

For immediate release

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT
OF NEW SECRETARY GENERAL

Amnesty International today (Thursday, 18 June 1992) announced the appointment of Pierre Sané as its next Secretary General, from October 1992.

Mr Sané, a 44-year-old Senegalese, has been Regional Director in West and Central Africa for the International Development Research Centre, a Canadian development aid organization.

As Secretary General, he will be chief executive of the worldwide human rights movement and will supervise the work of some 300 staff at its International Secretariat. He succeeds the British human rights activist Ian Martin, who leaves the post at the end of September after six years.

Mr Sané, a member of Amnesty International in Senegal since 1988, was appointed by the nine-member International Executive Committee, the highest elected body of the voluntary movement, after a six-month recruitment exercise. The committee considered more than 1,200 applicants from over 30 countries.

Mr Sané has worked for the International Development Research Centre since 1978 and has been in his present post since 1988. Based in Dakar, he has been directing the centre's research projects in 24 countries in the West and Central Africa region. During his work there and in other African regions over some 12 years he has been responsible for about 350 projects in over 40 countries, including Ethiopia, Somalia, Nigeria, Senegal and South Africa.

He is a founding member of the International Committee of PANAF, an international non-governmental organization whose aim is to promote regional integration and democracy in Africa.

Mr Sané obtained an M.Sc. in Public Administration and Public Policy at the London School of Economics in the United Kingdom and did doctoral studies in political science at Carlton University, Ottawa, Canada; he was awarded a diploma at the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce et d'Administration des Entreprises at Bordeaux, France.

Married, with two children, his home is in Dakar, where he was born.

Amnesty International now has more than a million members, subscribers and regular donors in over 150 countries. It has national sections in 47 countries in all regions of the world. The International Secretariat is the movement's nerve centre: all country research is carried out from there and the secretariat provides the movement with organizational support in its work to free prisoners of conscience, safeguard the rights of political prisoners, end torture and the death penalty and prevent extrajudicial executions and "disappearances".