

MILITARY TAKING OVER POLICE TORTURE ROLE, AI REPORT SAYS

Military interrogators are taking over the role of civilian policemen in the current world epidemic of government-sanctioned torture, according to a major AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL report published on 3 December.

At the same time governments are using increasingly sophisticated torture methods to neutralize opposition and maintain power.

The 224-page *Amnesty International Report on Torture* bases its conclusions on a detailed country by country examination of torture allegations received from more than 60 countries over the past 10 years.

"Torture has virtually become a worldwide phenomenon," the report says. "...the torturing of citizens regardless of sex, age or state of health in an effort to retain political power is a practice encouraged by some governments and tolerated by others in an increasingly large number of countries."

"It is apparent today that much of state torture is carried out by the military forces, usually elite or special units, who displace the civil police in matters of political security. Their military training and their exposure to post-World War II theories about 'unconventional war' make them particularly apt for the practice and enable them to apply the concept of 'war' to any situation of civil political conflict no matter how mild."

The report was compiled in connection with AI's Campaign for the Abolition of Torture and as source material for the Paris Conference on 10-11 December (*see page 3*). It begins with harrowing first-hand accounts of their ordeal by two women and one man who were torture victims: AYSE SEMRA EKER of Turkey, MARIA DINA ROGGERONE de GRECO of Uruguay and VLADIMIR GERSHUNI of the Soviet Union.

It goes on to examine historical aspects of torture, the arguments for and against its official use, problems of legal definition, medical and psychological aspects, and the need for legal and other remedies. The lack of adequate legal remedies is underscored by three cases studies: the Middle East, Greece and Northern Ireland.

In a world survey of torture, the report examines allegations made against a further 64 countries and territories, plus countries such as China where corroboration is difficult to obtain.

The result is a disturbing catalogue of dehumanizing torture practices which include beatings, sexual assault, suffocation, submersion, injections, deprivation of sleep and forced standing in fixed positions for long periods, incarceration of sane people in mental asylums, sensory deprivation and modern

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SOUTH KOREA

AI OFFICIAL GIVEN 8-MONTH SENTENCE, FOUR OTHER SECTION LEADERS ARRESTED

The Reverend UN MYUNG-KI, an executive committee member of AI's South Korean Section, was sentenced 14 November to eight months' imprisonment, with a two-year stay of execution, on charges of "instigating persons" and "spreading a groundless rumour" (*September Newsletter*).

A week earlier AI Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS cabled President PARK CHUNG-HEE urgently requesting the immediate release of four other top Section officials who were arrested in Seoul on 5 November.

The four, CHUN KWAN-WU, HAM SOK-HON, the Reverend KIM CHAI-CHOON and Bishop CHI HAK-SUN, were detained along with a number of other persons after police up a rally which called for the restoration of democracy in South Korea.

It was the second time in 12 months that the four had been arrested. They were released from house arrest last winter following protests by AI's Secretariat and German Section.

Two other AI officials in Korea have also been arrested in that time: BOO WAN-HYUK, who was

sentenced on 15 May to 10 days' detention for "spreading a groundless rumour" and Reverend Un who was arrested last December as he left a prayer meeting.

He was released "for health reasons" on 6 February and his trial postponed. The trial was resumed in July, but it was not until 14 November that he was found guilty and sentenced.

AI MISSION REPORTS TO IEC ON CHILE

A three-man AI mission returned from Chile on 8 November after a seven-day visit to the country to inquire into the fate of thousands of persons detained since the 11 September coup (*November Newsletter*).

The mission consisted of Professor FRANK NEWMAN, lawyer and former American representative on the UN Human Rights Commission, Judge BRUCE SUMNER of the Superior Court of California (a last-minute replacement for RITA HAUSER who had to withdraw for personal reasons) and ROGER PLANT, an AI researcher on Latin America who acted as the mission's secretary.

A report on the mission has been submitted to the International Executive Committee which will consider it at its December meeting.

Chile agreed to allow an AI mission into the

country after talks in New York between its new Foreign Minister, Vice-Admiral ISMAEL HUERTA DIAZ and Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS. Vice-Admiral Huerta assured Mr Ennals that the mission would be granted freedom to carry out its investigation fully.

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DENOUNCES TORTURE UNANIMOUSLY

The United Nations General Assembly in November unanimously approved a resolution formally denouncing the use of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The resolution (3059 XXVIII) was officially in observance of the 25th anniversary on 10 December of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Approval of the resolution, which calls on all governments to recognize and adhere to existing international instruments containing provisions relating to the prohibition of torture, paves the way for consideration in depth of the torture issue at a future General Assembly session.

