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BULLETIN

I, MITRE COURT BUILDINGS, TEMPLE, LONDON E.C.4.

CENTRAL 7867

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No. 4
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NEW ACOLYTE

8.50. Enter the precincts. Pedal up King's Bench Walk. Corps of Commissionaire man with Coldstreamer haircut stares harshly. What doesn't he like - bicycle among all the Triumphs and 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ litres? Or could it be "improperly dressed"? The awful dignity of these bowlers and black and stripes. Look critically at the sports jacket and flannels that ensured cosy anonymity in a provincial staffroom. Have to get a suit - a dark one. And these drip-dry shirts wont do.

Enter, place empty. Office newly painted and flowers. Thanks to Chris and Marlys. Lord Chief Justice Goddard via Ronald Searle stares down from the wall. Starting instructions typed out ready: "1) Please will you write a nice begging letter to each of the following thirteen people" - horrible reminder, the fund-raising part of the job. "2) At 9.30, Monsieur D. from Togoland to see you." From where?! Rush to wall-map, guess it's Africa, memorise capital city, fly down to library, find a file and 20 minutes later am listening to another private tragedy....interrogated for two months, in solitary confinement for five months, now been arrested nine months. Speak encouragement, but feel like heart-specialist reassuring progressive cardiac case.

Mail waiting. Mr. S. feels we're not impartial about Spain - threatens resignation, Miss V. - with a Roman Catholic representative in AMNESTY and that church so close to the Spanish Government, feels we're not impartial about Spain - threatens resignation. Examine press cuttings. Relieved to find Daily Worker and Tablet each generous about us.

P.B. arrives. Makes constructive suggestion about Togolese. Begin to see how we can do something. But first a letter: "Dear Mr. ... , This is frankly an appeal for funds..." pause ... no, too direct, try again "Despite the many calls upon your generosity..." Phone rings. Auntie who? Oh, Apartheid, wonder if we can help with... More letters, all this unfamiliar decision making.

Lunch time. Nobody seems to take it seriously. Standing up bangers and mash in all chops, cheese and tradition pub. Three o'clock already! Return to find N.V. loosing off ideas like a full quiver of arrows and vanishing before they've landed.

Afternoon mail. Iraqi student would like an appointment...Viet-Nam Ambassador has the honour to be... His Holiness Sarto Kirpat would grant an audience... grubby note smuggled out of Burgos. Oh the ambitiousness of AMNESTY to be International!

6.15. Freewheel through Mitre Court archway. King's Bench Walk deserted. Has Sgt. Cheese-cutter been bowler-hatted? Pass Cleopatra's Needle. Reminder, must swot up map of new African States...

Albert Lodge.

APPEALS

Though the tempo of most activities may slacken in August appeals for help do not. We were visited by Mr. Guy Clutton-Brock who was here raising funds on behalf of Messrs. Matimba and Mapolisa, now facing trial on a charge relating to the famous hanging clause recently passed in Southern Rhodesia about destroying or inciting to destroy property. The death sentence on this charge is mandatory.

A representative of the Iraqi Students Association here and a gentleman recently released from detention came to ask that we give maximum publicity to the many thousands currently imprisoned in their country.

There is an appeal from Spain for clothes to be given to prisoners on their release. For the moment enough for about 20 men would be sufficient. Please communicate with Head Office before doing any posting.

There was an appeal from Spanish representatives of the General Union of Workers to send £125 immediately to their headquarters in Toulouse for the relief of striking Asturian miners but it was felt that this block impersonal granting of money was not the AMNESTY way of supplying relief, it being preferable to know some details of each recipient and to pass on the money directly as far as possible.

P O L I T I C A L P R I S O N E R

They set him labouring, who meant
all strength of his to faint and kneel;
but he endured, because she leant
her own smooth body to the wheel.

They stripped him naked, and they bound
with holly-branches every limb:
sure comfort against cold and wound,
her nakedness lay over him.

They held away all food and drink
but poison, tempting him towards death:
how should his resolution sink,
who lived upon her touch and breath?

They tied a rat upon his breast
for torment, having not foreseen
to whose pain he must yield at last,
her own breast offered in between.

They took her from him, and the cell
they shut him in was dark and sour:
she was: and this dissolved the wall,
and lit a candle every hour.

They quarried selfhood from his skull,
humanity from flesh and face:
still she stole back to him, to call
that empty house her dwelling-place.

TERENCE TILLER.

Reprinted from "The Times Literary Supplement".

APPEALS cont'd

One last appeal, this time from us. The office has no more copies of the report of the conference on "Personal Freedom in Marxist-Leninist Countries" and we are still getting requests for copies, some from foreign publishers. We should be very grateful if members who have retained theirs but do not feel them to be essential were able to send them to head office.

READING FOR THREES . . .

A new regular feature of this bulletin will be notices of books which are specially informative of countries which THREES deal with. Here is the first list.

RUMANIA. THE LOST FOOTSTEPS. Author entered Rumania as envoy of Rumanian National Liberation Committee. Captured, terrible prison ordeal followed. Finally escaped from hospital. By Silviu Craciunas (Collins).

