members. 20,000 copies were printed with a cyclostyled document by the Sri Lankan section for use of have been sent out throughout the region. In early May 1978 SAPS began reprinting the Guide for Letter Writers, originally designed as a

production difficulty. The work of the Publications and Multilingualism Units was greatly affected by the failure of the IS adequately to schedule the stages of production, from writing through to translation and distribution of Al publications. The Sri Lanka Human Rights Poster Competition. In October 1978 SAPS printed an Al feature article by a well-known young Sri Lankan artist. To date 16,772 copies in English. In October 1975 the initial mailing

conference of the principles that the IEC agreed were important for the convention and asked national sections whose governments were represented on the commission to press their governments to work for the inclusion of the principles in the convention.

The Legal Office has been more systematically monitoring the proceedings of the Human Rights Committee, established under the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and coordinated the preparation and submission of information on countries under consideration to individual members of the Committee. As an initiative of the Austrian Minister of Justice, Christian Broda, in July 1978, the IS circulated to national

sections his statement in favour of abolition of the death penalty to the 1978 Conference of European Ministers of Justice.

The Legal Office has also monitored the progress of the

Draft Body of Principles on the Human Rights of Persons under the Draft Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials. AI also urged the UN Committee on Crime Prevention and Control to ensure that the Sixth UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (Sydney 1980) would have adequate opportunity to discuss the question of the death penalty. The committee decided to give the question a prominent place on the agenda of the congress. The successes of the whole movement will be coordinated to ensure that the congress marks a milestone in the development of international standards on the death penalty.

The Legal Office has also monitored the progress of the
International Meetings

Members of the Legal Office attended a number of international meetings, including sessions of the UN Commission of Human Rights, the UN Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, meetings of the UN Human Rights Committee, the General Conference of UNESCO in Paris, and new storage for the photograph collection. Photographs and visual library. In June 1978 an audio-visual assistant was appointed to the IS to assist in the servicing the Legal Office is able to achieve its objectives in international organizations.

Documentary Center

The Documentary Center has added a small audio-visual capacity and has restructured its reference and archives unit. The program towards a unified information system has shown to be the information provided on request has continued to increase during the year.

Audio-visual section

In 1978 the Documentation Center began to develop its audio-visual library. In June 1978 an audio-visual assistant was appointed to be responsible for the research, storage and retrieval of existing audio-visual materials.

First priorities concerned the complete re-organization of and new storage for the photographic collection. Photographs are divided into portraits and themes. Portraits are arranged by country and alphabetically by name within the country. Themes photographs are organized according to subject headings, such as arrest, military, police, death penalty, penal institutions and then by country under the topic. The rest of the audio-visual collection includes slides, tape/sound tapes, films and videotapes, posters and greeting cards:

- sets of slides and tape/slides are kept on file for reference.

This format seems to be more effective and easier to handle as a basic support unit for AI Education and Human Rights Awareness programs than either film or videotape.

- sound tapes now stored include previous years Sean MacBride lectures, various conference tapes, interviews with released prisoners and audio interviews.

- reference copies are kept of several videotapes and films. The main task is to coordinate and collect information on the availability of such materials, both those available within AI and those available from outside organizations who produce material relevant to human rights and AI's concerns. Because of copyright restrictions, the variety of national TV rights on films, and the variety of languages, central storage of information at the IS's own sources on film titles has proved more useful and practical than attempting to build up a film library for loan.

- a collection of national section posters and greeting cards is being assembled. The aim is to preserve a sample copy of each item produced. More help is needed from national sections, not all of whom automatically send to the IS copies of new audio-visual materials.

The photographic collection is used extensively by other IS departments and it is to be expected that the collection will gradually expand. This development of the collection will be actively encouraged as a central IS responsibility with sections contributing copies of their own material to the Documentation Center. Although there are quite a number of requests for photographs material the service is still limited. As far as slides, tape/slides, films and videotapes, sound tapes, posters and greeting cards are concerned the IS can only act as an information coordinating body. Production will continue to rest with national sections who will continue to supply the Documentation Center with sample material. In some instances collaboration between national sections and the Multilingualism Unit may be possible for translations of selected materials.

