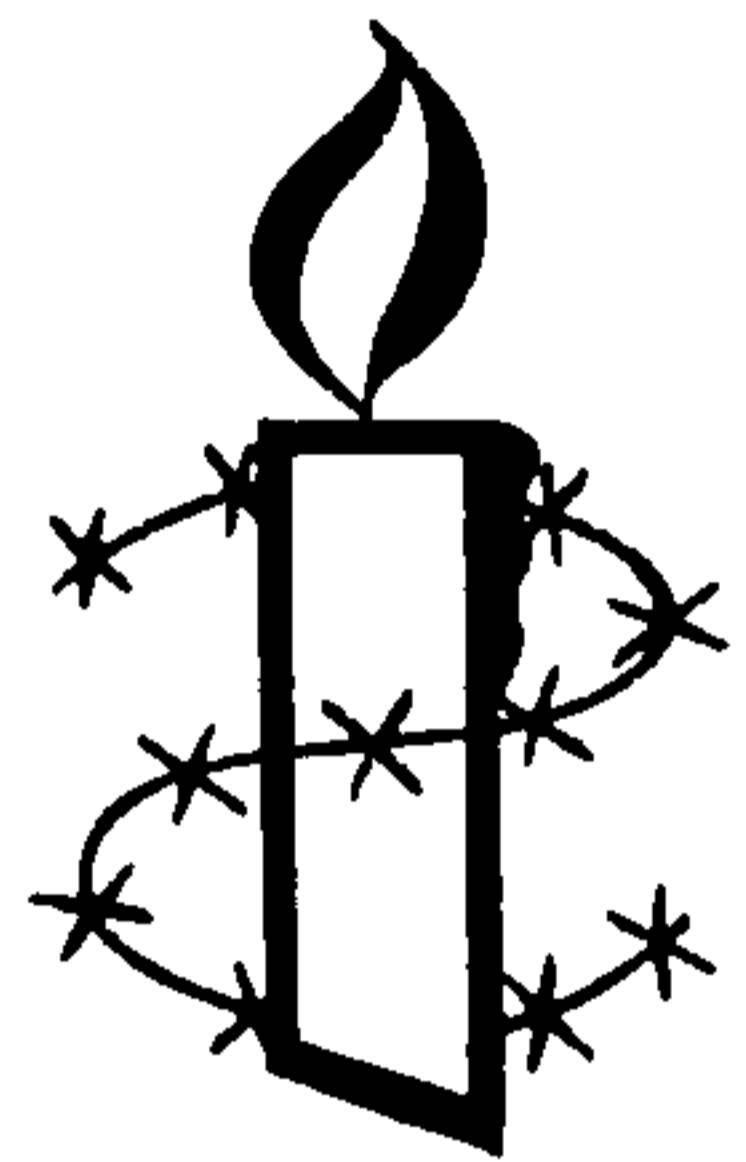




amnesty international

ANNUAL REPORT 1968-9



amnesty international

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THE ORIGINS OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International came into existence as a result of an article in the "Observer" (London) of May 28th, 1961, which drew attention to the increasing number of people imprisoned in every part of the world solely because of their opinions. The fact that governments frequently camouflaged their political motives by accusing those arrested of criminal charges showed that they were sensitive to public opinion. An international campaign was proposed, not tied to any religious or political grouping, and ready to act as rapidly as possible before the repressive position of governments hardened.

An office was established in London to assemble information about "prisoners of conscience"; that is, those physically prevented by imprisonment from expressing their opinions, provided they did not advocate violence. Spies or persons working with a foreign government to overthrow their own were excluded.

This office provided information to groups working for the release of "prisoners of conscience" and co-ordinated efforts to find asylum or employment overseas, help for their families, fair trials, liberty of the press and the ratification of relevant Conventions. Favourable world-wide reaction led to the establishment of Groups to work for the release of three "prisoners of conscience", one from a communist, one from an anti-communist and the third from a Third World country. Pending release groups were to give moral and material support to prisoners and their families.

A meeting of "national sections" already established in Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland and Great Britain took place in Luxembourg in July, 1961 (today A.I. has 20 National Sections) and the international movement agreed its initial statutes at a subsequent meeting in London in October, 1961. (In 1968 the statute was revised and is now published in English and French.) The London meeting established as the movement's aim universal implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, especially Articles 18 and 19, and Articles 9 and 10 of the European Convention of the Rights of Man which guarantee liberty of religion, opinion and expression.

The Statutes of Amnesty International pledged the movement to support all international movements supporting Human Rights such as the Human Rights Commission of the U.N., the International Court of Justice and the European Court for the Rights of Man. More directly, the movement would send investigators to establish if human rights were being violated and would publicize infringements. In addition to group work the movement would make representations to governments and international organisations and send lawyers and observers to trials.

The 1968 Statute added two other articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and dropped reference to the European Convention—thus indicating the universal nature of Amnesty International.

The purposes of Amnesty International are now defined as follows:

OBJECTS

1. The objects of Amnesty International shall be:

- (a) to ensure for every person the right freely to hold and to express his convictions and the obligation on every person to extend a like freedom to others; and in pursuance of that object to secure throughout the world the observance of the provisions of Articles 5, 9, 18, and 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights!
- (b) Irrespective of political considerations, to work for the release of and provide assistance to persons who in violation of the aforesaid provisions are imprisoned, detained, restricted or otherwise subjected to physical coercion or restraint by reason of their political, religious or other conscientiously held belief or by reason of their ethnic origin, colour or language provided that they have not used or advocated violence (hereinafter referred to as "Prisoners of Conscience").

The candle surrounded by barbed wire is the internationally recognized symbol of Amnesty International.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 5. No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 9. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 18. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

MESSAGE from Sean MacBride, S.C., Chairman of the International Executive of Amnesty

The greed for power continues to be a dominant human characteristic. It leads to intolerance and cruelty. Conscience and morality are the only safeguards against barbarism; these, however, are but a thin veneer which is easily destroyed both in the individual and in the community. Mounting violence and brutality are a feature of this era. Armed conflicts, discrimination, repression, cruelty and erosion of moral standards threaten more and more the dignity and worth of the human person. In this situation education and public opinion are the only effective weapons to safeguard the dignity and personality of human beings.

That is why Amnesty has set itself the task of asserting in the name of the conscience of mankind the right to freedom of opinion and freedom of expression. The suppression of these fundamental human rights is the essential aim of every authoritarian regime; when these are suppressed rebellion against tyranny and oppression becomes the last resort of the oppressed. Cycles of violence and repression then become inevitable thus escalating the cruelty and noobarbarism which is a feature of this age.

Behind this incessant struggle for the conscience of humanity are the hundreds of thousands of human beings who are imprisoned unjustly by reason of their opinion, religious or political, or by reason of their race or their ethnic origin. They often are the forgotten and even unknown defenders of our liberties—of our right to profess faith in the ideals enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Some are imprisoned because they are not prepared to betray their conscientious beliefs; some by accident of birth; some because they had the courage to raise their voice in defence of an ideal; some are known but most are unknown small defenceless people. They are nearly all forgotten by a world which is principally concerned with its own selfish preoccupations and which too easily forgets the sufferings of others.

That is why Amnesty has set itself the task of drawing attention to these "Prisoners of Conscience" and of working for their liberation. Amnesty seeks also to prevent inhuman punishment, such as the killing or torturing of prisoners, and to secure the application of the Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners formulated by the United Nations. Simple as these objectives may be, they represent a formidable task of implementation which requires the unselfish work and help of everyone who has a conscientious desire to protect the dignity and worth of human beings and to alleviate unnecessary human sufferings.

Amnesty is not a protest organisation that merely passes resolutions. Like the Red Cross it is a humanitarian organisation which does real practical work.

To do this work it requires two things:

- (1) Sincere, objective and willing voluntary workers.
- (2) Funds to make its worldwide humanitarian work effective.

Behind each Prisoner of Conscience lies a human tragedy and an untold history of human suffering to him and his family. They have sacrificed their liberty, and all that it entails, for an ideal. Prisoners of Conscience are the forgotten victims of intolerance and of man's inhumanity to man; their families are the incidental sufferers. Help them by supporting Amnesty. You personally, as every conscientious person in the world, can help to make Amnesty more effective in its noble work. Let it become your aim, as part of your public humanitarian duty to your fellow human beings, to help Amnesty in its work.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL 1969

(The annual report of the International Secretariat for the year June 1968 to May 31st, 1969.)

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The cover of the annual report contains a brief history of the organization and describes how it works.

INTRODUCTION TO ANNUAL REPORT by Secretary General

The Assembly of Amnesty International in Stockholm in September 1968 established the Statute of the organisation. In the year following the Stockholm Assembly Amnesty International has been re-shaped administratively, has expanded in membership, has reached some stability financially (albeit in deficit) and has become more international in its secretariat.

The Swedish and German sections have both provided staff members largely paid for from their own budgets. This practice ensures a closer liaison and understanding between the international secretariat and the membership as well as providing a greater variety of attitudes and languages. The research department has been re-organized to make the best use of limited resources and the constant flow of volunteer research workers has enabled the permanent staff to broaden and systematise the collection of information about prisoners and prisons.

As an international organisation with consultative status with the United Nations, Unesco and the Council of Europe, Amnesty International must at all times be conscious of its purposes. Based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Amnesty is concerned not with the politics of any government but with the release and treatment of prisoners of conscience.

Articles 5, 9, 18 and 19 of the Declaration of Human Rights are universal and relate not only to those who have suffered because of their non-violent beliefs. Torture, inhuman treatment, the death penalty, fair trial, or no trial; these are all subjects for the vigilance of Amnesty International and are not necessarily limited to prisoners of conscience alone. Amnesty "adopts" only the non-violent prisoner, and works for his release. Where there is doubt then the case is taken on for "investigation". Where a group of prisoners is concerned, the International Secretariat may discuss the problem as a whole with a government.

The methods of work vary with the cases and the national sections. The selection of 3 prisoners each month for public and international support through the Card Campaign is now an integral part of Amnesty's programme. It may be that while new national sections are being formed the card campaign may provide the best method of gaining support for the new section and providing activity for a membership which is finding its feet within the organisation. But there is no real substitute for the work carried out by the 640 Amnesty groups all over the world. The individual contacts established, and the support provided by the groups at work is the centre of Amnesty's policy. The proliferation of signatures on letters, the international interest, the regular monthly payments for relief or education of prisoners and their families; these can only be done by the membership itself. Amnesty International is probably unique in the international field in providing a real task for each and every member, closely related to its humanitarian objectives and constructive in its achievements.

The work of the secretariat in London is therefore to be judged to a large extent on the accuracy and efficiency of the service it provides to the membership groups. With a rapidly increasing membership demanding more and more case sheets and servicing, the secretariat has been strained almost to the limit during the past twelve months and new thinking is now needed to increase the output without diminishing the accuracy and objectivity. A whole new programme of work on Latin America has been started and a mission (postponed from January 1969 to August 1969 due to political conditions in Brazil) has now been arranged to elicit information, establish new sources and broaden Amnesty support in the continent which is the only one without an appreciable Amnesty membership.

A mission is also planned for Asia in the summer of 1969 and during the year under review Amnesty representatives have visited North, East and West Africa, the Middle East and various countries in Europe to attend trials, investigate conditions or consult governments.

Amnesty International can never expect to be popular with governments as its contacts with them are frequently based on criticisms of certain actions regarding their opponents. In these circumstances it is all the more important that Amnesty is recognized as a body which is not aligned with any political grouping or philosophy. The original concept of communist, non-communist and "third world" is perhaps no longer entirely valid in 1969, but the new statute emphasises the need for political and geographical balance in the adoption of prisoners and sending of missions. This balance must not reflect the cold war of the fifties but rather the world of the 70s where communism no longer has a sharp geographical definition, and the world can no longer be divided into "East", "West" and "Third World".