AI VOICES CONCERN AT NEW ARRESTS AND HUNGER STRIKE BY 7 PRIESTS IN SPAIN

Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS sent two communications to the Spanish Minister of Justice, FRANCISCO RUIZ-JARABO BAQUERO, in November expressing concern at the arrest of 113 persons in a church in Barcelona and at the treatment of seven AI-adopted priests on hunger strike in Zamora.

Allegations of torture followed the arrest of the 113 who included lawyers known for their defense of political cases, teachers, students, workers, peasants and well-known writers such as the Catalan language advocate, Professor JORDI CARBONELL.

Some of the prisoners, including two priests, were fined and released, but others who were unable to pay the fines face up to six months' detention before they are formally charged and tried.

Mr Ennals also cabled the Spanish Minister urging him to accede to the requests of the seven Zamora priests who were refusing all food and water until the Spanish government transferred them to the Carabanchel secular prison in Madrid where other political prisoners are held. The government finally acceded to their request on 18 November.

FLOGGINGS PROTEST TO SOUTH AFRICA

AI protested to South African Prime Minister JOHN VORSTER in November over the floggings ordered by tribal courts in Ovamboland of persons released into their hands after long detention without trial under the Emergency Regulations.

In his letter, Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS urged Mr Vorster to use his authority to end the practice. He also asked that an AI-mission be allowed to visit Ovamboland to ascertain the facts about the flogging reports. Mr ENNALS also wrote to UN Secretary General KURT WALDHEIM about the situation.

URUGUAY URGED TO PROBE TRANSFERS

AI sent an urgent cable to President JUAN MA-

RIA BORDABERRY of Uruguay on 16 November calling for an immediate investigation into the reported transfer of prisoners from a prison in Montivideo to undisclosed army headquarters somewhere in the interior of the country.

The cable requested judicial and governmental investigations into allegations that the prisoners are being held hostage against any activities by the Tupamaros urban guerrillas, a practice contrary to the General Conventions which have been accepted and ratified by Uruguay.

AI DELEGATION AT MOSCOW CONFERENCE

A three-man AI delegation attended the World Congress of Peace Forces held in Moscow 25-31 October. The delegates were THOMAS HAMMARBERG, Chairman of the Swedish Section and IEC member, NIGEL RODLEY, Legal Officer, and MARK GRANTHAM, Information Officer.

SEAN MacBRIDE, in his capacity of President of the International Peace Bureau, was a vice-president of the Congress. During the Congress he and the three AI delegates held further exploratory talks with officials of the Association of Soviet lawyers aimed at opening a dialogue about the subject of political prisoners in the USSR (April *Newsletter*). They met three times during the week and agreed to hold further talks soon.

The official AI delegates only took part in the Congress Commission on Social Problems and Human Rights which each addressed. Partly from AI's efforts, the Commission produced a report calling for ratification of the UN Covenants on Human Rights and acceptance of the ideas in the AI-promoted draft UN resolutions on torture and humanitarian law. There was also a strong Commission statement condemning capital punishment and recognizing the problem of conscientious objection.

SPECTRE OF EXECUTIONS IN ZANZIBAR

AI urged President JULIUS NYERERE of Tanzania on 28 November to intervene and prevent any of 81 defendants in a treason trial taking place in Zanzibar from being executed. A similar plea was sent to President ABOUD JUMBE of Zanzibar, which forms part of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Secretary General MARTIN ENNALS said in his cable to President Nyerere that "such a display of mercy and justice would be applauded by Tanzania's friends throughout the world."

The 81 are being tried, 18 of them in absentia, for their part in an alleged plot to kill the former President of Zanzibar, Sheikh ABEID KARUME, and overthrow his government (June *Newsletter*). Sheikh Karume was gunned down in the headquarters of his ruling Afro-Shirazi Party in April 1972. His four assassins were killed or committed suicide almost immediately.

None of the defendants has been allowed defence counsel. If found guilty they will, according to a resolution passed at the Afro-Shirazi Party Congress in 1972, face death by public firing squad.

VIETNAM EMERGENCY ACTION CAMPAIGN

Information regarding the Emergency Action Campaign for Prisoners in Vietnam and about the

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Amnesty International Conference Opens at Unesco in Paris With Mandate for Action Program to End Torture Epidemic

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL's two-day Conference for the Abolition of Torture opens in Paris on 10 December with the declared aim of formulating a global action program to halt the epidemic spread of its practice by governments and their agencies throughout the world.

Among the 250 delegates from some 30 countries who will meet in the UNESCO Conference Center are torture victims and representatives of governments, the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States, the Organization of African Unity and 60 international non-governmental organizations.

