

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
1, Mitre Court Buildings, Temple, E. C. 4

NEWS SHEET FOR BRITISH AND INTERNATIONAL THREES GROUPS

Some more statistics.

Number of Threes Groups in Britain approximately 248

Number of Threes Groups abroad approximately 123

Group contributions sent to us last year - £854.8.0. incl. January 65.

Groups who had to give up for various practical reasons in 1964 - 29
New Groups formed in 1964 - 42.

Contributions were sent to us by many more Groups than in 1963 - some far exceeding the requested £10. In addition quite a few group members contributed most generously as individual subscribers. Although far from being well established, our balance sheet is beginning to look up.

Also many thanks for a far greater number of good quality reports. Talking about money, we would like to express admiration and thanks for all those who raise funds to contribute quite considerable amounts to help prisoners' families.

GROUP NEWS

LINCOLN - Mr. Lodge was invited to address a meeting arranged in conjunction with the International Friendship League, inviting members of the Free Church Federal Council, the Lincoln Council of Churches, the Conservative, Liberal and Labour Parties, Unitarian Chapel, Society of Friends, Teachers' Training College, Theological College, Ukrainian Association and Co-operative Societies. Six posters were displayed. Resulting from this £12 were received for membership fees alone. There was a good deal of press publicity.

HAMPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL - Meetings were held every week in their first term of 'office'. This has now been reduced to one a month. Their successful publicity has already been mentioned in this month's Bulletin. It is their plan to collect sufficient funds, so that delegates can be sent to whichever country they have not succeeded to make any headway.

CLEVEDON - They had a large barbed wire encircled candle made and sent us two very good quality photographs of it. On one the angle is such that the flame is thrown forward foreshortening the candle to good effect. This might well serve for this year's Christmas Card. (Since we need to plan now, we would like to hear your views. Any other suggestions for a design will be welcome. Last year we sold 23,000 cards).

WOKING - They write 'Our main activity at present is raising money to help Dennis Brutus' family in South Africa. We are trying to send £20 a month. So far we have sent 4 lots, totalling £72.' They say that most of the money raised came from Woking Schools, who have to date sent them over £80. To stimulate the interest in schools, the Group were able to supply them with photographs of the 7 Brutus children.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER - Although they have no publicity to report, we are pleased to have received eight of their 15 progress reports, some of which show extensive research into cases.

OXTED - As always, we have a regular flow of information from this small, but active Group. In last month's report were enclosed photographs of their E.German, now released, and re-united with his wife. Two members of Oxted were able to visit his mother in W.Germany last year, who has since been given permission to see her son. Oxted have equally good contact with their S.Rhodesian detainee at Gonakudzingwa, and have just sent him £10.16.0. an amount needed for a correspondence course of studies.

STEVENAGE - Before establishing themselves this Group set out with press coverage in three local papers. This was on the 8th September, by the 15th September a keen Group was formed. Their first detailed report was sent to us on 17th December, giving an impressive account of activities with further publicity and fund raising.

RUSKIN COLLEGE GROUP - Their secretary writes in December - 'It might be of use for your next news sheet to know that Ruskin 1st year students are now supporting Vuysile Mini's wife and children to the extent of £9 per week, and that the 2nd year students will be supporting Wilfrid Brutus to the extent of £5 per week. The money is being raised by giving up one meal a week by every student.' Mini, condemned to death in November of last year, had been the concern of Ruskin College.

STREET, CENTRAL SOMERSET - Joseph Morolong of S.Africa, under house arrest for a long time now, had christened the latest addition to his family 'Julian' in gratitude for all the help his family is receiving from Mr.Julian Boby, responsible for all the correspondence concerning this family.

It is also worth mentioning that this very resourceful Group very rarely draw a blank in whatever country their prisoner may be. Evidence for this is the case of a Russian, member of a 'secret sect' adopted in November 1964. By January a great deal of evidence had been received through the Russian press to piece together the facts of the case and that of three others involved.

BACKGROUND PAPERS are available for - Burma, Cuba, Czech., E.Germany, Ethiopia, India, Iraq, Mexico, Ghana, Portugal, Spain, South Africa, Haiti, Sudan, Turkey.

On account of the considerable cost of producing these, we have to make a small charge (6d. each).

