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INTERNAL (for AI members only)

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DECISIONS
OF THE
11TH INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Cambridge, U.K.
21-24 September 1978

DECISIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

I. STATUTE AMENDMENTS

1. The International Council

RESOLVES

- i) to delete article 11 of the international Statute
- ii) to amend article 3 of the international Statute to read as follows:

"Amnesty International shall consist of national sections, affiliated groups and individual members."
- iii) to inform existing corporate members about this decision as well as about the possibility to subscribe to Amnesty International information.

(Formerly Resolution C.12)

2. The International Council

RESOLVES to amend article 18 of the international Statute to read as follows:

"The Chairperson of the International Executive Committee or such other person as the International Executive Committee may appoint, shall open the proceedings of the International Council, which shall elect a Chairperson. Thereafter the elected Chairperson or such other person as the Chairperson may appoint, shall preside at the International Council."

and by deleting the word "Chairman" in articles 19, 21, 24, 31, 32, 34, 37, 38 and 39, and substituting thereafter the word "Chairperson".

(Formerly Resolution C.15)

3. The International Council

RESOLVES to amend article 3) of the international Statute to read as follows:

"If a member of the Committee is unable to attend a meeting such member may appoint an alternate."

(Formerly Resolution C.16)

4. The International Council

RESOLVES to amend article 37 of the international Statute to read as follows:

"The Secretary General may, after consultation with the chairperson of the IEC, and subject to confirmation by that Committee, appoint such executive and professional staff as are necessary for the proper conduct of the affairs of AI, and may appoint such other staff as are necessary."

(Formerly Resolution C.17)

5. The International Council

RESOLVES to amend article 41 of the international Statute by the deletion of the word "him" and the word "his" and by the substitution for this word "him" of the word "such person" and by the substitution for the word "his" of the words "such members".

(Formerly Resolution C.18)

6. The International Council

RESOLVES to amend the third sentence of article 45 of the international Statute to read as follows:

"Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the International Secretariat not less than three months before the International Council meets..."

(Formerly Resolution C.42)

II. STRATEGY

A. General

7. The International Council

REQUESTS the IEC to initiate a discussion within the whole movement on mandate problems; this should include the following issues:

- i) the definition of Prisoner of Conscience and political prisoner;

- ii) Amnesty International's standards for a "fair trial";
- iii) Amnesty International's standards for acceptable "prison conditions", and the definition of "cruel, inhuman and degrading" treatment;
- iv) Amnesty International's work for conscientious objectors;
- v) Amnesty International's work for refugees;
- vi) Amnesty International's attitude to violations of human rights committed by non-governmental organizations;
- vii) Amnesty International's attitude to violations of human rights in areas of armed conflict.

REQUESTS the IEC to set up a special committee as soon as possible, with representation from both large and small national sections, to assist this discussion and help the IEC in reporting on it to the ICM 1979;

REQUESTS also the IEC to try and ensure that a discussion paper from the committee will be sent to national sections during the spring of 1979 to enable a full and thorough discussion at the 12th ICM;

REQUESTS the IEC in its report to include a proposal for a clarification of article 1 and 2 of the international Statute, based on proposals arising from the discussion.

(Formerly Resolution A.11)

8. The International Council

recognizing the basic importance for AI of the principle of impartiality as mentioned in article 1 of the Statute by the clauses "throughout the world" and "irrespective of political consideration",

noting the 1977 ICM decision that AI's impartiality be emphasized at every opportunity,

considering that it is necessary to have a definition of impartiality to be used in public statements;

RESOLVES to define the concept of impartiality as follows:

the organization as a whole and each section, group and individual member works towards AI's objectives. No account will be taken of political, religious or other conscientiously held beliefs of persecuted persons or of their ethnic origins, colour, sex or language; nor of the political, social, cultural or economic structure or the ideology of the country in which persecution takes place.

(Formerly Resolution A.12)

B. Specific

9. The International Council

ENDORSES the statement of current AI policy on military, economic and cultural relations, commonly known as "trade and aid", as expressed by the Chairman of the IEC in his introduction to the Report to the 10th International Council Meeting 1977 whereby AI provides information on human rights violations to others, but for questions of principle and practical reasons abstains from drawing political conclusions and from proposing or supporting sanctions against governments committing these violations, such as boycotts or cuts in aid;

REQUESTS the IEC to stimulate further debate within the movement on this question with a view to preparing for a substantial discussion at the 1979 ICM;

INSTRUCTS the IEC to recognize however that it is within Amnesty International's mandate to call for the cessation of those types of military, security and police transfers which can be reasonably assumed to be used by recipient governments in the violation of the human rights within Amnesty International's mandate;

Further INSTRUCTS the IEC to explore the possibility of AI attempting to persuade the agencies responsible for international aid to require recipients to provide information of human rights in their countries along with the usual information on relevant economic conditions.

