

AMNISTY INTERNATIONAL

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

NEWS SHEET FOR GROUPS

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY All countries where there is a group established are reminded that they are entitled to send two delegates to the International Assembly. These delegates have voting rights and can take part in decisions determining the future policy of the movement. Their accommodation will be provided at the expense of the movement. All countries intending to send their two delegates to the Assembly, should inform the International Secretariat by 1st JULY if they have not already done so.

The names of the delegates and of all other supporters who wish to attend the Assembly, should reach the Secretariat by 1st SEPTEMBER at the latest.

A number of international organisations in the human rights field have accepted the invitation to send observers. A preliminary agenda is enclosed with this Newsletter and all groups are reminded that resolutions for the agenda must reach the Secretariat by 1st AUGUST, as mentioned in the April issue of EUSTOMY.

MEMBERS TRAVELLING ABROAD During the past few months the International Secretariat has heard from members who will be making trips this summer to a variety of countries, including, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Greece, Poland, Portugal, Yugoslavia, South Africa, Mozambique, Rhodesia, Zambia, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Colombia, Peru, Pakistan, India and the U.S.S.R. The Secretariat has provided these members with lists of prisoners and it is hoped that they will be able to make enquiries concerning the prisoners. Professor Vogt of Oslo, who recently returned from Hungary, was able to report that 15 of the prisoners on the list provided by head office, had now been released.

For those members travelling in countries where there are other groups, a list of all the groups at present established outside Britain is enclosed. Members might like to take the opportunity of visiting groups outside their own country, to discuss their work and in this way, strengthen contacts between the different branches of the Amnesty movement.

A copy of group addresses abroad will be sent to the British Section at request only.

GROUP NEWS A number of groups have received letters from their adopted Rhodesian detainees expressing gratitude for the help that is being given them by Amnesty. The Swedish group that adopted Oliver Chikowero has heard that he has been released from Wha Wha Detention Camp. Hugh Vodden who works with Legal Aid and Welfare in Salisbury wrote to say that he has persuaded Shell Co. to re-employ Oliver Chikowero as a driver. Sometimes group members receive requests for help from unadopted detainees at Wha Wha or Gonagkodzingwa, the 2 detention centres. Whilst it is quite understandable for them to feel unfairly treated, it is better to forward to us these 'begging letters' so that we can make arrangements for their adoption.

The group in Geneva has heard from their adopted Yugoslavian prisoner, Tomislav Negru who says that he is out on 'leave' before returning to Goli Otok island prison to complete his sentence. He is due to be released in August 1966.

One of the groups in Cologne has heard from Miguel Aroche Parra their Mexican prisoner. The letter was written from prison and it is hoped that this will enable us to find out further information about Mexican prisoners.

The Swedish group in Uppsala has heard from their released East German prisoner, the writer Erich Loest, who is now reunited with his family after 7 years in prison. He has started work on the manuscript of a new novel.

The Annual General Meeting of the Irish Section to be held on 22nd June will be addressed by their released East German prisoner, Peter Herrmann.

Ireland(20) have established direct contact with their Thai prisoner, one of a number of imprisoned trade unionists. They sent him £3 and had a letter from him in which he declared himself to be 'simply overwhelmed' by their sympathy. The group is not resting here, but continuing their efforts on the prisoner's behalf. Apart from their own letters, they also persuaded the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to write to the Minister of Justice of Thailand.

There are now 143 groups outside Britain.

BRITISH SECTION GROUP NEWS N.Ireland who so far concerned themselves with 15 prisoners, have now adopted an extra 15. In their recent Art Sale they managed to raise almost £400. £200 of this was very generously sent to Head Office. Thanks were largely due to the tremendous work done by Mrs. Bergen-Hammerschlag.

A letter arrived from the mother of an E. German prisoner, having read the Readers Digest article on Amnesty, she begs for our help and N.Ireland have just adopted him. News was received of the release of Dr. Speratti of Paraguay, but he is now under house arrest.

Mrs. Turtle will be travelling to Pakistan to help verify the facts of their man, a former government commissioner for Animal Husbandry.

LINCOLN A public meeting, together with the local branches of U.N.A. and W.E.A., to commemorate the signing of the Magna Carta; Professor Holt of Nottingham University will address the meeting.

LONDON Here is an extract of a letter sent by the sister of a Cuban prisoner, adopted by the Marylebone Group.

"It has been of great satisfaction to me to receive your letter of Feb 19, and see that at last something is going to be done to help my poor brother Dr. Pena-Justiz suffering prison in Cuba.

The two ways you suggest to help him meet with my approval. Both will be of great help. No, it wont harm him if you and your friends write to the Cuban Authorities or to Dr. Castro himself asking for the release of my brother. It might be very effective. I, like you, think that if Castro is made aware of the fact that people (non political bodies in England and Denmark) are concerned about Dr Arrieta, he may see fit to ease his conditions."

The convenor of this group will shortly be leaving for the United States and hopes to form a group there.

BRADFORD have sent us £50 following their first Amnesty meeting.

CENTRAL SOMERSET "we would gladly act as a channel for subscriptions to the British Section," quotes the editor. This group is already heavily engaged in publicity and fund raising campaigns in their own area. Their quarterly report gives full details of their investigation of a South African, Portuguese and Rumanian.

WOKING continues to send £20 a month to May Brutus, wife of Dennis Brutus.