The United Nations has been moving also into the field of definitions by referring to "areas of conflict" where confrontation between groups within a country is violent but where no state of war exists. In war, there are rights and provisions for the treatment of prisoners. In the twilight wars of Southern Africa and elsewhere there are none. It must be a part of Amnesty's role to establish rights in areas of conflict and, in line with its earliest aims, to ensure that refugees from these areas are found asylum and work and education in places of safety. Prevention of imprisonment is as important as release.

During the year 1968-69 therefore Amnesty has strengthened its relations with other international organisations concerned with Human Rights such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, the World Council of Churches, the International Commission of Jurists, the World Federation of United Nations Associations, the United Nations itself and its agencies such as UNESCO, the UNHCR and the regional governmental organisations such as the Council of Europe and the Organisation of African States. (UNESCO granted consultative status to Amnesty early in 1969.)

Amnesty International is dealing with governments and the prisoners of governments. To be heard, the counsels of Amnesty must be in terms which can be understood by governments and be based on an understanding of political, economic and other conditions prevailing in the country. Others may campaign against governments. Amnesty International campaigns only for the release of prisoners, and the protection of human rights. In some countries there is a conflict of human rights: a conflict between the demands of education, employment, of living standards and the tolerance of opposition, freedom of expression and freedom of religion. In this conflict Amnesty International may represent public opinion where public opinion has no local outlet of expression.

Inevitably, Amnesty and its personnel is accused of being communist and anti-communist, pro-West and anti-West. While we argue for the release of writers in the USSR and conscientious objectors in the USA, for the release of Jews in the Arab States and Arabs in Israel we will be accused by all parties of being used by the others. This is a risk and a handicap which can only be overcome by discipline and adherence to the Amnesty statute. At different times national sections may inevitably reflect the view of their own leadership, and it is for the sections too to remember that political balance is the key to non-alignment and the defence against the allegations of those who wish to undermine our work. Amnesty is and must remain committed. Not to a policy of Western liberalism, parliamentary democracy or national liberation, but committed to human rights as laid down in the Universal Declaration and incorporated in most national constitutions but disregarded by many governments.

For a small organisation based in London this is a mammoth objective. To be successful a wider membership is needed and greater financial resources. The target is the international recognition that human rights of individuals are the concern of everyone in every country. Amnesty must therefore strengthen its links in countries where so far we have failed to gain a footing. Strict adherence to the principle that no national section shall be responsible for prisoners or prison conditions in their country is essential. So too is the often mentioned balance of adoptions by the sections concerned. In some areas the problems of establishing Amnesty may prove insuperable for years to come but a more determined effort is still needed to apply the principle that international responsibility for human rights starts with the individual and does not stop with the governments.

In the Annual Report for 1968-69 an effort has been made to relate every chapter to the work of Amnesty International; not to give a general picture of the internal situation in every country. The organisation as a whole owes much to the many volunteers who devote their time to Amnesty work throughout the year and throughout the world. The annual report is largely the report of the International Secretariat which alone is responsible for the contents. The International Executive Committee which meets quarterly guides the secretariat

and establishes policy between meetings of the International Council. Its members assume special responsibilities for particular subjects and their experience is invaluable. Special mention is however due to the Treasurer who has devoted weeks and months to his voluntary and immediate task. His efforts to achieve financial stability have been greater than the balance sheets reflect. In his work to place the organisation on a sound financial footing he has had the encouraging support of the hard pressed membership who continue and must always continue to bear the main burden of costs of a professional international non-governmental organisation.

THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Amnesty was started in London. Its administration and Secretariat have always been closely linked with the British section of Amnesty. In the past it has indeed often been difficult to distinguish the two. During the past year efforts have been successfully made to separate the two secretariats while retaining the closest practical co-operation between them. The transition has been smooth and common services are shared such as telephone and telephonist, the accountant but not the accounts, the premises and distribution and posting of mail within the United Kingdom. On fund-raising within the United Kingdom there has been the closest collaboration and the British section has been generous in permitting the Treasurer to make direct approaches to trusts on behalf of the International Secretariat.

One of the advantages of working in London, as opposed to say Geneva where many international non-governmental organisations are situated, is that volunteers of many nationalities are available to work with the secretariat on the tasks of newspaper cutting, research in different countries, and co-ordinating activities. Without volunteers and semi-volunteers the secretariat could not hope to cover the many areas of its work.

Thanks to the generosity of members physical improvements have been made within the building and new equipment such as photostat machines, tape recorders and typewriters have been supplied. Conditions are still not satisfactory and the professional salaries are significantly below the market value of the work required. Improvements have been possible however even with the wage scales although the difficulty of recruiting secretarial staff indicates that more will have to be done.

Publicity material is now available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese, and the constitution has been printed in English and French. It is hoped too to produce a summarised version of the current report in French. There is still, however, no-one on the secretariat of French mother tongue and no staff members originating from Asia or Africa.

Prisoner of Conscience Week in 1968 was Amnesty's special contribution to Human Rights Year. Held from November 17th to 23rd it was recognised by the United Nations as being part of the International programme, and co-operation was received from many other non-governmental organisations. Publicity material was prepared centrally and circulated and sold to national sections and others. The organisation of such events, however, must essentially be based on local patterns and customs and while the International Secretariat can make suggestions, it cannot undertake the organisation required. The membership responded, and the world press carried reports of Amnesty activities. In 1969 the International Executive have recommended that Prisoner of Conscience

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week take place from November 15th to 22nd but these dates are not necessarily the most suitable for all, and the dates will be reconsidered perhaps to be varied on a local basis. There is however, a real advantage in having a co-ordinated international week of campaigning publicly for the release of prisoners. The public attention attracted by one week of concentrated publicity has an effect throughout the year.

In the Council of Europe Amnesty International has been ably represented by the Treasurer, Anthony Marreco who has put forward an imaginative and original scheme for the promotion of Human Rights films by a specially created Institute. The idea has so far obtained support but the financial backing which is required is still lacking. At the United Nations headquarters in New York Professor Gidon Gottlieb, an International lawyer from New York University, has represented Amnesty International with distinction.

The Secretariat has many tasks, not least the preparation for and follow up of missions. The sending of a delegate is the culmination of much preparatory work. His return is the beginning of a new phase of activity. This continuity can only be provided by the permanent research staff, and it is important that they themselves should also have personal experience, if possible, of the areas of their work. We were able in 1968 to send a staff member to West Africa, and another will be going to Indonesia and other Asian countries. The Secretary General has also visited several national sections as well as other countries in Africa and the Middle East.

After a mission recommendations are submitted to governments and in most cases no report is published until after time has been allowed for discussions with governments. Similarly there are many occasions when the secretariat has direct discussion with governments without publicity. Effectiveness may depend on confidentiality. Not all activities can therefore be reported if the interests of the prisoners are to be best served. This balance between work and public information is a delicate one to maintain and is the constant preoccupation of the staff. (For summary of missions see Appendix E.)

AIR (Amnesty International Review) is produced quarterly and is now more closely linked to the work of the secretariat and the organisation as a whole. It is widely distributed and translated by several sections for local use.

There is need however for a publications programme including more prison reports.

The Postcards for Prisoners campaign carries a monthly newsletter which reports on releases of prisoners who have received publicity through the campaign and received postcards in the past. A careful geographical and political balance is maintained throughout the year. In the future it may be possible to improve presentation of the material and so enable it to be used more widely,

particularly in areas where there are as yet not many active groups. The importance of the postcards rests on their number and the variety of countries and people from which they are sent. This public campaign technique may be one to be developed in cases where the prisoners' interests are served by public international support.

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NATIONAL SECTIONS

A list of the national sections together with the principal addresses is included in this report as Appendix C. There are now national sections in 20 countries. Japan is the latest recruit and a committee is being established in Somalia and another possible in Ghana. In May and June 1969 approaches have also been received from interested persons in Iran, Lebanon and the USSR. The fact that there are adopted prisoners of conscience in a country does not preclude the establishment of a national section and indeed there are adopted prisoners in several countries where there is a flourishing national section of Amnesty. No prisoner is ever allocated for adoption by the section in the country concerned and it is the general rule that Amnesty groups are concerned with prisoners outside their own country only. This may seem frustrating to some sections in Western Europe particularly but it must be remembered that Amnesty International is not a federation of national civil rights organisations. In some countries where there are restrictions locally or conflicts of conscience which have not been resolved, it is still possible and desirable to stimulate the sense of international responsibility for individual human rights which Amnesty was set up to establish and promote. National sections are therefore not required to assist in obtaining information in their own countries and need not be consulted before prisoners are adopted.

Sweden with 184 Groups remains the largest national section followed by Germany with 134 Groups and Britain with 120 Groups. Another large section is the USA where there are only two Groups, but 5,000 individual members. In America group work is for various reasons not the main vehicle for Amnesty activity. The Italian Section has recently overhauled its organisation and it might be that Italy and France will show more progress in the next year. Amnesty International has still not succeeded in becoming established in the Latin countries on any appreciable basis, and a new look at the techniques of work is obviously needed.

In the past too many sections have had to depend entirely on voluntary workers for their existence. There is now need for the establishment of headquarter officers to co-ordinate group and other work in each country. Once the financial stability is achieved for the International Secretariat, national sections should be able to concentrate more on their own administration and co-ordination. The conduct of an international organisation by means of direct contact with small groups in many countries poses problems and the strengthening of national sections at the centre may be an important step towards further development.

AMNESTY GROUPS

"Dear Sirs,

Thanks to your intervention, I arrived in Paris on the 1st May 1969 after 23 months internment in

We owe our freedom and liberty to efforts of your organisation and it is quite impossible to find the words for expressing our gratefulness". (Extract from a letter received on the 8th June, 1969.)

In the past, belief in the effectiveness of group work was based as much on faith as on fact. This is no longer true. During the year there has been an increasing number of cases where it is clear that Amnesty was partly, if not wholly, responsible for the release of a prisoner—in some cases the prisoners themselves making the point in letters of thanks to Amnesty members.

Mr Low Tai Thong left his Singapore prison in March after 13 years detention. The Swedish group which had adopted him had raised the funds for his fare and his education. They flew to London to meet him and invited him to Sweden to talk to those who had worked for his release.

There is now general acceptance that groups form the essential network of the Amnesty movement, while initiatives such as the sending of observers to trials and of investigators to look into prison conditions are taken by the International Secretariat, or in some cases by national sections in consultation with the Secretariat. But within this basic pattern one of the most striking features is the amount that can be achieved by a group that extends its activities outside its normal work. A recent example is the trip to Greece undertaken by the member of a German group who, in a private capacity, followed the route taken at George Papandreu's funeral, talking to eyewitnesses. He was able to come in contact with the lawyers of those sentenced to terms of imprisonment for shouting anti-government slogans. The group had adopted one of these prisoners and as a result of this mission obtained much valuable information on the trial proceedings and on the conditions of imprisonment under which these people are now held.

Other groups and Sections have raised money to send observers to trials, have provided legal aid and have helped finance missions undertaken by the International Secretariat to investigate prison conditions. Relief to prisoners' families has increased and over £8,000 has been sent to Rhodesia alone during the past year. In addition a number of groups have paid for correspondence courses for their prisoners. Many groups take part in the Postcards for Prisoners Campaign.

Each year sees the rapid growth of one Section in particular. Last year it was Sweden—this year Germany. Other Sections have continued to grow steadily, some concentrating on strengthening their existing groups as much as forming new groups. It has been encouraging to see the number of new groups in some of the smaller Sections such as the Dutch Section. There are now 640 groups in 20 Sections.

