

Amnesty International

British Section

Annual Report 1975/76



XTY HANGED IN RHODESIA - AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

688
Amnesty successes

Lots of help for Amnesty

Amnesty fights for jailed E. German

AMNESTY BENEFIT SHOW

'Perjured evidence?' prisoner - Amnesty to get details

Bishop supports Amnesty Group

Chilean prisoner thanks Amnesty

Torture play controversy Singapore accused by Amnesty

Free six Amnesty urges a president Guernsey's Amnesty group

The road ahead for Amnesty

Uruguay 'torture' plea by Amne

She explained that the group had three aims. I worked for the group's three -lotted "prisoners of con science" those imprisoned because of religious or political belief, ethnic origin, colour or language, provided they had not used or advocated violence. Each group was asked to adopt one prisoner in a third world country. All groups

aid last night by International attention by a prison w of firear
By a Staff Reporter A decision by the BBC not to broadcast a play about torture is being questioned by the author, Mr E. Amnesty. In provided authentic material.
The play was broadcast in January, 1973 for a BBC 2. Mr A decided not to be shown at the Contemporary at lunchtime. The BBC s
Amnesty International yesterday criticised violations of human rights in Singapore, pointing out that some political prisoners had been detained in a six-member committee, in the delivery of the he coincided with women's day in

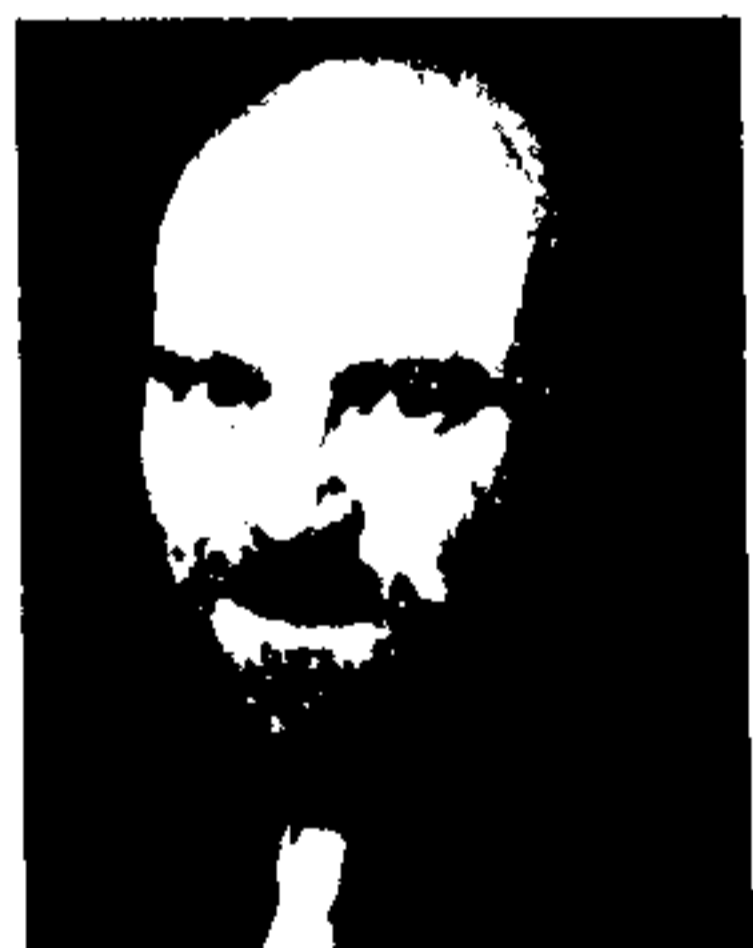
that Mr. prison without eing a

ABOUT a month ago, at the Guernsey Amnesty Group, a film of Amnesty at air

Chairman's Report

Tragically, the need for Amnesty International is greater today than it has ever been. Hopefully, that need is now more widely recognised than ever before. Both on the British and on the international scene Amnesty, both as a concept and as an organisation has, in its sixteenth year, 'come of age'. Governments - both with good and with bad records - now take Amnesty International seriously. The mass media of the western world refer to Amnesty International in much the same way as to the International Red Cross. We are no longer in the position of having to preface what we say with an explanation of what we are and of what we are not.