(Formerly Resolutions A.21, A.22,
A.23, A.24)

10. The International Council

RESTATES the intent behind the resolution referred to the IEC by the 1976 ICM (resolution 5R), that research and action concerning human rights violations inside AI's mandate suffered by small farmers, peasants and similar persons dwelling in rural areas should apply not only in Central and Latin America but increasingly cover similar problems in other parts of the world such as Asia and Africa;

REQUESTS the IEC and the IS to integrate work on these specific violations of human rights inside AI's mandate wherever they occur fully into their overall research and possible activities.

(Formerly Resolution A.81)

11. The International Council

ASKS the IEC and the IS to convene a Seminar of Muslim Scholars to advise AI as to the methods to be adopted in Muslim countries to explain its objectives without in the least wounding the religious susceptibilities in these countries.

(Formerly Resolution A.82)

12. The International Council

recognizing that there is well documented information to the effect that the government of Paraguay, as a matter of policy, according to information received, permits forcible restriction of the Ache, Moro and other forest Indians, which restriction is imposed by reason of their race, religion and ethnic origin,

recognizing that these Indians have been subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment while under restriction; and that the nature and conditions of their restriction represent a grave and urgent challenge to the concept of international responsibility for human rights;

RESOLVES to recognize that the Ache, Moro and other forest Indians so restricted fall within the mandate of AI, and

REQUESTS the IEC to explore appropriate techniques to work for its solution.

(Formerly Resolution A.95)

13. The International Council

considering the increasing number of persons who have fled their countries and might reasonably be expected to become prisoners of conscience if they were forced to return to their own countries or to the country where they had last stayed,

reaffirming our mandate as stated in the international Statute regarding activities relating to refugees;

URGES in particular the IEC and IS urgently to implement action whereby all national sections, where appropriate:

- a) strongly recommend their own governments to grant refugee status and asylum to the above mentioned category of persons;
- b) urge their own governments to grant refugee status and asylum to prisoners of conscience detained in other countries if this action might result in their release from detention, provided this is accepted by the prisoners concerned;
- c) request their own government in no circumstances to expel or allow the extradition of any persons to any country if there are reasonable grounds to fear that they would be executed or summarily killed or tortured or imprisoned for reasons of conscience, or face other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

REQUESTS the IEC to ensure that these approaches to governments should be coordinated by the IS, where appropriate;

and further REQUESTS the IEC to refer the matter to the newly established mandate committee. This committee should also consider whether and to what extent persons should be included under c) above who if returned to their own country might reasonably be expected to face unfair trial.

(Formerly Resolution B.24)

III. ACTION

A. Program: Specific

14. The International Council

REQUESTS the IEC to consider the possibility that an international program of action should be organized with national section involvement for the ratification of the UN International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol by all countries;

RECOMMENDS the IEC to circulate to the national sections an up-to-date list of ratifications of the two UN Covenants, the European Convention and the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights and a draft text for the national sections to be used in actions for further ratification of the covenants, including articles or protocols for individual petitions;

RECOMMENDS to the national sections to use this documentation on actions particularly in connection with the Human Rights Day on 10 December 1978.

(Formerly Resolutions B.63 and B.64)

15. The International Council

RESOLVES to instruct the IEC to take appropriate action with the Council of Ministers of the Council of Europe to urge them to recognize the right to conscientious objection under the European Convention of Human Rights in accordance with the principles recognized by Amnesty International for the purpose of adoption.

(Formerly Resolution A.53)

16. The International Council

acknowledging the tremendous work done so far by AI to abolish torture of prisoners in Latin America and the positive results of CAT upon some countries in the region,

aware of the fact that the problem remains very serious in some countries in Central and South America,

realizing that conditions in the region are by and large propitious for an overall successful CAT operation if systematically and vigorously carried out on all fronts over the next 20 months or so;

WELCOMES the initiative which originated with national sections in Latin America and the International Secretariat to hold a regionally focused CAT seminar in Mexico in 1979, from which a comprehensive and detailed CAT program for the region should come out;

INSTRUCTS the IEC to set up temporarily a separate heading within the Consolidated Special Project Fund to finance the planned seminar with a target amount of £20,000, and to encourage national section contributions for this purpose;

INVITES all national sections in and outside Latin America to study how best to participate in a sustained AI comprehensive CAT effort vis à vis the region during 1979 and 1980.