One of the consequences of rapid growth in groups is the increased demand for case sheets on prisoners of conscience. At the March International Executive Committee it was decided that a new policy for double adoption would be introduced. This step was taken not only because of the large number of groups needing information about prisoners, but also because it was felt that new groups could often co-operate to the advantage of their prisoners. Letters to governments from different parts of the world could be more effective than from one group alone. In addition it was realised that some groups are more active or more affluent than others and double adoption provides a sort of insurance that prisoners will get the maximum attention possible. Where particularly active groups prefer to work alone for their prisoners of conscience an effort is made by the Secretariat to permit this, but in general terms double adoption is now the rule rather than the exception.

The demand for case sheets increases with every new group and every release. There are four full-time research workers responsible for all areas of the world, and in addition to prisoner research they are also responsible for answering group queries. Each new group provides an additional £30 per year of income, but the expenditure also increases—a fact that is not always appreciated.

Many groups organised successful events for Prisoners of Conscience Week. Both locally and nationally this did much to draw the attention of the public to the plight of 'prisoners of conscience'. It also helped to raise money for the Sections and for the Secretariat.

Not all groups are successful and the frustrations of writing letters for years with no replies received is daunting even for the most enthusiastic and conscientious of the members. It is therefore encouraging to learn from time to time of the cumulative effect of letters on governments even those which from afar seem the most obdurate. There is at least one case of an overall amnesty of many more prisoners than Amnesty had on record which was almost entirely due to the Amnesty letters and postcards which kept arriving. Discussions with government spokesmen also indicate that while letters receive no replies they are nonetheless read. And sometimes the contents register.

Group work is the undramatic painstaking work which does not appeal to the personalities and talents of everyone. It does however provide a positive role for those who want to participate in international affairs.

Perhaps it is appropriate here to quote from the letter of a Rhodesian restricted to one of the Australian groups:

"When I received your letter I did not know what to do, until after 30 minutes, when I again read the letter. This letter to me it was something that I could call a dream because I could not believe it was mine. I looked at the address outside the envelope and inside the letter to make sure that it was addressed to me because I could not even read my name."

"After having satisfied myself that the letter was mine and heard all what was written in it I went to my cell to pray and asked God to give you a long life in this world because I had given up that my family would ever have any people who could help them."

THE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

THE Research Department exists to obtain information about prisoners, their conditions, their families and the background to their arrest and imprisonment. This entails the collection and assessment of information about individual arrests in the context of the political, legal and social structure of each country. A decision is then taken in the light of this assessment as to which political prisoners qualify as Prisoners of Conscience, what are likely to be the most effective channels of pressure in achieving either release or an improvement in the conditions under which they are held, and the most appropriate form of action. It is also the responsibility of the Research Department to determine whether prisoners or their families are in need of financial or material assistance and make practical recommendations as to how they can be helped.

Each geographical area of the world is the responsibility of a permanent research worker who is helped by part-time volunteers. Each research worker provides the International Secretariat with information about the situation and the cases in their particular area. The cases of individuals who are clearly Prisoners of Conscience are normally 'adopted' and allocated to Amnesty groups, although of course there are occasions when negotiations at an international level or direct representations by the International Secretariat are felt to be in the best interests of the prisoners concerned. (There is another very small group, where any form of outside pressure could well jeopardise the prisoner's interests.) Cases which may be suitable for adoption, but about which not enough is known, are frequently sent out as 'Investigation Cases' and groups asked to undertake research themselves. Over the years the case sheets on prisoners have become more comprehensive and background sheets on each country more detailed.

Sources of information vary considerably from country to country. Information from both local and international mass media, monitored broadcasts and other published material is obviously the most regular and easily accessible source, but is supplemented by the information provided by other international and specialist organisations, court reports, defence lawyers, specialists on countries or areas, governments themselves and, of course, direct communication from prisoners, their families or friends.

The following pages contain a review of activities in a number of countries. No report of this kind can be comprehensive and, since situations change daily, is to some extent out of date before it is published.

AFRICA

FOR convenience, the forty-eight countries of Africa can be divided into roughly four main areas:

the Arab North (known as the Maghreb),

Southern Africa, where white minority governments are in control,

English-speaking Africa, the area of former British influence but including Liberia and Ethiopia, and French-speaking Africa, formerly under French or Belgian control.

During 1968-69 Amnesty took up cases in 26 of these countries, nine countries were visited by official representatives, including the Secretary General and the Head of the Research Department. Amnesty legal observers were present at trials in four countries. Extracts from the reports and material collected have been published in AIR.

FRENCH-SPEAKING AFRICA

Partly, perhaps, because of its origin in England and the siting of the Secretariat in London, Amnesty has hitherto been better informed about the English-speaking countries and Southern Africa, and work in the French West African territories has been comparatively underdeveloped. Determined efforts are being made to correct this imbalance and during the last year more time has been devoted to the study of these areas and cases have been followed and taken up in a number of countries of which Amnesty had previously little or no knowledge or experience.

Prisoners of Conscience are to be found equally in countries such as Guinea with its more radical alignments, and countries where French influence is paramount, such as Tchad or Gabon. Changes of regime in several countries, such as Mali, have been followed by the imprisonment of members of the former government. In others, superficially more stable, conflict between the government and the trade unions has led to the arrest of trade union leaders. Student unrest has been more conspicuous in the French than in the English-speaking areas—with the exception of Ethiopia and possibly Kenya. It has perhaps been most serious in Senegal where disturbances at the university led to its closure and short-term arrests of student demonstrators.

In May Amnesty sent a cable to President Sékou Touré of Guinea, protesting against the imposition of the death sentence on 13 individuals accused of complicity in a plot. The 'complot du mois de mars', the circumstances of which remain obscure, has led to the arrest of several leading Guineans—cabinet ministers, senior army officers and civil servants. Some have been tried and sentenced by revolutionary tribunals either to death, life imprisonment, or 20 years. It is estimated that over a hundred have been arrested. The imprisonment of M. Achkar Marof, former Guinean representative at the United Nations, arrested immediately on his return to Conakry has been of particular concern to Amnesty. The reason for his arrest is not known.

In one of the few remaining French colonial dependencies, the Comoro Islands, members of MOLINACO, an independence movement based in Tanzania, have been arrested, and imprisoned, charged with holding meetings without official permission. Their cases have been adopted by Amnesty.

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ENGLISH-SPEAKING AFRICA

The great majority of prisoners whose cases have been taken up by Amnesty are members of opposition groups, although editors, journalists and students are also included.

Ethiopia

A country where numerous political prisoners of diverse sympathies are known to be held but precise information is difficult to obtain. Amnesty has been mainly occupied with the alleged torture of a group of Galla leaders who are said to have been ill-treated in prison and to be held in extremely unsatisfactory conditions. The cases of students arrested recently are being investigated.

Ghana

The situation in Ghana is improving as the country returns to civilian rule and democratic institutions. The great majority of those arrested since Nkrumah's overthrow have now been released, except for those convicted of corruption and roughly a dozen detainees still held, untried, under the Protective Custody Decree of 1966. The Head of the Research Department visited Ghana in November 1968 and reported to the International Executive.

Kenya

The Kenya Peoples Union, the opposition party, is officially recognised, but over 30 members are currently detained without trial under the Preservation of Public Security Act of 1966. Many of those arrested in 1969 were found to be in possession of Maoist literature. Other political or religious prisoners whose cases are being investigated include members of proscribed societies (some associated with the old "Mau Mau freedom fighters") and eccentric religious sects. The Secretary General visited Kenya in February 1969 and had brief talks with the Vice-President and the Minister of Home Affairs.

The Kenyan Government makes liberal arrangements for detainees to study whilst in prison and Amnesty groups are paying for their education. Prison conditions are tolerable but detainees, some of whom have been in prison since 1966, have been kept in almost total isolation and refused permission to see their wives or children.

In March 1969 the Kenyan Government announced its intention to release a group of Kenyan Somalis who had been in prison since before Independence; all of them were Amnesty cases. Other Somalis detained since Independence who were suspected of guerrilla activities, are also to be released.

Malawi

Many hundreds of individuals have been detained without trial in Malawi since Independence, at one time in appalling conditions. Some of those

arrested had been implicated in violent attempts to overthrow Dr. Banda's Government, but the majority were simply opponents of his policies. The numbers imprisoned have been progressively reduced as the Government has established control and it is hoped that a large-scale amnesty, proclaimed in May 1969, may have set at liberty the last remaining detainees.

A legal observer was sent to Malawi in September 1968 to attend the appeal hearing against the death sentences passed on eight armed opponents of the government. Amnesty appealed to the President to commute the death sentences. Despite this intervention the executions were carried out in 1969. Our observer presented to the Malawi authorities a detailed report on conditions of imprisonment and human rights in Malawi, accompanied by recommendations.

Nigeria

The basic human rights of many thousands of Nigerians have been suspended during the present tragic conflict. It is difficult for Amnesty to be effective in this atmosphere while the country is in a state of civil war and only a very small number of cases have been taken up.

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone has experienced four coups in succession within a two-year period, but has now returned to civilian constitutional rule. The police and army officers kept in detention since April 1968, when civilian rule was restored, have now all been released, as have the 300 or so individuals detained during the State of Emergency in force between November 1968 and February 1969. Before the releases Amnesty had taken up roughly 50 cases.

The trial of 16 prominent members of the two former governments on mandatory death sentence charges, opened in February 1969 and is still continuing. Amnesty is investigating the cases of several Opposition members arrested on charges arising out of the violence during the state of Emergency in November 1968.

During her visit to Sierra Leone in October 1968 the Head of Research Department met the Prime Minister and other government representatives and discussed with them the question of detentions and prison conditions. At the time of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference Amnesty representatives again had discussions with the Prime Minister.

Tanzania

In Tanzania it is necessary to distinguish between imprisonment on the mainland and imprisonment on Zanzibar and Pemba. The numbers imprisoned on the islands, believed to be in the hundreds, cannot be established precisely. Several have been taken up by Amnesty as Investigation Cases. Conditions are known to be deeply unsatisfactory.

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On the mainland four members of the Zanzibari Cabinet at the time of the Revolution remain in detention, but are expected to be released soon. Other former Cabinet members have already been released this year. A small number of political opponents are still held under the preventive detention legislation. Short-term arrests without trial in the up-country districts are not uncommon. All the former Zanzibari Ministers were adopted by Amnesty. During his visit to East Africa the Secretary General had talks with the President and Vice-President of Tanzania concerning the release of these prisoners.

Uganda

The large majority of political prisoners in Uganda are held without trial under the emergency legislation. The exact number of prisoners is not known but is believed to be over a hundred. Some of those detained, including five ex-Cabinet Ministers, have been held since February 1966. Arrests and releases follow each other rapidly so that the numbers held change constantly. Since the beginning of 1969 over 50 have been arrested. Amnesty representatives have had discussions with both the President and the Foreign Secretary in Kampala and in London.

Amnesty has adopted over 30 cases. The majority of those detained come from the southern part of the country and particularly from Buganda. Other legislation allows the police to hold individuals for 28 days without charge.

The arrest of the editor and two contributors to TRANSITION, one of the most distinguished intellectual monthly's published in Africa, led to the demise of the magazine. Only one of the three arrested, Mr Abu Mayanja a member of the Uganda legislature, now remains in detention, despite having been found 'not guilty' by the courts.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Guerrilla activity in the Portuguese territories of Angola and Mozambique makes it difficult to distinguish Prisoners of Conscience and Amnesty action has been concentrated on South Africa, South West Africa (Namibia) and Rhodesia.

Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)

According to Mr Lardner-Burke, the Minister for Justice, Law and Order, there were 379 people restricted or detained in Rhodesia in January 1969. None of these have been charged, tried or convicted of any crime. None of them are white. Some have been in detention for 5 years or more and the resulting hardship for families thus deprived of the breadwinner is considerable. The restricted are held in isolated camps such as Gonakudzingwa in a remote and unhealthy part of the country. Detainees are in prison, mainly in Salisbury, or at Bulawayo or Gwelo.

There are in addition an unknown number of prisoners who have been convicted of political offences—giving hospitality to a stranger later found to be a freedom fighter, wearing a fur hat (a nationalist symbol), singing political songs, etc. The African nationalist movements are banned in Rhodesia and there has been a country-wide state of emergency since November 5th, 1965.

Amnesty has taken up over 200 of these cases, but its work is mainly limited to providing relief for the families of those detained and paying for study courses which many of the men are taking while in restriction.

South Africa

At the beginning of 1968 the South African authorities acknowledged that there were 1,335 political prisoners in the country. Of these 1,278 were Africans, 23 whites, 21 of 'mixed racial origin' and 15 Asians. They had been convicted under one of three laws—the Sabotage Act, the Suppression of Communism Act (a communist being defined as 'anyone who is deemed by the Minister to be a communist') and the Unlawful Organisations Act. The figures do not include those imprisoned for breaches of the special race laws, such as the Pass Laws, or those arrested for refusing to move from their homes in areas declared under the Group Areas Act to be for occupation by another race, or for participating in illegal strikes, etc, etc. Other methods of suppression are to place individuals under house arrest, to banish them to a remote area or to ban them so that nothing they say or write may be quoted or printed and they may not communicate with other banned individuals. When released, political prisoners are normally banned and often restricted to impoverished and remote rural areas where it is impossible for them to pursue their former occupations or find other means of earning a living. Remission of sentence is not granted to political prisoners as it is to prisoners convicted of criminal offences.

The Terrorism Act of 1967 provides for individuals to be detained—for an indefinite period and in solitary confinement and incommunicado—for the purpose of interrogation. The International Commission of Jurists condemned the Act as removing "most of the guarantees of a fair trial for persons held under it". Only the South African Security Police know how many people are being held under this law, but in the past 2 months four Africans are known to have died while so detained.

Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, one of the most important political prisoners in South Africa who had been imprisoned since 1960, was released from Robben Island at the end of May 1969 and is now living in Kimberley. He is banned and under house arrest.

THE MAGHREB

Algeria

Political upheavals in the country have led to the detention of large numbers of political prisoners. In many of these cases it is difficult to establish

whether violence was involved, but Amnesty has over a dozen adopted prisoners including Ben Bella the former Prime Minister. Allegations of ill-treatment are frequent. Pleas for clemency were sent to President Boumedienne when the death sentence was passed on individuals accused of plots against the state.

Morocco

Another country about which information is extremely difficult to obtain. A number of prisoners held without trial since 1963 and eventually tried in 1969 have been taken up by Amnesty. A prominent trade union leader has also been adopted.

Tunisia

In two major political trials, which took place in September 1968 and March 1969, 130 students and intellectuals were brought before a specially created court, and sentenced mainly on the basis of articles published in a student magazine. All were Prisoners of Conscience. Sentences of up to 16½ years were imposed. Some with sentences of 2 years or less have since been released. The remaining 29 prisoners are all adopted by Amnesty. Conditions in prison are such as to have given rise to hunger strikes and torture has been practised. Amnesty sent an observer to attend both trials and the Secretary General went to Tunisia in November 1968 to meet members of the government to discuss prison conditions and the granting of an amnesty.

THE AMERICAS

Imprisonment of political opponents is widespread in Latin America, and the situation appears to be deteriorating as the number of military governments increases. In some countries, e.g. Guatemala, Columbia and Venezuela, sporadic guerrilla fighting still goes on, making the identification of prisoners of conscience difficult. There is also a dangerous tendency for the governments of these countries to label all political opposition as acts of subversion and thereby claim the right to hold trials in military rather than civilian courts.

Amnesty's work in Latin America is now being expanded and a mission in 1969 should provide improved information sources and direct contacts with governments.

In North America the prisoners of conscience are almost all related to the opposition to the war in Vietnam.

Argentina

In January 1969 the well-known trade union leader, Eustaquio Tolosa, was released following the reduction of his sentence of 5 years to 2 years. He was adopted by Amnesty International and has also been on the Postcard for Prisoners Campaign.

Argentina, which for a long time has been considered one of the stabler regimes in Latin America, has lately undergone severe disturbances. Student unrest coincided with protests from organised labour and the Church. Heavy sentences have been imposed on trade unionists by so-called councils of war or courts martial.

Bolivia

As a result of an amnesty in December 1968 many political prisoners were released. This amnesty did not, however, include those who had in one way or another been involved in guerrilla activities. Politicians in exile were also given the opportunity to return to Bolivia.

In January this year, the Government alleged that a plot was uncovered and a state of emergency was imposed. There were reports of about a hundred people being arrested. It is also said that there are concentration camps in the jungles close to Brazil. Amnesty is investigating some cases of imprisoned student leaders and journalists.

Brazil

The largest country on the South American continent has since 1964 been ruled by a military government. There are several hundred political prisoners in Brazil; some of them were arrested even before the coup in April 1964 and received very heavy sentences. The prisoners include trade unionists, members of the banned Communist Party, some progressive Catholic leaders, students, artists, and politicians in opposition to the present regime.

In December 1968 the Government decreed a new Institutional Act (No. 5) which gave the President power to suspend habeas corpus for activities "endangering national security"; to suspend people's political rights, to intervene in the states and municipalities, to cancel parliamentary mandates, to decree a state of emergency and suspend Congress. All this has been carried through. Congress has not yet been recalled and there are still frequent reports of arrests. A new National Security Law has extended the list of offences defined as being against national security and therefore subject to military courts.

Several hundred opponents of the regime have now been deprived of their political rights for 10 years, which means that they lose not only the right to vote, to stand for office and to express political opinion, but also that they are barred from certain jobs. Many public officials, including teachers and university professors, have been dismissed for holding views contrary to the "Revolution". The situation is still unstable and Amnesty has only a few adopted prisoners in Brazil.

Cuba

It is still very difficult to obtain reliable up-to-date information. Some groups have achieved indirect contact with their prisoners usually through the families, but very little progress has been made.

There seems to have been no change in the general political situation which has much bearing on Amnesty's work. The estimates of the total number of political prisoners which vary between 15,000 and 65,000, remain unconfirmed. Many of these are kept in "indoctrination" camps. It should be noted that the treatment is said to be comparatively good. Among our adopted prisoners there are trade unionists, lawyers, students, and members of illegal organisations.

Mexico

The unrest which started in July last year and culminated on the eve of the opening of the Olympic Games in October when at one time some 1,500 persons were under arrest (among them several students and University professors) and hundreds of Mexicans were killed and injured, does not seem to have calmed down completely. In April and May there were reports of new arrests, among them many students and the leader of the University Teachers' Organisation. Amnesty is investigating some arrests that have taken place during the past year. Among adopted prisoners is the well-known trade union leader Demetrio Vallejo Martinez who was arrested in 1959 following a labour conflict. He was not tried until 1962, although the Mexican Constitution states that in this type of case the interval between indictment and trial can be no longer than 12 months. He was condemned to 16 years imprisonment which was later reduced to 11 years and 4 months.

Most political prisoners in Mexico are prosecuted under the law "Disolucion Social" which among other things provides heavy sentences for those who distribute propaganda "that will disturb public order or affect Mexican natural sovereignty."

Panama

After the coup in October 1968 when a military junta took over, the number of political prisoners increased. About a hundred were released at the beginning of March 1969. According to official sources there are now 400 political prisoners, but the number is likely to be higher. Amnesty investigated the case of the International Secretary of the World Confederation of Organisations of the Teaching Profession who is now released.

Paraguay

The Church is demonstrating its opposition to the present 15-year-old regime. Unlike other Latin American countries, the liberal priests are also being supported by bishops.

The number of political prisoners is said to be about 200. Reports of torture are persistent and some prisoners have been held for more than 10 years without trial. Paraguayan bishops, politicians and students recently called for trials for these prisoners.

Peru

Amnesty is now expanding its work on Peru and during the past year some good and reliable contacts have been established.

The military coup in October last year did not change the situation for political prisoners. It is estimated that there are slightly more than a hundred political prisoners at the moment. Many of them are Inca peasants who are accused of having helped the guerrillas during the guerrilla activities in 1965. In February this year the biggest political trial in Peruvian history took place at a military court in Lima. Several of these illiterate peasants were tried and received sentences ranging from 2-15 years. It would appear that the help most of the peasants had given was selling potatoes or giving shelter to guerrillas.

There are also revolutionary students and journalists imprisoned, many of whom were active during the guerrilla operation in 1965.

Finally there is a third group of prisoners, also mainly Inca peasants, who are accused of taking over land. The much needed agrarian reform is one of Peru's greatest problems, and it exists in most of the Latin American countries.

Prison conditions are reported to be very bad, and there is often a gap of several years between arrest and trial. As elsewhere in Latin America the violence is widespread and it is difficult to identify non-violent prisoners of conscience from those who have participated in one way or another with revolutionary or guerrilla groups.

USA

There are at present approximately one thousand American conscientious objectors imprisoned in civilian or military centres. The US recognise conscientious objection on grounds of religious beliefs, but not selective objection to particular war. This creates a real conflict of conscience and has resulted in imprisonment for many.

Sentences vary considerably, although some are very high, such as the 10-year sentence on a draft resister from Georgia. Opposition to the war within the armed services also leads to conflicts and imprisonment or desertion.

Amnesty has adopted some selective conscientious objectors and is preparing a study on the American prisoners in the hope that accurate information can lead to an amnesty being granted on all sides once the peace talks achieve success,

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ASIA

Amnesty's work in Asia is still in its infancy. The political complexity of the area, coupled with the difficulty in obtaining accurate and detailed information over such a distance has meant that Amnesty's work has in the past tended to focus on Commonwealth countries for which London still acts as a clearing house for news. This very unsatisfactory situation is gradually changing as Amnesty contacts improve and it becomes possible to send investigation missions to collect information on the spot.

As in other parts of the world, the type of political prisoner reflects the political problems facing Asian Governments. In South and South East Asia, the threat to central authority presented by secessionist movements has resulted in widespread arrests—Shans and Kachins in Burma, or the Nagas in India. On the whole these movements have adopted guerrilla tactics, and their members are not prisoners of conscience. Numerically, Asian Governments tend towards the right or centre of the political spectrum and so suspected communists form a large proportion of Amnesty's adopted prisoners in countries as disparate as Indonesia, Taiwan and the Malay Peninsula.

China

No adoptions have been made in China for some time; in the recent climate of xenophobia and political isolation Amnesty intervention could jeopardise a prisoner's chance of release. Files are maintained on the general human rights situation, but factual information is a rarity. No estimates can reliably be made of the total number of prisoners of conscience.

Amnesty's concern has been concentrated on those foreign nationals who have been detained during the course of the cultural revolution; some have been held for two years and, in many cases, it is not even known where they are held. In only one case, that of Anthony Grey, is there contact between the prisoner and his family. Those detained include Japanese, German, British, Belgian and an Italian. Publicity and adoption have seemed advisable only in the case of Anthony Grey, the Reuter's Correspondent in Peking.

Hong Kong

During the last year, not only were all political detainees held without trial under Emergency Regulation 31 released but the Emergency Regulations themselves have been repealed. This means that there are now no prisoners of conscience in the colony.

India

India remains one of the few countries where there are no adopted prisoners. Indeed, to a great extent Amnesty's work is done for it by the Indian courts whose respect for individual liberty and the rule of law is an example which could well be followed in countries with less intractable internal problems.