This all means that we now have the kind of platform we need, in at least part of the world, to work more effectively for the release of prisoners of conscience and for the humane treatment of all prisoners. The task to be done is enormous. In Britain, having reached 'take off point', we must now determine priorities for the tasks ahead. One such set of priorities, I believe, lies in the sphere of education in human rights. That - by any definition - is charitable work. But in reality our whole work is, by any meaningful definition, charitable. The 'break through' to charitable status in British law is now one of our next important objectives. Our finances have become healthier - which, at a time of such inflation is no small achievement. But our financial needs, if the work is to be expanded in relation to the suffering of the oppressed, are enormous. We shall therefore continue to make great demands on all our supporters and well wishers. In giving their money and their time all those who cherish freedom will be making an investment that is both practical and of incalculable moral and spiritual significance.



Paul Oestreicher
June 1976

Executive Committee

The following members served on the Executive Committee in 1975/6:

Rev. Paul Oestreicher	Chairman
Derek Edwards	Vice Chairman
Nick Harding	Hon. Treasurer
Eric Baker	Committee member
Peter Burns	Committee member
Paddy Coyle	Committee member
David Ive	Committee member
Thomas Pereira	Committee member

TREASURER'S REPORT

Last Year

The year 1975/76 was unusually exciting and, overall, rewarding. We started the year with reserves equal to less than one month's expenditure. By late summer these reserves had been used up and it was only the magnificent response of a few people to a special appeal that prevented the need to substantially reduce our activities. By December it became clear that our ambitious budget for the year was not as unreasonable as it had seemed, since we were receiving an almost 50% increase each month in our main regular sources of income, i.e. subscriptions, group contributions and donations over that received in the same months of the previous year. In April 1976 two extremely successful events were held and the resulting income and related donations enabled us to end the year in considerably better circumstances than we started.

I am pleased to say that the increase of 50% referred to above has since been maintained and although the value of such an increase is inevitably eroded by inflation, we are now able to plan ahead with more confidence than for some time.

The Accounts

A summary of the 1975/76 accounts and of the 1976/77 budget is shown opposite. Since the Annual Report has to go to press very shortly after the end of the financial year so that members and groups can receive it in time for the Annual General Meeting, it is not possible to provide audited accounts here. The figures shown on the accounts for the year ended 30th April 1976 are based on the final draft accounts submitted for audit. Copies of the audited accounts may be obtained by request from the British Section of AI, 55 Theobald's Road, London WC1, or may be inspected at the office. These audited accounts may of course differ from the figures in the Financial Report due to adjustments made by our auditors. Last year there were several such adjustments and the corrected figures for 1974/75 are shown in this year's Financial Report.

The Year Ahead

The budget for 1976/77 is based on the expectation that our income will continue to increase at around the same pace as in the last year. Group contributions of £28,700 is based upon the target figure of £205 for each of the 140 adoption groups. Last year many groups managed to send more than £205 and

in not increasing this amount we are inevitably relying upon virtually all groups to reach or exceed this figure. On the expenditure side, we are hoping to substantially increase our contribution to the International Secretariat for research, etc. It is as a result of such contributions that our groups are able to receive documented case sheets on their adopted prisoners and that Amnesty is able to base its activities on reliable and therefore credible information. The National office expenditure is changed to enable a small increase in staff and provision for a substantial increase in expenditure relating to premises. This latter increase is needed, not only because the present lease at Theobald's Road expires in December 1976, but also because considerably more space is needed to enable us to operate more effectively and use more offers of voluntary help.

To success or otherwise of Amnesty can never be judged by its financial accounts. Success lies in such areas as reducing the incidence of torture and political imprisonment: but finance is vital, because it is one of the essential ingredients in achieving these aims. Without finance many of the ingredients would be unavailable, e.g. reliable research and educational data on which most of our campaigning and our credibility is dependent; a professional staff to fully exploit the research material so that it reaches the widest possible audience through the press, radio and television; the newspaper which informs the membership and sympathisers on Amnesty topics. If Amnesty has, as I believe, enormously increased its effectiveness over the last year, this has been due largely to our increased expenditure in some of these areas. Because of the enormity of the task, we still urgently need to increase our income. Happily I believe that the potential for support in Britain is considerable and that over the last year we have made some progress in tapping this support.