(Formerly Resolution A.94)

17. The International Council

INSTRUCTS the IEC and the IS to work out a special action program for the children within AI's mandate, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

(Formerly Resolution B.26)

18. The International Council

taking into account earlier Council decisions stating that AI's work with international organizations including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international governmental organizations (IGOs) is of the utmost importance,

considering that partly as a consequence of the growing impact, goodwill and influence of AI, NGOs and IGOs are increasingly willing to work for the realization of the goals of AI,

taking into account also that it is more effective to approach NGOs and IGOs on a national as well as on an international level in a coordinated way,

considering further that as a consequence of a lack of an adequate structure on national and international level this is not successfully possible;

RECOMMENDS that national sections should make provisions for a structure which facilitates a coordinated approach of the NGOs and IGOs in the national section, both in consultation with the IS;

RECOMMENDS further that in the International Secretariat, the NGO and IGO work has to be structured and coordinated in a proper way.

(Formerly Resolution B.61)

19. The International Council

having received the June 1977 statement by the Medical Advisory Board on animal experiments,

having received the May 1978 Report of the (Amsterdam) Committee to discuss Amnesty International's Medical Experiments and comments on the report by the Danish Section board and the AI Medical Advisory Board,

recognizing the ethical integrity of the doctors concerned in the experimentation by the Danish Medical Group and further recognizing that no human person nor any animal has been subjected to pain during the experimentation;

But being concerned with the possible consequences of misuse or misinterpretation of information about these experiments:

RESOLVES that AI should not sponsor further medical experimentation involving the use of either human beings or animals.

(Formerly Resolution B.71)

B. Techniques

20. The International Council

recognizing that faced with the development of the organization and the increase in repression in the world, it is necessary that AI diversifies its techniques,

considering however, that every new technique must be seen in the context of the continuing concrete and prisoner-orientated action (adoption, investigation) which remains fundamental to AI;

REQUESTS that among the diversified techniques those of national campaigns should benefit from a more precise definition and substantial logistical support;

REQUESTS that the quality rather than number be the main concern in planning campaigns;

ASKS that in the choice of these campaigns overall AI political balance be maintained in the context of all AI activities.

(Formerly Resolution B.22)

21. The International Council

stressing the necessity of effective working techniques for the tasks of AI,

welcoming all the new working techniques which the International Secretariat, together with the national sections, have introduced during the past years,

recognizing the importance of a rather exact and completed knowledge of the effect of the working techniques of AI in the countries concerned,

recalling decision 3 of the International Council 1976, which requested the forming of a committee for the examination of the effects of AI working techniques;

REQUESTS the IEC to form a committee for examining the effect of AI working techniques, and that this committee should give a first report of its findings to the next ICM.

(Formerly Resolution B.11)

22. The International Council

considering that the adoption of prisoners cannot be used in some countries,

considering that in certain countries country action dossiers and Central America Special Action (CASA) could be a useful group activity,

considering that a certain "country" or "topic" sheet can be used by several groups in different sections;

REQUESTS the IEC to study the possibilities of extending such group activity to other countries or topics (such as torture, death penalty, conscientious objectors, etc.) and, if effective, to extend such group activity.

(Formerly Resolution B.31)

23. Le Conseil International

Rapelle son attachement au groupe d'adoption comme structure de base de l'action d'AI. Afin de faire face au développement actuel de l'organisation, il est confié de plus en plus de cas d'investigation aux groupes nouvellement créés. La distribution massive de cas d'investigation peut s'inscrire également dans une politique de décentralisation et de diversification des techniques. L'action sur les cas d'investigation nécessite toute-fois une formation particulière et des consignes d'actions spécifiques. Les éléments mis à la disposition des groupes dans les dossiers d'investigation sont souvent loin de permettre une action efficace et satisfaisante;

DEMANDE qu'à la rareté des dossiers d'adoption et à la difficulté de leur établissement, l'attribution de cas d'investigation ne soit pas seulement un substitut, mais soit considérée comme une pratique qui a sa propre valeur et sa propre efficacité. Dans cet esprit, afin de "valoriser" le travail sur les cas d'investigation, le CI demande que soient mises au point des "lignes directrices" pour la travail d'investigation.

