EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 83/91 (ASA 39/04/91, 5 March 1991) - Prisoners of Conscience

THAILAND:Dr Bowornsak Uwanno, Gen (retired)
Chatichai Choonhavan, Gen (retired)
Arthit Kamlang-ek, ex-Senator
Phithak Intharawithayaanan,
Anan Anantakuun,
Yongyut Saarasombat

According to press and other reports, on 9 March 1991 Dr Bowornsak Uwanno, deposed prime Minister General (retired) Chatichai Choonhavan and the four other people named above, all of whom had been detained without charge or trial since a military coup d'etat toppled Chatichai's government on 23 February, were released. Chatichai Choonhavan is believed to have left Thailand on 12 March. However, according to associates of Dr Bowornsak, a lawyer and university professor whom Amnesty International considered a prisoner of conscience held solely for his non-violent political activities and beliefs, he is still prohibited from leaving the country. Amnesty International is therefore concerned that his release is not unconditional, and that the ban imposed on him is contrary to Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which proclaims that "everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country."

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- welcoming news of the release of Dr Bowornsak Uwanno and Gen Chatichai Choonhavan and the four other people named above;
- urging that the release of Dr Bowornsak be made unconditional, so that he will fully enjoy the right to freedom of movement, including the right to leave and re-enter Thailand, as set forth in Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of human rights.

APPEALS TO:

Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun Government House Nakhorn Pathom Road Bangkok 10300, Thailand

Telexes: 84791 IMFODEP TH (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

Faxes: + 66 2 281 6782

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Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdii Minister of Interior Ministry of Interior Atsadang Road Bangkok 10200, Thailand

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COPIES TO:

Arsa Sarasin Minister of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs Wang Saranrom Bangkok 10200, Thailand

PLEASE SEND APPEALS AS SOON AS YOU CAN. Check with the International Secretariat or your section office if sending appeals after 24 April 1991.