They include such well-known campaigners for human rights as EDVARD HAMBRO, former President of the UN General Assembly, who is the Conference rapporteur; former United States Attorney-General RAMSEY CLARK; DECLAN COSTELLO, Attorney General of Ireland; Italian social reformer DANILO DOLCI; Pastor MARTIN NIEMOLLER, former President of the World Council of Churches; LORD GARDINER, former Lord Chancellor of Great Britain; LORD CARADON, former British Ambassador to the UN; Dr BRUNO PITTERMAN, President of Socialist International; Professor GEORGE MANGAKIS, author of *Letter from a European* and himself a torture victim; and Bishop JOHN HOWE, Secretary General of the Anglican Consultative Council.

Former Irish Foreign Minister SEAN MacBRIDE, Chairman of AI's International Executive Committee, is Conference Chairman. Vice-Chairman is Professor HUBERT THIERRY, Chairman of AI's French Section.

The Conference, which coincides with the 25th anniversary of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, opens just one year after AI, concerned at mushrooming reports of officially-sanctioned and often horrifying brutality against detainees and prisoners, launched an international Campaign for the Abolition of Torture.

The seriousness and difficulties of the task facing the delegates are spelled out in a disturbing book, *Amnesty International Report on Torture*, published on 3 December (see page 1). The book details allegations of torture made against more than 60 countries over the past 10 years.

"We are witnessing a resurgence of barbarism which threatens to engulf the precarious achievements and values of our civilization," Mr MacBride said in a statement prepared for the Conference. "But the most terrible of all witnesses to this age are the victims who have met their deaths in State torture chambers."

After a plenary session on 10 December, the Conference delegates will split up in-



EDVARD HAMBRO



DANILO DOLCI

conference for the abolition of torture

to four working commissions, each dealing with a specific aspect of the torture problem (see pages 4-5):

Identifying the individuals and institutions responsible (Commission A); The Socio-Economic and Political Background (Commission B); International, regional and national legal factors (Commission C); Physical and Psychological Effects on Victims and the Involvement of Doctors in Torture Session (Commission D).

Each Commission will be supplied with expert papers produced by the series of regional conferences on various aspects of torture held by AI National Sections throughout the world this year.

The Commissions will discuss and put forward concrete proposals for dealing with the problem of torture and bringing about its total abolition. Their recommendations will be the basis of the next phase of the AI abolition campaign which begins when the Conference ends.

FRINGE EVENTS

AI's French Section has arranged a series of "fringe" events in Paris in connection with the Conference. These include a performance of a play by the Spanish exile ARRABAL, an oratorio by Greek composer and former AI-adopted prisoner of conscience MIKIS THEODORAKIS, two concerts by American folk singer JOAN BAEZ, an active member of AI, and a series of films on torture made by Granada Television of Britain's World in Action team, which will be introduced by the noted film director COSTA-GAVRAS (see page 6).

On 9 December, the Archbishop of Paris will conduct a service in the Cathedral of Notre Dame to mark the occasion of the Conference.

The Conference itself will close on the night of 11 December with a televised public session attended by 1,000 people who will be presented with the conclusions reached and the recommendations advanced by the delegates. Addressing the session will be the distinguished French Nobel Peace Laureate, RENE CASSIN.

APPEAL PASSES MILLION SIGNATURE GOAL

AI's International Appeal to Outlaw Torture has surpassed its target of one million signatures, according to figures collated in the In-

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on to

a. identification

CHAIRMAN: Eric Baker, Britain, lecturer in ethics and moral science, Vice-Chairman of AI's International Executive Committee (IEC). VICE-CHAIRMAN: Horace Pereira, Sri Lanka, Secretary General of World Federation of United Nations Associations. RAPPOREUR: Asbjørn Eide, Norway, Peace Research Institute. PRESENTERS OF PAPERS: Ramsey Clark, former US Attorney General, Lord Caradon, former British ambassador to the United Nations.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S PAPER

Despite the universal horror with which it is publicly regarded, there is no doubt that in a number of countries, torture is carried on by military or civilian officials whose activities their governments tacitly ignore and, by doing so, give effective approval. Where this occurs, the administration will close ranks to frustrate any enquiry (if one were made), to protect the torturers and, if possible, to prevent their identification...

What is notably lacking in most of the countries in which torture is known to have been practised is a firm declaration that such methods are not to be tolerated, together with a clearly demonstrated determination on the part of the government to investigate thoroughly any allegation and either publicly to prosecute or as publicly to exonerate those accused...

Where the leaders are openly indifferent, or even quietly encourage, then those in subordinate positions, especially in the army or police, will recognize no limits to what they may do to the men and women in their power...

