

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
1, Mitre Court Buildings, Temple, E.C.4.

NEWS SHEET FOR BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL THREES GROUPS

GROUP ACTIVITIES OXTED By now a well established Group, have contributed with unflinching zeal not only to our funds but also to the office with many practical suggestions and help. Here are some of the activities arranged by Mrs. Payne, the Secretary.

- a. Stand in the Pageant of the Red Cross Centenary Celebration, displaying Amnesty literature. (Publicity)
- b. Human Rights Day Public Meeting 1963. Main speaker Peter Benenson and guest of honour, Pastor Niemöller.
- c. Visit from another Group representative to exchange news and views.
- d. Public Meeting addressed by Mr Bert Lodge and guest of honour Mrs. Martha Kitching - expelled from Swaziland for helping South African refugees. (Considerable amount of press publicity)

Their plans for the future include inviting a leader from another Group to talk to them about their activities and compare notes, two fund raising activities, 'Gardens round the World' to which they hope to invite Jean Metcalfe and a 'Bring and Buy Sale' Coffee Morning. Planning this year's Human Rights Day Service in Oxted. Plan to financing the immigration of their released South African to England.

SOUTHAMPTON HUMANIST SOCIETY formed an Amnesty Group in March this year. Since then their chairman, Mrs. Gittoes-Davies, has addressed two public meetings, and plans have been made for a third one. The Group held a fund raising party, contributing a generous donation to Head Office and sending regular monthly sums to the family of their South African detainee. A 700 word article was requested by the Southern Evening Echo and printed in full, producing excellent publicity in Southampton. Plans are being made for a Christmas Fair in November and for Human Rights Day. One of their members has kindly offered to translate letters into and from Spanish; would you send your request to Mrs. Gittoes-Davies, address - The Grange, 512 Winchester Road, Bassett, Southampton. It might also interest you that whenever the Southampton Group write a letter to a member of the prisoner's family, they enclose a reply paid coupon.

CLEVEDON, DERBY AND LINCOLN GROUPS and possibly others have received news from their SOUTHERN RHODESIAN contact, Mrs Eileen Haddon. Here are some points of general interest. The detainees at Wha Wha are held in a 5 acre barbed wire enclosure, guarded by police, they have blankets, but not enough for the winter, they have no beds and they are short of warm clothing. The International Red Cross representative is the only one who is allowed into the camp. A permit signed personally by the Minister is needed for a restrictee to see members of his family. Although the men are debarred from earning a living, the Government makes no provision for allowance to them or their families. The Government says "we have no intention of placing a restrictee in a better financial position than any other destitute member of the public merely, because the former person has been restricted by the Government". Destitute Africans qualify only for emergency rations consisting of maize, meal, a little sugar, powdered milk and a small meat ration. Money is the greatest need but books, newspapers and journals are welcome to combat the awful boredom the men find themselves in. The men very much welcome letters and the knowledge that they are not forgotten. Correspondence and any material aid can be sent to the Legal and Welfare Fund and they will forward, P.O.Box 2097, Salisbury or to the camp direct which is Wha Wha Restriction Area, P.O.Box 64, Gwelo, S.Rhodesia.

ST.MARY'S HOSPITAL GROUP have the responsible task of helping to cover the school fees of the two young daughters of their Ghanian prisoner. They have very bravely managed to raise enough funds for a terminal contribution

of £10 but since this was not enough to meet the debts, the Christian Council very generously helped them out. They hope to have a great fund raising campaign to see them through the next year.

LINCOLN briefly mentioned in the last news sheet - is brand new and very much alive. They have sent us a first class report of all steps taken in the short time of their existence. This report will also serve them for local press publicity. A public meeting is being arranged at the end of October, addressed by Mr Bert Lodge. Mrs. Scorer, the Secretary, has also been asked to address the Lincolnshire Humanist Society in the same month. Here are extracts received from Mrs. Joseph, wife of Paul Joseph, South Africa.

"Thank you very much for your letter and five pounds postal order enclosed. Your letter is evidence of the faith my husband and I share in humanity. It is a great comfort to know that people in distant lands are concerned with our lot."

