

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

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E R R A T U M

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The country given after Vladimir Skutina as U.S.S.R. should read
Czechoslovakia.

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MISSIONS

Morocco: The mass trial at Marrakesh of members of the Union Nationale des Forces Populaires (UNFP), was continuing throughout July. Following the mission of Mr. Lennart Aspegren, a second Amnesty observer was sent to the trial. The new observer, Professor Werner Sarstedt of the West German Federal Court, arrived in Morocco on 17 July. During his eight-day visit the case of Mohamed Ajar, one of the two leading accused, was expected to be heard. A report of the mission will be given in the next Newsletter.

ORGANISATION

International Executive Committee: At its meeting on 10 and 11 July, the International Executive Committee decided to recommend to the Council that the budget for the current year should be increased to £90,000 and for 1972/73 to £120,000. These figures were agreed after a report had been received from the German Section based on the visit to the International Secretariat by three of their Board members, one of whom is a qualified business management consultant. It is considered necessary to expand the staff in order to provide improved services to the growing number of groups throughout the world. The details of the budget for 1971/72 will be presented initially to the meeting of treasurers to be held in Luxembourg on 24 September and will be circulated to National Sections in time for consideration before the Council Meeting.

The International Executive Committee recognised that this is a considerable increase and that it will require sustained effort by the National Sections to meet the increased costs of headquarters. It is not proposed to assess groups on a pro rata basis and emphasis is laid on the need for National Sections themselves to make additional contributions over and above their subscriptions. In 1967 Amnesty International faced a crisis of survival. This was overcome with the co-operation of the groups who agreed to pay at that time £30 a year. In 1971 the crisis is one of expansion to meet the need of a highly specialised international organisation capable of servicing over 1000 groups in 30 countries. A report of the International Executive Committee meeting will be sent to all Sections.

International Assembly (25-27 September): Some National Sections have still not sent in registrations for the International Assembly or nominated delegates to the International Council. Resolutions for consideration by the Council and Assembly will be circulated only to National Sections HQ and to those who have registered.

Greek Relief: The release of 261 detainees at Easter has not lessened the need for relief work in Greece: very few of these people have so far been able to find work. Also, some 50 people labelled as "unrepentant communists" are living in enforced residence on islands and in villages on 17 Drachmas a day, which is supposed to cover their rent, food and everything else they may need. Most of these families have no resources to fall back on, having always made a meagre living. In addition, another 30-40 people who have been banished to islands and villages are now in need of support, some of these having had a secure way of life before the coup and having lost what they owned and earned. Further, the families of the political prisoners still detained are in need. The latest number of prisoners given by a Greek Government spokesman is 450 and although many of their families were not faced with immediate poverty, hardship has increased with time. (It is very difficult for a relative of a political prisoner to obtain employment). From these details it will be seen that our relief work is still necessary and that contributions are required. Through the generosity of national sections, individuals and groups and with the help of newspapers and other forms of publicity, we have managed to continue this relief work despite many difficulties. We hope that Amnesty supporters will remain aware of this special area of need.

German Board: Dr. Zbynek Zeman attended the meeting of the Board of the German National Section in Wiesbaden on 26 and 27 June, when the report on the International Secretariat was discussed.

International Secretariat, Turnagain Lane, Farringdon Street, London, E.C.4. Telephone 01-236 0111/3

(Secretary General: Martin Ennals - Director of Research: Zbynek Zeman - Executive Secretary: Martin Enthoven)

British Section Annual Meeting: The Secretary General addressed the British Annual Meeting on 26 June. Mr. Peter Archer Q.C., M.P., was elected to succeed Mr. Eric Baker as Chairman. Eric Baker, one of the original founders of Amnesty International remains on the International Executive Committee.

COUNTRIES

South Africa: Fourteen of the alleged members of the Unity Movement detained under the Terrorism Act 1967 have now been charged with conspiring with others outside South Africa to overthrow the government. They are in touch with defending lawyers and are due to appear in the Supreme Court, Pietermaritzburg, Natal, on 2 August. The fourteen are among a group of about thirty arrested in February, four of whom have been adopted by Amnesty. Some of the group have been pressed into becoming State witnesses and others have been released. The Unity Movement, a political organisation of mainly coloured and African members is not banned in South Africa.