In nearly all cases where Amnesty has detailed information about torture, it is possible to identify some of those people who are directly responsible for the infliction of torture. The same names and descriptions occur again and again in torture statements. The torturers are, as one would expect, members of the security forces: in some cases military personnel, in others policemen... There are individuals in every country capable of torturing their fellow countrymen. It is for the governments of all countries to ensure that they are not given the opportunity to do so. The purpose of this commission is, therefore, to examine the way in which some individuals or groups are seen as outside the normal rules of civilized conduct, the role of the administration in protecting and encouraging those who treat them as less than human and the methods by which these attitudes may be reversed.

b. socio-economic and political

CHAIRMAN: Thomas Hammarberg, Sweden, journalist, Chairman of AI's Swedish Section and member of IEC. VICE-CHAIRMAN: Marcio Alves, Brazil, former member of parliament, journalist. RAPPOREUR: Dwain Epps, USA, Executive Secretary of World Council of Churches Commission on International Affairs. PRESENTER OF PAPER: Professor P.R. Baehr, Netherlands, Professor of International Relations, Amsterdam Univ.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S PAPER

1. Political stability and social or economic progress are two of the pretexts most frequently advanced to justify repression, of which torture often is a part. Each puts the planning of the State before the rights of the citizen.

2. Experience from a number of countries shows that governments do not achieve stability through torture. On the contrary, violence tends to create counter-violence. And in a society with increasing violence, social and economic progress are threatened.

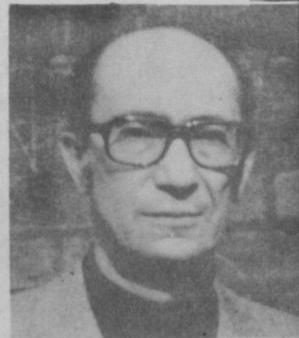
3. But even if torture did lead to stability and progress, it would not be *moral-ly* justified. Torture is a crime against humanity and as such it must be condemned in all situations.

4. Torture is often a part of a more widely repressive policy. It tends to occur in societies where there are deep conflicts, where the judiciary is weak and dependent and where the press and other democratic forces are restricted. Of course there are interdependencies between these three factors.

5. Roots of the conflicts - hidden or open - can be racialism, differences in wealth and/or standard of living, ideological differences, social intolerance, etc.

6... In the campaign against torture it can perhaps be of value to try to define social and political forces that could contribute to the abolition of torture, to give recommendations that could strengthen the safeguards against violations of Human Rights.

7. One thing does seem clear: the necessary legal and administrative measures which could make torture impossible in times of conflict can and should best be introduced in periods of calm, when torture seems unthinkable. It is too late to wait until torture is being practised to introduce new measures to prevent it.



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mission A); Dr Bru
Lord Gardiner (C);
(D); Professor Geo

Commissions Torture

c. legal

CHAIRMAN: Dirk Börner, West Germany, international businessman, former Chairman of AI's German Section, member of IEC. VICE-CHAIRMAN: Niall MacDermot, Britain, Lawyer, Secretary General of the International Commission of Jurists. RAPPOORTEUR: Solange Bouvier-Ajam, France, Lawyer, International Secretary of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers. PRESENTER OF PAPER: Peter Archer QC, Britain, barrister, Member of Parliament, Chairman of AI's British Section.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S PAPER

Although there may be grey areas in defining those acts that may constitute torture, there can be no misunderstanding about its unlawfulness. Under every relevant international legal document, torture is prohibited. In time of war, or other international armed conflict, all combatants, those placed *hors de combat* and other protected persons are, under the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, forbidden to be tortured. Common article 3 of the same Conventions also prohibits the use of torture in the case of armed conflict not of an international nature. Thus, in cases of civil war, no claim of domestic jurisdiction can be invoked by the parties to the conflict to deny the international illegality of the use of torture.

Similarly, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man, and the Declaration of the Citizen's Rights in the Arab States and Countries all prohibit the use of torture in time of peace. So do the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights and the American Convention on Human Rights. Furthermore, even though the latter treaties permit derogations from some of the rights protected in case of extreme threats to the internal order of the state, the right not to be subjected to torture is one from which no derogation is permissible.

It can be safely stated, accordingly, that under all circumstances, regardless of the context in which it is used, torture is outlawed under the common law of mankind. This being so, its use may properly be considered to be a crime against humanity. The problem is one of enforcement.

d. medical and psychological

CHAIRMAN: Dr Herman van Geuns, Netherlands, lung specialist, former Chairman of AI's Dutch Section, member of IEC. VICE-CHAIRMAN: Dr Micheline Guiton, France, psychiatrist. RAPPOORTEUR: Dr Leonard Sagan, USA, Associate Director, Department of Environmental Medicine, Palo Alto Medical Clinic, California. PRESENTER OF PAPER: Dr Anthony Storr, Britain, psychiatrist and author.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S PAPER

The late effects of torture in concentration camps during World War II have been the subject of extensive studies and research and are well known. There are rather strong indications that torture of a shorter duration can also give rise to seriously damaging after-effects. This is true of physical ill-treatment as well as of psychological techniques such as sensory deprivation. More exact information should be made available for study and the neglected problems of after-care related to these effects should be considered.