UKRAINE. THE RUSSIAN OPPRESSION OF UKRAINE. Story of Ukraine struggle for freedom from Peter the Great to Kruschev. Excellent in general presentation of Soviet oppression of political prisoners. (Ukrainian Publishers Ltd., 200 Liverpool Road, London, 35/-).

HUNGARY. THE UNDEFEATED. Author formerly devout Communist. Arrested and gradually disenchanted. Interesting for the light thrown on how the big "purge" trials against old guard communists were prepared. By George Paloczi-Horvath. (Secker and Warburg, 25/-).

CHINA. ESCAPE FROM RED CHINA. Very revealing on fantastic lengths to which Chinese Government goes to deceive Western visitors. Admirable description of "Hundred Flowers" Campaign which showed the ruling clique how hated they had become. By Robert Loh and Humphrey Evans (Michael Joseph, 25/-).

ODD ITEMS

A poster is in preparation by the printer approximately 20" x 14". It will be available for the use of Groups of Three, with space for over-printing. Apply to Central Office after October 1st.

Ten year old Anna Francis, daughter of Margaret Francis, faithful AMNESTY supporter since its inception, has raised £2.3.0 for AMNESTY from a Jumble Sale at the garden gate.

Since the report on THREES activities was received we have heard that Jose Tixeira has been released from prison in Portugal following persistent and characteristic AMNESTY-harrying by Frank Reid, Q.C., one of our Irish supporters.

Badges are now available from Central Office, price 1/- each, post free. Please could Groups organisers' order for the Group.

PRISONER OF THE MONTH - ROBERT MANGALISO SOBUKWE

of SOUTH AFRICA

Born in the small town of Graaff-Reinet in the Cape Province in 1924, the youngest of six brothers. He was educated at Mission schools and at the University College of Fort Hare, where he received a Teacher's Diploma.

After leaving Fort Hare, he was appointed teacher in Standerton, Transvaal, but was dismissed in 1952 for taking part in the Congress Defiance Campaign. A year later he was given the post of Languages Assistant in the Department of Bantu Studies at Witwatersrand University, Johannesburg. He held this lectureship until March 1960, when he gave it up to devote all his time to leading the Pan Africanist Congress.

A fervent advocate of African political resistance, on 16 March, 1960 he announced a national anti-pass campaign to begin on 21 March. There was great response in Sharpeville, a steel city 40 miles from Johannesburg, where the police fired upon the protest meeting killing 67 people, and in Cape Town, where 70,000 Africans went on strike for several weeks and were forced back to work by mass arrests.

Sobukwe was arrested on the morning of 21 March and later sentenced to three years' imprisonment for incitement. At this trial he refused to recognise the validity of laws passed by an all-white unrepresentative Parliament.

He served his three years' sentence in the new prison of Stofberg in the Orange Free State and was due to be released in May, 1963, but was detained under the 90-day Clause of the General Law Amendment Act which allows political prisoners to be detained indefinitely after the expiry of their sentence.

Mr. Vorster, Minister of Justice, said on May 1 that Mr. Sobukwe will continue to be detained on Robben Island. But instead of being in a cell he will live in quarters. He will have complete freedom of movement within a large prescribed area. Newspapers will be supplied and he will be able to receive visitors weekly. The statement added: "He will by no means be treated like a prisoner, but will receive special treatment in respect of food, movement, utilising of leisure hours, hours of rising and retiring, clothing, etc."

But for Sobukwe, a man of intellectual vigour and great determination, whom his followers call 'Mangaliso', the 'Magnificent', inactivity at a time when his energy, resourcefulness and dedication to the cause of the Africans is more needed than ever, inactivity must be agony and the comparative comfort he enjoys will only add to his distress, well knowing the acute suffering of tens of thousands of African families. In addition he has been separated from his young wife and four small children for the last three years and faces an indefinite period of separation.

REPRESENTATIVES ABROAD

CZECHOSLOVAKIA Malcolm Mackerras of the Australian AMNESTY Section is currently in Czechoslovakia and Poland and will return, we hope, with useful background information and possibly news of at least two prisoners.

SPAIN A member of the Executive Committee, on a professional engagement in Spain, was able to speak with several members of the Madrid Bar who are sympathetic with AMNESTY and also to convey considerable financial assistance on behalf of our Relief Department.

SPAIN Albert Lodge was able to make use of a two day holiday stay in Paris to do some research among the files of Le Monde, to meet a valuable Spanish contact and to return with a list of almost 400 prisoners.

VIET-NAM Mr. L. Kadingamar, a barrister in Ceylon, will shortly be going to Viet-Nam as observer and will represent AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL there.

SOUTH AFRICA At the end of July Dr. Cato Aall of Norway set off to visit the three Protectorates of Bechuanaland, Basutoland and Swaziland and report on the situation of refugees there. He has just returned as this Bulletin is being printed. This visit was on behalf of the Norwegian South Africa Committee and AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.

