

AMNESTY NEWS

1, Mitre Court Buildings,
London, E.C.4. CEN. 7867

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FROM PAKISTAN TO PARAGUAY

In the last few weeks AMNESTY investigators have been seeking facts about Prisoners of Conscience from Pakistan to Paraguay.

In August, Andrew Phelan, a London barrister, went to Ceylon to attend the Conspiracy Trial there as an observer. Twenty-nine people were arrested at the end of January, allegedly for being concerned in an attempted coup d'etat to overthrow the Government. Although most were placed on trial, three, (Mr. Anura de Silva, Mr. R.E. Kitto and Mr. Ossie Corea) were detained, but not charged with any offence. Mr. Phelan tried to see the Minister of Defence and External Affairs to discuss their cases. His request was refused, but just after he left Ceylon the three men were freed.

Later he went to East Pakistan to plead on behalf of several prisoners, including Huseyn Suhrawardy, a former Prime Minister and President of the Awami League, and Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the 'Ghandi' of the North West frontier. He was able to secure an interview with the Commissioner of Karachi to discuss Mr. Suhrawardy's case. The former Prime Minister was released on August 19th.

Both in Pakistan and Ceylon the work of AMNESTY created great interest, and it is hoped to form Sections there, as well as in Malaya.

An English journalist, Miss Leonore Hail, was able to visit some exiles in Greece, who were temporarily in hospital in Athens. The Minister of Justice failed to keep an appointment, but she learned that 'apparently life is to be made more and more difficult for prisoners in the Aegina island prison'.

PERSONAL FREEDOM IN WESTERN EUROPE

Saturday, November 17th, 1962,

10.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

at

The Niblett Hall, Temple, London, E.C.4.

This is AMNESTY's third conference in the series 'Personal Freedom in Contemporary Society'. The Conference will deal with personal freedom in Western Europe in the light of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Norman Marsh, Director of the British Institute of International and Comparative Law, will take the Chair. Maurice Cranston, well known political scientist and philosopher, will be one of the speakers.

Full details in the October AMNESTY Quarterly.

FROM PAKISTAN TO PARAGUAY (continued)

In Yugoslavia, David Harter and his wife tried to make enquiries about Milovan Djilas and his family, but were advised that 'it was best to leave well alone at the moment, especially in the light of the appeal'. Discussing the position of Conscientious Objectors in Yugoslavia, they were told that although the maximum sentence is 10 years, in practice sentences for those who refuse military service usually range between six months and 5 years.

Professor Hugh O'Neill, of Swansea University, was able to visit Paraguay while attending a conference in South America, and to find out the names of a number of prisoners.

In September investigators will be going to Rumania, Egypt and Nigeria. Some members of the delegation to the World University Service in Tokyo were also hoping to break their journey on the way home and stop in Thailand in an attempt to obtain some facts about conditions there.

THREE' NEWS

The Eltham Three Group are hoping to raise between £300 and £400 a year towards AMNESTY funds by a carefully planned collecting system. They have designed and printed an attractive card which will be used to enrol new members and to collect monthly subscriptions. Formed in April, this group now has 25 members and normally meets twice a month to report on progress and to discuss the next steps to be taken on behalf of 'their' prisoners. Following a meeting, with Mrs. Pym, Hon. Secretary of the League for Democracy in Greece, as guest speaker, the Group sent Mrs. Angeliki Nikolaou (in prison in the Averoff Women's prison in Athens for many years) a pullover and stockings, which were taken in person by some young members of the group. Later they were able to send £9 to her and her dependents. To their great satisfaction she was released last July.

Although there has not been the same success with the other prisoners members of this group have now decided to work for a larger number of prisoners, and have planned to try and interest students in a nearby Teachers Training College in their work. Funds have been raised by coffee mornings and private collection; a concert is being planned to commemorate Human Rights Day to which all London 'Threes' will be invited. A further fund raiser will be a Christmas Market, where it is hoped to sell Xmas cards and presents in aid of AMNESTY.

The Irish Section of AMNESTY was founded in Dublin at the end of May at a meeting of 25 people. It immediately adopted a constitution and got to work on behalf of 24 prisoners. A number of very useful contacts have already been made.

The South Kensington Group has plans to produce collecting boxes and posters for AMNESTY, and is hoping to start a quarterly meeting of London 'Threes' in the autumn to meet semi-socially and discuss problems and ideas. The Group has been able to make headway in getting in touch with two prisoners in Spain and Eastern Germany. A Ghanaian, Mrs. Alice Koomson was released early this year. An advertisement in 'Peace News' about the work of the Group brought in two enquiries.

The Thanet Group were able to interest the Evening Standard (July 27th) in their appeal to President Nkrumah for the release of Daniel Kwame Apedoh, father of eight children who had been

THREES NEWS (continued)

in gaol in Ghana without trial since January. The Group has circularised all local organisations offering a speaker at autumn meetings; the press release (quoted above) was also taken up by four local papers and resulted in the Secretary of the Group, Mr. Lambert, appearing for five minutes on Southern Television and a call from a French News Agency enquiring about AMNESTY.

The Christian Teamwork Three learnt that Stefanov Bezloff, a Bulgarian Methodist Pastor had been released. Other Groups who have received news of releases of prisoners are Bristol (Georgi Ghernev, another Bulgarian pastor), Hampstead (Jose Augusto Franca in Portugal), Switzerland (Father Robert Davezies, a French priest), Oxford (U Tun Pe, a Burmese editor, and Eleni Kevrekidou, a Greek woman), Keele (Vasilos Zagauas, another Greek), Peace Pledge Union (George Didis, Greek) and Sevenoaks (Rudolf Kleinfeld in East Germany).

There is a growing interest in forming Threes in Australia and the United States. In the U.S. groups have been formed in California, Washington and New York.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

The AMNESTY Christmas Card this year has been designed by Peter Foxwell. It is in colour and measures just over 5 x 7 inches.

Although the cards normally cost 1/- each, they are available to AMNESTY members at 9d. Bulk orders are: 12 cards 10/- post free (13/- for non-members) and 6 cards 5/- post free (6/9 for non-members). Order form enclosed.

As last year, a list of 12 prisoners to whom members may like to send Christmas Cards will be sent with each order of six or more cards.

Cards are available now from Manton (Westminster) Ltd., 153, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.