N.J. Harding
June 1976

Clarinda Peto	Committee member
Kate Rorke	Committee member
Gordon Smith	Committee member
John Hill	Groups representative (Scotland)
Rodger Lawrence	Groups representative (Midlands)
Harold Hillman	Groups representative (South of England)
Michael Williams	Co-opted member
Bobbie Jacobson	Co-opted member

Everyone was greatly saddened at the end of May 76 to hear of the death of Kate Rorke, member of the Executive Committee and leader of the Aylesford Group. Her enthusiastic spirit and her ardent campaigning for Amnesty will be sorely missed.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL : BRITISH SECTION
Financial Report for year ending 30 April, 1976

Actual 1974/75		Actual 1975/76	Budget 1975/76	Budget 1976/77
£		£	£	£
	Income			
7,152	Subscriptions	11,670	12,000	16,600
238	Affiliation Fees	800	750	2,000
14,297	Group Contributions	20,201	24,000	28,700
12,537	Donations	30,079	16,000	22,700
3,450	Appeals	2,539	3,000	4,000
6,006	Groups – special	4,619	6,000	6,000
1,160	Sales of Publications	5,868		
(449)	Events	450		
247	Miscellaneous	412	5,300	12,000
<u>£44,638</u>	Total Income	<u>£76,638</u>	<u>£67,050</u>	<u>£92,000</u>
	Expenditure			
24,310	Contribution for Research and assistance from International Secretariat	29,213	29,318	£38,600
	Nat. Office Expenditure			
£10,677	Salaries	£16,067	£18,750	£26,000
1,270	Travel & Development	2,368	1,800	3,300
2,921	Rent, cleaning, etc.	3,021	2,750	7,500
2,376	Newspaper printing & post	3,556	4,700	5,000
5,018	Printing, Post & Stationery	13,197	6,000	10,300
24,220	1,958 Other expenses	1,735	1,500	4,400
<u>£48,530</u>	Total Expenditure	<u>£69,157</u>	<u>£64,818</u>	<u>£95,100</u>
(3,892)	Excess of Income over Expenditure for year	7,481		
7,960	Reserves at 1.5.75	4,068		
<u>£ 4,068</u>	Reserves at 30.4.76	<u>£11,549</u>		
	These reserves are represented by:-			
£513	Office equipment at cost	£568		
297	Less depreciation	301	267	
–	Due from P of C Fund		701	
118	Due from Int. Sect.		–	
968	Debtors & Prepayments		1,054	
6,683	Cash at Bank & in Hand		20,483	
8,066		22,505		
	Less Liabilities			
£ –	Due to Int. Secretariat	£ 5,183		
378	Due to Prisoners of Conscience Fund	–		
1,208	Project Fund	662		
3,998	2,412 Creditors & accruals	5,111	10,956	
<u>£ 4,068</u>		<u>£11,549</u>		



Director's Report

It is a rather special time for Amnesty International in Britain.

A year ago, we were faced with a fight for survival, with such serious obstacles in our way as an economic depression and an increase in staff and overheads, vitally necessary to achieve the very growth for which we are striving. We have survived; but more than that, we are on the move again.

The hundreds of extra public engagements, the thousands of miles of travelling, the creation of new campaigning tools – leaflets, posters and so on – and the policy of taking on as much of everything as possible, means that we can now pause for breath and take stock of a materially different campaign. More members (over a thousand more last year!). More Groups. More money. But most important, perhaps, more *activity*. Whether one looks at the number of mentions of Amnesty in the Press and the volume of mail arriving each day (both regularly between five and ten times the equivalent of just over a year ago), whether it's the number of briefings of Press, MPs, and others which we are asked to give, or whether one looks at any of the other areas of our activity – it all points to a campaign which really is on the move.

Prisoner Work

We start the New Year with over 140 'Groups of Three', in almost 130 locations all over the United Kingdom. Together they are working for around 330 prisoners in some 30 different countries. Like the other 1,500 or so Amnesty International Groups all around the world, they work for the release of their three prisoners by letter-writing, telegrams, publicity, and many other methods. The 'welfare' element of their work, both in communicating with the prisoner wherever possible and in terms of financial support for the prisoner's family, provision of legal assistance and so on, is another important element in their work.

