

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

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INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

JULY, 1963.

INTERNATIONAL MEETING

Each National Section should by now have received from the German Section an invitation to the International meeting, which will be held at the Adam Stegler Haus, Königswinter, near Bonn from Friday, 20th to Sunday, 22nd September, 1963.

If you have not already done so, please notify the German Section the names of those people from your country who will be attending. Each Section is entitled to 2 free places; others in addition are welcome but they will have to pay their own board and lodging. The address of the German Section is : AMNISTIE-APPEL, Goltsteinstrasse 185, KOLN, GERMANY.

Resolutions or projects or papers for discussion at the International Meeting must reach the London office by 15th August, to allow time for translation.

Attached to this Bulletin is a statement prepared by the British Section about proposed policy towards political prisoners who do not qualify as "Prisoners of Conscience". This will be submitted for the consideration of the International Meeting. We are sending this to you in advance so that, if you wish, you have time to submit written amendments before 15th August.

Also attached is a short questionnaire which we are sending to each National Section so that, using the answers, we can present the International Meeting with a brief report of the development of the AMNESTY movement throughout the world.

GREEK POLITICAL PRISONERS

We enclose a paper prepared to give editors and others in influential positions the background to the very vexed question of the Greek political prisoners. You will note that the great majority of Greek political prisoners are not, strictly speaking, "Prisoners of Conscience". The problems connected with AMNESTY's attitude towards these Greek prisoners prompted the British Section to prepare the policy statement referred to above.

LEBANON

We enclose a paper giving a brief report of the mission undertaken by Mr Bent Knudsen, a Danish lawyer, and a leading member of the Danish Section.

EAST & WEST GERMANY

We enclose a brief synopsis of the oral report of Rev. Paul Oestreicher, an Anglican clergyman from New Zealand, who recently undertook a mission to East and West Germany. Since his return we have sent a telegram to Mr Kruschew in East Berlin asking him to use his influence when in that city to persuade Herr Ulbricht to accept our representations for the release of political prisoners in that country. We have undertaken not to publish the text of this telegram unless we receive Mr Kruschew's permission. This information is, therefore, confidential.

SOUTH AFRICA

We are sending a leading Scottish lawyer on a mission to South Africa at the end of July.

FUND FOR THE PERSECUTED

Plans are being made for the launching of an international "Fund for the Persecuted" on Human Rights Day, 1963. This is in implementation of the decision taken at the Second International Meeting at Bruges that AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL should launch a "World Human Rights Fund". A separate paper about the proposed Fund will be sent to you in due course.

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ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL MEETING

You will be shortly receiving from Germany an invitation to the meeting which, this year, is being organised by the German Section. It will be held at Königswinter, which is a delightful little town on the Rhine, near Bonn.

The dates of the Conference are from Friday, 20th September to Sunday 22nd September.

Each National Section is entitled to free board and lodging for two representatives; any reasonable additional number will be welcome. Even though there may be no accommodation for all in the "Adam Steglerhaus", there are numerous hotels in the town.

The session on Friday will be devoted to a study of political cases from the Western World where pressure has been brought to bear on the judicial system.

On Saturday, discussion will be about recent trends in the newly independent and in the Marxist/Leninist countries. And for the rest of the time, including Sunday, there will be a chance to consider the policy and organisation of the AMNESTY movement for the coming year.

Please do make every effort to see that your country, even though it may not yet have an effective National Section, is represented. The whole strength of the AMNESTY movement depends on its being truly international. If the journey is too far, or too expensive, at least try to find at least one supporter from your country who will combine attendance at the Conference with his or her annual holiday.

RESOLUTIONS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

Any National Section or group may put forward a resolution about the policy or organisation of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL for discussion (subject to the Steering Committee) at the Annual Meeting. Please insure that your resolution reaches the London office by 15th July, if possible. Closing date for the agenda is 31st July. But emergency resolutions may be moved at the Conference, if time allows.

LANGUAGES

All documents for the Conference will be issued in English, French and German.

AN INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE

The British Section wishes to apologize in advance for any occasion on which it has failed to seek advice from its colleagues in other countries, but this has been partly due to shortage of time and mainly due to shortage of money. In order to get over these difficulties, the British Section would like to see the creation of an International Executive, which represents the views at least of the most active National Sections. This involves money for travelling expenses. Would you please come to the Conference having discussed whether it is possible for your National Section or Group to raise some funds for the establishment of an International Executive. We reckon that the absolute minimum required for 4 meetings a year consisting of 5 representatives from different (European) countries is £350.

JOURNEYS

Mrs. Clara Urquhart visited Italy in April to lay the foundation of an Italian Section.

Albert Lodge represented the movement in Spain over Easter, and was present at the Grimau trial. He also addressed a meeting in Rotterdam.

Mrs. Edith Singer, secretary of the Relief Dept. visited the International Red Cross and other relief agencies in Geneva in May.

Mrs. Marlys Deeds, Technical Adviser to the Groups of Three, is touring U.S.A. and Canada for 6 weeks in May and June.

Peter Benenson visited briefly France and Germany in April. He was present at the highly successful Annual General Meeting of the Irish Section in May, and will be meeting groups in Denmark, Norway and Sweden in early June.

OTHER "AMNESTY" MOVEMENTS

In order to avoid confusion the International Secretariat has had to make it clear to a number of newspapers, and several governments, that this movement has no connection with the "Appeals for Amnesty" for Spain, Greece or Portugal. To the best of our knowledge any other movement in the world today using the word "Amnesty" in its title is Communist-controlled, with the exception of "L'Union Francaise pour l'Amnistie", which is primarily concerned with O.A.S. prisoners.

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