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A M N E S T Y

INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

No. 3

OCTOBER 1962

1. SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE, Chateau de Male,  
Sijsele, Belgium

A report of the proceedings together with the full text of the resolutions passed is enclosed with this bulletin.

2. CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

It will be noted that the Second International Meeting decided that this statement of "Minimum principles acceptable to civilised societies" shall be published on 10th December 1962, Human Rights Day. In order to complete the task in time the Lawyers' Committee established by the Conference decided that all suggested amendments or additions must reach the London office by 15th November. Please ask any of your members who are likely to be interested in this draft Code (a copy of which is enclosed) to send their views direct to London, to save time. Comments by laymen, as well as by lawyers, will be appreciated; it is particularly hoped that you will seek the views of any former prisoners among your members.

It is hoped to mail to you on 1st December the text of the completed Code so that you will have it ready for publication in your own country on Human Rights Day.

3. HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, 10th DECEMBER

The central commemorations in Britain are being arranged jointly with the United Nations Association; it is suggested that this pattern might be followed elsewhere.

The climax of the commemoration will be a civic ceremony in London on 10th December (Monday) at 6.15 p.m. at which the Code of Conduct will be published and the AMNESTY Candle lit. It is hoped that National Sections and groups will arrange a similar ceremony on 10th December so that the maximum publicity for the Code of Conduct can be obtained by its simultaneous publication in as many capital and chief cities as possible.

There will be a number of religious ceremonies in many churches and synagogues on 8th and 9th December. The central British religious ceremony will be broadcast from the BBC Concert Hall at 9.45 a.m. on Sunday 9th December. It will be held in the Concert Hall in order to provide a meeting-ground for those of all Christian denominations. In approaching broadcast companies for assistance with Human Rights Day ceremonies, this idea of putting on a ceremony in the Broadcasting Station might be borne in mind.

Prayer sheets for use at religious ceremonies will be available in English as from 1st November.

A collection of readings from the great literature of all ages and different countries on the subject of Freedom, suitable for ceremonies in schools, will be available on 15th November. Copies of this can be ordered at the price of 1/- each, postage extra.

A specially written ANTHOLOGY OF PRAYERS, MEDITATIONS AND MESSAGES ON PERSECUTION by distinguished writers, philosophers and churchmen is being prepared and will be ready for publication on 1st December. This is primarily designed for use in the central AMNESTY commemorations, religious and secular. Two copies will be supplied free to each section by air mail. The price of additional copies will be announced later.

The Secretariat in London would greatly appreciate definite information by not later than 1st December of the arrangements being made in your country for the commemoration of Human Rights Day, and in particular for the publication of the Code of Conduct. This information is required so that the press can be told of the world-wide nature of these commemorations and ceremonies.

4. STATUTE

Your attention is drawn to that part of the proceedings in which it was decided to approve the STATUTE of the movement subject to amendments received by 30th October in London. If amendments of substance are received, a specially convened committee of one representative per National Section will meet in London to discuss them on Sunday, 18th November. Drafting amendments, i.e. re-phrasing of sentences, etc., will be left to the Secretariat.

Your views are specially sought on the proposal that as from 1st January the title of the movement should read:-

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL,  
Movement for freedom of opinion and religion.

5. CONFERENCE ON PERSONAL FREEDOM IN WESTERN EUROPE

This will take place in the Niblett Hall, Temple, London, on Saturday, 17th November. Representatives from sections in Western Europe are welcome without admittance charge. Free hospitality with AMNESTY members will be arranged for those coming to Britain specially for this Conference. A symposium of the papers submitted about the state of freedom in most Western European countries is being prepared and will be presented by the well-known British philosopher and political scientist Maurice Cranston. Expert speeches will be given on the following subjects:

The working of The European Commission and Court  
of Human Rights  
Personal Freedom in France  
Greece  
Spain  
Portugal.

Copies of the Report of the Conference on Personal Freedom in Marxist/Leninist Countries held in London (1400 sold to date) are still available, 5/- each for general sale, 4/- to members.

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