(Formerly Resolution B.32)

24. The International Council

recognizing that working for prisoners after their release is an accepted task of AI groups, and that released prisoners often urgently need medical help, financial support for rehabilitation and are also faced with persecution even after their release from prison,

noting that sometimes the IS urges the groups to give the necessary assistance, sometimes the groups themselves take the initiative, but that organizational uncertainties - because release of a prisoner usually means closure of the case - too often lead to confusion,

stressing the need to guarantee that work is continued where help is still needed, to ensure that this area will be paid more attention and that the decision is not only left to the group's discretion;

RESOLVES that a national section be invited by the IEC to prepare draft guidelines for submission to the IEC in time for the next ICM concerning assistance for these released prisoners.

(Formerly Resolution B.33)

C. Information and Publications

25. The International Council

RECALLS the Report of the Press and Publications Meeting of the 9th ICM which stated that "the proper principle on which AI should handle publications was that the IS was to be considered as a provider of raw material rather than as a producer of finished products. Multi-cultural development being the desired orientation, this part of AI activities should be completely reviewed."

RECALLS the repeated requests of national sections and the ICM for the IS to adapt its information and publications output to the capacities of the national sections. These requests have specifically stressed the need for a simpler language in circulars to national sections and groups and the need to facilitate the translation work of national sections;

ENDORSES the specific findings on information handling in the Report on the Survey of National Section Resources which indicate:

- i) that if documents are to be properly disseminated either within or outside the AI membership, they must be reproduced, reprocessed or translated by the majority of national sections; and
- ii) that the present quality of documents (their language, structure, content and presentation) often presents problems for translators and other users of material.

CONSIDERS that the decisions of the 10th ICM concerning decentralization and the strengthening of national sections must be reflected in the information handling of the movement;

RESOLVES that in this respect the role of the International Secretariat within the AI movement should be to provide national sections and groups with basic information tools which will enable them to produce finished publications, publicity and action materials. Such basic information tools shall include circulars to national sections and groups, external documents, manuscripts of publications, texts and prototype designs for leaflets, feature articles, photographs and information about audio-visual resources. These basic information tools shall be presented in consistent and simple language and shall take into account the special needs of volunteer translators and others involved in reproducing and/or reprocessing them in national sections;

DECIDES that exceptions to this policy shall be agreed to by the IEC only when clearly necessary to support the work of national sections, to disseminate AI information in areas where no AI structures exist, to reach an audience for which centralized production of finished material is required, or to implement a specific country-related strategy.

(Resolution arising from Working Party B)

26. The International Council

RESOLVES to endorse the following considerations and preliminary guidelines for the responsible handling of information within the AI movement:

1. There is a need for security of information in AI at all levels.
2. Awareness of the need for security can only be achieved by consistent training programs also at all levels.

3. There is a need for a definition of sensitive areas of AI information.
4. There is a need to examine all AI information from the point of view of security.
5. AI information has to be shared in order to be effectively used, and information handling is a responsibility throughout the movement.
6. Despite conscious sharing of information, the principle is essential that in sensitive areas information shall only be passed to those who "need to know".
7. All AI information acquired by any officer or member of AI in exercising these AI functions is the property of AI and must be utilized in accordance with AI rules and guidelines.
8. AI members acquiring confidential information due to their AI functions must return or destroy such information on ceasing to exercise AI functions. However, a person may, while observing suitable security measures, retain a copy or have continued access to minutes of meetings in which he/she has participated.
9. AI archives shall be maintained by the International Secretariat under the responsibility of the IEC and national sections should, from time to time, review their files in order to transfer essential archive material to the IS.
10. There is an urgent need for standard guidelines within the entire movement. These guidelines should be prepared and approved by the IEC and submitted for endorsement by the ICM.

(Formerly Resolution C.19)

27. The International Council

URGES the IS and the IEC to simplify and make more concise the language used in both internal and external material and reports. A good rule could be that an ordinary non-academic person should be able to understand it easily.

(Formerly Resolution B.43)

28. The International Council

stressing the need for consistency in the application of AI's statutory objectives in all AI public material,

REQUESTS the IEC to invite a national section to undertake a review of all AI published material with a view to analyzing to what extent there has been consistency in the presentation and description of AI's concerns, and to submit the results of this study to the International Council in 1979.

(Formerly Resolution B.42)

IV. ORGANIZATION

A. General

29. The International Council

RESOLVES to include the following in the Working Rules of Amnesty International:

"Members of the IEC and of the IS and other representative AI bodies shall, in the exercise of their AI functions, abstain from any action incompatible with their functions, in particular they shall not seek or accept instructions from any national or international entity, other than AI bodies."