Regional Documentation Assistant program

The regional documentation assistant program was extensively discussed with the Research Department of the IS in the Main Information Systems departments. Using the evaluation of the first post (for Latin America) it was finally agreed to establish a second assistant post. This post will deal with the Middle East region. It is now under recruitment.

The Latin America documentation assistant has covered three main areas of work: organizing incoming public material on the region, increasing the use of material in the department by improving storage and retrieval methods and finally participating in the development of a pilot computer project.

The Documentation Center now receives about 110 periodicals, newspapers and publications on Latin America either by subscription, information exchange or as gifts. Over the year contact has been made with several Latin American national sections to arrange or improve existing press clipping services and to organize the exchange of publications with organizations specializing on the region, a program which is now carried out on a much more structured basis.

Although there is still a long way to go before the problem of processing and systematically storing the vast quantity of incoming information on the region is solved, some progress has been made, especially in the field of individual prisoners and prison-related data.

One of the major projects undertaken by the Documentation Center together with the Latin American region has been the setting up of a pilot computer project initiated by the region and developed jointly by the two departments. The project was designed to solve the problem of collating and storing vast amounts of scattered information about the thousands of disappeared persons in Argentina, a task which would have been almost impossible manually, especially the compiling of a complete list of several thousand names. Because of the time-consuming preparatory work that had to be done, not only to get the basic information on each case on to data sheets before punching cards but also for the detailed checking which was necessary to ensure accuracy, the work placed heavy demands on the regional assistant's time and that of research staff working on Argentina. Additional full-time help was also necessary. Many of the advantages to be gained by using a computer were lost because of technical difficulties with the equipment including the fact that we had to use an outside computer made available on a voluntary basis by a computer specialist. Ultimately a special project was agreed to employ outside facilities.

The Documentation Center is now carrying out a complete evaluation of the project to assess all aspects of it and in the light of the experience gained, the implications for similar projects. The key factor to be borne in mind for further development in the field is the need for mechanized information systems is the absolute necessity to prepare the data in such a way that it can be readily incorporated into such a system.

Information handling

The Documentation Center undertook an important initiative towards the implementation of the 11th International Council decision 36 which dealt with information handling. A report on the results of the survey concerning the archives in the IS was presented to the IEC in December 1978. However, the IEC agreed that the archives could not be given
The National Sections

The following reports have been sent to the International Secretariat from the national sections of Amnesty International.

AUSTRALIA

The period 1977/78 has seen steady growth in the Australian Section of Amnesty International, with the membership now standing at 3,343. Having only been established in 1976, the National Section is still in its formative stage. Its headquarters rotate from state to state every two years, giving the National Section the flexibility in the development of increasing communication and co-operation between Branches. There are six State Branches, and following the trend in government federalism in Australia, they are manned by paid and voluntary staff. Offices in Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

Progress has also been made in establishing professional and other specialist groups. The Federal Parliamentary Group, consisting of members from all parties and responsible directly to the National Executive, plays an increasingly important role in heightening awareness of Human Rights issues, within the AI movement. As well as 35 AI groups, there are now 19 action groups, headed by special task groups, such as establishing relations to the churches, labour unions and a number of church representatives. Artists of the Austrian Section.

The same cooperation is to be found among the labour unions and a number of church representatives. Artists of Amnesty Bangladesh has been a year of consolidation and growth. The Bangladesh Section also developed during the period more and more through in the Press. It seems that the Press is still not motivated to some extent to provide full dossiers for a large public, but more is required.

BANGLADESH

Since its reorganisation in October, 1977, the year 1978-79 for Amnesty Bangladesh has been a year of consolidation and growth.

The Bangladesh Section re-started from the scratch—literally the Bangladesh Section re-started from the scratch. The inspiration and guidance from Justice S.M. Husain were very satisfactory. The Bangladesh Section also developed during the period more and more through in the Press. It seems that the Press is still not motivated to some extent to provide full dossiers for a large public, but more is required.

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Administration Department

The Administration Department has introduced an induction training program for new staff, has investigated the staff rules, has examined the advisability of introducing a mechanized accounting system and has received advice on budget techniques from a consultant set up as a result of a resolution passed at the 11th International Council.

Personnel Office

The induction training program for all new staff was introduced from September 1978. This program has proved valuable but still requires further development. New staff have been encouraged to comment on their induction and to recommend changes in the program. In addition, a training committee with members from all departments and from all levels of staff has been set up to advise the personnel and training officer. The post was upgraded during the year to the level of Head of Unit.

