



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

12 CRANE COURT, LONDON, E.C.4. CENTRAL 7867

November 1966. Number 17

By subscription, or price 1/-

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY

AMNESTY's Fifth and largest International Assembly took place in Copenhagen from September 2nd to 4th. Delegates from 17 of AMNESTY's National Sections and observers from eight International Organisations discussed AMNESTY's plans for the future in the beautiful Christiansborg Palace where outstanding conference arrangements had been made by the Danish National Section. Generous Danish hospitality, a reception by the Danish Government, a luncheon given in the City Hall by the Lord Mayor and a great deal of informal and personal entertainment.

Two procedural changes expedited the work of the Assembly. Firstly, written reports from delegates who had undertaken missions, or made special studies of situations, on behalf of AMNESTY were given to all those attending the Assembly so that discussions could start with delegates already well-informed on the background. Secondly, apart from two plenary sessions, the Assembly was divided into four committees:

1. Action at International Level
2. Extension of AMNESTY's Relations in Sensitive Areas
3. Action for Prisoners
4. Extension of AMNESTY's influence Nationally and Co-operation between National Sections.

These Committees had a Chairman, Rapporteur and Secretary and as well as preparing resolutions for consideration by the Plenary Assembly, made reports on other aspects of their work. The establishment of these committees enabled delegates to concentrate on the aspects of AMNESTY's work

which particularly interested them. The Assembly was naturally particularly pre-occupied with the fate of Niels Groth, the first AMNESTY delegate to be detained for any length of time while on a mission. A report about his very welcome subsequent release appears later in the Bulletin. As his arrest occurred in connection with Koumandian Keita, Prisoner of Conscience of 1965, it was decided to keep Keita as Prisoner of the Year for 1966.

The prison reports on East Germany, Rhodesia and Paraguay were approved and it was agreed that next year's reports which would be published in November would be on the Soviet Union, West Germany and Brazil. The new International Executive is:

Mr. Sean MacBride, English speaking Group;
Dr. Gustavo Comba, Latin speaking Group; Dr. Hajo Wandschneider, German speaking Group; Cornelis van der Vlies, Flemish/Dutch speaking Group; Arne Christensen, Scandinavian speaking Group.

RESUME OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY

Committee 1

1. The Assembly regretted that torture, particularly in the form of police brutality, extortion of confessions and mistreatment of prisoners was still a widespread practice. The Assembly therefore recommended that AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL should co-operate with the International Committee of the Red Cross with a view to establishing the right to investigate alleged cases of torture. The Assembly urged National Sections to give the problem of torture special attention (the Library has already established a separate file) and asked the United Nations and other international organisations to include the elimination of torture as a task of primary importance within the framework of the International Year for Human Rights, 1968.
2. The Assembly resolved that AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL should consult with other organisations to promote the establishment of machinery for the issue of a United Nations passport to persons who have lost or been deprived of their nationality.
3. The Assembly requested National Sections and the AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL observer at the United Nations to continue active support for the appointment of a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Committee 2

1. The Assembly decided that those who refused to take part in any particular war as well as those who refuse to fight in all wars should be considered as "prisoners of conscience".
2. The Assembly resolved that in all countries where changes of government had been brought about by force, no measures should be taken against members of the outgoing government unless full judicial procedures were observed.
3. The Assembly decided that AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL should make more vigorous representations on behalf of Siniavsky, Daniel and other Russian writers, and should increase its efforts to investigate the situation in the U.S.S.R. and other Communist countries.
4. The Assembly decided that AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL should explore the possibilities of establishing *ad hoc* committees in Latin American countries.

Committee 3

1. The Assembly pointed out that AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL could be effective only if it reflected an authentically international spirit and that the Investigation Bureau should therefore bear in mind the special importance of acting in harmony with National Sections.

Committee 4

1. The Assembly suggested that all National Sections should establish permanent committees to work for the release of the "Prisoner of the Year".
2. That all AMNESTY literature should avoid emotive or abusive expressions.