Here is a list of material every Group should have -

- Handbook for Groups
- Embassy Addresses
- Ministerial Addresses
- Draft letters to -
 - a. Prisoner
 - b. Embassy
 - c. Minister of Justice
- Code of Conduct
- Headed notepaper
- Report form and card
- Annual Report
- National Background papers
- Literature for distribution
- Bulletin
- Statement sheet
- Monthly news sheet

HANKERCHIEFS - Does anyone wish to order hand embroidered hankchiefs from a kind lady, who is bed-ridden, but very much wishes to help us. Her address is Miss A.E.Granger, 20 Otterburn Avenue, S.Wellfield, Whitley Bay, Northumberland. Please send the orders to her and the money to us. They are 3 for 3/6d.

SCOTTISH SECTION - With further reference to a letter received by Miss Blaikie from the Bulgarian Embassy, we have been requested to publish its contents (see December issue of news sheet) -

'I write in reference to your letter of 24th October, regarding enquiries relating to Kalin Nedyalkov Batakov.

Further to the information sent you on June 22, 1964, we are now in a position to inform you that Batakov was sentenced to five years imprisonment for anti-State actions. The Supreme court reduced this sentence to 2½ years. Later Mr. Batakov was released under an Amnesty by the Presidium of the National Assembly, on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the 9th September, 1944, that is to say, before 9th September this year.

We trust this information is satisfactory, and that you will now feel it unnecessary to have your letters to the press published.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd) G. Shkutov,
Secretary to the Embassy.'

LETTER FROM MRS. WINNIE MANDELA to the Oxted Group -

'Dearest Mrs. Levett,

I replied to your wonderful letter and requested that, if you have a minute to spare you should drop me a line, now and then.

When I heard that a friend of mine is getting to your country I decided to write to you and tell you that, I saw Nelson on 29.8.64, and I had the first opportunity to tell him of your lovely encouraging letter. He sends you his fondest regards and wishes me to convey this on his behalf to our dearest friends who mean so much to our cause and to ourselves as a family.

We have been able to face our problems with great determination as a result of encouragement from people like you. We know that we are not alone in our life long battle. We owe this feeling to you.....

Yours sincerely,
Winnie Mandela.'

LETTER FROM PAUL JOSEPH, released from prison, but now under House arrest -

'Dear Friends,

One of the most heartening things that reached me whilst in prison was your most encouraging support to Adelaide and the family. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking you from the bottom of my heart, for all that you have done.

It is actions like yours that make us feel in this bitter country, that the world still has many more good people like you, that makes our cause so noble.

It is the one of the most powerful elements, when one is under stress or strain, when an unknown helping hand stretches across the Atlantic to provide some warmth and comfort. How does one repay such kindness and understanding? I can say, your action has produced a counter-reaction - to spiritually embrace all our

people of this land - black, white, coloured. We have told all our friends about you. In this way more and more people here come to accept that not all White People are bad.

Needless to say we have a small and dwindling section of white people who at a great risk still manage to introduce a spark of decency into the White (foolishly called here "Europeans") people of this country.

It is to the honour and credit of the people of the whole of the U.K. particularly England that for many years they have rallied to our cause. We will never forget this. One day we hope we will all dance in the streets.

Zoya has after much difficulty started school. She was hoping that she would not be accepted and that she could be with me. After a couple of weeks Tanya has got used to me. Anand appears to be aware of my presence. He cries to be rocked to sleep. Drushka (Adelaide may not have told you, Drushka is my dog) has come back to life and he refuses to come out from under the bed at night, and my beloved Adelaide has not put on any weight. Our excitement has not yet worn off. Everybody is just radiant and I too have put on weight. In our tumbled down house life is a paradise in spite of the fact that I am still under house arrest. As for my plans I hope to get started with selling clothes from door to door. I like it. It gives me a chance to meet people, to chat, laugh and make new friends. I love life and people.

Should one day one of you wish to visit this beautiful land of ours, you can rest assured a most welcome awaits. Don't worry about accommodation, it is no problem. Just tell us when, even if it is for a short while. We will move mountains for you.

So much for the time being from me. You will learn from Adelaide very soon. Presently she is at the ?fort? visiting another prisoner still held there.

With fondest regards to all of you,
I am yours sincerely,

Paul Joseph'

Paul Joseph is adopted by the Lincoln Group.