The Budget Techniques Committee which was set up by the IEC in response to a decision of the 11th International Council met at the end of January and produced proposals for the presentation of the budget in 1979 and subsequent years. These proposals were endorsed by the meeting of national sections representatives to discuss financial matters which took place in March. The April IEC decided to implement the proposals. The Accounts Department and the Administration Department are responsible for preparing the budget in consultation with the Treasurer and therefore for the detailed implementation of the budget techniques committee proposals. Preparation for the changes required were begun in the last quarter of the year.

The volume of work in the post room continued to rise during the year and the pressure on the post room staff has been considerable. However, having two part-time receptionists/ telephonists instead of one full-time person has reduced the need for the post room staff to fill in for the receptionists/ telephonist in her absence. A telex operator was recruited during the year and this has improved use of the telex. The Administration Department has met any increased in demand for its services from existing and new sources of revenue. However, it has been apparent at times that the staff is over-stretched and cannot meet all the demands made on them.

General Administration

As the Administration Department’s work is so much concerned with the development and implementation of procedures which ensure smooth and efficient functioning of the IS, the department was expected to assist in the development of management techniques. During the year the department encountered how best it can fulfill this role through advice and training for staff. This work has barely begun and will be further developed in the coming year.

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Belgium

The spontaneous growth of AI Vlaanderen has continued during 1978. Some figures: 3000 members (+1000), 18 adoption groups, 40,000 individual participants in the CAT, doubling of financial means.

Important efforts were made to build up the organisation in the depth:
1. the national secretariat has been considerably reinforced,
2. a first decentralization was made by dividing the section into regions that are coordinating the work of the local groups and activating the passive members.
3. a training programme for active members has been worked out.
4. a special internal newsletter is distributed monthly to active members.
5. for the first time the international decision making has been closely followed up.

A lot of attention was paid to the organisation of new groups:
1. coordination groups (6)
2. a network of letter writing groups
3. country information persons (for 39 countries)

Three main actions have been undertaken:
- South Africa: in a period of 6 weeks we received more signatures than for the PUC petition in one year.
- Argentina: detailed information in the media and with which the national radio and television was 'forced' to pay attention to the situation of human rights. Massive leaflet actions were held at football stadia.
- action of 10 December: in cooperation with the "Belgische Liga voe Rechten van de Mens" and "Pax Christi" a human rights day was organized for the ratification of the treaties of '66.

The written press has shown detailed interest to AI. Important here is the interest shown by the local papers. As a quite surprising side effect of the embargo, the TV station has received a lot of attention by radio and TV. The National TV has omitted 7 times small programmes on AI.

The publication section has been considerably reinforced. Aspects that are given more attention are:
1. education: no new initiatives have been taken
2. professional groups: the nice plans were not carried out
3. contact with other organizations (trade unions, churches etc.) were "occasionally".
4. little attention is paid to the Death Penalty Campaign and to rehabilitation of the members hereof.

Belgium

In January 1978, we asked in Belgium for 47 groups d'adoption, actually 70 (for the whole of Belgium, 87). At the meeting, 1977, we had 104 members in our hands. In one year, the number of new members has doubled. The incoming membership figures have now been published, i.e.

- from Dacca city but a considerable number are from the remoter corner of the country. It is one of the policy of the Bangladesh Section to have the AI movement spread all over the country side. But to do this a good effort to make all the leaflets and literatures of the AI in Bengali are very much needed. The Amnesty Bangladesh is very consistent with the problem and it is taking a concrete step towards that direction.

Participation of the Secretary of the Section in the Information Handling Seminar in March 1978 has proved a great benefit to the Section. It not only gave him an insight in the proper maintenance and handling of the Documents but also profited him with a first hand experience of AI movement. Talking and discussing with the different members of the IS have been very valuable and encouraging in organising the NS. The International Council Meeting of 1978 was also attended by three members of the Section including its Chairman, Justice S.M. Haque. The visit has created a greater rapport between the Amnesty Bangladesh and the IS.

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The literature which we have received regarding the CASA process is being studied. The person responsible for refugees is analyzing their situation.