Ad Hoc Committee

1. The Assembly suggested that a useful procedure in connection with the Vietnam conflict might be the establishment of a small, *ad hoc* committee of representatives of governments not involved in the conflict to study ways of ending it and meanwhile to secure the implementation of measures to minimise loss of life and to protect prisoners and other victims of the conflict.
2. The Assembly asked U Thant to reconsider his decision to resign.
3. The Assembly asked the Turkish Government leaders not to support a motion demanding the closure of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople and of its theological college and the expulsion of the Patriarch Athenagoras.
4. The Assembly noticed with regret continuing reports of the maltreatment or arbitrary killing of some Indonesian prisoners and asked the Indonesian Government to give assurances that (a) no person would be put to death unless tried before a properly constituted court and found guilty of a crime which carried the death penalty at the time it was committed; (b) that adequate food and medical supplies would be made available for detainees; and (c) that all released detainees and members of minority groups would be protected from arbitrary violence.

NIELS GROTH

Report received from Denmark as the Bulletin went to press.

NIELS GROTH arrived at Copenhagen Airport on October 6th, 1966. He was very pale and very tired, but had to go through a press conference with a great number of journalists and radio and television reporters.

What he told, in short, is the following. As the newspapers wrote, his voice was very low and tired, and sometimes he stopped talking completely for what seemed to be a long time. The conference lasted for more than one hour and a half.

As known, he left Copenhagen on July 10th and arrived at Conakry on July 16th, after having spent a couple of days in London and Paris. He did not have a visa, as his decision to go to Guinea was made too late to obtain one in the usual way—through correspondence with the Guinean Embassy in Bonn. He was, however, advised to go to Conakry and apply for a 48-hour visa on arrival. In Conakry the Swedish Consul was called to the airport to assist him and he obtained the visa for him with the promise that he would get a permanent one after 48 hours, when his case had been examined.

He was aware that he might have to leave the country after the 48-hour period and immediately started making investigations. As he mentioned to the journalists, he did not say he was a delegate from AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL as he thought that he would not be allowed to enter the country if this was known. He contacted some refugee-students from Ghana, whose interests he naturally assumed would be similar to those of the Guinean Government. He also made enquiries about political prisoners and tried to get some facts about Koumandian Keita.

Held without Charge

The second morning, when he was having breakfast in the Hotel de France, where he was staying, a servant came to his table and informed him that somebody wanted to see him in the hall. He went out and was received by an officer and four gendarmes who were standing in each corner of the room, pointing machine guns at him. One of the journalists asked him whether he would call it a "brutal arrest" and he replied that it was never comfortable to be dragged down the stairs by one's belt.

He was put in a cell with closed shutters, so that it was dark most of the time. The cell was quite small, but the two cells on each side of his, which were empty, were even smaller. Almost three weeks passed before he was examined, and he had quite a bad time before that, not knowing what he was charged with, or why nobody seemed to have interest in his arrest, as he knew that several people, including diplomats, had seen his arrest. He caught a fever and was ill for some time. He also tried to smuggle notes of help out, but as far as he knows, nobody took any notice of them. In the cell there were rats and frogs, and he was told that there were snakes in the prison yard. But the meals, he underlined, were very good. Three times a day he received meals from the Hotel de France.

Later he was taken three times to see Ambassador Biering (the Danish Ambassador in Ghana) and, of course, he was very relieved to learn that it was known that he had been arrested and that he was being helped.

He said that he had been scared and terribly lonely most of the time. He did not know what the charges against him were, but he guessed that it might have something to do with espionage. He had been allowed to get a copy of the Guinean Penal Code, and he knew that the sentences were very hard.

Sudden Change

When finally he was taken to court and charged with espionage, he was sentenced to 10 years' hard labour and almost 22 hours passed before he was told that he had been pardoned by special amnesty from President Sékou Touré. Then everything changed in a way he could hardly follow. He was invited to stay in Guinea as long as he pleased, he was taken to a private audience with the President, which lasted for more than an hour, during which the President let him inform him about AMNESTY and he was invited to join the celebrations on the National Day the next day, Sunday, October 2nd. He was invited to a ball in the palace, and he received one of the President's books with a personal dedication. Mr. Paludan, the special Ambassador who came to Conakry with an appeal from Mr. J. O. Krag, the Danish Prime Minister, reported that the guards had been very happy and that it was very touching to go around in Conakry with Niels Groth as everybody was cheering him and congratulating him.