(Formerly Resolution C.13)

B. Decentralization and Cooperation

30. The International Council

RESOLVES

1. that the process of decentralization within the movement is of greatest importance and must be continued as a matter of very high priority;
2. that this process should be accompanied by a systematic training program within the organization and by concerted efforts, financial and other, to assist national sections at an early stage of development;

3. that the concrete steps for decentralization must be worked out in close cooperation between the national sections and the IS, and that the IEC be the responsible organ for the implementation of the Council recommendations;
4. that concrete decisions on the technique for this cooperation and dialogue on decentralization be referred to the IEC;
5. that all national sections should be regularly informed about the achievements and problems in the process;
6. that before the next International Council Meeting, steps should be taken to start a decentralization process and also to propose further steps.

(Formerly Resolution C.21)

31. The International Council

recalling the decisions of the 10th ICM concerning the need for a program of decentralization as recommended by the Cambridge Crash Committee,

noting the importance of the strengthening of national sections and of training as prerequisites for a program of decentralization;

WELCOMES the Report on the Survey of National Section Resources as an important step in the process of decentralization initiated by the CCC Report.

ENDORSES the proposal of the IEC to establish a committee (composed of members from at least two national sections, the IEC and the IS) with the following terms of reference:

- i) to study closely each recommendation and the feasibility of implementation;
- ii) to draw up priorities for implementation;
- iii) to make concrete proposals for implementation of the recommendations to the IEC/IS and national sections as appropriate;
- iv) to propose further initiatives on the basis of the Survey of National Section Resources and the resolutions accepted in the past ICMs on decentralization;

- v) to report not later than April 1979 to the IEC on the implementation of the recommendations;
- vi) to report fully to the 12th ICM on the progress towards decentralization and make recommendations for further steps.

(Arising from Working Party C)

32. The International Council

considering that the continuing growth of AI makes it more and more necessary to adapt the international structures of the organization to the new situation;

concerned that in the coming years the IEC may not be able to cope with the growth and with the new tasks imposed upon it without reforming its structures, and taking into account both the need for effectiveness and the need to respect democratic working procedures;

INVITES the IEC to request the outgoing members of the IEC to prepare a discussion paper on the restructuring of the IEC and International Council as soon as possible. This paper should be circulated to all national sections early in 1979 and placed on the agenda of the next ICM.

(Formerly Resolution C.22)

33. The International Council

in order to provide more systematic planning within the movement and to connect different programs to one another,

RESOLVES

1. that the IEC will in the future distribute well before the ICM a draft comprehensive plan, which will include issues that will be dealt with by the next ICM, for the forthcoming AI activities (including priorities, timing and budgetary implications);
2. that such a plan should cover a two-year period in line with the financial year of the international budget, the first such plan to commence 1 May 1980;

3. that it is prepared with the maximum possible consultation with national sections in an attempt to obtain their advice on the subjects to be considered;
4. that the plan be distributed to national sections well in advance of the preparation of their own proposals to the ICM;
5. that national sections are urged to participate in this planning at an early stage to the fullest possible extent.

(Formerly Resolution C.23)

34. The International Council

noting the increasing importance of AI's role in international relations with respect to human rights as stated in our Statute,

considering the necessity of having an overall AI policy/strategy,

recalling decision 25 taken by the 1977 ICM in Bad Honnef;

RESOLVES that sections and where appropriate, also coordination groups, be involved in the policy/strategy preparation on countries and subjects;

RESOLVES furthermore that meetings on a specific country, area or subject discuss AI policy/strategy concerning these countries, areas or subjects, based on prepared policy/strategy papers; and that these meetings advise the IEC on these matters;

and RESOLVES also that all aspects of these meetings have to be prepared properly;

REQUESTS the IEC to take all necessary steps to implement these decisions.

(Formerly Resolution C.24)

35. The International Council

NOTES the proposed "Rules governing a national section's activities concerning its own country" submitted to it by the International Executive Committee following consultation with the national sections;

ENDORSES the fundamental principles embodied in the proposed rules and advises the IEC and national sections, and members, groups and other AI structures in countries having no AI national section, to be guided by the spirit of the proposed rules;

RESOLVES

- i) to instruct all national sections, and members and groups in countries having no AI national section, to circulate and discuss the proposed rules contained in ICM 13/02/78 and an explanatory note based on document ICM 13/01/78 to their members and to submit any specific amendments to these rules to the IEC prior to 15 February 1979;
- ii) to request the IEC to circulate such amendments likewise to the membership as well as its own comments and proposals immediately after its spring meeting in 1979;
- iii) to place this item on the agenda of the 12th ICM, possibly for discussion at a separate working party or discussion group, in order to establish a set of rules binding on all national sections, and on members, groups and other AI structures in countries having no AI national section;
- iv) to request each national section, and all members, groups and other AI structures in countries not having an AI national section to undertake no new categories of action concerning human rights problems in their own countries unless they **have** consulted with the IEC in accordance the proposed rules;
- v) to instruct the IEC and national sections and groups and members as above not to extend the practice of the collection of information concerning their own countries by the national sections and membership until greater experience has been obtained in the use of existing guidelines;
- iv) to accept as binding upon all national sections, and upon members, groups and other AI structures in countries having no AI national section, the guideline on publications and public statements proposed by the IEC to all national sections in January 1978 (ACT 01/05/78).