COSTA RICA

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

The AI Section of the FRG has a strong structure within the organization. More than 10,000 active members (an increase of 1,500 members compared with last year) supported by 3,000 district members and many regional helpers, work within 643 groups (an increase of 16 groups), being joined together in 43 districts. During the year the work of new groups was founded. But further extension of this kind of working group is urgently needed.

The cooperation with churches, unions, parties and other organizations was hampered by the section as well as groups and districts on a widespread basis. The lobby-work with governmental offices, strongly attended to by the secretary general, has reached a higher level too.

The section also endeavoured an improvement in international cooperation with foreign countries. Members of the Board and appointed members of the section visited all districts and attended many regional meetings of the section. Many active members in sections and districts attended the annual meeting of the section visited many sections. On the other hand, new groups were founded in 1978. Therefore, despite an active involvement in the new working methods and a good cooperation (introduction action dossier, CASA programme) many difficulties arose.

With groups, districts, during six district conferences and in the meetings of the section, AI information (for members only) was available to members. AI awareness-raising activities (for members only) were started in 1978. Further extension of this kind of working group is urgently needed.

The care for political refugees is being carried on under the leadership of the Nordic House. The group had correspondence with him and his family and sent them money, clothes and books. 2. A prisoner in USSR. The group never came in contact with him, but tried in vain—got information about him through the Soviet and international authorities. The third adoption case is a prisoner in Argentine, still in prison and nothing has been heard from him. Last March the group got a new case in Yugoslavia and actions have already started. The members of the group have also participated in other activities of the section. There are now 12 active members in group 1.

The Campaign group

The establishment of the group was not finished until the end of the year 1978 but since then it has been meeting regularly preparing for participation in the Guatemala and Death Penalty Campaigns. Smaller groups within the group started working earlier, and have participated in the Romanian and the Ethiopian campaigns.

The annual meeting was held at October 30th. There it was decided to move the annual meeting to April in the future.

December 10th was celebrated with a very memorable concert of Christmas music. All agencies of the group were involved. The money raised from the concert was donated to a charity for the elderly.

In January a delegate attended the first meeting of the Nordic Section, held in Copenhagen and also a training course given by the Danish Section. Information and training material in Icelandic, based on material and knowledge gained these last 10 years, was provided.

The campaign against torture under their able organiser, Cartledge, who used to be active in the British Section. She is preparing another concert in May. For some days before the concert a letter-writing campaign was launched. The members of the group have also participated in other activities of the section. There are now 12 active members in group 2.

India

Highlights of the year's work are as follows:

- Significant growth of membership
- Formation of 4 branches
- Holding of Annual General Body Meeting outside Delhi
- National Seminar on Human Rights
- Formation of Adoption Groups
- Campaign for Ratification of the International Covenant on Human Rights by Government of India
- Human Rights Action
- Education
- Action Groups
- Publications

The present membership of the Indian Section is 750. From experience, the Indian Section feels that the original target of 3,000 members by the end of 1979 cannot be achieved.

In addition to the others at Bombay and Udaipur, branches at Indore, Bangalore and Chandigarh have been given recognition. A branch at Madras would have been given recognition by 25th April 1979 when the Executive Committee held its 10th meeting at Delhi. 5 branches are to be recognised before the end of the year branches at Hyderabad, Patna and Nagpur are likely to be recognised.

The General Body Meeting was held on 9th December 1978. The fact that the General Body meeting was held outside Delhi itself is significant. There was active participation of members in the deliberations and two important committees were formed by the General Body:

- Rules & Regulations Committee
- Programs Committee

The General Body also adopted some important amendments in line with the suggestions of the National Committee for Abolition of Death Penalty. It had 37 participants—Social workers, civil liberty workers, academicians, lawyers, journalists, etc. The Seminar was conducted on a minimal budget. Thanks to the hospitality of the Christian Centre, and the willingness of individuals and institutions to sponsor the visits of their members. The Seminar covered three subjects:

1. International Conventions on Human Rights
2. Asian Human Rights Machinery

Ireland

The Irish Section has approximately 700 members, including about 170 students. One hundred and thirty-three of these, who are studying in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, work for the section as volunteers.