He left Conakry together with Mr. Janus Paludan on Wednesday, October 5th and spent the night in Paris, where his elder brother met him and accompanied him to Copenhagen.

And now he is back home. Of course, he is not quite well, he is resting in quiet and peace, and it will take some time before he will be "his good old self" again.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL wishes to express its appreciation of the efforts made by the Danish Government to bring about Niels Groth's release. Parallel with the actions taken by the Danish Government, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL as a whole and most of its National Sections did whatever they could, privately and publicly, to bring pressure to bear on the Guinean Government. The combination of pressure and publicity proved one further example of the effect of well-organised international action to secure a prisoner's release.

We are deeply grateful to Niels Groth for undertaking this mission and take this opportunity to pay tribute to him and to his mother and brothers for their unflinching loyalty to AMNESTY's ideals during an extremely difficult period.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS IN THE U.S.A.

OBJECTORS to Military Service in the United States are primarily affected by the Universal Military Training and Service Act. Between June 30th, 1963, and June 30th, 1964, there were 243 convictions for violations of the Act.

Between June 30th, 1964, and June 30th, 1965, there were 256 convictions. Between June 30th, 1965, and June 30th, 1966, there were 349 convictions. It is not possible to show the specific type of offence, e.g. failure to register, failure to report for induction, etc.

Under the recently enacted law prohibiting the destruction of Draft Cards, 16 people have been indicted. Of these, 6 have been convicted, 9 are awaiting trial and one case has been dismissed. Four of those convicted have been placed on probation under various conditions and two are in prison. One of the defendants in prison has appealed against his conviction.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has records at Crane Court of about 120 cases which may be roughly divided into the following categories:

Adopted, 8; Awaiting adoption, 7.

Other individual cases known to AMNESTY:

Indicted on bail, 27; Armed forces, imprisoned, 27; Imprisoned (sentenced), 40; Paroled from prison, 4; Sentenced but not in prison, 13; Jehovah's Witnesses, 20 (in prison).

FRANCE

THE very briefest of press reports in this country has noted the passing of a new Army Bill in France as a result of which it will, from January 1st next, become an offence for a serviceman to obey an order which would result in a crime against humanity.

Full details of the text of the Bill are not yet available in this country, but its intention is both so clear and so remarkable that at least two comments spring to mind immediately.

First, of course, is the curious fact that the onus is on the serviceman to decide whether to obey and not, apparently, on the superior officer whether to give the order. Nor is it clear from the press reports whether and in what way an officer who gave such an order would be liable to punishment. Nor, again, what the definition of a "crime against humanity" may be. As between the officer, the serviceman and the court to which the dispute would presumably be taken (always assuming, of course, that the luckless serviceman has not, in the meantime, been shot out of hand) which opinion can claim priority and on what grounds?

The second reflection is that this move by the French is a welcome and logical—though belated—outcome of the Nuremberg judgment which made it clear beyond peradventure that the plea of superior orders would not succeed where the order itself would result in a crime against humanity.

And yet, the very phrase "crime against humanity" is explosive in its implications. To begin with, every serviceman has now to decide for himself the moral validity of any order which he is given and, where each man is necessarily made judge in his own case, what happens to military discipline? Nor is it adequate to argue that only major crimes are in question; moral philosophers have always been reluctant to argue that quantity alone is a criterion of good or evil. Consequently, even if any legislature or court should attempt to list the "crimes against humanity" the very principles on which the list was selected would themselves continually erode the attempts to make it definitive.

This line of argument leads inevitably to the question, what of those who regard not this military order or that as a crime against humanity, but war itself and the whole military operation in so far as it is directed to the prosecution of war?