Great care must be taken that the outcome of research on this problem should not be used to refine and improve torture techniques.

By virtue of their profession, doctors have special duties to humanity which transcend other considerations. While this creates a responsibility for the individual doctor who is confronted with mental or physical ill-treatment, it also constitutes a collective responsibility for the whole medical profession. National and international medical bodies should become aware of these consequences for the profession so that they can support and assist their individual members whenever they are confronted with torture procedures. A special load of responsibility and conflict of conscience can occur for doctors working in prisons and camps as well as for medical personnel working in the armed forces and the police.

The Commission may wish to consider the conclusions of the Scandinavian and British Medical Conferences and means of implementing them such as: formulation of a code of conduct for all medical personnel, prohibiting participation in torture research and practice and the establishment of appropriate national and international machinery to register and investigate violations; a list of medical experts ready to investigate allegations of torture or ill-treatment of prisoners should be maintained centrally; the setting up of international examination centres where torture victims could be assessed and treated and research into the effects of torture carried out should be encouraged.

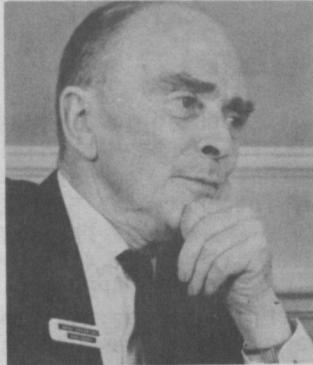
Amsey Clark (Com-
no Pitterman (B);
Dr Anthony Storr
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APPEAL

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ternational Secretariat in London. The figure, based on early returns of petition forms from more than 85 countries, indicates an overwhelming mandate for continuing the Campaign for the Abolition of Torture through UN diplomatic and other channels.

With only partial reports received from National Sections as this *Newsletter* went to press, it is estimated that nearly 1,000,000 signatures will have been collected by AI membership alone. In addition more than 70 non-governmental organizations in 17 countries and some of the world's biggest trade union confederations have formally backed the Appeal. But by far the greatest number of signatures came from unknown individuals who endorsed the Appeal in schools, churches, public meetings and factories and outside cinemas, shops and theatres.

In most cases this was the individual's first contact with the work of AI, and membership of the movement has shown a marked increase as a result of the Campaign.



SEAN MacBRIDE

CONFERENCE TIMETABLE

MONDAY 10 DECEMBER

- 09.00 Registration of participants
- 10.00 Plenary Session I (room 2)
 - Opening address by Conference Chairman
 - Other official addresses
 - Messages to Conference
 - Conference procedure and arrangements
- 12.00 Luncheon Break
- 13.30 First sessions of the four commissions
 - Commission A, Identification (room XI)
 - Commission B, Socio-Economic (room VIII)
 - Commission C, Legal (room VII)
 - Commission D, Medical (room VI)
 - Introduction by Commission Chairman
 - Presentation of papers
 - Discussion on recommendations
- 19.00 End of first commission sessions
- 20.30 Steering Committee of each commission meets to draft reports and recommendations for Plenary Session II

TUESDAY 11 DECEMBER

- 09.00 Second sessions of the four commissions
 - Final preparation of reports
 - Discussion on detailed implementation of recommendations and positive action
- 12.00 Luncheon Break
- 13.30 Plenary Session II (room 2)
 - Presentation of reports and recommendations of the four commissions
 - Discussion
- 19.00 Dinner Break
- 20.45 Closing Public Session (room 1)
 - Address by Rene Cassin
 - Presentation of final conference report
 - Discussion

NEW FILM IN FRINGE EVENTS

The world premiere of Granada Television's full-length special film, "The Year of the Torturer", is among the events organized in Paris 5-11 December by the French Section in connection with the Conference for the Abolition of Torture. The programme:

WEDNESDAY 5 DECEMBER at 20.45

Et ils passerent des menottes aux fleurs (They even handcuffed the daisies), by Arrabal. Cyrano Theatre, 76 rue de la Roquette. Admission: 20 francs

SATURDAY 8 DECEMBER at 17.30

Joan Baez concert. Olympia Theatre. Admission: 15 francs

SATURDAY 8 DECEMBER at 20.45

An oratorio by Mikis Theodorakis, based on music from the film *State of Siege* (*Etat de Siege*), including a poem entitled "Marina" Church of Saint Severin. Admission: free

SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER at 18.00

Mass celebrated by the Archbishop of Paris at the Cathedral of Notre Dame to mark the Conference for the Abolition of Torture.