U.S.S.R.: It was recently reported that the Soviet Human Rights Committee, headed by the academician Sakharov, had affiliated to the International League for the Rights of Man in New York. There has still been no response to the letter which Amnesty sent to the Committee in May in response to its statement that it would seek contact with non-governmental organisations which were "not hostile" to the Soviet Union. We are still awaiting confirmation from the Post Office that the letter was ever received.

Iran: Recent reports suggest that Hassan Zia Zarifi, a prisoner adopted by Amnesty, was tried secretly in June and sentenced to death; and that the sentence was then commuted to life imprisonment. Zarifi was already serving a ten year sentence, passed in 1969. We are trying to discover what the charges were in this reported second trial.

Singapore: The Singapore High Court has rejected the habeas corpus action brought by four employees of the Chinese-language newspaper, Nanyang Siang Pau. Their arrest and detention under the Internal Security Act in May has been widely criticised outside Singapore as an attempt to curb press freedom by misusing security legislation. All are Amnesty-adopted prisoners.

Spain: Approximately two weeks before 25 July -- the day of Spain's patron saint, St. James -- Amnesty sent a final urgent request to General Franco that prisoners of conscience be released to commemorate the Año Santo 1971, a Holy Year because St. James' Day falls on a Sunday. Beginning in 1945 General Franco has decreed ten partial pardons to celebrate such events as the election of a Pope, the 25th anniversary of the regime, and previous feasts of St. James. However, no amnesty or pardon has been declared since 1965, and up to the time of going to press the Spanish Government has still given no indication that an amnesty will be declared in 1971.

The re-drafted law regulating conscientious objection to military service was withdrawn by the Spanish government from the Cortes on 14 July. The original provisions of the draft which would among other things, have ended the recurring prison sentences now given to conscientious objectors, released all those who had served three or more years in prison, and provided for a three-year alternative service -- were made considerably more severe by the extreme conservatives during debate. When it left the Parliamentary National Defence Commission, the draft carried amendments which would have forced objectors to swear allegiance to the flag, lose civil rights and be prohibited from taking teaching posts. Defending the Government's proposals, Lt. General Manuel Diaz Alegria, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, announced that he would oppose the new amendments in the full Cortes vote on the draft. It is now speculated that a law along the lines of the original draft may be put into effect through a decree from General Franco himself.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Michael Bordeaux: "Faith on trial in Russia". Hodder Christian Paperbacks 1971. 40p.
Dennis Brutus: "Letters to Martha, and other poems from a South African prison." Heinemann 1970. 35p. Ruth First: "Portugal's wars in Africa." Published for International Defence and Aid Fund by Christian Action Publications Ltd. 1971. 20p. Zhores A. Medvedev: "The Medvedev papers -- the plight of Soviet science today." Translated from the Russian by Vera Rich. MacMillan St. Martin's Press 1971. £4.95. Johannes Maria Brune: "Die Papageienschaukel. Diktatur und folter in Brasilien. Eine Dokumentation." Patmos-Verlag Düsseldorf. 1971.

POSTCARDS FOR PRISONERS CAMPAIGN

First some news of prisoners who have been on this campaign:-

Ahmed Benjelloun - Morocco (August 1970) - is one of those whose cases are being heard at the Marrakesh trial reported above.

Sadi Alkilic - Turkey (January 1967) -- who was released earlier on grounds of ill-health has now been arrested in the widespread detentions following the declaration of a State of Emergency in April.

Vladimir Skutina - U.S.S.R. (April 1971). Vladimir Skutina appealed against the two year sentence passed on him in February this year. The appeal was heard by a court in the provincial town of Hradec Kralove on 1 July. The court increased his sentence to four years' imprisonment for "incitement, slandering of the republic and its representatives, slandering of a State of the world socialist system and its representative and approving of a criminal act."

This month's prisoners:-

Eddison J.M. Zvobgo - RHODESIA

Mr. Zvobgo was the Deputy General Secretary of ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union). He was imprisoned in August 1964 under the Law and Order (Maintenance) Act for having called for a boycott of the elections on 7 May 1965 and for being an official of a banned organisation. Detained at first in a prison he was transferred to Sikombela Restriction area and then to the Remand Prison in Salisbury - placed, as a former 'ringleader' of ZANU under the special guard of the Minister of Justice, Law and Order. Mr. Zvobgo has not been charged or tried and his petitions for release to the Review Tribunal (in 1969 and 1970) have been unsuccessful.