Many Groups take part in special campaigns, such as the Uruguay Campaign mentioned elsewhere in this report; and, also in the past year, in pickets organised by the respective area co-ordinators outside the Spanish and Moroccan tourist offices, the Soviet and Indonesian embassies; and Group members were received in several embassies to discuss the cases of their adopted prisoners.

It is always encouraging to see the successful end of an adoption case. British Groups had 137 prisoners released last year; the "world" equivalent figure was 1,688. In addition to simply learning of the releases, it is a great encouragement to actually meet released prisoners. Last year we were particularly pleased to meet Chilean actress Coca Rudolff, whose case we had highlighted in some of our publicity material; and Soviet mathematician Leonid Plyushch whose dramatic release from Dniepropetrovsk prison mental

hospital marked the end of much campaigning by Amnesty and other organisations.

Until recently, centrally-organised campaigning work has been necessarily limited by the urgency of our financial situation. The most productive work has probably been the briefings arranged for journalists, MPs and others who have been directly involved with individual countries, visiting dignitaries, etc.

Co-ordination of the work of Groups who have prisoners in the same countries, which has seen important developments in other European national sections in the last few years, has so far been somewhat slow to develop in the U.K. In the coming year, however, it is hoped that more time will be available at Head Office to concentrate on this aspect of the work. Training schemes for co-ordinators, involvement of area specialists and greater group involvement in campaign work are all planned.

