

AMNESTY NEWS

1 Mitre Court Buildings,
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May 1962

PERSONAL FREEDOM IN THE MARXIST COUNTRIES

Saturday, June 16th and Sunday, June 17th, 1962

This is Amnesty's second conference in the series 'Personal Freedom in Contemporary Society'. Its objects are to:-

- consider personal freedom in the context of the Marxist ideology
- consider changes that have taken place in the Marxist countries since the Twentieth Party Congress in 1956
- analyse and compare the range of freedoms available in the different Marxist countries.

There will be two major sessions:

SATURDAY, JUNE 16th: 2.15 p.m. - 5.45 p.m.

Royal Hotel, Woburn Place, London, W.C.1.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Chairman: F. Elwyn-Jones, Q.C., M.P.

SUNDAY, JUNE 17th: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Bailey's Hotel, Gloucester Rd., London, S.W.7.

FREEDOM OF THE ACCUSED

Chairman: Leonard Shapiro

Experts on the different countries have been asked to write papers on personal freedom and the legal codes; these will be collated into two symposia which will be circulated to those attending the conference.

Tickets for one session: 5/-

Tickets for both sessions: 7/6

Please apply for tickets on the enclosed slip.

THE LIMITATION OF LIBERTY GOES ON

Ghana and East Pakistan show that the Commonwealth is not without stain where political liberty is concerned. In East Pakistan, according to the International Press Institute, seven newspaper men are at present in jail, although no specific charges appear to have been made against them. Journalists from four leading dailies in Dacca have been detained under the Security of Pakistan Act since the first half of February, and warrants of arrest are pending against two others. Three members of the staff of 'Sangbad' - K.G. Mustafa, Anwar Zahid, and Allauddin Al-Azad - were detained in April 1961, and, so far as is known, have never been brought to trial or released. (Three are working on behalf of some of these prisoners.)

In Ghana, President Nkrumah recently decided to review the Ghana Preventive Detention Act to enable the extension of the terms of detention from five years (as at present) to up to 25 years. Another new Act empowers the President to extend from five to 10 years the terms of detainees already in jail.

Czechoslovakia's former Deputy-Premier, Rudolf Barak, sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in April, though initially charged with embezzling public funds, was in fact accused of 'leading an anti-Party group' with the aim of taking control of the Party and the Government. He was tried in secret, and sentenced by a military court, not for political crimes, but for civil offences.

Dr. Arlindo Vicente, a famous Portuguese lawyer and painter who ran as opponent of Dr. Salazar in the 1961 elections, is lying critically ill in Caxias prison near Lisbon. He suffers from a heart disease, and Opposition candidates have complained that he was denied essential drugs. He has been tried in absentia and in camera, and the charge has not been disclosed.

'POLITICAL PRISONERS'

A broadcast planned with the help of Amnesty in the
Home Service
Sunday, May 27th (Time in Radio Times)

'This is the anniversary of the founding of Amnesty

MAKE SURE YOU LISTEN AND INFORM YOUR FRIENDS

THREES CONFERENCE

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday, June 16th at
The Royal Hotel, Woburn Place, London, W.C.1.

This conference is open to all members of Threes or those interested in forming a Threes group. We have planned it to coincide with the big Amnesty conference, and hope that as many as possible will come.

There will be a discussion on the work and future activities of Threes and Amnesty investigators will be present to answer questions on Ghana, Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Portugal.

Suggestions for discussion from Threes will be welcome

Please apply for tickets on the enclosed form.

'THREES' REPORT

Two Oxford groups of Threes can rejoice in the release of two prisoners for whom they have been working - Eleni Kevrekidou, a Greek woman, and U Tun Pe in Burma. We understand, however, that Eleni Kevrekidou, though free, is destitute. This emphasises the need for Threes not only to work for the release of prisoners, but to concern themselves, for a time, at least, with their welfare after release, and with the care of their families.

The Clapham Three can also record the release of Agostino Neto, the Angolan doctor and poet, after many months of imprisonment in Portuguese goals. To raise money for 'their' prisoners' families, and for families in South Africa and Greece, the Clapham Three are holding a sherry party at Christel Marsh's house on May 5th. For a similar cause the Hampstead Three arranged a wine and cheese party in April, which was a great success.

Many members may have seen Neville Vincent's articles and reports on his journey of investigation to Portugal. As a result of these articles, Amnesty has received donations totalling £170 from people moved by the conditions of prisoners he describes. In his 'Spectator' article he mentioned in particular four doctors about whom he was concerned. Dr. Noshir Wadia is now free, but the others are still in prison. The Bristol Three is, however,

working for Dr. Julietta Gandra, a Keele group for Dr. Maria Luiza Costa dias Soares, and a London group for Dr. Orlando Ramos.

Please note that Mrs. Peggy Appiah, wife of Joe Appiah, one of the imprisoned Ghana M.Ps. has asked us to thank all those who have written to her about her husband's plight. It is not possible for her to reply personally to each one. She very much appreciates the effort and sympathy, which has been overwhelming.

New Threes have been formed recently by groups in Eltham, the Friends' School at Saffron Walden, Bristol, Keele University, Christian Team Work (London) and Guild T.V. Service. Anyone interested in joining any of these (or other) groups should write to central office.

MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

About 500 people on our cards received a copy of the first issue of the Amnesty Quarterly, although they have not paid a subscription for this year. We regret that it is not possible for us to send copies of the Quarterly or Amnesty News in future to other than paid-up members. So please send us your subscription if you have not already done so.

A Subscription and Bankers' Order form is enclosed. If you have already paid, please pass this on to a friend.

A RECORD OF ACTIVITIES

There was an excellent response from members' letters in their local press, as from the broadcast on 'Liberty to the Captive' on March 4th. The Chief Rabbi also referred to Amnesty in a broadcast on April 15th. This brought many enquiries and several new members.

Since the last Amnesty News Prem Khera has returned from a successful mission in East Germany. He discovered that Heinz Brandt was at least alive in prison, and got an undertaking from the Attorney General that when brought to trial, Amnesty would be able to send an observer. Neville Vincent's reports on conditions in Portugal have spotlighted conditions there which are not generally known.