SUNDAY 9 DECEMBER at 17.30

Second Joan Baez concert. Olympia Theatre. Admission 15 francs

MONDAY 10 DECEMBER at 12.00 to 19.30

Open screenings of series of films made by Granada Television's World in Action team on torture and political repression in Spain, Brazil, Turkey, South Vietnam, Ulster, Czechoslovakia and USSR. English and French soundtracks. Le Bon Conseil, 6b rue Albert de Lapparent (opposite UNESCO). Admission: free. Approximate times of showings, with language: 12.00 Spain (in English), 12.30 Brazil (Eng-



MIKIS THEODORAKIS



JOAN BAEZ

lish), 13.00 Turkey (English), 13.30 South Vietnam (French), 14.00 Brazil (French), 14.30 Turkey (French), 15.00 South Vietnam (French), 15.30 Brazil (French), 16.00 Ulster (English), 16.30 Turkey (French), 17.00 Czechoslovakia (English), 17.30 South Vietnam (English), 18.00 USSR (English). The USSR film is 45 minutes long.

MONDAY 10 DECEMBER at 21.00

World premiere of Granada Television's 90-minute film, "The Year of the Torturer" (French soundtrack). Le Bon Conseil, 6b rue Albert de Lapparent. By special invitation only.

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ALL AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE ON SALE IN THE LOBBY OF LE BON CONSEIL DURING THE ABOVE FILM SHOWS ON MONDAY 10 DECEMBER.

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present situation of the civilian detainees was sent to campaign participants early in October. Those who have not received the circular and wish to do so should notify AI's International Secretariat in London.

ARGENTINA FREES WHEELCHAIR GIRL

VERA SILVIA ARAUJO MAGALHAES, the Brazilian girl confined to a wheelchair since being crippled through torture, has been released after being detained in Argentina along with 112 other refugees from the coup in Chile (November Newsletter).

Mrs Magalhaes, whose photograph in the wheelchair has been published throughout the world, is now in Sweden.

POSTCARDS FOR PRISONERS

FROM PAST CAMPAIGNS

AMALRIK SENTENCE CHANGED TO EXILE

Andrei Alexeyevich AMALRIK, the Soviet dissident writer who was on the *Postcards for Prisoners Campaign* in August 1972, has had his sentence of three years' imprisonment in a labour camp changed to one of three years' exile.

Unofficial sources believe that the altered sentence may be due to ill-health. Mr Amalrik, who finished one three-year sentence last May, was given a further three years in July for allegedly "defaming" the USSR (August Newsletter). He began a hunger strike in protest and was reported at the time to be ill.

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Teresio ASILVERA (September 1973 Campaign), the 60-year-old former carpenter held prisoner in Paraguay for nine years without trial on unsubstantiated charges of plotting to kill President ALFREDO STROESSNER, was released in October.

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Ilya GABAI of the USSR (August 1967 Campaign), who completed a three-year labour camp sentence in May 1972, has committed suicide in Moscow. Sources said that since his release Mr Gabai had been summoned repeatedly for questioning by the KGB.

THIS MONTH'S CAMPAIGN

Sviatoslav KARAVANSKY, USSR-Ukraine

Sviatoslav KARAVANSKY, poet, journalist and linguist, was born in Odessa in the Ukraine. Now aged 53, he has spent 25 of the last 30 years in labour camps or prisons.

In 1944 Mr Karavansky was sentenced to 25 years' imprisonment for his role in a Ukrainian youth organization during the German occupation of the Ukraine. Following an amnesty in 1954, his sentence was reduced by half; but he was not set free until 1960, having served 16 years of his sentence.

During his imprisonment Mr Karavansky had occupied himself with literary self-education and writing poetry. On his return to Odessa he managed to obtain work as a journalist and translator. He became concerned about what he considered to be the official policy of Russification in the Ukraine, and in February 1965 he

petitioned the Ukraine's Attorney-General to prosecute the Minister of Education for illegal discrimination against the Ukrainian language. In the same year he sent petitions to the heads of the Polish, Rumanian, Czechoslovak and Yugoslav Communist Parties, condemning the Soviet "nationalities policy" and the arrests of several Ukrainian intellectuals.

In 1965 Mr Karavansky was re-arrested and again sent to a labour camp on the grounds that he was illegally free because he had not served the full sentence given to him in 1944. He continued to send petitions to the authorities from inside the labour camp. This earned him a number of reprisals, including a spell of solitary confinement, the loss of all concessions and eventual transfer to Vladimir prison where he was held under special regime, the most severe form.