Is there a curiously Gallic ambivalence here which would punish a serviceman for obeying an order of which he must, in the forum of his own conscience—and antecedently of any court decision—decide the moral validity and, at the same time, so unwillingly recognise the validity of a conscientious objection to war itself that even today, its recognition in France is qualified by the threat of punishment of those who feel so strongly about the criminal nature of war that they endeavour to use the normal democratic processes to persuade others to their opinion?

ERIC BAKER, *Chairman of the British Section*

MIHAJL MIHAJLOV

THE case of Mihajl Mihajlov, the young Yugoslav recently sentenced to a year's imprisonment, will be of particular interest and concern to AMNESTY members.

Mihajlov is by profession an academic; until his dismissal in April last year, he was a lecturer in Slavonic Literature at Zagreb University with a reputation as a Dostoevsky scholar. His father was a White Russian army officer who came to Yugoslavia after 1917, but Mihajlov has frequently stressed his own Yugoslav nationality and deep loyalty to the country. He is 34 years old, and until 18 months ago was virtually unknown outside his university.

Then early in 1965, Mihajlov wrote a long, three-part article about a visit he made to Moscow the previous year. The first two parts appeared in DELO, a Yugoslav literary journal, under the title MOSCOW SUMMER 1964, and described the Soviet literary scene through meetings with well-known writers like Ilya Ehrenburg and through Mihajlov's own reactions to what he saw and heard. In the course of the second article, Mihajlov discussed the present preoccupation of Soviet writers with the subject of labour camps and quoted a remark of Leonid Leonov—"People will be writing about Soviet concentration camps for the next eighty years". The article went on to describe some of the main books which have already appeared on this theme—even by 1963, 10,000 manuscripts had been submitted to literary magazines—and Mihajlov gave his own opinion that Russians were writing "less and less about Fascist and Nazi camps to avoid any comparisons with Soviet camps". This was, he said, quite understandable, as "the first death camps were not founded by the Germans, but by the Soviets. In 1921, near Arkhanghelsk, they set up Kholmogor Camps for the sole purpose of exterminating the prisoners".

Reaction to this article was immediate. The Soviet Ambassador protested to the Yugoslav Government, President Tito rebuked a delegation of public prosecutors for allowing an article with such "Djilasist" tendencies to appear, the final part of MOSCOW SUMMER was banned and Mihajlov was arrested and charged with "damaging the reputation of a foreign state" (the USSR) and with sending the third article to an Italian publisher after it was banned. He was found guilty on both counts, but at the appeal the sentence of 10 months was cut to 5 months, suspended, and the verdict on the first charge was reversed.

Opposition Magazine

FOR a year the affair seemed closed, but in July 1966 Mihajlov's name appeared again in the news when he announced the establishment of an opposition magazine, *Free Voice*. In an open letter to President Tito, Mihajlov explained that this would be a periodical of a "philosophical and political, social and cultural nature, intended to become . . . the nucleus of a democratic and socialist, social-political movement under the laws and Constitution of Yugoslavia. Obviously, I need not remind you that articles 39 and 40 of the new Yugoslav Constitution explicitly guarantee to all citizens . . . the freedoms of thought, opinion, expression and assembly".

The periodical was to have been launched at a meeting at Zadar in mid-August, but at the end of July, Mihajlov was arrested and charged, not with anything concerning *Free Voice*, but with

spreading false information through articles published abroad, and thus of inciting the Yugoslav people. Found guilty on September 23rd, he was sentenced to a year's imprisonment—considerably less than the permitted maximum of two and a half years—and unless his appeal succeeds, Mihajlov must spend the next 12 months in prison.

Although such charges as inciting the Yugoslav people and slandering the Soviet Union imply that he is opposed to communism, Mihajlov is in fact a critic not of communism but of totalitarianism. He has challenged the Yugoslav Government to uphold its own Constitution and his own political position has been stated on several occasions. "It would be a mistake to think that Yugoslavs battling for freedom within the present socialist system are opting for a capitalist social order", he told the *New York Times* in August 1965. "On the contrary, they may be fiercer enemies of western economic totalitarianism than those who currently hold the strings of power". Again—"I do not believe that the fundamental conflict of our day is between socialist and capitalist systems; rather it is a conflict between democratic socialism and totalitarianism—be it political totalitarianism as in the socialist countries, or economic totalitarianism as in the West."