FUTURE EVENTS -

The Annual General Meeting of the British Section will be held in London on Saturday 12th June 1965.

PUBLICITY - Fifty posters are ready and waiting to go on the London Underground, one each to a coach. Fifty groups are needed to sponsor one poster each, cost 14/6d for 13 weeks. Please will each Group in London and the Home Counties 'adopt' a poster. And please could you let me know very quickly.

Albert Lodge.

INTERNATIONAL SECTION

The GROUPS outside Great Britain have continued to increase in number. As mentioned overleaf, there are now about 123. Amnesty activities in Scandinavia have resulted in 21 groups in Denmark, 11 in Norway and 10 in Sweden. We are also very glad to be able to report that the first two groups have now been formed in France and a new group in the United States.

Since the last News letter we have received a bulletin of the Australian Section of Victoria, monthly minutes from the Irish Section, a statement of problems from the West German groups in the Cologne area, regular detailed information from the Danish Section, as well as numerous communications from individual groups. Altogether we seem to have established closer liaison between Head Office and groups abroad.

We should like to remind all groups, abroad and in Britain, of our announcement in the December newsletter (p.5) to the effect that a Norwegian professor is going to Hungary shortly and is willing to make enquiries about prisoners. If any group wishes to make use of his offer, will they please write to us at once with all the information on their prisoner which they have.

The Cologne groups wish to inform all groups that if they would like to have letters forwarded to East Germany, would they please send them to -

Frdulein Gisela Rausch,
5043 Lechenich,
Herrigerstr.1.

Germany, instead of to Frau von Trotha who, we are sorry to report, has died recently. Further, if any group has any letters from released E.German prisoners, would they kindly let the West German Section have a copy or photocopy, as they can be used for publicity by press or broadcasting in order to create interest in Amnesty International in West Germany. (A few letters, received by the Irish Section, have already been sent). The names of the prisoners will not be mentioned.

Please send them to - Frau Carola Stern,
5 K81n,
Am Rinckenpohl 57,
Germany.

Perhaps the most rewarding result of Amnesty activities is the personal, sometimes quite unexpected, response to letters and Christmas cards. We quote three, one sent from a prison in Iran to a correspondent in Denmark, one from a Restriction Area in Rhodesia, also received in Denmark, and one from a newly released prisoner from East Germany, sent to an Irish Amnesty member. They all express what the Rhodesian cites in his letter 'our common humanity'.

Tehran (Gassra Prison)
January 13th 1965

'Dear Mr.Thorsen,

Thank you very much for your kind and significant greeting card. I have received it, without any paper, today, here in prison. I hope also a happy year for you, and I wish you all success.

Very truly yours,
Y.Sahabi,
Professor of Geology in Sciences
Faculty of University in Tehran.

Gonakudzingwa Restriction Area,
Vila Salazar,
P/B u 304,
Bulawayo,
Rhodesia.

23.12.64.

I acquaint you that I have received your Christmas card with a great mixture of pleasure and surprise, being a young man of 24 years, who knows not much about practical life. Your Christmas card, Sir, is a 'landmark' in my life. It has remade me and remoulded my way of thinking.

When received your Christmas card, I had food for the thought, I asked myself a question "why does this person think of us in Zimbabwe, does he know me, what does it profit him to worry about me?" This at length came to my mind that "we are linked together by common humanity and human needs and sympathies and we are all vessels of different colours and shapes of God-given lives. In truth I have been made to think not only nationally but also internationally". But I became more worried when I again realised that I cannot help somebody before I am able to help myself, so really you made me to think of creating an "Harmonious wordly-community after our National Freedom".

Long Life.'

From Master Isidore Kumire to I.Hedegaard, Vejen, Denmark.

5307 Hetchburg 24,
Near Weimar,
East Germany.

4th January 1965

'Dear Miss Fitzgerald,

I thank you very much for your Christmas greetings. But I didn't receive your card in jail as I was released a few weeks ago. That's too, the reason that I can give you thanks.

You cannot imagine what a joy it has been for me to get so many greetings from Ireland. It is a good feeling to know to have friends after a long time of loneliness.

As I don't know the reason for my early release (I was sentenced to eight years jail and have spent only 50 months there) it is possible that Irish activity was the cause. So I'm deeply in your debt.

With the best wishes for 1965.

Sincerely yours,

H.Friedrich Müller.