

NEWS SHEET FOR THREE GROUPS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

British Section

SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

Total number of 'Prisoners of Conscience' indexed		3000
Number of adopted prisoners (Jan. 31st)		813
Number of sections in the U.K.	120 - number of groups	210
Number of sections abroad	32 - number of groups abroad	61

NATIONAL SECTIONS ABROAD

AUSTRALIA BELGIUM CANADA DENMARK FINLAND ISRAEL ITALY
 LUXEMBOURG NORWAY REPUBLIC OF IRELAND SWEDEN SWITZERLAND
 U.S.A. W.GERMANY

Countries from which prisoners have been adopted

ALBANIA BOLIVIA BULGARIA BURUNDI CHINA CZECHOSLOVAKIA EGYPT
 FRANCE E.GERMANY W.GERMANY GHANA GREECE HUNGARY INDIA
 INDONESIA IRAN IRAQ ITALY MALAYSIA MALI MEXICO MOROCCO
 NEPAL NICARAGUA PAKISTAN PARAGUAY POLAND RUMANIA SOMALIA
 SOUTH AFRICA SOUTHERN RHODESIA SPAIN SUDAN TANGANYIKA U.S.A.
 U.S.S.R. VENEZUELA VIETNAM (NORTH & SOUTH) PORTUGAL (including
 ANGOLA)

Total number of adopted prisoners released to date 250

VISITS FROM ABROAD in January

There have been two visitors of note; one from Ethiopia and the other from Turkey. Miss Hilary Cartwright, a young barrister-at-law and a very active Amnesty supporter, interviewed the Ethiopian Minister of Justice for 1½ hours, found him a most co operative man, who had much information to give us.

Mrs. Sureyya Agaoglu, a prominent member of the Turkish Opposition and a barrister, discussed with Peter Benenson how best to establish an Amnesty section in Turkey, as well as to act as mediator for us on behalf of the many imprisoned men and women since the overthrow of the last government.

RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

It had been felt for quite some time that background papers should be available of countries other than E.Germany, Czechoslovakia and Rumania. Miss Cartwright, together with a team of four others recently began work on the following countries :-
 Burma, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Ghana, China, Portugal, Spain and Turkey.
 (The U.S.S.R. is being dealt with by Mr.Vorvoreanu)

BULLETIN

As you may have noticed, one complimentary copy of the Bulletin has been sent to you (or should have been sent to you) and will be forwarded to you with every new edition. At present, the British Section sends out a four-page Bulletin with another four-page insert of the International Section. We would appreciate your views as to size and quality, asking you at the same time if you would be willing, when requested, to make your contribution to it in the form of an article relating to your group's activities.

CHRISTMAS CARDS We would please like to have some suggestions for this year's cards. Send your sketches in, if you have any ideas.

LOOKING BACK

Contributions to Head Office funds in 1963 from the 120 sections in the U.K. amounted to £433.2.0. From this it was clear that the requested £10 p.a. was more than one group could manage. Whilst the average contribution added up to less than £4, funds were in fact raised by a few, each of which contributing considerably more than £10.

The work entailed in bringing about the release of a 'Prisoner of Conscience' has been an arduous one. In many cases nothing at all seemed to be happening. You may have been amongst those who heard neither from contacts nor from any other sources. Quite naturally, you began to wonder, if you were in fact doing any good. You may not have thought that letting us know of 'no progress' had any point. - A little while ago we received a letter from a group to that effect, i.e. 'here we are, having laboured for a whole year, and only in one of three cases has any progress been made.' In reply we had to point out that the 'contact' addresses used had become out of date, and that letters to Ministries very seldom resulted in replies, but that, nevertheless, repeated efforts had to be made to draw attention to a particular prisoner.

Now to more cheerful aspects of Group work.

BRISTOL Mr. Roger Moody's campaign of activities had most energetic beginnings. You will find his article, describing his march from Bristol to London, in this month's Bulletin.

EDINBURGH First of all, apologies to the Edinburgh Unitarians for not obtaining a separate mention in the THREES Directory. Their leader, Mr. Bruce Findlow, gave a broadcast on Sunday, January 12th on the work of Amnesty International. He had since had requests from individual listeners for more information.

HAMPSTEAD see article by Mrs. Diana Redhouse in this month's Bulletin.

MANCHESTER UNIVERSITY After some false starts, a well-run team of active members led by Mr. Peter Leon, are working on 27 cases. They have also produced their first News Letter in which they announced the formation of an Amnesty Society within the University. They have had publicity on Granada TV, the Guardian and the student newspaper 'Independent'.

MANSFIELD A team consisting of four members of staff of the Queen Elizabeth's Girls Grammar School in Mansfield has been joined by 25 girls of the Sixth Form. Infected by the enthusiasm of Mrs. R. Coates, their art mistress, and leader of the group, some girls produced good Amnesty posters, (useful for display in other schools) collected funds by Carol singing, and are now planning to sell 'hot dogs' during morning break to establish a 'prisoners' fund'.

N.IRELAND The chief driving force of this lively section is Mrs. Brenda Dick. Each one of her 43 members is also a fully subscribed member of the London office. After an initial period of setbacks and despondent letters the group is now well established and used to a pattern of waiting and hoping, but also aided by the fact that they have had six releases within their three THREES since March 1963. Due to quite considerable press publicity a university section is about to be formed this month.

CENTRAL SOMERSET This team began under the guidance of Mr. Kemp just over three months ago with six members. Here too publicity has helped to increase their numbers and to obtain the support of several church dignitaries.

ELTHAM A special mention needs to be given to the wonderful effort of a Christmas Market. Mr. & Mrs. Warner gave endless hours of thought and work to make it the success it undoubtedly was. As a result their 'Prisoners' Fund' gained strength and a generous cheque was sent to us. The Eltham section has 22 subscribing members.

I would like to finish by thanking you very much for all your help and also by asking your forgiveness for any lapses on our part.

February, 1964.

(Correction: not Min. of Justice of Ethiopia, but
ex-Minister of Justice)