

July 1964

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## British and International Section

NEWS SHEET FOR THREE GROUPS

**EGYPT** All prisoners are reported now released but few names available. We also understand that all men were able to choose their own jobs. If you have the home address of your Egyptian, would you please communicate with him to help us establish names and facts about others. We shall be sending replacements to you as quickly as we can. Since 58 Egyptians were adopted this task is likely to take several weeks.

**SOUTH AFRICA** We strongly advise you to keep on urging the South African authorities on behalf of each individual case, in spite of discouraging advice from some quarters. Please do not correspond with Helen Suzman. Although she is very knowledgeable and helpful, she simply has not the time to answer individual enquiries.

Helen Joseph - We are sorry to tell you that Helen Joseph was visited once again by the police in the small hours of the morning, when, amongst other things, her Human Rights file was taken away. If you have recently written to her, she begs you to please write again so that she does not have to re-assemble names and addresses from memory. Will you in all cases of S.African contacts please write discreetly. Most incoming letters are censored, and the last thing we want is to cause trouble for all those who do such brave and excellent work.

**CZECHESLOVAKIA** It now looks as if the Minister of Justice in Prague will reply directly to letters enquiring about prisoners. The address is as follows :

MINISTERSTVO SPRAVEDLNOSTI  
V PRAZE  
CZECHESLOVAKIA

**GHANA** Please do not write to prisoners' families, unless advised otherwise.

**CORRECTION** of statement in last month's newsletter regarding Dr.Cambel in Turkey. We mentioned the free correspondence and a transistor radio. In fact this correspondence could be free only because helpful friends managed to smuggle letters out for her. The radio too was obtained quite unofficially whilst Dr.Cambel was in hospital. Now she is back in prison and messages can only be transmitted with the greatest of difficulties. All privileges have been withdrawn.

News from Groups

**ARCHITECTS** A letter of thanks was received from Lionel Bernstein's wife for all the practical help received by her from sympathetic members of the public, following a letter in the Architects' Journal sent in by one of its active members many months ago. Mrs.Bernstein writes ..... "it is these demonstrations of support that we deeply appreciate. It is such support that gives us the strength and endurance to carry on....."

**CENTRAL SOMERSET** In their quarterly bulletin published in June, a message from the Bishop of Bath and Wells

makes encouraging reading, he says 'I am glad to know of the progress you have made in these first months, each day seems to bring further difficulties and fresh hardships, and I send you my blessings in this work of alleviation. It is good to know that you have six prisoners in your care and I hope this number will grow and your influence spread. Assuring you of my prayers".

LINCOLN The Bishop of Lincoln and the local M.P. have agreed to become patrons of the Group.

HAMPSTEAD Letter received by Miss Julia Napier from their Greek prisoner, now released.

"We have delayed writing to you because we were expecting a letter from you. Perhaps this was not the only reason. A certain hesitation when faced with your great kindness, a difficulty in finding, especially for me, how to express our feelings with regard to the continuous manifestation of your generosity which is not compensated with anything. Because it cannot be considered as compensation the deep craving in our hearts of your friendship and kindness towards one who has suffered, perhaps much, for justice and truth, but who can never reach the height of your own goodness. I shall not write any more because I am afraid that perhaps with some clumsy phrase I may reduce the value of what I have managed to write to you so far.

I greet you  
With all my deepest respect,  
SPYROS"

DENMARK Extract from Dr.K.A.Busia's letter to Werner Bachmann

"Nkrumah ... represents Amnesty and other international bodies interested in individual freedom as "imperialist and subversive organisation" and so recipients of letters from them are punished. This is why some relatives of detainees have been afraid to take delivery of parcels sent to them by Amnesty groups, and have had the parcels returned. They are afraid of being imprisoned without trial....

In these circumstances ... enquiries about detainees should be forwarded to the Prison Authorities, with copies of the letter to the President's office. ...the most helpful way, however, is to take every opportunity possible to give publicity in press and radio to the fact that many are being held in prison in Ghana without trial, and Nkrumah is doing the same thing that South Africa is doing.

...the more this sort of thing is being known, the better the chances that Nkrumah may be harrassed into some action. Appeals to him have had no effect, so far. Wide publicity might have some effect on him."

23rd June 1964.

The case discussed is that of a 19 year old secretary, working in the office of the Minister of Defence. Two other girls, aged 18 and 20, were arrested at the same time and are still in prison. Dr.Busia suggests to the group that, if they wish to communicate with the girl's family, they should write to Mr.K.Richardson, 13 Ikorodu Road, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria, the former Secretary of the United Party of Ghana, now in voluntary exile in Nigeria. He can pass on letters addressed to the girl's relatives.

#### FUND RAISING

Loughborough Town Group are planning to raise funds in September by hiring a stall from the local weekly market. This will cost about 5/- per day and they plan to sell home grown produce and home raised plants and cuttings.

PLYMOUTH A commemorative theatrical performance was held for the late actor, and member of the Plymouth Group, J.A.Shields-Gray. As a result of this a cheque for £50 was sent to the Group as a contribution to Amnesty's fund.

SAFFRON WALDEN A total of £24 has been collected in the last few months, by members of the VI Form Group from:

1. Sale of roast potatoes
2. Dance
3. Musical evening of 'Bach & Beatles!'

ELTHAM is sending to its large membership further suggestions of how to raise funds - Handicrafts, Baby sitting, Hedge cutting, sale of stamps, knitting, jam making, car cleaning, weeding, home-made cakes and newspaper rounds.

STOP PRESS !!!

LETCHWORTH

"Dear Mrs.Bowyer,

I have some very good news for you. Zollie has been released! The State completed its case on the 16th.June, and at that stage the defence Counsel applied for the discharge of 10 of the accused, on the grounds that NO evidence had been led against them. This was granted in respect of 8, and Zollie was one of them.

The defence has now also finished its case, and five people have been given bail. The rest are still in detention, waiting till the 6th August, when argument for both cases will be heard. After that there will be another postponement for judgement and sentence, and maybe even the possibility of an appeal. So we will still be busy for some time with these men, but Zollie is now free.

He was very fortunate to be taken back at his former place of work, and the family is now settled nicely. In view of this, might I tentatively suggest that the last amount of £14 which I received from you yesterday should be kept for defence funds. I suggest this because I must explain that your group has been one of the most wonderfully active and responsive groups I have dealt with, and Mrs.Malindi has been most fortunate. This coupled with the fact that she was working, whereas most of the women were not, and so had some sort of an income, gave rise to a certain amount of jealousy among the women, which made matters rather unpleasant for her sometimes. I feel that now she is settled she does not need the extra money so badly, although of course it would allow the family to indulge in some small luxuries. However, as defence costs have been so high, I am sure that Zollie would be only too glad to let it be used for this purpose.

This is only a suggestion, however, and you must finally say how you want the money used.

With many, many thanks for all your wonderful help and encouragement.

Yours sincerely,  
Sally Mittag"

NEW ADDRESS - Defence and Aid Fund  
314, C.T.C.Buildings,  
Plein Street,  
Cape Town.