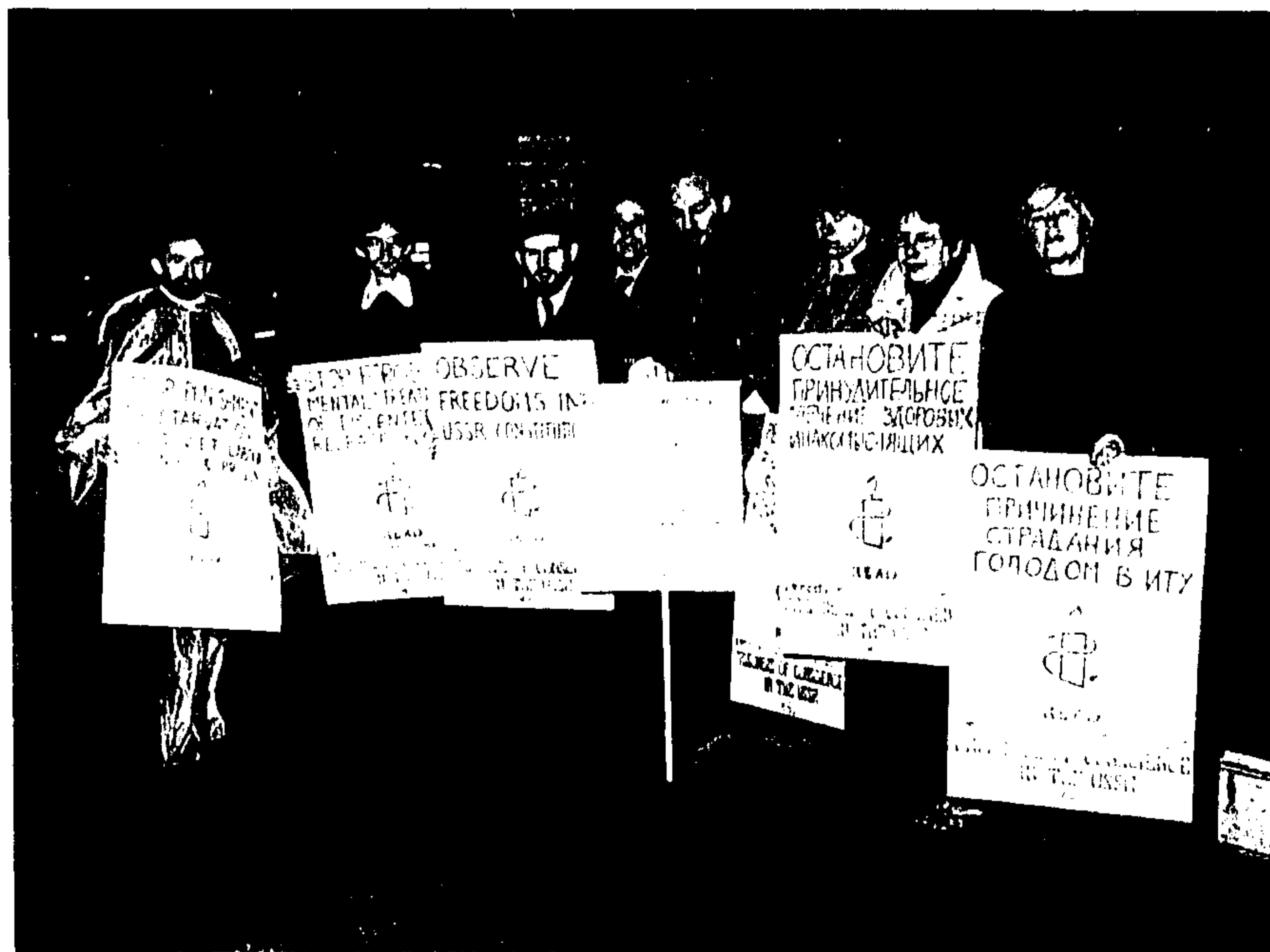


Left
AI Kensington Group second-hand stall near the Portobello Road market in London.

Below
A demonstration organised by the USSR Co-ordination Group outside the Soviet Embassy in London to mark the publication of AI's report "Prisoners of Conscience in the USSR".

Below left
Liverpool AI Groups and their prisoner cave, collecting signatures for the international petition against torture in Uruguay -- as bitterly portrayed in a Montevideo newspaper cartoon.

Far left
Familiar faces from 'Monty Python', 'The Goodies', and 'Beyond the Fringe' take a break from rehearsals of 'A Poke in the Eye (with a Sharp Stick)' -- the AI fundraising revue.



Fundraising and Development

This year, apart from covering its own operating costs, the British Section will have to contribute around £39,000 to the International Secretariat, in respect of our share of all the research, mission, and so on which provide the vast bulk of our knowledge of human rights throughout the world, enable us to work for individual prisoners and take part with other national sections and their groups in important international campaigns. Even last year, the sum we had to pay was a daunting £30,000, on top of our own, increased budget of around £35,000.

From an initial position of despair, much progress has been made. The tide was first turned by some very generous individuals who came to the rescue with substantial cheques. The ready response of our own members to our Christmas appeal together with an increased rate of new membership and donations from the general public helped to continue the recovery. The major fundraising events of the year, however, were clearly two benefits held in April: Yehudi Menuhin's wonderful gift of his 60th birthday concert at the Royal Festival Hall with his son Jeremy; and the spectacular and generous gift by nineteen top stars of British revue comedy in the form of a three night late revue show. Meanwhile, many Groups were also joining the challenge with tremendous efforts, most achieving their fundraising targets and some overtaking them. A fundraising file about to be distributed should help to boost efforts in the coming year.

Campaign for the Abolition of Torture (C.A.T.)

The British Section's part in this increasingly important aspect of Amnesty's work is expanding fast. The Urgent Action scheme for telegrams sent immediately on hearing of serious allegations of torture, is operating well and is being extended into nearly all local Amnesty Groups by means of regional co-ordinators and special C.A.T. representatives in each Group.

Our participation in the massive international campaign against torture in Uruguay has resulted not only in widespread publicity in the U.K. (some of it bitterly reproduced and criticised in the Uruguayan Press) but also the gathering of probably more signatures on the international petition to the Uruguayan President than any other AI National Section.

Other activities include continuing pressure on HM Government to ratify the UN Covenants 1966 and further work on the subject of training British military personnel in "torture resistance" by subjecting them to certain torture techniques: pressure aimed at stopping this practice will soon be coming from other AI National Sections.

Press and Publicity

The conscious effort to treat Press calls as priority and to be available at all times to assist journalists with human rights stories must inevitably pay off in terms of increased Press coverage. (To be woken at home by a Moscow journalist's phone call must be some kind of landmark in establishing this function!) The publication of impressive reports and briefing papers produced by the International Secretariat has complemented this new Press work.