Indonesia

There are probably about 150,000 political prisoners in Indonesia at the present time. The figure has remained fairly constant for the last eighteen months. Many have been released during that period, but the army has continued to round up communist suspects and there have been many purges of government departments and sections of the armed forces. Most of the prisoners were arrested for alleged communist associations and about half of them have now been in prison for over three years—since the period following the abortive communist coup of 30th September 1965. Only about 100 have been brought to trial.

Reports of overcrowding, undernourishment and even brutal mistreatment of prisoners are still current. The Indonesian government has frequently voiced its intention of releasing the majority of the prisoners—other than those accused of direct involvement in the coup—and announced in February a plan for the transfer of 60,000 prisoners from Java to less densely populated areas in Kalimantan and the Moluccas where they would be employed and gradually rehabilitated.

While recognising the immense problems of organisation and the economic and social difficulties involved, Amnesty is concerned that such plans should be put into action without further delay, and that meanwhile greater efforts be made to improve the conditions in the jails and prison camps. It is hoped that Professor Julius Stone, an international legal expert, will be visiting Djakarta shortly on Amnesty's behalf to discuss these issues with the Indonesian government. He will be accompanied by a staff member from the International Secretariat.

Amnesty has so far adopted about 20 prisoners in Indonesia, mostly prominent intellectuals and public figures.

Malaysia

Until mid-May 1969 there were about 400 persons detained under the internal security act, most of them in the Borneo territories. About thirty detainees are under adoption, most of them detained since about 1965 or 1967. Conditions of detention have given rise to some concern, and an Amnesty delegate discussed these with the Ministry of Home Affairs in February, following which some improvements were made.

The racial clashes after the election in May were followed by the arrest of about 2,000 people, including a number of leading moderate politicians, and it is hoped to arrange for another delegate to visit Malaysia in August 1969.

Pakistan

Shortly before the resignation of Ayub Khan in March 1969 the state of emergency, in force since 1959, was lifted and most if not all detainees held under it

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released. At the same time, the charges in the 'Ariyalia conspiracy case' were dropped, and the defendants freed. To curb the mounting civil disorder which had preceded Ayub Khan's resignation, the new President, Yahya Khan, imposed strict martial law throughout the country. Arrests have not been reported, even though the martial regulations place major curbs on individual freedom. From Amnesty's viewpoint most adopted prisoners are now free, and no new cases have been taken up.

South Korea

Information on North Korean cases is almost unobtainable, although it is probable that the number of prisoners is high. In South Korea, we have been concerned with the trials of those South Koreans, resident in Europe, who were abducted to Seoul in 1967 to face charges of espionage. Although doubtful prisoners of conscience, the circumstances of their arrest and the broad interpretation placed on 'espionage' in a recently divided country makes close observation of the trial procedure and the manner in which laws are applied essential. Death sentences have been passed, and Amnesty has urged that they be not carried out.

Singapore

Amnesty's efforts in Singapore during the year resulted in the release of one prisoner, Low Tai Thong, who had been detained without trial since 1956. Mr Low is the first prisoner to have been released without making an acknowledgement of support for the government since 1966. He is now studying in London.

The attitude of the government towards the remaining 80 detainees remains uncompromising. Most have been adopted by Amnesty.

Taiwan

Information on prisoners of conscience in Taiwan has been collected by the American Section, but research in the International Secretariat is only at an embryo stage. As would be expected from the country's history and geographical position, most prisoners are held under anti-communist legislation.

EUROPE

The Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia led to a few arrests and certain repercussions in the countries of Eastern Europe. Reference is made to the situation in the relevant notes on the individual countries. The importance of Amnesty International in European terms is underlined by the frequent references made in the press to Amnesty reports on torture in Greece and on trials in the Soviet Union and Poland.

Czechoslovakia

To date there are no cases of prisoners of conscience known to us by name, although arrests have been reported following attacks on Soviet flags, for example, in Prague. Prior to the liberalisation policy there were a large number of Roman Catholic priests in prison but these are now believed to have been released.

East Germany

70 adopted prisoners. These are mostly people who have tried to leave the country illegally or who have helped others to do so. Amnesty adopt these people as prisoners of conscience because they are denied the right both in theory and in practice to leave the country in any other way. While of course some may be seeking a higher standard of living in West Germany, for example, we find that many of them wish to leave East Germany because of profound political disagreement with the system existing there. Some arrests were made of people who protested at the invasion of Czechoslovakia, notably a leading Opera Director who was later sentenced to 2½ years imprisonment.

Greece

In the last year, the case against Greece under the European Convention of Human Rights has been heard by the European Commission of Human Rights in Strasbourg. Amnesty presented evidence on torture, alleging violation of Article 3 of the Convention; Anthony Marreco and James Becket with Dennis Geoghegan, appeared as witnesses before the Commission. The Commission's report is expected in the autumn and may well determine the final decision of the Committee of Ministers when they discuss Greece's continued membership of the Council of Europe at their December meeting.

The debates and hearings at Strasbourg have meant that international attention has continued to focus on Greece. Despite the September Referendum, at Easter, the infringements of individual liberty which succeeded the 1967 military coup have remained and even been consolidated. Releases have reduced the number held in detention since April 1967 to under 2,000, and the women's prison camp on Yaros has been closed. However, no move has been made to bring the remaining detainees to trial, and reports of conditions in Alkernassos Prison in Crete, where the women were transferred from Yaros, suggest change rather than fundamental improvement. Despite the promised reforms, arbitrary arrest and trial by courts martial remain the norm for critics of the Government whether of the left, right or centre; recent arrests were reported of royalist army officers, many of whom have been sent into isolated 'exile' on remote islands or outside the cities under conditions similar to those of Mikis Theodorakis. Prison sentences, under Law 509, for such offences as distribution of banned literature are out of all proportion not only to the charge but also to the evidence brought by the Prosecution to support it. Reports of torture have continued.

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Amnesty work has concentrated on adoptions and it is encouraging to be able to report that adopted prisoners appear to have a higher than average chance of release. In the last eighteen months, 52 adopted prisoners have been released. Of six people sentenced to prison terms after the Papandreou funeral demonstration in November whose sentences were later reduced, five were adopted prisoners of conscience.

Hungary

Of the cases known to Amnesty many are religious prisoners of conscience, in particular priests who were given heavy sentences 5 years ago for alleged anti-State activities. The precise charges were never known because the trials were held in camera. Other prisoners are serving shorter sentences on charges of incitement or agitation. They are probably people who have discussed politics in public and who have been denounced to the police. There are also cases of former members of the political parties who have attended meetings with their old party friends. 50 cases have been taken up by Amnesty.

Italy

There are about 5 adopted prisoners in Italy, all Jehovah's Witnesses who have refused military service. There are believed to be about 25 such cases altogether.

Earlier this year a bill proposing the recognition of conscientious objection was presented to the Italian Parliament and rejected yet again. A letter was sent from the International Secretariat to President Saragat during his visit to London in April this year and a reply has now been received.

Poland

Over a thousand students were arrested in 1968 but all except twenty or so have been released. These twenty have since been adopted by Amnesty. For the last two years there has been an anti-Jewish campaign by members of the Government which now appears to be slowing down. This campaign has resulted less in imprisonment than in the large-scale dismissal of Jews from positions of authority and an exodus of approximately half the Jewish population from Poland to Israel. The students in prison were arrested on charges of being ring-leaders in student demonstrations in March 1968, which were sparked off by the banning of a play. They are serving sentences of between 2 to 3½ years.

The election of a Polish prisoner, Nina Karsov, as the Communist block "Prisoner of the Year" at the Stockholm Assembly, was a great success. Although her release cannot be shown to have been the direct result of Amnesty's intervention, it seems certain that the universal condemnation of her imprisonment outside Poland led the Polish authorities to remit one third of her sentence.

Miss Karsov, who now lives in London, has given Amnesty considerable help and support.

Portugal

The change of rule in September last year when Marcello Caetano succeeded Antonio Salazar following his illness, has not yet produced significant change. There are still many political prisoners, in particular in what are called Portuguese overseas provinces, Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau. Amnesty has recently obtained information on Angolan prisoners kept for years in the notorious Tarrafal Prison Camp on Cap Verde Islands.

The widespread powers of the PIDE (political police) remain unchanged. According to Decree law 35042 the PIDE has the right to arrest and detain a person for 6 months without trial. In practice this may lead to a person being arrested and released any number of times without being charged and without access to a lawyer. The so-called security measures, which are a type of preventive detention, are still frequently applied. They are added to the fixed term and range from 6 months to 3 years. They are then renewable for a further period of 3 years, and this is done at the discretion of the police as long as the prisoner could be considered "a danger to the State". There is no trial and consequently no chance for the prisoner and his lawyer to influence the extended prison stay. This means in effect that a person can be sentenced to life imprisonment, although life sentence was officially abolished in Portugal according to article 8 of the Constitution of 1933.

The 70 prisoners adopted by Amnesty include Catholics, liberals and many members of the illegal Communist Party.

Rumania

Rumania was the subject of a special Amnesty report in 1965, as prior to 1964 and the general amnesty there were thousands of political prisoners. Following the general amnesty in 1967 conditions are believed to have improved considerably but there are still about 30 adopted cases. Some are religious people arrested on charges of illegal religious activity, others have been sentenced for trying to leave the country illegally.

Soviet Union

There are over 150 adopted prisoners but the total number of political prisoners may well run into thousands. A large group of prisoners are dissident Baptists who broke away from the official Baptist Church because they protested at the degree of State control over its activities. Another group are intellectuals who have publicly protested against Soviet policy, for example in Czechoslovakia, or who have engaged in clandestine preparation and distribution of unofficial literature. Another group are Ukrainians who have either protested about alleged

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russification of their country or who have advocated the secession of the Ukraine from the Soviet Union (which is a constitutional right). There are also a number of foreigners, including the English lecturer Gerald Brooke*. Recently another group of prisoners has appeared, that of representatives of the Crimean Tartar people living in exile in Central Asia. They are at present awaiting trial in Tashkent on charges of anti-Soviet propaganda. The Crimean Tartars have for years been fighting for the right to return to the Crimea, from which their people were deported in 1944.

It is clear from Baptist documents, e.g. letters addressed to the United Nations appealing for help, that they are anxious to make contact with people outside the USSR who are concerned about human rights. Some groups' letters have got through, because an appeal to U Thant from the Council of Prisoners' Relatives, dated August 1968, was also addressed to Amnesty International.

In October 1968 the International Secretariat applied for a Soviet visa for Mr Peter Archer, M.P., to attend the trial of Mrs Daniel and the other Red Square demonstrators. On the day the trial opened a reply was received from the Soviet embassy "there is no reason for such a visit at present". In April 1969 the Swedish Section approached the judicial authorities in Riga, Latvia, concerning the trial of Mr Ivan Yakhimovich, a collective farm chairman arrested for his protest about Czechoslovakia. At the time of writing no reply concerning the date of the trial or the granting of a visa to a Swedish observer has been received.

Spain
There are some 1,000 prisoners of conscience in Spanish prisons. Some 150 have been adopted by Amnesty. They are intellectuals, writers, students, workers, socialists, and some who have voiced opposition to the one-party State. Many in Spain advocate a looser Federal status for some of the culturally, historically independent regions and some holders of those views have found themselves in prison. Also in prison are conscientious objectors. There is no alternative to National Service permitted in Spain, and a person is liable to serve several consecutive sentences for refusal to serve in the army.

Serious allegations of torture have been received by the Secretariat, and information is being obtained through a variety of sources and organisations.

West Germany
There are now no adopted prisoners in West Germany since the release of the Communist deputy, Jupp Angenfort, in May 1969. Considerable concern has been expressed by individual members of the German Section at the imprisonment of student demonstrators and the inconsistency of the punishment meted out to them. Adoption of these demonstrators has been hindered by the difficulty in ascertaining whether the demonstrations were non-violent and by the short sentences imposed (i.e. less than six months imprisonment). The International

*Since released.

