

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
12 Crane Court, Fleet Street, London E.C.4.

Here it some more news concerning some of the past prisoners on the Kit Scheme.

It appears that MOHAMED SHAMTE HAMADI - Tanzania (January 1966 Newsletter) has not benefited from a very large amnesty there last month and is likely to remain detained for some time yet.

CHARLES CASSATO - British Guiana (April 1966 Newsletter). Many Kit Members received an answer from the Governor of British Guiana, Sir Richard Luyt. There has been an enormous amount of discussion and pressure in Britain on the question of the continued detention of this man and his colleagues and some very serious debates in Parliament have taken place. British Guiana is to become independent on May 26th. Since two of his co-detainees have been released recently, there does seem to be some hope of his release if continued pressure is brought to bear on the Guyanese authorities and especially the Prime Minister, Forbes Burnham, Office of Premier, Public Buildings, Georgetwon, British Guiana.

DR. M.K. RAJAKUMAR - Malaysia (March 1966 Newsletter). The Head Office has been informed of only one letter received by a Kit Member from the Minister of Home Affairs and Justice of Malaysia. Since there has been considerable publicity in Malaysia and Singapore concerning Amnesty's intervention on behalf of this prisoner, we are very keen to know if other members have received replies to their appeals.

This also applies to all the past prisoners on the Kit Scheme detained in East European countries. So far we have no evidence of any Kit Members receiving an answer to their cards or letters. We have heard indirectly, however, that TIBOR PAKH - Hungary (January 1966 Newsletter) has been at least permitted a visit by his family, approximately at the same time as another prisoner who was thought to be in solitary confinement and was being helped by an AMNESTY Group. A letter to AMNESTY Head Office from the relatives of this other prisoner strongly suggests that these visits have been allowed as a result of intervention by AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. It now appears that Tibor Pakh is not, at least for the moment, being detained in solitary confinement nor under particularly severe conditions as we suggested in the January 1966 Newsletter.

One administrative detail; some members who write letters to Ministers have asked how they should be addressed. It is the normal procedure to begin such a letter, "Your Excellency" and to put "H.E." before the Minister's name on the envelope. A King is, "Your Majesty" and "H.M.", and an Emperor (Ethiopia, Japan or Iran) is "Your Imperial Majesty" and "E.I.M.". Letters to a monarch should end with some mark of esteem.

The prisoners for this month are:-

ARTHUR VACAREANU - Rumania

Arthur Vacareanu is an Adventist Pastor aged about 50. In 1959 in Bucharest he was arrested, tried and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for fraud. The real reason for his arrest and conviction is said to be that he used church money for church purposes without the approval of the State authorities.

In 1964 there was a very big amnesty in Rumania and many hundreds of people were released. We do not think, however, that Pastor Vacareanu benefited from this amnesty as the news of his confinement in prison only reached us by somebody who was released under that amnesty. In view of the terrible stories that are told about the

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treatment of religious people in Rumania during the last ten years, we feel very concerned about this man, especially as it is rumoured that he is suffering from Cancer.

He has a wife and daughter living in Bucharest, who are said to be in financial need.

Send your cards to: Minister of Justice,
His Excellency Adrian Dimitriu,
Ministry of Justice,
Bucharest, Rumania.

FLORENCE MATOMELA - South Africa

She was born in 1910 and is a well known leader amongst women politicians in Port Elizabeth. She has been in and out of jail more times than she can remember. Her first term of imprisonment was in December 1956 when she was arrested as a result of the Defiance Campaign and tried at the notorious Treason Trial which lasted from 1956 to 1960. During the trial she was not in prison the whole time but always under constant surveillance.

At the end of the Treason Trial Mrs. Matomela was served with a five-year banning order, as a result of which she was confined to a small township near Port Elizabeth.

Again in July 1964 she and her husband were arrested under "90 day Detention Act". Mr. Matomela was released soon after, but it was during this time of solitary confinement that her eyesight began to worsen.

In October 1964 she was again arrested and this time sentenced to two and a half years imprisonment for her opposition to apartheid. On top of this, she is one of 162 people who, although detained, face a re-trial for acts allegedly committed during the period before their detention under the new and retrospective amendments to the Suppression of Communism Act. This law allows several punishments for one and the same offence.

Mrs. Matomela lost her husband last year. She had nine children, of which only five are living. The two youngest, both girls, are now in their teens, growing up under the most haunting conditions. Yet, they know that although one of so many hundreds of others, Mrs. Matomela's unflinching beliefs in the right of her actions, her cheerfulness against such odds, make her an outstanding example of womanhood in the political field.

You cannot write to her in prison, but send your cards to:

c/o The Christian Council,
10-11 Court Chambers,
129 Adderley Street,
Port Elizabeth,
South Africa.

They will forward your cards to her family. If you wish to ensure receiving a reply you should enclose an International reply coupon.

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SAC KHUN HKIO - Burma

He has been detained since March 1962, when General Ne Win assumed power; at the time he arrested the whole cabinet of Premier U Nu, and many leading politicians, civil servants, lawyers, journalists, intellectuals and students, and also all the leaders of the Shan States, which is an important ethnic minority area.

He has been held in solitary confinement since 1962 (as have many members of the former administration, including U Nu himself). His wife, has not been allowed to see him since December 1962, and we believe that correspondence is heavily censored.

Sao Khun Hkio has never been charged nor brought to trial. Neither have any of the other political prisoners. Also we have evidence that the Burmese government has been particularly intransigent on the question of the detainees.

As well as being Representative of all the Shan States (He is in fact, a traditional ruler of one of the States), he was also Foreign Minister under U Nu.

You should send your cards to:

General Ne Win,
Chairman of the Revolutionary Council,
Rangoon,
Burma. .

If you wish to send greetings to the prisoner himself you can do so by writing to him at:

Insein Jail,
c/o The War Office,
Rangoon,
Burma.