A successful theatre function was held, which brought in £621.75, while one of our joint hon. secretaries, Mary Lawlor, organised a wine and cheese party following by a disco, which realised £180.00.
ITALY

During the last year, the National Section has seen a further increase of groups. The number of action groups has increased to 21 and the action groups to 20. At the III General Assembly of the Section the statute was modified introducing the framework of regional subsections (Activities Section, Finance Section). The number of members in the Action Groups has increased to 21 and the action groups to 20. The activities are organized in order to promote the implementation of the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Italy, and to inform the public about their activities. The activities include: education of children and young people, training of human rights activists, and support to victims of human rights violations. The Section has also organized several seminars and workshops to discuss issues related to the implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Italy.

JAPAN

The Japanese Section undertook a drastic organizational change after the 1978 General Assembly. The section by-laws were amended and the three committees were established to replace the former executive board, i.e., the Group Representatives' committee, the Finance Committee and the Secretariat-Activity Committee. The activities of the section now focus on the promotion of human rights, the protection of victims, the advocacy of international law, and the support of victims. The section also takes an active role in the development of human rights education, and supports the activities of local human rights activists.

Israel

Israel Section comprises about forty members and many candidates and supporters. The National Section operates from Tel Aviv, but activities are also taken by members and candidates residing in other parts of the country. A regional affiliated branch. The International Action Groups have joined forces to call for the release and rehabilitation of political prisoners in Israel. In recent months, the local branches have been active in support of residents of Bethlehem, and in the south of the country, with whom we are maintaining contact to assist them in their efforts.
Nepal Section of Amnesty International

A two-day national seminar was held on "Amnesty International Human Rights in Nepal" on 29 and 30 May 1978 in Kathmandu. A sizeable number of lawyers and teachers from eastern and western Nepal also took part in the seminar.

Several papers were presented and discussed. As a result of the seminar, a resolution was passed requesting Mr. Justice's Government of Nepal to introduce capital punishment and torture in every form and for all kinds of offenses in pursuance of the spirit of the Stockholm Declaration and the AI campaign against the death penalty and torture.

Another AI seminar on Human Rights was organised under the auspices of the Nepal Section of Amnesty International on 10 December 1978. It was participated in by a number of representatives from Nepal with different shades of political opinion and a large number of lawyers, teachers and university students, both from inside and outside Kathmandu. A comprehensive paper on Nepal was presented in the seminar on different aspects of the Human Rights problem in the world with a focus on how AI is seeking to make its specific functions and activities to be known to the general public and to influence the whole of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The paper was discussed in depth, and a few suggestions were unanimously endorsed and transmitted to AI of Nepal for its consideration. One of the suggestions was that AI accede to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its optional protocol. Another suggestion was that the Committee for the Abolition of Torture be established. Two more of these groups (political and other) have been set up in an attempt to decentralize the distribution of publications and campaign materials.

The Secretariat again increased as far as the number of workers is concerned. By 1978 there were 159 part-time volunteers and 19 paid staff, some of whom were part-time. In 1979, a new structure of the Secretariat was implemented to ensure a more efficient functioning. Nevertheless, due to the many activities undertaken, the Secretariat was more than once faced with heavy pressures from both inside and outside the organization.

The Board held its annual review and, again, due to the many questions to be decided. In March 1979, it decided to change its structure for reasons of efficiency.

During 1978/1979, 243 adoption groups (more than 3,000 members) were created for the employment of a full-time executive for the purpose of better coordination of the work of various sections. A national office has been set up in Kathmandu and a team of volunteers is busy setting up its office at a public place following its first meeting. A full-time office assistant-cum-secretary has also been duly employed. A new order of the Board for the future of the section has been adopted, which now makes it possible to make preparations for the future activities of the Secretariat and the work of the many committees.

During 1978/1979 about 10,000 Al members participated in the many activities the Section undertook. On a national level, the Section took part in the Argentia, Guinea, Uganda, El Salvador, Romania and Ethiopia campaigns. Smaller actions were undertaken in Taiwan, Singapore and the USSR. In order to spread our efforts, an evaluation program has been set up.

Regular contact has been developed with political parties, trade unions, the government and several NGOs.

The Board also made the necessary preparations to attend the next conference of the Section in London, and to take part in the many meetings and conferences where Al representatives and also with the Foreign Minister and representatives from all the different organizations.