Secretariat is of the opinion that cases in West Germany can best be dealt with by German civil rights organisations.

Yugoslavia

Amnesty's concern for Nazarenes, imprisoned for their refusal to carry weapons during military service, dates back to its formation in 1961. Recent reforms had reduced their sentences to a single term of five years. But in the last year harsher conscription legislation has been introduced as a direct reaction to the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, and there are now fears not only that the sentences may lengthen but that the pre-1960 pattern of re-conscription, re-trial and re-sentencing on release from prison may return. Nazarenes would accept non-combatant service in the armed forces; their objection is to the direct use of lethal weapons. They are a small community—10 are in jail at the present time—and recognition of their right to very wide-ranging alternative service could hardly form a damaging precedent to Yugoslav national security.

MIDDLE EAST

The whole area has been bedevilled by the Arab-Israel problem which has radically affected political imprisonment in many countries. It had been hoped to arrange one overall mission of investigation in the Middle East but this has not yet proved possible. There has been co-ordination of Amnesty activities with other organisations and with individual governments. This is a particularly tense area within which to work, and feelings of antagonism are strong. In the atmosphere of intense propaganda it is difficult to sift truth about conditions from exaggeration and fabrication. However, Amnesty representatives have visited a number of countries in the area. This report is necessarily inadequate though the whole area is one in which Amnesty has been active.

Iran

Amnesty has been concerned for some time over the treatment of political offenders in Iran, both in court and at the hands of the police. Available information has suggested that changes in penal practice have lagged far behind the impressive reforms undertaken by the Government in other fields during the last few years. In particular, we have observed the continuing, and unconstitutional practice of trial by court martial in political cases, and the apparent licence afforded to SAVAK in their pre-trial interrogation of prisoners.

In the autumn of 1968, reports reached us of the arrest and imminent trial of fourteen intellectuals accused of holding communist beliefs and of subversion. We therefore asked Mrs. Betty Assheton, an American-trained lawyer and Research Department volunteer to go to Teheran and attend the trial. Mrs. Assheton spent seven weeks in Teheran in December and January, observing the trial proceedings and meeting officials at all levels for discussions on human

rights questions. We should like to record our appreciation of the very real courtesy with which Mrs. Assheton was received by the Government.

The trial took place before a military court and resulted in the conviction of all the accused, who received sentences ranging from fifteen to three years; one defendant was acquitted on appeal.

Mrs. Assheton has made a detailed report on the legal conduct of the trial and on the treatment of the accused; her recommendations have been accepted by the International Executive and at the present time are under discussion with the Iranian Government. On Mrs. Assheton's advice, several of the defendants have been adopted as prisoners of conscience despite the formal charges brought against them.

Iraq

Since the Ba'athist military coup in July 1968 several hundred people have been arrested. The majority are still held without charge, but scores have been tried for "espionage" and thirty-six have been executed. Amnesty made a formal request to the government for permission to send an observer to the trials but the request was ignored. Subsequently we received a confidential report from a journalist who had visited Baghdad.

Nine Jews were among those executed and several members of the Jewish community have been detained. On May 30th 1969 anti-Jewish legislation passed in March 1968 was repealed and it will now be legally possible for Jews to leave the country. Several Jewish prisoners have since been released.

There are other minority problems in Iraq, notably the Kurds, and the Iranian pilgrims and settlers—over 3,000 of whom have been deported. However, by far the greatest number of political prisoners are Iraqis of Arab descent.

Israel

A report dealing with the treatment of Arab prisoners has been submitted to the Israeli government with certain recommendations which are now being studied. Amnesty representatives were invited while in Israel to visit several prisons and to talk to prisoners. The one point which has so far been made public about this visit is that the actual conditions in prisons under the normal prison administration are not unsatisfactory although inevitably discipline is strict and the cells ill-furnished and very overcrowded. There are a few prisoners of conscience still in Israeli prisons but there have been releases of several who were held without trial.

Saudi Arabia, Yemen, South Yemen, Muscat and Oman, the Trucial States

Thousands of political prisoners are known to exist. Reports of torture and ill-treatment are common. The political structure of these isolated and largely

undeveloped areas is such that precise information is difficult to obtain. Roughly 70 cases are under investigation.

Turkey

Recent Amnesty work has concentrated on a single case involving freedom of expression, and this has thrown into harsh relief the political curbs placed on writers under Turkish law.

The Turkish Penal Code makes the publication of writings advocating communism a punishable offence. This provision is far from a dead letter; proceedings are brought under it against a number of left-wing writers and journalists and although it is rare for convictions to carry more than a suspended sentence, the law allows the courts to impose lengthy prison terms for apparently moderate expression of political opinions. This is strikingly illustrated by the case of Sadi Alkilic.

In 1962, a prominent Turkish newspaper organised an essay competition on the subject: "Liberalism or Socialism—Turkey's Way to Salvation?" It was won by Sadi Alkilic, a relatively junior civil servant in the Ministry of Health, who sent in an essay advocating a utopian, essentially naive and non-violent form of socialism. He was arrested soon after the essay appeared in print, charged with "seeking to overthrow" the Turkish social and economic order and given a six-year prison sentence. Alkilic appealed, the case progressed slowly through the courts, and in November 1968 he was finally arrested with four years of his sentence to serve.

In 1968, Amnesty had made strong representations to the Turkish Government and it was hoped that Alkilic's appeal would be successful. When news of Alkilic's arrest reached London, we therefore asked Mrs. Betty Assheton to visit Turkey on her return from Iran.

Mr. Alkilic is in his fifties and has been in poor health for some time; when Mrs. Assheton saw him in prison he had just received a medical report which diagnosed a chronic heart illness. He has one remaining chance of a successful appeal: to the Turkish President for a pardon on the grounds of ill health. This application has now been made and Mr. Alkilic awaits the President's decision.

U.A.R.

At one time there were roughly 5,000 political prisoners in the U.A.R., including members of the Jewish community. Numbers have since been substantially reduced, partly as a result of releases following the June 1967 War, but 95 Jews are still believed to be imprisoned.

FINANCE

Anthony Marreco, Treasurer

AMNESTY is dependent on voluntary contributions. The Groups themselves are largely self-supporting, each making a contribution of £30 per annum to the International Secretariat, a total of more than £15,000 out of our present budget of £23,000 in 1968-9 and £19,500 of the 1969-70 budget of £33,000.

But, although we are by no means an organisation with unlimited requirements, this sum is insufficient to enable us to develop our true potential. It is in fact an uneconomic revenue, because too large a proportion is required for essential overheads, while the need to stretch our income to the utmost, results in inefficiency. There would be much to be said for concentrating on the few countries where we can do most good. But in practice we cannot ignore the constant appeals for help which come to us from almost every country in the world. The creation of a really efficient registry of political prisoners; the full deployment of our investigation and diplomatic capacity; the establishment of an influential Publications Department; these aspects of our work require another £25,000 per annum. We believe that with an income of £50,000 we can become a really tremendous force for good in the world.

There are reasons why this income, relatively modest in the light of the good that it can do, is not easy to obtain. The numbers of subscribers whom we can hope to enlist in each country is limited. Ours is not a mass movement. The whole purpose of individual membership is the work that members do: they have joined the organisation to work for the release of prisoners and rarely do they combine this with a talent for fund-raising. We can, therefore, really only look to Charitable Foundations and Trusts for the necessary increase in our income. But many Trusts are confined by their Trust Deeds to research, education or the direct relief of suffering, and they feel perhaps that Amnesty is too politically engaged or sophisticated a charity. In fact our work has elements of all human needs—the creation of a research unit of enormous human value; special projects in all countries where human rights are violated and human lives are at stake; the education of thousands of children whose lives would otherwise be penalised for their parent's beliefs and moral courage.

Amnesty as a whole cannot hope to be granted charitable status. The "Prisoner of Conscience Fund" however, used for the relief of prisoners and the relief and education of their families, has been granted British charitable status (Inland Revenue No. XN 7971 A. Charity Commissioners No. 2,3766 G.S.B.).

Appendices A 1-3 contain the statements of accounts for the International Secretariat and the Research Department. The two are presented separately for purposes of discussions with the British authorities regarding the charitable status and expenditure referred to above. There is still a deficit on our present

budget against the income anticipated from subscriptions and donations. Any expansion along the lines required will therefore come only after an immediate budget deficit has been met.

1969-70 will be the first year that the organisation has operated a strict budget against regular income and every effort must be made to stabilise the level of assessment of membership at its present rate. New resources within each national section should be found for the establishment of national headquarters and for new international donations to assist the international secretariat.

Finally, it should be emphasised that the budget does not cover costs of missions which have to be financed individually and separately. The budget merely covers costs of running a secretariat and a research department.

Amnesty International is not yet financially sound. But it is better off than it was.

APPENDIX A

1. INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT			Year ended 30th April 1969
Income and Expenditure Account			Balance Sheet as at 30th April 1969
		1968	1968
INCOME			
Subscriptions received—			
National Sections	£19,041 5 1		
Individual	1,127 17 5		
		£	£
		1968	1968
Donations and other contributions	£20,169 2 6	13,717	
Literature	5,226 9 6	3,142	
Christmas Cards	604 8 8		
Sundry Receipts	307 12 3	456	
	307 9 2	665	
	£26,615 2 1	17,980	
(Earmarked Moneys expended during the year were £4,171 16 2)			
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries	£8,323 10 3		
Less: Contributions received	4,791 15 1		
		£	£
Travelling, less recoveries	£3,531 15 2	5,133	
Sundry Expenses	1,094 5 4	210	
Accountancy	302 6 4	183	
Printing	105 0 0	105	
Stationery	1,627 1 0 } 2,449		
Telephone	791 13 10 }		
Postage	324 16 9	301	
Rent, Rates and Insurance	883 13 4	819	
Light and Heat	762 4 1	909	
Cleaner	122 18 7	132	
Repairs	248 15 0	245	
Depreciation	43 8 7	18	
Prisoner of Conscience Week, after recoveries	61 5 4		
Transferred for maintenance of the Research Department	368 9 5		
Surplus for the year transferred to Fund	11,000 0 0	10,500	
	5,347 9 4	(3,024)	
	£26,615 2 1	17,980	
Less:			
Cash at Bank	£7,241 6 0		
In Hand	15 18 10	2,427	
Sundry Debtors & Payments in Advance	828 6 11	266	
Due from the Fund for the persecuted	314 0 0	314	
Office Equipment at cost £611 5 4			
Less: Depreciation	61 5 4		
	550 0 0	52	
Surplus of Assets			
	8,949 11 0	3,069	
Represented by			
Balance of Fund at 30 April 1968 (deficit)	2,382 16 8	641	
Surplus for the year	5,347 9 4	(3,024)	
	£2,964 12 10	(2,383)	
I have prepared the above Accounts from the books and records of the International Secretariat and from information supplied to me and certify the same to be in accordance therewith.			