Appendix: Rules governing a national section's activities concerning its own country

(Formerly Resolution C.32)

36. The International Council

considering that national section statutes should comply with certain minimum principles and requirements, including conformity with AI's objectives as established by article 1 of the international Statute;

REQUESTS the IEC to draw up such principles and requirements;

AUTHORIZES the IEC to request the statutes from already established national sections and to review these in the same way as the statutes of new national sections are now reviewed in accordance with Statute article 8, taking into account the above-mentioned principles and requirements;

REQUESTS the IEC to circulate the proposals contained in resolution C.341 to all national sections for detailed study and discussion.

(Formerly Resolution C.34)

37. The International Council

RESOLVES to refer to the International Executive Committee the resolution as amended by Working Party C as follows:

'Recognizing that a national section is free to establish branches according to the linguistic, ethnic or cultural groupings within its country, or regional structures for administrative purposes,

ENDORSES the policy adopted by the IEC of recognizing not more than one national section in any one country. There can be exceptions to this rule.'

And further REQUESTS the IEC to give serious and full consideration with the highest priority to the views and concerns in the working party and in the plenary session regarding this issue.

(Formerly Resolution C.35)

38. The International Council

RESOLVES to refer to a committee to be appointed by the IEC and comprised of representatives of national sections, the question of amending article 25a) of the international Statute to read as follows:

"...elected by the International Council on the basis of the direct addition of the preferences of all the voters expressed in the Direct Proportional System, Not more than one ..."

Consultation among the members of the committee would be conducted by correspondence rather than by meetings.

(Formerly Resolution C.45)

39. The International Council

considering the considerable increase in the number of resolutions to the 11th ICM,

considering also the difficulty for an ICM to discuss major AI problems in depth when there are very many resolutions on different issues;

RECOMMENDS the national sections to submit resolutions to the 13th ICM only on matters of greatest importance to ensure a full discussion on mandate problems and the Draft Plan.

(Emergency Resolution from the Swedish Section, arising from Working Party C)

V. FINANCE

40. The International Council

RESOLVES to recommend that quarterly budgets should be adapted to the actual fluctuation and anticipated expenditure within that specific quarter, so as to make it possible to anticipate overspending as early as possible.

(Arising from Working Party D)

41. The International Council

RESOLVES to amend the system of assessment in order to allow for a certain number of groups to be deducted from the assessable number relevant to the overall number of groups in a national section as follows:

<u>Number of Adoption Groups</u>	<u>Number of Groups for Group Related Fee</u>
1, 2	0
3, 4	1
5, 6	2
7, 8	3
9, 10	4
11	5
12	6
13	7
14	9
15	10
16	12
17	13
18	15
19	16
20	18
21	19
22	20

This proposal would be put into effect beginning the financial year 1979/80.

RECOMMENDS that the proposals submitted by the Indian Section in the document AI Index: ICM 13/04/78 be discussed at the meeting of national section representatives to discuss financial matters in spring 1979.

(Arising from Working Party D)

42. The International Council

RESOLVES

- i) to instruct the IEC to take care that next year's budget is presented in a form which budgets programs, bearing in mind that it will not be able to cost every item of the program in an exact way;

- ii) to recommend to the IEC the establishment of a committee to advise the IS on the manner in which this decision should be implemented.

(Arising from Working Party D)

43. The International Council

considering the rapid growth in amount and complexity of the IS budget and the difficulties of advance planning when required to set a budget eight to nine months before the beginning of the fiscal year, and

considering the importance of national sections' oversight role and control of funding which is an integral part of AI structure;

RESOLVES that a semi-annual meeting of national section representatives to review financial matters be established to meet in London within the eight weeks prior to the beginning of the fiscal year:

- i) to review the budget in detail;
- ii) to provide proper financial planning flexibility;
- iii) to act on any other financial matters as may properly come before the meeting, with the condition that all these matters have to be mentioned on the agenda.

The agenda for the meeting, together with all the papers, must be sent to the national sections at least one month before the meeting.