HUNGARY

LORD GIFFORD paid a second visit to Hungary in August and spoke to Dr. Karoly Benedek, Head of the Department of the Courts, at the Ministry of Justice. When he asked why they had not replied to his request for information about a list of prisoners submitted to them in April, Dr. Benedek said that they were not permitted to transmit information to private individuals, and that AMNESTY should act through the intermediary of the Red Cross or an association of lawyers in England. This point has since been taken up with the Red Cross, but the results are not yet clear. Groups dealing with Hungarian prisoners will receive fresh directives shortly. It is interesting to note that the Hungarian Lawyers Association had compiled a list of all the groups who had sent them letters about prisoners, and they have sent us a copy. In addition they provided Lord Gifford with a few details about the present situation of some prisoners: these have been passed on to the groups concerned.

PORTUGAL

A Report by Susan Branford, a member of the Bristol University AMNESTY Group.

WHILE I was in Portugal this summer, I spent a week with an ex-prisoner and his family who live in a small village about 70 miles from Lisbon.

The prisoner had been released in June of this year after serving a 2-year sentence for "membership of the Communist Party" and 3 years as security measures. I had been writing to his wife for nearly 2 years and it was very exciting for both of us to actually meet. The husband is now working extremely hard as a fishmonger to earn enough to support his wife and his 17-year-old son. The son has just started a 3-year apprenticeship as a house painter. In Portugal apprentices are not paid a wage and often, in fact, the family has to pay an indenture before they can obtain the apprenticeship.

We could see that the villagers did not consider themselves as particularly poor yet their poverty, by British standards, was startling. The hardships of families with husbands or sons in prison, were, of course, particularly acute. We met one woman who was working in the fields all the year round, from 6 in the morning until 11 at night. Her work varied according to the season, ranging from weeding the rice fields to picking the olives. In the summer her daily wage was about 30 escudos (7/6) and in the winter about 20 escudos (5/-). With this wage she was supporting a 3-year-old son and an 8-year-old daughter. Her husband is serving an 8-year sentence for, as usual, "membership of the Communist Party".

Vote against the Government

THE village we were staying in was unusual in Portugal for its vigorous and often well-organised opposition to the Government. Before the 1958 elections a list was drawn up of villagers known to be opposed to the Government and these people were debarred from voting. Nevertheless, 80 per cent of the villagers allowed to vote, voted against the Government. It is even rumoured in the village that Salazar himself phoned up on the day of the elections attempting to stop them. As, however, the elections had begun the official insisted that they continue. An 8-day strike was later held as a protest against the way the elections had been conducted. This, of course, led to several arrests.

Despite the hardships and difficulties the villagers endure in their struggle against the Government, very few seemed to have adopted embittered or disheartened attitudes. In fact, there is a striking contrast between the optimism of the villagers, who believe that the Government might soon fall, and the more cynical and despondent attitude of the left-wing intellectuals in Lisbon.

We met a fairly wide range of people while hitch-hiking in Portugal and we found many of them surprisingly ready to talk about their grievances against the government. Two issues seem to arouse particular resentment: the wars in Mozambique and Angola, and education. The compulsory military service arouses much bitterness. Most

people resent wasting 4 years and risking their lives in a war in which they are not involved. Some of the boys are prepared to flee the country or go to prison rather than fight. It is very difficult to obtain grants for university, or even secondary, education and consequently many children still attend school only for the 3 years of primary education. Many ordinary people feel more strongly about this lack of opportunity for their children than about their own poverty.