London 2nd June 1969

G. A. W. LOCK, A.C.A.

2. RESEARCH DEPARTMENT Year ended 30th April 1969

Income and Expenditure Account			
	1968	1968	
Expenditure		£	
Salaries, Luncheon Vouchers etc.	£8,122 2 3	7,611	
Travelling	32 13 4	28	
Sundry Expenses	404 12 1	453	
Newspapers and Journals	329 5 2	170	
Printing	195 15 8	391	
Stationery	378 4 9	391	
Telephone	311 4 3	199	
Postage	277 0 6	182	
Rent, Rates and Insurance	1,029 15 0	1,120	
Light and Heat	138 9 8	184	
Cleaner	265 0 0	255	
Repairs	14 10 9	1	
Depreciation	13 0 0	—	
	<u>£11,511 13 5</u>	<u>10,594</u>	
Balance at 30th April 1968			
Add: Deficit for the year			
	£941 6 10	2,980	
	511 13 5	2,019	
Net Deficit to date			
	<u>£1,453 0 3</u>	<u>941</u>	
Represented by			
Creditors	£543 5 6	—	
Adverse Bank Balance	1,250 0 7	—	
	1,793 6 1	1,146	
Less: Petty Cash in hand £20 15 10			
Repayments 197 10 0			
	218 5 10	205	
Office Equipment at cost £135			
Less: Depreciation 13			
	122 0 0	—	
	<u>£1,453 0 3</u>	<u>941</u>	
London 2nd June 1969			
I have prepared the above Statement and attached Income and Expenditure Account from the books and records and information supplied to me and certify the same to be in accordance therewith.			
G. A. W. Lock Chartered Accountant			
Transferred from the International Secretariat of Amnesty International £11,000 0 0 10,500			
Other — 2,113			
Unrecouped expenditure transferred to Fund 511 13 5			
Surplus transferred to Fund 2,019			

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APPENDIX B

BUDGET 1969/70 (to 30 April 1970)		International Secretariat & Research Department	
		EXPENDITURE	£
Group fees (650 groups)		19,500	
Subscriptions and individual donations and literature		1,500	
Secretary General Contributions		5,000	
Under negotiation			
Half cost of Research Department to be recouped from Prisoner of Conscience Fund, say,		6,000	
TOTAL INCOME		<u>32,000</u>	
Budgeted Deficit		<u>£1,613</u>	
Group I Salaries & taxes thereon			
Travelling		2,500	
Sundry Expenses		300	
Accountancy		200	
Newspapers		250	
Volunteers' Expenses		300	
TOTAL GROUP I			<u>23,700</u>
Group II Stationery			
Telephone		1,100	
Postage		500	
		1,300	
TOTAL GROUP II			<u>2,900</u>
Group III Rent			
Rates		1,312	
Light and Heat		250	
Cleaner		300	
Repair & Maintenance		455	
Insurance of Premises		200	
		90	
TOTAL GROUP III			<u>2,507</u>
Group IV Printing and Publications			
		2,500	
Group V Capital Equipment			
Prisoner of Conscience Week		1,000	
		1,000	
		2,000	
TOTAL ALL GROUPS			<u>£33,613</u>

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APPENDIX C

GROUPS AND NATIONAL SECTIONS

Where no national section or group is listed please write to the International Secretariat, Turnagain Lane, Farringdon Street, London E.C.4.

Australia

Lincoln Oppenheimer,
522 Old South Head Road,
Rose Bay,
New South Wales

Miss Bev Riley,
Student Union,
University of Queensland,
St. Lucia,
Brisbane 4076,
Queensland.

Miss Margaret MacNamara,
Dept. of Commerce,
University of Adelaide,
North Terrace,
Adelaide,
South Australia 5000.

Mrs. Bertha Rolls,
194 Waterworks Road,
Hobart 7000,
Tasmania.

Mrs. Clare Wositzky,
Driffield Crescent,
Sassafras,
Victoria.

Michael Unger,
Box X2258,
GPO,
Perth 6001,
Western Australia.

Britain

Amnesty International,
Turnagain Lane,
37 Farringdon Street,
London E.C.4.

Canada

Mrs M. E. Redpath,
10 Ridgedale,
Gloucester Post Office
Ontario.

India

Kenneth Golby,
Box 867,
Station 'F',
Toronto, Ontario.

Denmark

Amnesty Danish Section,
Gyldenløvesgade 121,
DK-1369 Copenhagen K.

Faeroe Islands

Roland Thomsen,
P.O. Box 219,
Torshavn.

Finland

Miss Ulla Kakonen,
Mannerheimintie 66 A 18,
Helsinki 26.

France

Amnesty French Section,
Turnagain Lane,
16 rue Montbrun,
Paris.

Germany

Amnesty German Section,
2 Hamburg 1,
Steinstrasse 23.

Ireland

Peter Warren,
348 Hickson Avenue,
St. Lambert,
Montreal, Quebec.

Israel

Mrs. Bella Ravdin,
P.O. Box 6118, Haifa.

Italy

Avv. Fortunato Pagano,
Palazzo Durini,
Via Durini 24, 20122 Milano.

Japan

Herbert E. Plutschow,
Oldmichi 8, Kamioeno,
Mukomachi, Otokuni-gun,
Kyoto-fu.

Netherlands

Drs. Cornelis van der Vlies,
Postbus 4076, Rotterdam.

New Zealand

Amnesty New Zealand Section,
Box 3597,
Wellington.

Norway

Amnesty Norwegian Section,
Oscarsgt 50, Oslo 2.

Pakistan

Syed Muhammad Husain,
Orr, Dignam & Co.,
195 Motijheel,
Dacca 2, East Pakistan.

Sweden

Amnesty Swedish Section,
Kammakaregatan 2,
111 40 Stockholm.

Switzerland

Amnesty Swiss Section,
2 Quai du Cheval Blanc,
1227 Carouge,
Geneva

U.S.A.

Amnesty International of the U.S.A.,
Suite 1213,
1340 Connecticut Avenue,
Washington D.C. 20036.

APPENDIX D

International Executive Committee 1968-69

Sean MacBride S.C.	Chairman	Ireland
Eric Baker		England
Hans Göran Franck		Sweden
Arne Haaland		Norway
Hajo Wandschneider		Germany
Anthony Marreco	Treasurer (ex-officio)	Ireland
Peter Calvocoressi	Co-opted	England
Per Wästberg	Co-opted	Sweden

International Secretariat

Martin Ennals	Secretary General
Martin Enthoven	Executive Secretary
Stella Joyce	Head of Research
Stephanie Grant	Research Officer
Ulla Sahlinström	Research Officer
Bruce Laird	Research Officer
Don Esslemont	Administrative Assistant
Katrin Berghaeger	Secretary
Elizabeth Palmer	Secretary
Julia Beck	Secretary
Sandra Badenoch	Secretary
Lois Taylor	Receptionist (shared with British Section)
Colin Leyland-Naylor	Part-time Press Cutter

Plus volunteer staff members on part-time unpaid basis. There is a fairly high rate of change among volunteers and they are therefore not listed.

Eileen Speller and Keith Siviter, the Executive Secretaries of the British Section, also carry out some work for the International Secretariat for which they are paid by the Secretariat.

APPENDIX E

AMNESTY MISSIONS 1961-69

Quite apart from the many contacts and reports made by individual Amnesty members travelling as tourists or on business Amnesty has undertaken a great number of official missions. Some of the most interesting have been:

1961 **Cuba** To observe a political trial. Report published by Amnesty shows how five accused, denied proper defence rights, were tried, sentenced and executed in one day.

1962 **Czechoslovakia** To discuss the cases of Archbishop Beran and others. Shortly afterwards the Archbishop was released.

Ghana Visit followed by publication of report on arbitrary arrest by the Nkrumah Government.

Portugal Report on discussions with Cardinal Cerejeira about priests exiled to overseas provinces and meetings with families of other prisoners.

France Report on the trial of Pere Davezies accused of collaborating with Algerian FLN in France.

Yugoslavia Report on mission to intercede for Djilas.

East Germany Report on mission to intercede for prisoners of conscience.

1963 **Lebanon** Mission following reports of ill-treatment of members of the P.P.S. following an unsuccessful coup. Treatment appears to have improved after mission.

Northern Rhodesia (Now Zambia) Enquiry into the needs of political refugees, mostly African, coming from South Africa results in project successfully carried out in collaboration with other organisations.

Iraq Visit by British M.P. to political detainees.

Morocco Report on the trial of opposition leaders.

1964 Missions to **Spain**, **East Germany**, **Rumania**, **Portugal**, **Rwanda** and the **U.S.A.** Except in the case of the U.S.A., reports on these missions remained confidential.

1965 **Greece** Mission to establish whether detainees were prisoners of conscience or spies as alleged by Greek Government. Subsequently adoption of most cases was recommended.

Cuba Mission to attend trial.

Iran Four missions in connection with the trial of students and others for alleged complicity in an attempt to assassinate the Shah. Amnesty representations and publicity about the treatment of the accused helped to secure several acquittals and the commutation of death sentences.

Portugal Two missions in connection with the arrest and trial of students. Report published.

Southern Rhodesia Mission to set up relief programme for detainees and their families and collect background information for report on prison conditions. 1966 Malawi Report to the Executive Committee.

Germany Three missions in preparation for the East German prison report which was published.

Hungary Two missions to establish contact with the hitherto silent authorities and with various semi-official organisations.

Greece Three missions to investigate the cases of the small number of remaining detainees (the majority having been released partly as a result of A.I. pressure) and discussions with authorities after attendance at trial of Trades Unionists.

Aden After discussions with British Ministers about conditions of detention and a refusal by the British Government to publish reports by the representative of the International Red Cross, Amnesty sent an official observer whose report they subsequently published. Widespread publicity obliged the British Government to send their own observer whose report drew attention to serious irregularities.

Portugal Attendance at trial of two alleged Communists. A campaign on behalf of one of them was followed by his release.

Spain Attendance at a trial.

1967 **Czechoslovakia** Attendance at a trial.

Turkey report to the Executive Committee.

1968 **Greece** Two important and much-publicised reports presented to the Council of Europe following three visits in 1967 and 1968.

U.S.S.R. Mission to trial of four writers accused of anti-Soviet propaganda.

1968 **Tunisia** To observe a trial and report to the Secretariat. Report available. To discuss with government, release of prisoners and their conditions. Report in AIR.

West Africa To investigate conditions in Sierra Leone and Ghana, hold discussions with Government and explore possibility of setting up Section, Report to Executive Committee and summary published in AIR.

Malawi To observe Appeal hearings of persons under death sentence and to present Amnesty report on detentions to government. Report published in AIR.

Iran To observe trial of intellectuals and have discussions with government. Report still confidential.

Greece: Observe trial which was then postponed. Further information obtained. Report confidential.

1969 **East and Central Africa** Discussion on possible setting up in Somalia and Sudan of Amnesty National section and release of prisoners in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda. Report made to International Executive Committee.

Middle East Separate visits to Jordan, Lebanon, Israel and Iraq. Reports still confidential.

Spain To observe trial and obtain information on torture.

Projected 1969 **Latin America, Indonesia, Malaysia and other Asian countries.**

These missions are only the visible tip of an iceberg; individual members, groups and National Sections under the guidance of the Secretariat create a groundswell of public opinion which clearly has an ever-increasing influence on governments.

APPENDIX F POSTCARDS FOR PRISONERS CAMPAIGN

The following is a list of people who have been on the Postcards for Prisoners Campaign during the period between June 1965, when the campaign was started, and May 1969, who have either had their sentences reduced, or been released. Steven Doroslovak, Yugoslavia, June 1965. Originally sentenced to 8 years. Sentence reduced to 5 years. Released in spring 1968.

Father Alberto Gabricagogeascoa, Spain, June 1965. Released but re-arrested in 1969.

James P. Bassoppo Moyo, Rhodesia, July 1965. Released.

Sheikh Mohamed Abdullah, India (Kashmir), July 1965. Released conditionally December 1967; all restrictions removed January 1968. His son, Tarig, who lives in England, rang Amnesty immediately he heard of his father's release to thank us for our help.

Lajos Nyugati, Hungary, July 1965. Released. Report received October 1966.

Dennis Brutus, South Africa, August 1965. Released on expiry of banning order.

Jose Lima de Azevedo, Brazil (Angolan), August 1965. Free and out of country.

Professor Min-Min Peng, Taiwan, October 1965. Released towards end of 1965. Letter of thanks to Amnesty.