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As far as coordination groups are concerned, there has been a limited increase in their number, leading to a total of 22. Attempts have been made to coordinate a number of various groups and to list them in the Action Calendar, but no report received.

NORWAY

Amnesty activity in Norway has increased greatly during the last year. The number of adoption groups has risen from 49 to 71. As per end of April 1979, CAT has also shown marked expansion with participants increasing from 150 to 500.

The Norwegian Section has a total of 4,000 members, of whom 2,000 are active in the Section. More than 150 letters were sent to the Minister of Justice, to discuss the problems concerning the death penalty and torture. These letters were sent to all the members of the Parliament (including the two future Prime Ministers, Mr. Eide and Mr. Grinn) and to foreign delegations of the United Nations. We continue to press the Government to abolish the death penalty.

Between April 1978 and March 1979, 1,000 Al members participated in the many activities the Section undertook. On a national level, the Section took part in the Argentia, Guinea, Uganda, El Salvador, Romania and Ethiopia campaigns. Smaller actions were undertaken in Taiwan, Singapore and the USSR. In order to spread our efforts, an evaluation program has been set up.

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of the Interior and by the at that time official representative of Spain D. Juan Carlos, by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs Zaragoza, Valladolid, Galicia, Madrid, etc. The Spanish Section was present in the Medical seminar of Athens. The section is interested in the CASA project and intends to send a representative to the seminar convened in London. Lobbying, visits to foreign embassies and to parliamentarian groups, political parties, etc. are part of the normal activities of the section. The Spanish Section of Amnesty has played an important role in the creation of CEAT (Comité Español de Ayuda a Refugiados) where it has an observer status and has continued giving advice and helping refugees, working in close contact with the IS. Tandem but interesting contacts have been initiated with the trade unions. Fund raising and training are the priorities of the Spanish Section. In this respect, training, we welcome the forthcoming visit of a very experienced member from the Spanish Section who will visit every group in Spain. We think that sharing ideas and experiences amongst sections and amongst sections and the IS are very important.

SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka's election to the International Executive Committee stimulated our work. Our First Adoption Group was formed on the initiative of the Chairperson and it includes a Christian Bishop. The drastic rise in the number of prisoners from Al has simplified these work. We have sent out 365 Urgent Actions to various groups and 43 News Releases to 414 News Agencies. The response was overwhelming. All literature received was distributed to organisations and individuals according to their classification. As a result of our policy on Multilingualism, we have translated the pamphlet on Forgotten Prisoners into Bahasa and Tamil. Many requests were made for more literature in the vernacular. We are now in the process of preparing a series of booklets in Sinhala and Tamil. We have also tried to improve our relations with the IS. We have replied to the IS in a very friendly and constructive spirit. We have exchanged literature with them. The cooperation of the press mass media is very fluctuating. Campaigns in connection with international conventions are especially designed for the union members. At the request of the Bar Council our members have offered a series of lectures and meetings with films, etc. In August 1978 one letter signed by the spokesmen of all the parliamentarian groups of the Senate and the Congress in support of the Spanish Section's membership of the IS was published in La Vanguardia. As a result 10% of the former Parliament of Spain have joined the IS. Some of them are active members of the organization. The visits of the Head of the Atna Research Department and of the Spanish Language Coordinator is the IS to Barcelona and Madrid are also worth mentioning. The Spanish Section was present in the Medical seminar of Athens. The section is interested in the CASA project and intends to send a representative to the seminar convened in London. Lobbying, visits to foreign embassies and to parliamentarian groups, political parties, etc. are part of the normal activities of the section. The Spanish Section of Amnesty has played an important role in the creation of CEAT (Comité Español de Ayuda a Refugiados) where it has an observer status and has continued giving advice and helping refugees, working in close contact with the IS. Tandem but interesting contacts have been initiated with the trade unions. Fund raising and training are the priorities of the Spanish Section. In this respect, training, we welcome the forthcoming visit of a very experienced member from the Spanish Section who will visit every group in Spain. We think that sharing ideas and experiences amongst sections and amongst sections and the IS are very important.