It is worth mentioning that every group with a Rhodesian or a S. African prisoner sends regular amounts of money to their families, and grateful letters of thanks are received.

BIRMINGHAM FRIENDS Post card received from their Greek imprisoned under Law 375. They have also had correspondence with the Minister of Justice.

MIDDLESBOROUGH Regular correspondence with John Gada, detained in Rhodesia, and his wife.

LEIGHTON PARK Many letters and replies received from the Governor and the Prime Minister's office, Rhodesia. Burma - as with all other groups, reply was received from Embassy, but not further developments.

EXETER Their quarterly bulletin reports in detail the results of investigations related to prisoners in Gabon, Portugal and Rumania. They continue their quest on behalf of Constantin Bellu, serving a life sentence and adopted in March 63. They presume him to either be dead as a result of multiple diseases or free but penniless. The question of pensions for aged ex-prisoners is being urged. Exeter are in touch with the mother-in-law of their Portuguese, who writes that her own son and daughter are either living in hiding or in prison. One other son carries the burden of supporting them all when they are at home. Their third prisoner is the Gabonese ex-Ambassador to London, and here too, a great deal has come to light.

BRISTOL UNIVERSITY had news from the White Fathers about the probable release of their Ukrainian minister. They are continuing their efforts on behalf of Sister Christina Dewald of Rumania, and hope to achieve her leaving the country and joining her order in the U.S.A.

NEWS IN BRIEF Toy Sale. It has been suggested that members in each group should ask their children to help arrange a toy fair as part of a garden fete, to be held in someone's garden or to be combined with a school bazaar.

CAR STICKERS are available on request - NO CHARGE.

JUSTICE IN THE AMERICAN SOUTH Please would you ask your local public library if they would be willing to buy a copy of Anthony Lester's publication, 5/6d a copy.

PRIME MINISTER'S CONFERENCE in LONDON, between 17th June and 23rd June. The representatives from Pakistan, Ghana and Tanzania will be approached by British members with prisoners in those three countries.

PUBLICITY FOR AMNESTY SPEAKERS suggestions as to ways and means are enclosed on a separate sheet. There will also be PUBLICITY THROUGH TELEVISION sent to you in the next mailing.

AND A BIT OF LIGHT Small amounts of money amounting to £1 or £2 can be sent to the Commanding Officers of South African prisoners, for the use of individual prisoners. This enables the prisoner to buy such articles as soap and toothpaste which they would not otherwise have. Send the money registered and ask for a receipt. A South African lawyer recently in the Amnesty office, asked us to make this known as it adds so enormously to the welfare and morale of the prisoner.

DR. JULIETA GANDRA Several National Sections sent telgrams to the Portuguese authorities on receiving the most recent news on Dr. Gandra, that she is in very bad health and that two Lisbon specialists after visiting her, put it to the prison authorities that if she was not given prompt surgical attention, it was likely that she might die. All groups are asked to continue their efforts on her behalf until we hear that she has been released or transferred to hospital.

GROUP CONTRIBUTIONS A number of groups have made a special effort to raise funds for head office, following the appeal that was sent out earlier in the year. We are very grateful for this, particularly as our numerous approaches to foundations in this country, have not so far, borne fruit.

ANNUAL REPORTS The Annual Report of the British Section has already been produced for the Annual General Meeting on 12th June. The report will be included in the Annual Report of all the National Sections which will appear in August. The Secretaries of all Sections are asked to start preparing their Annual Reports so that they may reach head office by 19th JULY 65.

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM GROUPS A publicity committee has been established at the London Office, consisting of a number of volunteer members who meet every few weeks to discuss ways in which greater publicity can be given to the work of Amnesty. The committee has asked that if any groups have photographs that they think might be useful for publicity purposes, that they send them to head office. They can then be used in articles showing the work of Amnesty in different countries throughout the world.

ENAMELLED BADGES We must apologise for the delay in the manufacture of the lapel badges and charms for bracelets. The firm that is making them for us has not been able to keep to its original schedule but they will be delivered at the London office by the middle of July and they will then be sent out to those people who have ordered them.

"READER'S DIGEST" ENQUIRIES The article "Amnesty Frees the Prisoners of Conscience" has now appeared in editions of the "Reader's Digest" in a number of different countries. Enquiries have been coming in steadily to head office and where possible the Secretaries of National Sections have coped with the enquiries in their own countries. About 800 enquiries have been received from the United States and Canada and a 'Card Scheme' has been developed to send to those people who are not able to form groups or join existing groups and yet who would like to do more than just pay an annual subscription. These people are sent 3 Haro cards for each month of the year with the exception of December for which they receive 3 Christmas cards. Once a month they are sent the names of three prisoners and they are also told to whom to address their card in connection with the prisoners. The original 'Kit' which is sent out to these members includes, in addition to the cards, instructions and sample messages, a brief statement about each of those countries from which the 3 prisoners will be chosen and also the addresses of the relevant authorities. The price of a 'Kit' is 10 dollars. It is hoped that the idea will also appeal to people in other countries and at the moment, the instructions are being translated into different languages. The price of the 'Kit' to countries outside Canada and the United States will depend on the number of 'Kits' ordered and will be negotiated with the countries concerned.

THE NEWS SHEET WILL FROM NOW ON BE SENT TO YOU BETWEEN EACH BULLETIN. YOU WILL THUS RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM THE LONDON OFFICE AT APPROXIMATELY SIX-WEEKLY INTERVALS.