Spyros Kotsakis, Greece, November 1965. Originally sentenced to death, but this was commuted to life imprisonment. Released April 1966. Telegram expressing appreciation. Re-arrested after coup.

Radu Florescu, Rumania, November 1965. Sentenced to 5 years. Released March 1967.

Pedro Vieira de Almeida, Portugal, February 1968. Amnesty observer sent to trial. Released July 1968.

Melanie Boek, East Germany, February 1966. Sentenced to 5½ years. Released September 1966.

Willi Paasch, West Germany, March 1966. Sentenced to 1 year in February.

Released in May 1966. Letter of thanks to Amnesty.

Dr. M. K. Rajakumar, Malaysia, March 1966. Released September 1967. Cable of thanks.

Ludwig Haas, Poland, April 1966. Released September 1968. Cable of thanks from fiancee.

Mirza Afzal Beg, India (Kashmir), April 1966. Released with certain restrictions, July 1967. Restrictions removed January 1968. Letter of appreciation.

Charles Casato, British Guiana. Released June 1966.

Mohamed Harbi, Algeria, October 1965. Released but still under certain restrictions.

Arthur Vacareanu, Rumania, May 1966. Sentenced to 10 years in 1959. Released in February 1967.

Florence Matomela, South Africa, May 1968. Released.

Sao Khun Hixio, Burma, May 1966. Released February 1968.

Father Gabriel Vlastimil Kofron, Czechoslovakia, June 1966. Released January 1967.

Sabahattin Eyuboglu, Turkey, June 1966. Sentence pending. Acquitted July 1966.

All Saied Mohamed Salih, Iraq, July 1966. Probably released after coup in July 1968, but unconfirmed.

Professor Tran Huu Khue, S. Vietnam, July 1968. Sentence of 20 years reviewed and reduced as a result of Amnesty pressure.

Christos Kazanis, Greece, August 1966. Original sentence reduced to 4½ years.

Ato. Belatchew Saboure, Ethiopia, August 1966. Released October 1966.

Toffazal Hussain, Pakistan, September 1966. Released March 1967.

Carl-Wolfgang Holzapfel, East Germany, September 1966. Released December 1967.

Inima Leite Flores, Brazil, October 1966. Released May 1967.

B. P. Koirala, Nepal, October 1966. Released November 1968.

Kon Sook Siong, Malaysia, November 1966. Released January 1967.

Mihajlo Mihajlov, Yugoslavia, November 1966. Sentence reduced by 1 year.

Dr Ruzena Vackova, Czechoslovakia, December 1966. Sentenced to 20 years imprisonment in 1951. Released in June 1967.

Caroline Okello-Odongo, Kenya, January, 1966. Released December 1968.

James Bass, Liberia, February 1967. Arrested November 1966. Released on bail in March 1967 and charges against him dropped.

Dr. Carlos Serrate Reich, Bolivia, March 1967. Released May 1967. Cable giving news and expressing appreciation.

Jacek Kuron and Karol Modzelewski, Poland, March 1967. Released (Kuron in March and Modzelewski in December 1967) but re-arrested in March 1968.

Satya Sen, Ranesh Dass Gupta, Pakistan, April 1967. Released June 1968. Gunther Seigewasser, East Germany, April 1967. Sentenced to 7 years. Released in December 1967.

Abbe Gobenja, Ethiopia, May 1967. Released but still under certain restrictions. Geoffrey Boon, St. Kitts, June 1967. Released August 1967. Amnesty officially thanked.

Jan Benes, Czechoslovakia, July 1967. Sentenced to 5 years. Released April 1968. Letter of thanks to Amnesty.

Michael Holman, Rhodesia, August 1967. Left Rhodesia on expiry of restriction. Yevgeny Kushev and Ilya Gabai, U.S.S.R., August 1967. Reported free in February 1968.

U Myint Thein, Burma, September 1967. Released in amnesty February 1968.

Angel Martinez, Spain, October 1967. Sentenced to 14 years imprisonment in December 1962. Released January 1968.

Shawkat El Touny, U.A.R., October 1967. Released February 1968. Letter from wife.

Helmut Peter Kunzelman, East Germany, November 1967. Released.

Nina Karsov, Poland, December 1967. Sentenced to 3 years in October 1967. Released in September 1968.

Lim Kean Siew, Malaysia, December 1967. Released January 1968. Letters of thanks.

Frantisek Kucera, Czechoslovakia, January 1968. Sentenced to 16 years. Released early 1968.

Madame Vassokrataki, Greece, January 1968. Arrested April 1967. Released early 1968.

Alexander Yesenin-Volpin, U.S.S.R., March 1968. Released May 1968.

Sofia Ferreira (de Oliveira), Portugal, March 1968. Still detained in March 1968 after end of 5½ year sentence. Released in October 1968.

Adem Demaci, Yugoslavia, April 1968. Sentenced to 12 years in 1964. Released in April 1968.

Jean Couardeau, France, June 1968. Sentenced to 1 year in April 1968. Released October 1968.

Dora Constantiou, Greece, July 1968. Free, but not allowed to leave Greece.

Stefan Gardonyi, Rumania, August 1968. Sentenced to 6 years. Given free pardon October 1968.

Dr. Sami el-Joundi, Syria, August 1968. Released in November 1968.

POSTCARDS FOR PRISONERS CAMPAIGN

Supplement to List of Released Prisoners.

The prisoners listed below have either been released recently or we have only recently learnt of their release.

Senor Clerco, Spain, January 1968. Released.
Aecio Matos, Brazil 1968. Has fled the country.
Helio Fernandes, Brazil, August 1967. Thought to be most probably free.
Jose Rafael Teneris Nunez, Venezuela, February 1968. Released.
Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe, South Africa, June 1965. Released May 1969, but still under house arrest in Kimberley.
Aghar Kashmiri, Pakistan, April 1967. Released February 1969.
Eustaquio Tolosa, Argentina, July 1967. Released.
Sheikh Majibur Rahman, Pakistan, January 1968. Released February 1969.
Low Tai Thong, Singapore, March 1968. Released March 1969. Now studying in England.
Dr. Kibaya, Uganda, June 1968. Released end of March 1969.
Mohamed Panahi, Iran, August 1968. Released November 1968.
Ghaus Baksh Blzengo, Pakistan, November 1968. Released.
Jusu Sheriff, Sierra Leone, December 1968. Released, but case against him still to be heard. At present he is out on bail.

PRISONERS ON CARD CAMPAIGN DURING YEAR 1968-69

MONTH	NAME	COUNTRY	MONTH	NAME	COUNTRY
June 1968	**Jean Couardeau Mario Greenough Hylton **Dr. Kibaya	France Cuba Uganda	December 1968	Anthony Grey Ndabaniengi Sithole *Jusu Sheriff	China Rhodesia Sierra Leone
July 1968	*Dora Constantinou Professor Sukirno (Dead) George P. Vins	Greece Indonesia U.S.S.R.	January 1969	Clodsmi Riani Thai Kin Tat Lev Kvachevsky	Brazil Malaysia U.S.S.R.
August 1968	**Stefan Gardonyi **Mohamed Panahi **Dr. Sami El Joundi	Rumania Iran Syria	February 1969	Werner Ross Pramudya Ananta Tur Don Baty	East Germany Indonesia U.S.A.
September 1968	Joaquim Augusto dos Santos Barbara Torunczyk Victor Rico Galan	Portugal Poland Mexico	March 1969	Alfonso Carlos Comin Edouard Chapuis Paul Fazekas	Spain Malagasy Republic Hungary
October 1968	Horst and Sabine Bonnet Pavlos Zannas Mohammed Ben Jennet	East Germany Greece Tunisia	April 1969	Crimean Tartar Representatives— Roland Kadiev, Is-set Khairov and Svetlana Ametova Fernanda Paiva Tomaz Achkar Marof	U.S.S.R. Portugal Guinea
November 1968	**Ghaus Baksh Blzengo Father Lazlo Emodi Abu Mayanja	Pakistan Hungary Uganda	May 1969	Patrick Peter Ooko Narciso Julian Sanz Janusz Szpotanski	Kenya Spain Poland

**Prisoner has been released.
 * Prisoner has been released but remains under some form of restriction.

Countries in which Amnesty has adopted prisoners and taken up investigation cases during the year 1968/69.

Algeria	Guyana	Portugal
Argentina	Honduras	Rhodesia (Zimbabwe)
Bahrain	Hungary	Rumania
Bolivia	Indonesia	Rwanda
Brazil	Iran	Saudi Arabia
Britain	Iraq	Senegal
Bulgaria	Israel	Sierra Leone
Burma	Italy	Singapore
Burundi	Kenya	South Africa
Bhutan	Lebanon	South Korea
Chad	Liberia	South West Africa (Namibia)
China	Madagascar	Spain
Colombia	Malawi	Syria
Comoro Islands	Malaysia	Tanzania
Congo (Kinghasa)	Mali	Thailand
Congo (Brazzaville)	Mexico	Tunisia
Cuba	Morocco	Turkey
Ethiopia	Nepal	Uganda
Gabon	Nigeria	U.A.R.
East Germany	Oman	U.S.A.
West Germany	Pakistan	U.S.S.R.
Ghana	Panama	Venezuela
Greece	Paraguay	Vietnam (South)
Guinea	Peru	Yugoslavia

ORGANISATION AND WORKING METHODS OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

The movement now consists of 20 National Sections, 640 Groups and 15,000 individual members. It is directed by an International Council in which the National Sections have voting power in proportion to the number of groups or individual members in the Section. This Council usually meets every year and decides the policy of the movement; it elects an International Executive Committee of five members which is responsible for Amnesty's affairs between meetings of the Council. This Committee normally meets four times a year and the day-to-day affairs are the responsibility of the International Secretariat directed by the Secretary General.

Each National Section must have at least two groups or ten individual members and pay an annual subscription varying with the number of groups or members. Each group must consist of at least 3 members. The groups adopt three prisoners each, chosen for them by the International Secretariat with special attention to the need for political balance. Groups are never allocated prisoners from their own country or its colonies.

The countries with the largest number of groups are Sweden, the United Kingdom and Germany. Certain National Sections however, work chiefly through individual members rather than groups.

The first object of groups is to obtain the release of the "prisoner of conscience" entrusted to them. Meanwhile the group tries to give moral and material help to prisoners and their families. Groups use direct pressure by writing to Embassies and Ministries of the country concerned and indirectly by enlisting the support of organisations such as Trade Unions, professional associations and, where appropriate, the Press.

The first responsibility of the International Secretariat is to find out the names of "prisoners of conscience". In this task it collaborates closely with the Prisoner of Conscience Fund set up to provide financial channels for relief and welfare of prisoners and their families. Newspapers, other organisations and released prisoners are all valuable sources which have, wherever possible, to be cross-checked to ensure that Amnesty works for genuine "prisoners of conscience" and not, for example, for spies or violent revolutionaries. More than 8,000 case-cards have been made. Each month 3 prisoners are selected for a postcard campaign. Members send postcards to the government from all over the world. The release rate for those selected has been encouraging.

The Secretariat also sends observers to different countries either to make reports on the general position of "prisoners of conscience" in the country or to discuss particular cases with the authorities, or to visit prisoners, or to be present at trials.

Finally the Secretariat undertakes extensive publicity in cases which, it is thought, will thereby be helped. More than 2,000 out of more than 4,000 adopted "prisoners of conscience" have been released, and although Amnesty International never claims exclusive credit, there is no doubt that this has been due in many cases, largely to the intervention of Amnesty International.

Amnesty International has also given its active support towards the establishment of a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights along the line of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and has urged governments concerned to accept the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights.

Amnesty depends for its resources on its members and on donations and more of both are needed.