WEST GERMANY

MR. ARNE CHRISTENSEN of the Norwegian section was kind enough to go at very short notice to the trial of Emil Bechtle, an imprisoned West German Communist, in Karlsruhe at the beginning of September. This was a very sad case of a man imprisoned for over a year, partly to serve a sentence passed on him 11 years previously and partly to be in custody while a new case was prepared against him. The charge was, as always in political cases—working for the banned Communist Party. He was finally sentenced to 1 year's imprisonment, loss of civil rights for 3 years and to be responsible for the costs of the trial. In fact he has been allowed to go free, and is at present in hospital for observation as his health is very bad. We recently received a letter of thanks. It was particularly gratifying that the West German authorities have been most co-operative in this case and both Mr. Christensen and Miss Aase Bang of the Norwegian group who had adopted Bechtle were able to meet Dr. Hofmann of the prosecution and also to have access to Emil Bechtle himself.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR POLITICAL OFFENCES IN PEACETIME

A SWEDISH Member of Parliament, Ingrid Wiberg, deposited on September 2nd a resolution before the Nordic Council calling on the Council to encourage the Governments of Scandinavian countries to speed up in the United Nations the question of limitation of capital punishment for political and other similar crimes. The Nordic Council is a body composed of Members of the Parliaments of the 5 Scandinavian countries. Although its recommendations are not binding on the Governments, they are usually accepted. It is to be hoped that there will be an early joint step in the U.N. by the Scandinavian countries in support of AMNESTY's proposed resolution calling for a 6-month "cooling-off" period before anyone is executed for an offence against the state in peacetime.

RHODESIA—RELIEF TO FAMILIES

Report by a social worker recently returned from Rhodesia, who was there on behalf of the Rhodesian Council of Churches.

WHAT a thrill it was to find myself flying out to Rhodesia for my Long Vacation! Although I have done welfare work in England, the chance to do some abroad was invaluable. The Christian Council Relief Office in Bulawayo helps families in financial difficulties caused by the breadwinner being restricted or detained—and to continue and expand this work was my aim for the next 3 months.

The need for this work in Rhodesia at the moment arises for several reasons. Although the Rhodesian authorities are prepared to help the families of restrictees with school fees where the children attend government schools, many children attend Mission schools—and fees for these are needed. Also, some parents are unwilling to accept government remission of school fees, because they fear there are “strings” attached to this offer. Similarly, although it is possible for distressed families to get help from the government Department of Social Welfare, a stringent means test is applied, and utter destitution must be proved—and once destitute in Rhodesia, where there is a depressed economy, they are unlikely ever to be anything else. Where Social Welfare help is given to a family, it consists of basic rations and a part only of the house rent, so there is still need for supplementary help at times.

The Christian Council Relief Office gives a small monthly cash allowance used to buy food and clothing. Rent and school fees are paid direct to those concerned, and the officials in the African township offices of the Bulawayo area have proved helpful and co-operative—part of my job was to establish good relations with those concerned. Such help was invaluable, for it was not unknown for someone seeking help to ask for an allowance for rent when he was neither a lessee nor a lodger in the house where he said he lived!

Encouragement and Help

SOME AMNESTY Groups have adopted families in Rhodesia, and they assist by writing encouraging letters to the families and to the restrictee, arranging

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for money to be forwarded to the family from time to time, and by sending parcels of second-hand clothing to them. It is impossible to overestimate the value of this in terms of morale and material benefit received—countless people acknowledge a great debt to friends overseas as a result.

For much of the time I was office-bound, being visited by applicants rather than vice versa. Most of the investigatory case-work was done by trained social workers and their findings were reported to me. However, I frequently visited African townships on business of one kind or another, although with the present state of emergency in Rhodesia idle sightseeing is discouraged. I found them full of contrasts—over the past 10 years much building has been done, and while there are still some terrible slums, there are, in the newer townships, houses and amenities which are a vast improvement on those built 30 years ago. But still there is overcrowding, and few houses reach the European standard. It is to the credit of the Bulawayo Municipality that further development is scheduled to take place as soon as possible.

UKRAINE

THERE has been some progress in the Soviet Union as far as the Ukraine is concerned. We have known for some time that there were waves of arrests there beginning in the summer of 1965 with the detention of Professor Switlychny and the writer Iwan Dziuba. Both these men have been free for some time, but we now have the names of about 20 men and women from different parts of the republic who were tried in the early months of this year and convicted of reading, copying and disseminating publications of a pre-revolutionary period or from abroad. The sentences passed on them ranged from 8 months to 6 years. One of the main issues in question seems to be a widespread dissatisfaction with the status of the Ukrainian language and culture, and at a trial in Lvov (held in camera) the defendants refused to accept the act of indictment in Russian, and the prosecutor and judges had to give way and order for the trial to proceed in Ukrainian. It is said that, in all, about 70 people were arrested, and of these the ones who were convicted have apparently been sent to prisons and labour camps beyond the borders of the Ukraine. Others were released, but have lost jobs and are refused permission to travel elsewhere.