In 1969 new criminal proceedings were instituted against him under Article 70 of the Penal Code: "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda". The evidence brought against him was an article on the reconciliation of East and West and a history of the Katyn Forest massacre in 1940, which he allegedly had written and circulated while in Vladimir prison.

His trial took place in April 1970. He was found guilty and sentenced to five years' imprisonment. This was added to the remainder of his previous sentence, which meant that he faced another 9½ years in prison. He is not due for release until 1980.

Please send courteously-worded cards appealing for his release to: Leonid Brezhnev, General Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party and to R. Rudenko, Attorney-General of the USSR. *Their names and addresses in Russian are:* SSSR, g. Moskva, Kreml, Generalnomu Sekretaryu Tsk KPSS, L.I. Brezhnevu; and SSSR, g. Moskva, Pushkinskaya ul. 15a, Prokuratura SSSR, Generalnomu Prokuroru, R. Rudenko.

Grigoris FARAKOS, Greece

Grigoris FARAKOS is one of the few political prisoners in Greece who were not released as a result of the amnesty which President GEORGE PAPADOPOULOS declared in August 1973. He has been in bad health for many years and suffered a severe deterioration in his condition as a result of spending four months in solitary confinement in Corfu Prison, reputedly the most unhealthy prison in Greece.

Mr Farakos, who was born in 1923, was a leading figure amongst the resistance fighters in Athens during the country's occupation by the Germans in World War II. After the war he became the leader of the left-wing students at the Polytechnic in Athens and was the editor of their newspaper, *The Students' Voice*.

He was arrested twice and in 1947 he was sent for detention to the island of Ikaria. Eventually he was released and went into exile, as did many other Greek communists at the time. During this period he was elected to membership of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Greece and later became a member of its Political Bureau.

After the April 1967 coup by Greek Army colonels, Mr Farakos returned to Greece. He was ar-

rested in November 1968 and brought to trial in May 1969. He claimed that he had been tortured during interrogation. He was sentenced to life imprisonment under Law 509 for "sedition". At the same time he was sentenced to four years' imprisonment for contempt of court.

Please send courteously-worded cards appealing for his release to: His Excellency Lieutenant-General Phaidon Gizikis, President, Athens, Greece; and to: His Excellency Stylianos Triandafyllou, Minister of Justice, Athens.

Chafukwa CHIHANA, *Malawi*

Chafukwa CHIHANA is presently being held without charge or trial at a detention centre at Mikuyu, near Zomba, Malawi. He is a 34-year-old trade unionist who, prior to his arrest, was supporting a wife and two children as well as a widowed mother aged 60. He has been in detention since 19 May 1971.

In the early 1960s Mr Chihana was the General Secretary of the Malawi Commercial and General Workers Union, a large organization which, at that time, played a large part in the country's trade union movement. He was a popular man, having succeeded in negotiating improved terms for migrant tobacco workers. But he drew the criticism of Malawi's Life President, Dr HASTINGS BANDA and left the country to reside in Kenya. There he became a publicity officer for the Central Organization of Trade Unions. Later he worked for the International Labour Organization in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Mr Chihana eventually decided to return to his native country. This was on the basis of assurances that he would not be victimized. He returned to Malawi in May 1971 and was immediately arrested at Chileka Airport. He has been in detention ever since.

In Malawi, the Public Security Regulations permit indefinite detention without trial at the President's will. Mr Chihana, who was first detained at Dzeleka and then Zomba, was transferred this year to the new detention centre at Mikuyu. There he is imprisoned along with more than 450 other persons who are held for alleged political offences. None of them have ever been tried. Mr Chihana faces the prospect of indefinite detention.

Please send courteously-worded cards appealing for his release to: His Excellency the Life President, Ngwazi Dr. H. Kamuzu Banda, Office of the President and Cabinet, Box 53, Zomba, Malawi; and to: Hon. Dick Matenje, Minister of Trade, Industry and Tourism, Box 944, Blantyre, Malawi.

PRISONER RELEASES AND CASES

The International Secretariat learned in October of the release of 68 AI-adopted prisoners and took up 250 new cases.

AI REPORT ON TORTURE

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audio-visual disorientation and terror techniques. According to the report:

"...sophisticated methods of torture are being introduced in many countries. Interrogation techniques are being constantly refined. But torture is not being used for the extraction

of information alone. It is also used for the control of political dissent. Often, the two main impulses are combined in one appalling practice... There also exists evidence that the practice of torture is being internationalized. Experts and their training, as well as torture equipment, are provided by one government for use in another state."

The report says there is serious concern that some liberation movements also use torture on prisoners and hostages. It says this contributes to the escalation of violence.

The report concludes: "Experimental psychiatric and psychological evidence points to the fact that the potential to torture is present in man, and that only institutional, legal or religious restraints put on him provide assurance that this potential will not be used..."