She then goes on to explain something of the ninety day detention laws.

"Paul is detained at the Mondeor Police Station which is a small municipal township outside the precincts of Johannesburg. It is about 10 miles from where I live."

"I am very worried for Paul as he has had a doctor visit him on several occasions. When I approached the Head of the Security Branch with a blood stained handkerchief I received with his clothing for washing, the Colonel gave me his assurance that he has merely got a cold and a doctor is attending him. (They do not allow the detainees private doctors). But all the same the assurances do not allay the fears we have for the detainees well-being.

You see in this country torture has reared its ugly head. There are strong rumours and some first hand accounts of detainees who have been subjected to various forms of pressures to make statements to the police and answer questions. And this more than anything else worries one. And nobody in this whole country with any amount of influence can do anything about it."

'DOOR IN THE BERLIN WALL' TWICKENHAM had a stall at the U.N.A. Fete on 12th Sept. selling our literature. This original idea attracted maximum attention to Amnesty's activities. We have not yet heard from them.

RIVERSIDE (London) have managed to gain the support of their Conservative M.P. to the extent of giving publicity on their behalf in the Kensington News.

KENSINGTON Group arranged a film show a little while back at the Kensington Public Library. Their total takings were £81.15.0d. and a generous contribution was made to our funds.

READING UNIVERSITY, OXFORD AND TWICKENHAM GROUPS from these we have the happy news of releases in E.GERMANY. As we know from the national press there have been a great number of releases in E.Germany. Here is a translated quote from a W.Berlin student released from an E.Berlin prison, addressed to Miss White of Reading University -

"Suddenly I became free by some secret action, and now I am so happy I found your letter concerning my person. I am thankful and happy, dear Miss White, that there was a strange and foreign soul caring about the destiny of a political prisoner in E.Germany when we passed the border last night, I just cried".

GROUPS have reported releases also in Czechoslovakia, Greece, South Africa and Rumania, but Head Office is still without a list of names.

EXETER AND DISTRICT Group have again sent a very interesting situation report, should you wish to see a copy of it please write to - David Gibson, 19 Raleigh Road, Mount Radford, Exeter.

ELTHAM Group Here is part of a letter received from Crisoula Kalimany

"Dear friends,

Free at last! and near my beloved child and among my dear relatives and friends.

I feel the need to thank you from my whole heart, all my friends in Greece and abroad, especially members of the "League for Democracy in Greece" "Amnesty organisation" and all our friends in England who participated in the struggle for my release."

INFORMATION - PARAGUAY A circular letter was sent round to organisations and many individuals from the Argentine thanking us for our help in drawing attention to the Paraguayan prisoners detained without trial. In this circular, Dr.Orlando Rojas, describes the deprivation suffered whilst held in a labour camp.

ANTHOLOGY OF LETTERS Whilst we have quite a collection of prisoner's letters before and after release, there must be many more, what would you think of a compilation of these? If you think it a good idea, could you please send us copies of letters received by you for such an anthology.

GHANA Would all Groups with Ghana adopted prisoners, please concentrate on writing repeated letters of protest to Dr.NKRUMAH. Do not worry contacts resident in Ghana.

SOUTH AFRICA 1. Would you please discontinue writing to Olive Gibson, she is no longer able to cope with correspondence in addition to her many other burdens.

2. 'CONTACT' If you wish to support this good quality fortnightly paper at 6d. a copy, please write to the Proprietor, Selemela Publication (Ptg)Ltd., 47 Parliament Street, Cape Town.

MEETINGS Mr Bert Lodge will be on tour again as from now, visiting all the Groups who have so far not had the pleasure to make his acquaintance.

AUSTRALIA, Victoria, issued their second annual report. Their membership of 77 has more than doubled since last year. They have to date handled the cases of 35 prisoners from 15 different countries. Of these 12 have been released subsequent to adoption, 1 was executed and another found to be freed before adoption. Victoria's contribution to our funds and to giving help to their many prisoners has been wonderful.

Please forgive us for not giving you more material from the International Section. This is due to the absence of members responsible for this section. We hope to make up for this lapse in the next issue of the News Sheet.