EAST GERMANY

NEWS from East Germany is good, in that many political prisoners have recently been released. The best-known one was perhaps Harry Seidel, the East German racing cyclist who was sentenced to life imprisonment in 1962 for building tunnels under the Berlin Wall. He is now reunited with his

family (before his arrest he had brought them out to West Berlin through a specially constructed tunnel) in West Berlin. We do not have precise details of how these releases were effected: let it just be said that no publicity should be given to any rumours about this subject, as this could only prejudice the chances of people still in East German prisons obtaining their freedom. It is particularly gratifying that released prisoners appear to be given the choice of either staying in East Germany or of proceeding to West Germany or West Berlin.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

There is also good news from Czechoslovakia with the release of Dieter Konecki, a West Berlin student convicted of espionage and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. He had served 5 years of his sentence, and had apparently been in poor health for some time. His case had been a very sad one, in that the charges against him had appeared very dubious and could have arisen merely as a misunderstanding of his personal interest in East Europe where he had travelled extensively as a student representative before his arrest and had done much to promote East-West understanding. There are no diplomatic relations between the German Federal Republic and Czechoslovakia and the lack of good will and understanding between the two countries combines with this to make the situation of any West German arrested there for political reasons particularly serious.

WE regret that Mr. BELL has resigned the position of General Secretary of the British Section and terminated his appointment as from September 30th. Mr. BELL is still fully in sympathy with the work of AMNESTY and resigned because of a difference of opinion concerning the functions of a general secretary. He has now returned to the ministry of a Congregational church. The office of General Secretary of the British Section will not be filled so that there can be an alteration of functions. The Executive Committee of the British Section together with the International Secretariat are shortly to appoint a joint Fund Raiser.

Reports on Prison Conditions

THE reports on prison conditions in Rhodesia, East Germany and Paraguay are now available at 4/- each. The hard-back edition comprising all 3 reports is available at 15/-.

Copies of last year's reports on prison conditions in South Africa, Rumania and Portugal are still available at 3/6 each. Hard-back edition—12/6.

CHRISTMAS CARDS are again available from Manton (Westminster) Ltd., 153 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

As in previous years, lists of names of Prisoners of Conscience, to whom Christmas cards can be sent, have been prepared. The mass despatch of thousands of Christmas greetings, now an established practice of AMNESTY, gives encouragement to the prisoner and also makes the authorities aware of AMNESTY's concern. On ordering your cards from Manton a list will be sent to you.

SEALS of the AMNESTY candle are also available for your Christmas mailing. 12 stamps on a sheet, perforated, at 3d. per sheet.

BALL-POINT PENS inscribed with AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL available at 1/3 each or 12/- per dozen.

HANDKERCHIEFS can be ordered from Miss A. E. Granger, 20 Otterburn Avenue, South Wellfield, Whitley Bay, Northumberland, who is bedridden and embroiders linen or cotton handkerchiefs in aid of AMNESTY. Packet of three linen handkerchiefs 7/6. In cotton 3/6.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

THIS year the Celebration will take place at the MERMAID THEATRE, Puddle Dock, London, E.C.4, and many well-known people, including James Cameron, Bernard Miles, Cy Grant, and The Tinkers, will take part in the programme. Please book your seats early for SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11th, 1966, at 6.30 p.m. Tickets—30/- and 15/-. A limited number of tickets are available at £3 10s., which will include a theatre seat, dinner, drinks and tips. APPLY TO THE MERMAID THEATRE for tickets. Tel. CITY 7656.

LITANY for the DAY of HUMAN RIGHTS. Illuminated manuscripts of Salvador de Madariaga's Litany now available from head office at 10/6 a copy. They are suitable for framing.