The report "Prisoners of Conscience in the USSR" published in November 1975 has been greeted around the world as one of the most thorough and objective works on the subject and has done much to strengthen Amnesty's image of independence and non-alignment. A new series of short, concise 'Briefing Papers' dealing with human rights was started early this year; subjects so far have been Singapore, Rhodesia/Zimbabwe and Peoples Democratic Republic of the Yemen. Radio and Television interviews, reference and briefings are all increasing.



David Simpson
June 1976



**International Secretariat –
Budget for 1976/77**

The diagram shows the budget of the International Secretariat of Amnesty International for the year May 1976 to April 1977 – a total of £492,000 (1966/77 £367,000). The boxes are to scale, showing the respective size of each part of the budget; and the number of staff posts authorised within each department is shown in brackets inside each box.

Located in London, the International Secretariat serves the whole Amnesty movement, principally with the results of its research work, missions, international diplomatic and legal work and its publications. In return, it is supported by all the National Sections and Groups around the world. The British Section is committed to paying £38,600 towards the total budget of £492,000 in 1976/77.

 ADMINISTRATION £49,000 (8)

 CO-ORDINATION £34,000 (5)

 FIELD OFFICERS & DEVELOPMENT £15,000 (2)

 INFORMATION & PUBLICATIONS £35,000 (8)

 TRANSLATIONS £11,000 (2)

 SECRETARY GENERAL'S OFFICE £42,000 (5)

 LEGAL ADVISER £12,000 (1½)

 CAMPAIGN AGAINST TORTURE £28,000 (5)

 DOCUMENTATION CENTRE £26,000 (4)

 RESEARCH DEPARTMENT £240,000 (41½)

Amnesty International Groups in Britain

There are Amnesty International Groups, each of which is working for the release of individual prisoners of conscience and also undertaking other aspects of Amnesty's work, in and around the following areas, schools, colleges, etc.

LONDON AREA
BARNES
BLACKHILL
BROMLEY
CAMDEN
CHelsea
COLESHILL
CROYDON
EALING
ELHAM
LPHING LORIST
TULHAM & HAMMERSMITH

GOLDERS GREEN & HENDON
HAMPSTEAD
HAMPSTEAD URBAN
KENSINGTON
MERION
PITTSWOOD
PUTNEY
ST. JOHN'S WOOD
SUTTON
UPMINSTER
STOCKWELL

COUNTRY
ABERDEEN
ABERYSTWYTH
ABINGDON
ALFRISCHAM & SAFE
ASHFORD
AYLESFORD
BATH
BEDFORD
BILSTON
BOURNVILLE
BRADFORD
BRIGHTON & HOVE
W BRISTOL
BURY ST EDMUNDS
CAMBRIDGE
CHESTERFIELD
CRANBROOK
DERBY
DISS
DOUGLAS
DORKING & LEATHERHEAD
DUMFRIES
EAST BERKS
EASTBOURNE
EDINBURGH
EXETER
FARNHAM
GUERNSEY CI
GLASGOW
GLOUCESTER & CHELTENHAM
GUILDFORD
HARLOW
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
HEREFORD
IPSWICH

KNARSBOROUGH
LEEDS
LEICESTER
LUTCHWORTH
LIVERPOOL
MANSFIELD
SALISBURY
NEWCASTLE-KLE
NEWCASTLE-TYNE
NEWPORT LOW
NORHAMPTON
NORWICH
NOTTINGHAM
OXFORD CITY
OXFORD
PLYMOUTH
POOLE
READING
RUGBY
SAFFRON WALDEN
ST ALBANS & HATFIELD
SALISBURY
SCARBOROUGH
SHEFFIELD
SHREWSBURY
SOUTHAMPTON
STALWORTH
STIRLING
STOCKPORT
TUNBRIDGE WELLS
TRURO & DISTRICT
WARRLEY
WAYSIDE
WEARSDALE
WEST ESSEX

WIGTON
WORCESTER
WORTHING
WYTHALL
YFOWLE

UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES, ETC
BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY
BRISTOL (COLLEGE OF ST. MATHIAS)
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY
CARDIFF (UNIVERSITY COLL.)
DURHAM UNIVERSITY
EXETER UNIVERSITY
GLASGOW UNIVERSITY
KINGSTON POLYTECHNIC
LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY
OXFORD UNIVERSITY
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY
SUSSEX UNIVERSITY
ULSTER-NEW UNIVERSITY COLERAINE
WARWICK UNIVERSITY