Mr. Zvobgo is a B.A. of the University of South Africa and since his imprisonment has studied Law with the University of London as an external student, obtaining a Bachelor of Laws degree in June 1970. He would like to practise Law in Salisbury or elsewhere in Rhodesia if released; but in the long-term would like to travel to America or Britain to study for a Doctorate.

He is married with two children, a girl of about ten and a boy of seven. Mrs. Zvobgo is in Britain, living in Leeds on a United Nations fellowship for training as a Catering and Administration officer. Amnesty International made it possible for the children to join their mother in 1969, and they are now going to an international school.

Mr. Zvobgo wants to devote his time to his family and his career and states that he has no intention of taking part in any further political activities. This could be pointed out in your appeals for his release.

Please send your cards to: The Minister for Law and Order, The Honourable D. Lardner Burke, Private Bag 704, Causeway, Salisbury, Rhodesia; or The Hon. Ian Douglas Smith, M.P., Prime Minister, P.O.B. 8122, Causeway, Salisbury.

YAP Pak Leong - EAST MALAYSIA (SABAH)

Yap Pak Leong is Chinese, a chartered accountant and a member of the Sabah State Assembly. Detained without trial since 1 July, 1969, he was arrested just after the State of Emergency was imposed throughout Malaysia in 1969. At the time he was acting as election agent for an opposition candidate in the Federal elections.

The State of Emergency followed serious racial rioting in Kuala Lumpur, the capital, in May 1969. These riots were triggered off by the results of Federal elections in West Malaysia, which showed relative loss of support for the ruling Alliance Party and a corresponding increase in the votes of the Chinese opposition parties. Chinese jubilation and Malay resentment led to communal disturbances and some hundred of deaths, predominantly among Chinese. The State of Emergency extended to Sabah -- a separate State some 1,000

miles from Kuala Lumpur -- although racial tensions had not spread there. Polling for the elections, scheduled for a later date in East Malaysia, was postponed, and a number of Chinese active in the election campaign were arrested. Although the Sabah elections were finally completed in mid 1970, and the Emergency ended in February 1971, some 30 people remain in detention in Sabah, Mr. Yap being one of the most prominent. Elected to the State Assembly in 1967 as an Independent, Mr. Yap became the only opposition member when the main non-government party was dissolved in 1968. His detention has therefore removed the one source of opposition in the Sabah Assembly.

Mr. Yap is detained under the Preservation of Public Security Ordinance, which allows detention without trial for renewable periods. Orders are made by the Federal Government in Kuala Lumpur. Please send your cards to the Malaysian Federal Prime Minister and to the Sabah Chief Minister: Tun Hadji Abdul Razak, Prime Minister's Office, Kuala Lumpur, West Malaysia; and Tun Datu Haji Mustapha, KVO, OBE, Sabah Alliance Party, P.O.B. 1014, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, East Malaysia.

Bruno KOLYSKO - GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

Bruno Kolysko was a 29-year-old steelworker in the town of Riesa at the time of his arrest in March 1970. He was charged with incitement hostile to the state and state crimes against another socialist country and was sentenced to three years' imprisonment.

Although Bruno Kolysko's parents were German, he was born in Riga, Latvia. When Latvia was re-occupied by the Soviet Union in 1944 his parents were deported for forced labour for alleged collaboration with the German occupational authorities and they have not been heard of since. When Bruno Kolysko grew up he applied to emigrate to Germany but was constantly refused. He had many difficulties with the authorities because of his application. In 1967 he was expelled to Poland, where he applied again to emigrate to Germany. The application was granted, but to East, not West Germany as he had wanted.

In East Germany, again he began applying for permission to leave and was constantly refused. A former fellow-prisoner who informed us about the case, said that he was outspokenly anti-communist in his views, basing his arguments on the loss of his parents and his experiences in the U.S.S.R., Poland and East Germany. He especially criticised the Soviet Union. To do this is an offence under East German law and it was this that led to his conviction.

Please send cards to:-

EITHER

Erich Honecker,
Erster Sekretär des Zentralkomitees der SED,
DDR-102 Berlin C2,
Marx-Engels-Platz,
German Democratic Republic.

OR

Justizminister der DDR
Kurt Wünsche,
DDR 108 Berlin W.8,
Clara-Zetkin-Str. 93,
German Democratic Republic.

(Minister of Justice)