BOOK REVIEWS

A History of Modern Poland. By Hans Roos, translated from the German by J. R. Foster. (Eyre & Spottiswoode Ltd., London. 290 pp. 42/-).

This book is particularly valuable for its study of religious and intellectual freedom in Poland during the period 1945-1965. The story begins however in 1914 and provides an account of foreign and domestic affairs until the present day. The most up-to-date book on Poland we have.

Tomorrow's Sun. By Helen Joseph. (Hutchinson & Co. 300 pp. 35/-).

This is Helen Joseph's latest book. It is an autobiography of some aspects of her own life pieced together from a journal she kept. This book is an absolute "must" for every Group with an adopted South African prisoner. It tells vividly her own involvement in the struggle going on in South Africa. It gives perhaps the clearest picture yet of what it means to be banned. Part of the book also deals with the banned Africans whom she was appointed by the African National Congress to find and visit.

God Within. By Isabel Kemp. (Bala Press. 120 pp. 10/-)

All royalties from the sale of this book go to Amnesty International and Norman House for Discharged Prisoners.

Letters on Islam. By Mohammad Fadhel Jamali. (Oxford University Press. 110 pp. 15/-)

Sentenced to death by the infamous "Peoples Court" of Colonel Madhawi, a former Iraqi Foreign Minister relates how the teachings of Islam were his constant source of solace while awaiting execution. Happily relieved, he describes in a series of letters to his son the great spiritual comfort he drew from Koranic readings and lessons. Translated from the Arabic by the author, these collected letters might well serve as an informed primer on Islamic beliefs and practices.

The Jail Diary of Albie Sachs. (Harvill, 30s.)

In this diary, Albie Sachs - a young Cape Town barrister - invites the reader to share his 168 days in solitary confinement, enforced on him under the 90-day detention law. Apart from being exceptionally well written, his diary dissects and exposes all aspects of his emotions - his battle to create from nothing a routine that would make the days pass faster, his relationship with other prisoners with whom he was able to communicate through whistling. All members of Amnesty should read this book to get a feeling of what it is like to be imprisoned.

Time Longer than Rope. By Edward Roux. (University of Wisconsin Press, \$6.50).

Many books have been written on the history of South Africa but few have, understandably enough, been accepted by the non-Whites. Edward Roux's "Time Longer than Rope" is however an outstanding exception, which has got the full approval of the majority of the South African people. This history dates back to a time long before a white man set his suppressing foot on South African soil. With stress on the liberation struggle during the 20th century, Edward Roux, who himself took an active part in this struggle, tells the history up to 1963. It can be recommended to groups with South African prisoners as standard reading.

Moscow Summer. By Mihajl Mihajlov. (Sidgwick & Jackson. 220 pp. 21/-).

The three essays making up this short book - many of the 220 pages are taken up with a lengthy introduction and good biographical notes on Soviet writers - describe Moscow as it appeared to a young Yugoslav academic making his first visit to the Soviet Union in 1964. They are fascinating reading not only because their publication in Yugoslavia resulted in a prison sentence for the author (see Bulletin p.4), but also

for the descriptions of writers and artists with whom Mihajlov talked. Topical interest is added to an extremely readable book by the fact that Mihajlov was given a second sentence in September, is an adopted prisoner and is now waiting the outcome of an appeal.

The Penguin Dictionary of Politics, Fourth Edition. (Penguin Books Ltd., 400 pp. 6/-)

I would recommend to all Amnesty Groups who have adopted prisoners in any part of the world to make this dictionary of politics their basic guide to the modern political situation. It provides an extensive background to all the individual countries, as well as various political figures and doctrines. Obviously being a paperback dictionary it cannot deal in a specialised way with any particular subject, but it can serve as a very intelligent guide. This 4th edition is dated 1964 and is, therefore, already a little out of date in certain details, but this is not of major importance. To have it at hand at Group meetings will enable members to look up anything from the Conservative Party of Great Britain to the history of Transylvania. Various treaties and even abstract political concepts are dealt with in the book.