SWEDEN

The number of members in the section is now about 15,000 which shows a moderate growth during the year. In May 1979 we have now over 100 adoption groups, a reduction of about 20 groups. This reduction is mainly due to the large number of prisoners in a result of a rather high group fee, but we think that the main reason is that it still exists too many groups which are more as less inactive. So we don’t look on the reduction of adoption groups as a failure for the section but as an important part of our work for increasing the effectiveness of the general work for the political prisoners. It underlines the great need for training and support during the adoption work. During the year we have tried hard to improve that part of our structural work. This has also been achieved through regional work, trying to get all adoption groups to be in close contact with people able to support them on a local level. We have been active in the work of the Swedens States groups, one action group against the death penalty, one medical group and some country coordinators. Some of these groups are doing an excellent job but their main problem still is to attract new active members. One of the main economic situation of the section it has also been impossible to support these groups in an adequate way. The monthly campaign is printed in Swedish in about 8,000 copies and distributed to adoption groups and to about 3,500 individual subscribers. Urgent actions are distributed to about 250 groups and local actions and we also try hard to engage outside organisations and labour unions in this important work. During the year every member received four copies of our bulletin and paid $5 for it and translated into Swedish—the Indonesia Report, the South Africa Report and one pocket book on Charter 7A. In addition to this we have published booklets about Bangladesh, Morocco, Chile, Ethiopia, Uganda and 50. For the two great campaigns during the year—South Africa and Ethiopia—we produced special folders and posters. For the PDC work the section produced twelve posters showing different aspects of some new developments. The Swedish Amnesty Trust Fund has distributed 338,000 kronor to persons in South Africa and Ethiopia. 20,000 kronor were paid to persons in Ethiopia. Main receivers were Chid (62,000), other countries in Latin America (240,000), Indonesia (80,000) and South Africa (6,000). The section is financed by gifts from individuals and grants from the Swedish Government.

THE NATIONAL SECTIONS 45

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No report received.

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A few of these translated documents have been published yet.

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The Swiss Section is consulted more and more by other organizations in connection with providing background information on the political situation in particular countries, especially in cases where foreigners are threatened with forced repatriation.

The cooperation with the German, Austrian and French Section is good, especially what publications and translations are concerned. There is a regular exchange of information between these sections.

Campaigned for by the section in Argentina is the release of Argentinian POC's. In 1978 100 British groups took part in each of the 4 campaigns.

The number of adoption groups increased to four. Three groups were introduced. These Groups take on the responsibility of one adoption group.

The Venezuelan section continued its regular contacts and close cooperation with members of the government, parliament and professional organizations - doctors, trade unions, internationalists, lawyers, teachers etc.

The section has followed the same policy of assistance and advice to organizations for refugees and for the defence and protection of human rights such as SELADEH (Latin American Committee for human rights), ProRefugiados, Amnistía en Uruguay (Lawyers for amnesty in Uruguay) etc.

Amnesty International's strength in the country, which included the death penalty.

Enquiries from the media continue to increase, with interviews on radio following publication of each Newsletter, attempts to provide the opportunity for a thorough re-assessment of campaigning.

A considerable number of signatures from well-known personalities in Venezuela - politicians, artists, trade unionists and journalists etc. were collected for this article, which covered several pages.

The number of adoption groups increased to four. Three adoption Groups, group number 1 and 2 are currently active and are working on cases of former political prisoners who have not been released.

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Information on disappearances and detentions in various Latin American countries was sent to the IS. The section is participating in various ways in the campaign for Huber Matos from Cuba.

CAT and Urgent Action activities continued to develop. Monthly lists of prisoners was discontinued and instead the directory is updated and sent out as a newsletter. Although a list on prisoners of the month has been started in a local magazine which could be continued each month if the Newsletter is received regularly.

In May contact was made with the recently founded "Pro Refugio" organization and Venezuelan section agreed to collaborate on the organization of local work which are of common interest to both organizations.

In June the 1977 Annual Report was presented to the press, radio and television. It was very well received and had a wide press coverage. In August two members of the section attended, as observers, the seminar on the International Protection and Association of Human Rights on a universal and regional basis which was organized by the Latin American Institute of Higher Studies at the San Carlos University and sponsored by UNESCO and the Venezuelan government.

Nicaragua: an article on human rights in Nicaragua was published in Al Latin American newspaper. A considerable number of signatures from well-known personalities in Venezuela - politicians, artists, trade unionists and journalists etc. were collected for this article, which covered several pages.

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END OF REEL
PLEASE REWIND