SOUTH AFRICA Mr. Neville Vincent and Mr. Albert Lodge represented AMNESTY, together with members of the Anti-Apartheid Movement and M.Ps. of all parties, on a delegation which visited the Colonial Office to express concern about the treatment of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hodgson. Horror was expressed at the proposal to rusticate this couple and at the stringency of the conditions under which refuge was offered to them. We were glad to learn that the rustication idea has since been dropped and positive action has not yet been taken against them. A delay was urged upon Sir John Martyn, Deputy Under Secretary, who received the delegation, to be extended until Parliament reassembles and has a chance to discuss the matter.

VISITORS

-Lt. General Sir Brian Horrocks, who is to bring us into a television programme from Wales on November 1st.

-Miss Ruth Finkelstein, lately of Johannesburg Defence and Aid Fund, and whose work took her daily into the Courts told us how her organisation was working there.

-Alex Auswaks from Australia has recently spent some time in the office. His knowledge of Russian has helped in the Beyond the Iron Curtain Section and he has made some very useful suggestions.

NEWS OF THREES

In spite of the fact that there has been relatively little correspondence due to summer holidays, reports received by THREES were proof of a great deal of work done during the past months.

RELEASES Since the last issue of the Bulletin 14 adopted prisoners were reported released. Of these seven were from the West, five from the East and two from non-aligned countries. The groups involved were: Brøndby Strand, Denmark; Dublin; Elgar; Horsham; Liverpool; Piccadilly; Pinner; Oslo, Norway; Sidcup; Student Christian Movement, London; Victoria, Australia.

REPORTS SENT TO H.Q. Reports were sent to us from the following groups: Bristol; Dublin; Edinburgh; Eltham; Exeter; Knightsbridge; Liverpool; New South Wales, Australia; Oxford; Plymouth; Victoria, Australia.

What constitutes a good report ?

(a) The way it is set out. (b) Clarity of style. (c) Patient and imaginative pursuing of quite hopelessly silent cases. (d) Concerted action, when thought appropriate, and a minimum of delay.

Whilst all reports received by us were good ones, the Victoria Section, Australia needs special mention. Their circular letter is detailed without at the same time running into unnecessary length. Worth mentioning is their second appearance on Australian B.C. Television. The programme was "Any Questions", with an audience that had to be provided by the AMNESTY Section themselves.

PRESS PUBLICITY The following groups sent us copies of local AMNESTY press cuttings: Aylesford, Petts Wood, Plymouth (published their activities on two separate occasions).

LETTERS FROM RELEASED PRISONERS The most successful correspondence is still with Greece. Some more moving letters were received by several groups. Here is the translation of one passed to us by Dr. van der Vlies of the Rotterdam Group:

"My Dear Mr. Looye,

I greet you. I have the honour of writing you, I the son of Mrs. Eleni, I have been for so many years in prison, and now at last, after 18 years imprisonment, I am near my mother. As you said in your letter justice was done to me, but very late Mr. Looye.

I thank you and your friends very much for your big interest expressed in my mother, who was all by herself, and for your interest in me, when I was deprived of everything. I wish that even my worst enemy may never go through what I and many others went through. But with our unshakeable

strong-will, our great patience and persistence we were enduring everything. But my health has been seriously damaged. I have more than 12 diseases. Unbelievable! But it is a reality. Shall I name them? Because I think the only thing that I will succeed by listing them is to depress you. I do not name them. I inform you that I am constantly attended by a doctor.

We received the money (50 drachmas) which you sent us and we thank you very much. But in the condition I am, ill without any economic means and above all unemployed without any chance of finding employment quickly, some economic assistance from you would be very useful to me.

I received, Mr. Looye, your letter a few days after my release, but my many emotional excitements did not permit me to write immediately. You must understand, after 18 whole years to be back again near my Mammy, near my relatives, near my friends! For all this I hope that you will forgive me for being late in answering you.

I am closing my letter with the hope and certainty that I will soon hear from you.

Accept the warmest greetings of my mother.

I greet you and warmly shake your hand.

With much love and esteem
Lazaros Lazarides."

THREES MEETINGS

A London THREES gathering was organised by Mrs. Marian Sander in June. It was well attended by representatives of nine groups.

A meeting was called by Miss Audrey Sander and held at the home of Mr. Peyton Skipwith for the South-West and West London regions. Both meetings were felt to be valuable.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Due to the extreme pressure of persecution in the Republic of South Africa all groups, who, until now had amongst their adoptees a banished African, and were sending regular financial contributions through the Human Rights Welfare Committee, were asked to adopt a 90-day detainee as an additional burden. The response to this request was excellent. In the meantime we received a letter from Helen Joseph, the officer for all correspondence regarding the banished, saying that the work of AMNESTY groups must have had an impact on the authorities. For the first time in a long time Africans were interviewed by District officers, and Mrs. Joseph thinks, with a view to sending them back to their own areas.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - Christmas Market, Eltham College, Nov. 16, 3 p.m.
to be opened by Chris Chattaway, M.P. Details, next month.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY - DECEMBER 10

December 10, 1963 will be the fifteenth anniversary of the signing of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Have you arranged a Human Rights Day Ceremony in your town?

Sermon Notes, prayer sheets, musical suggestions, etc. will be available next month for distribution to your local clergy.