SCHOOLS
BIDDALE
BRISTOL (ULHON COLL.)
ELTON COLLEGE
GT. AYTON & AMPLEFORTH
HABERDASHER'S ASKES
HAMPSTEAD PARK SCHOOL
LEITCHWORTH
WARRLEY
(ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL)
OYNDFIELD SCHOOL
SHREWSBURY SCHOOL
SOUTH HAMPSTEAD HIGH SCHOOL

ST. PETER'S CHRISTCHURCH
TRINITY SCHOOL, CROYDON

The name and address of the current Group Secretary will be sent on request to anyone wishing to make contact with an Amnesty Group.

There are "Action Groups" undertaking fundraising and campaigning work, in the following areas:

ATLANTIC COLLEGE
BEDFORD - HOLY FAMILY OF
NAZARETH CONVENT SCHOOL
EDINBURGH
JORDANS
YORK - THE BAR CONVENT
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
WIRRAL

Left
Chilean actress Coca Rudolphi, former
Prisoner of Conscience and torture victim,
outside AI's offices in London.

Join now!

Why does Amnesty International exist?

To work for the release of men and women imprisoned because of their political, religious or other conscientiously held beliefs, or because of their colour, language or ethnic origin; provided they have neither used nor advocated violence. It also opposes the death penalty and the torture or otherwise cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment for all prisoners.

When did it start?

It began in Britain in 1961 as a one year campaign. Since then it has grown into the largest international voluntary organization dealing with human rights in the world. Although it now has a worldwide membership of over 90,000, its headquarters are still in London.

How does it work?

When news of an arrest has reached the Research Department, and the facts are confirmed, the prisoner is "adopted" by one of the worldwide network of Amnesty International groups. A campaign is then started: Letters are sent to governments, embassies, leading newspapers and the prisoner's family and friends. Public protests are organized and wide support mobilized. Money may be sent to pay for a defence lawyer and to help the prisoner's family.

Where do the prisoners come from?

Amnesty International has adopted prisoners in over 90 countries. It is not concerned with the political complexion of the regime that holds prisoners of conscience. A careful balance is continually maintained between the world's major ideologies. Groups adopt prisoners in "threes", one from the "EAST", one from the "WEST" and one from a non-aligned country.

What is the British Section of Amnesty International?

The British Section is one of Amnesty International's 34 national sections. In Britain, there are over 130 adoption groups and nearly 4,000 members. Four million members would be better.

Who works for Amnesty International?

Men and women who want everyone to be free to express peaceably their own political point of view or to practice their religion in their own way. People who are not just angered by news of terrible persecution but would like to help Amnesty International fight it. They include M.P.'s, doctors, housewives, trade unionists, engineers, teachers and students. In other words - people like YOU.



Valentin Moroz
Ukrainian Teacher. 1966 sentenced to 4 years' hard labour for criticising Soviet policy. On release, refused employment because of "criminal record". Rearrested and sentenced to 6 years prison 3 years' labour camp and 5 years exile as "recidivist".



Vida Hadjebi Tabrizi
Iranian Sociologist. 38 years old. Critical of the regime, she was kidnapped by secret police held for one year without trial; severely tortured. Sentenced at secret trial to seven years' imprisonment. Health very poor as a result of torture.



Pramoedya Ananta Tur
Indonesian Novelist. 1965, arrested as a member of left-wing, cultural association. 1969, shipped to island of Buru "resettlement area" (prison camp), where over 10,000 political detainees are held as forced labourers indefinitely and without trial.

Amnesty International, British Section, 55 Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8SP

I wish to become a member and enclose £4 for my first annual subscription. (Students and O.A.P.'s £2.00 p.a.)

Name _____

Address _____

I wish to become a member and also join the campaign for the Prisoner of the Month. (I enclose £4.50 as my first annual subscription and contribution to the campaign).

I wish to join an Amnesty group. Please send me the address of my nearest group.

I wish to form an Amnesty group. Please send me the relevant information.

I enclose £. as a donation.