(Formerly Resolution D.81)

44. The International Council

REQUESTS the IEC to review the procedures for relief set out in the document RLF 01/01/78 and to present a revised proposal for consideration by the meeting in March of national section representatives to discuss financial matters;

INVITES all national sections to submit suggestions to the ~~IS~~ IS in writing before 15 November 1978.

(Formerly Resolution D.84)

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RESOLUTIONS

REFERRED TO THE

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

I. STRATEGY

1. The International Council

REQUESTS that research on Africa and the Far East be intensified.

(Formerly Resolution A.91)

2. The International Council

recognizing the importance of balance in AI's activities, which is achieved through working for prisoners of conscience in all countries,

noting the former 1976 ICM resolution 7, which was referred to the IEC, and the IEC decision as noted in the minutes of the April/May 1977 meeting,

noting further the limited amount of attention that has been paid to human rights violations in the USA in the past, and

noting the limited amount of information made available about human rights violations, within AI's mandate, in the USA;

DECIDES that more research be done on violations of human rights in the USA, and that the appropriate techniques be applied to work to end these violations;

And furthermore DECIDES that more information be made available to AI members and if possible to the general public, on the violation of human rights in the USA;

And REQUESTS the IEC to appoint a researcher as soon as possible for North America, and to take all the necessary steps to implement these decisions.

(Formerly Resolution A.92)

3. The International Council

noting the refusal of the Indonesian government to permit the reunion of husbands and other adult members of Timorese families who have arrived in Australia since the outbreak of hostilities in East Timor,

recognizing that such refusal constitutes physical coercion and restriction imposed upon these individuals by reason of their political beliefs under the terms of article 1a) of the AI statute, and a violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

EXPRESSES its concern at the continuing distress of the individuals subjected to this restriction;

URGES the Indonesian government to permit and facilitate the early reunion of the families, and

DECIDES to advise the ministers of foreign affairs and immigration of the governments of Indonesia and Australia of the terms of this resolution.

(Formerly Resolution A.96)

4. The International Council

URGES the IEC to seek further information regarding alleged widespread atrocities and human rights violations committed in East Timor since Indonesian troops invaded in December 1975; and to take steps at the earliest possible moment to secure respect for AI's objects in East Timor;

and REQUESTS the IEC to investigate the possibility of adopting East Timor under the country action dossier scheme.

(Formerly Resolution A.97)

5. The International Council

considering the lack of information available on the events which have taken place in Cambodia during the past two years,

recognizing that AI has not been able to intervene directly because of the closing of the frontiers of the country and the lack of reliable information about it,

considering therefore that the testimonies of refugees are the only source on which AI can rely,

REQUESTS that the IEC immediately do everything possible to develop an appropriate report and form of action before being able to act more directly.

(Formerly Resolution A.98)

6. The International Council

disturbed by the fact that over 2,000 Cypriots are still missing since the invasions of July and August 1974,

noting that almost half of these were unarmed civilians; that a number are known to have been detained by the Turkish authorities in prisons or concentration camps in Cyprus and Turkey; that most were arrested after the fighting was over,

noting the United Nations General Assembly Resolution of December 9, 1975 (Resolution 3450) and Commission on Human Rights Resolution of February 27, 1976, which express grave concern about the fate of the Cypriot missing, and the Report of the Council of Europe Commission on Human Rights in Response to Charges by the Government of Cyprus concerning Atrocities committed by Turkish Troops in Cyprus, in particular paragraphs 349 and 351, where it is stated "The Commission considers that there is a presumption of Turkish responsibility for the fate of persons shown to have been in Turkish custody",

agreeing with United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3320 of November 14, 1974, which states "Considering that the desire to know the fate of loved ones lost in armed conflict is a basic human need which should be satisfied to the greatest extent possible, and that provision of information on those who are missing or who have died in armed conflict should not be delayed merely because other issues remain pending",

URGES the Turkish authorities to reconsider their refusal to acknowledge the missing or to implement the agreement reached in Vienna (31 July to 2 August 1975, Report of UN Secretary General S/11789 5.8.75) "mutually to extend full facilities for searches in response to information given by the other side";

RESOLVES that the fate of the missing Cypriots is a legitimate concern of AI, and recommends that the International Secretariat put in motion the usual procedures in order to ascertain their fate.

(Formerly Resolution A.99)

II. ACTION AND PROGRAM

7. The International Council

recognizing that the International Secretariat has made great efforts to produce an accurate Action Calendar, and that it has obviously met with great difficulties and caused irritation,

RESOLVES that the difference between campaigns, mini-campaigns and actions should be more clearly defined by the International Secretariat;

and also RESOLVES that the IS consult national sections as to their ability to mount campaigns before making decisions on their frequency and also produces some form of action list which takes into account the capacity of the movement at all levels to be involved in campaigns, mini-campaigns and actions, this list being as flexible as possible.