"The confrontation between the individual and the limitless power of the state, between the torturer and his victim, takes place in the darkest recess of political power... In international law, the doctrine of individual responsibility was firmly laid down a long time ago, at Nuremberg. Now the international community has to try to work out effective remedies for the prevention of torture."

Amnesty International Report on Torture is published by Duckworth, London, in association with Amnesty International Publications 53 Theobald's Road, London WC1X 8SP, England. 224 pages. £1.50 paperback, £3.95 hardback.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER LATE

The next issue of the *AI Newsletter* will be published a week later than usual because of a holiday closure of the printing works between Christmas and New Year's Day.

IEC CONSIDERS FUTURE OF CAMPAIGN

AI's International Executive Committee met in Paris 1-3 November to deliberate on the future of the Campaign for the Abolition of Torture and financial and other matters. A report of the meeting has been sent to National Sections.

The IEC will meet again in Paris on 8 December just before the Conference for the Abolition of Torture, and again in Hamburg in January and in London in February.

SECTION AND GROUP NOTES

Orders from AI Sections, Groups and Members for the new *Amnesty International Report on Torture* may now be sent directly to the International Secretariat in London. Orders sent directly to the publisher, Duckworth, should also be notified to the International Secretariat. Please note that the price per copy does not include postage.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS: Correspondence for the Faroe Islands Section should now be directed to Anette Wang, Trondatgøta 47, P.O. Box 23, 3800 Torshavn, The Faroe Islands.

All correspondence for the Israeli Section should be sent to Daniel Jacobson, 4 Yehuda Halevy Street, Tel-Aviv, Israel.

The address of the newly-established Montreal group is Groupe d'Amnestie au Quebec, a/s Ligue des Droits de l'Homme, 409 est rue Sherbrooke, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

- KOREY, William. *The Soviet Cage. Anti-Semitism in Russia.* 1973. *The Viking Press, 525 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022. \$12.50.*
The author, a leading authority on Soviet Jewry, studies the question of trials designed to crush the Jewish resistance movement in the USSR. He describes how many trials were reported to the Soviet public and the outside world by the authorities themselves, at first massively indifferent to world opinion. Based on extensive unpublished *samizdat* material, the book also examines what actually happened in the Soviet court-rooms.
- MacEOIN, Gary. *Revolution Next Door: Latin America in the 1970s.* 1971. *Holt Rinehart and Winston Inc., 383 Madison Avenue, New York, USA. \$5.55.*
Gary MacEoin has been Caribbean and South American correspondent for Time, Life, Reuters and other US and British news agencies and publications, and script writer for *Voice of America's* weekly broadcasts to Latin America. In this book he tries to explain how Latin Americans view the US 'involvement' in Latin America. Citing many specific instances, he shows the degree of control the US has on world prices and markets, and also the political and military involvement in Latin America through the CIA.
- KOWDAKOR, Sergei. *Sergei.* 1973. *Oliphants, 116 Eaker Street, London W1H 2BB. £2.50.*
A first-hand account of the appalling day-to-day persecution of Russian Christians, told by Sergei, a converted 'police thug' whose job it was to beat up Believers. Also a fascinating account of Sergei's own unhappy childhood in the Russia of Khrushchev.
- ZAHARI, Said. *Poems from Prison.* 1973. Available from: *Dr Syed Husin Ali, Department of Sociology, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, 22-11, Malaysia. £1.00 or \$3.00.*
A book of English and Malay poems with translations has just been published by one of our adopted prisoners in Singapore, Said Zahari, who has been detained for 10 years. The proceeds from sales will be spent on the education of Said Zahari's four children.
- SITHOLE, Ndabaningi. *The Polygamist.* 1973. *Hodder and Stoughton, St. Paul's House, Warwick Lane, London EC4. £1.90.*
Rev. Sithole is the president of the banned Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU), one of the leading African nationalist movements in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe). He has been in prison since 1964. It is surprising and encouraging to find that a man who has suffered so much for his ideals can produce, from his prison cell, a book so full of humour and humanity. This is an entertaining novel of Ndebele society, centering on the struggles of the protagonist to keep order in his polygamous household of seven wives, and to come to terms with the challenge posed by "civilisation" to the traditional ways of his people. A sensitive and sympathetic book by a prominent and courageous Amnesty adoptee.
- O'BALLANCE, Edgar. *The War in the Yemen.* 1973. *Faber and Faber, 3 Queen Square, London WC1. £2.25.*
An account of the Royalist-Republican Civil War of 1962 - 1970 fought in almost medieval conditions, and of the involvement of President Nasser and King Faisal who backed opposing sides in the conflict. In between, there are fascinating glimpses into the political, social and economic aspects of this still little known country.