(Formerly Resolution B.21)

8. The International Council

recognizing the important values of the Stockholm Declaration and of discussions which were held at the Stockholm Conference and the preceding regional conferences,

noting the fact that the death penalty in various forms, both legal and extra-legal, exists in many areas of the world,

reaffirming AI's opposition to any form of the death penalty and its commitment to the abolition of the death penalty as one of the major goals of the AI movement as written in the Statute,

INSTRUCTS the IEC to set up a special committee consisting of members from different regions to work with the International Secretariat and to explore strategies most appropriate for different regions or countries, in order to implement the world-wide campaign for the abolition of the death penalty.

(Formerly Resolution B.23)

9. The International Council

stressing the importance of the external Annual Report for both our internal and external work, as a document providing comprehensive information and demonstrating AI's impartiality,

REQUESTS that, for this purpose, future annual reports are written in a uniform way with identical headings for each country as follows:

- factual background to political situation
- political prisoners, numbers and reasons for arrest
- torture
- death penalty
- disappearances
- AI initiatives, including government responses and situations in which it has been impossible for AI to intervene.

(Formerly Resolution B.41)

10. The International Council

considering that according to the terms of the Cambridge Crash Committee, AI is not specialized in educational and pedagogic techniques,

REAFFIRMS that the role of the organization must remain that of a catalyst in the field of human rights education. AI must not assume the role of other international bodies, such as UNESCO and other NGOs who are already working in this area, but should supply them with information and suggestions.

(Formerly Resolution B.51)

11. The International Council

noting that several national sections, in their efforts to bring about a maximum press, radio and TV coverage in their countries of press releases issued by the IS, meet with serious difficulties arising from the embargo deadlines as fixed in London,

recognizing that, depending on the nature of the contents of public opinion in their releases, and on the particular sensibilities of public opinion in their respective countries, sometimes a powerful TV or radio coverage would be of relatively more importance than an elaborate newspaper coverage, or the reverse, and that the sections should be in a position to direct the weight of their efforts accordingly,

realizing that current IS practice frequently impedes these efforts; the deadline hours attached to the release being not exactly appropriate to enable national sections to make the maximum use of their influence with editorial staffs in the selective way as indicated,

recognizing that these difficulties can largely be avoided if embargo deadlines would leave some flexibility to national sections;

REQUESTS the IEC to direct the IS to handle press release operations in such a way that the embargo, as fixed in London, would indicate as previously a date of expiry, but without adding a definite hour, which national sections would be free to fix within the limit of 24 hours, according to conditions ensuring a maximum impact on public opinion.

(Formerly Resolution B.52)

III. ORGANIZATION

12. The International Council

reaffirming the values of multilingualism and multiculturalism in the AI movement,

recognizing the importance of two-way communication between the IEC and the IS on the one hand and national sections and members on the other,

noting the need to translate into English information and materials to be sent to the IEC and the IS in addition to the need for AI materials to be translated into indigenous languages;

INSTRUCTS the IEC to appropriate funds to help financially weak national sections with the translation of information and materials to be sent to the IEC and the IS in order to promote two-way communication.

(Formerly Resolution C.36)

13. The International Council

realizing that AI action upon Brazil, Portugal and Portuguese-speaking Africa over the last years could have been more effective with the help of some information and documents in Portuguese,

realizing that in order to start organizing AI in the Portuguese-speaking countries, it is necessary to have some AI material translated into Portuguese;

REQUESTS the IEC and the IS to arrange the publication of some basic material in Portuguese (i.e. the Statute, a basic general leaflet and the Prisoners of the Month).

(Formerly Resolution C.37)

IV. FINANCE

14. The International Council

recognizing the generally accepted business principle that taxation should only be levied on the surplus of income over expenditure;

DETERMINES that only the surplus of income over expenditure, in respect of sale of products, be incorporated in the calculation of a national section's gross income.

(Formerly Resolution D.51)

15. The International Council

considering that the raising of funds to support the work of Ammesty International must be integrated into the overall image and policy of the movement;

RESOLVES that the IEC should review the fundraising methods of national sections and groups in terms of their implications for multi-culturalism and their political consequences and with respect to the policy of decentralization.

This review should be undertaken with a view to developing principles for incorporation in the Guidelines for the Acceptance of Financial Contributions and Fundraising by Ammesty International.

(Arising from Working Party D)