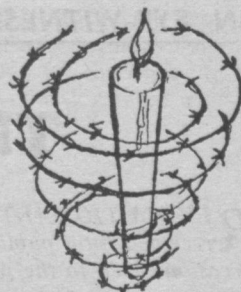




# AMNESTY

Journal of the AMNESTY movement  
An international movement for freedom  
of opinion and religion



Is. post free U.K.

No. 13

13th December, 1961

Is. 3d. post free abroad

For subscriptions see page 7

**Cuban Tribunals:  
An Eye-witness Account**  
page 2



**The Christopher Payi  
Story**  
page 3



**Ghana Students Appeal  
to Amnesty**  
page 5

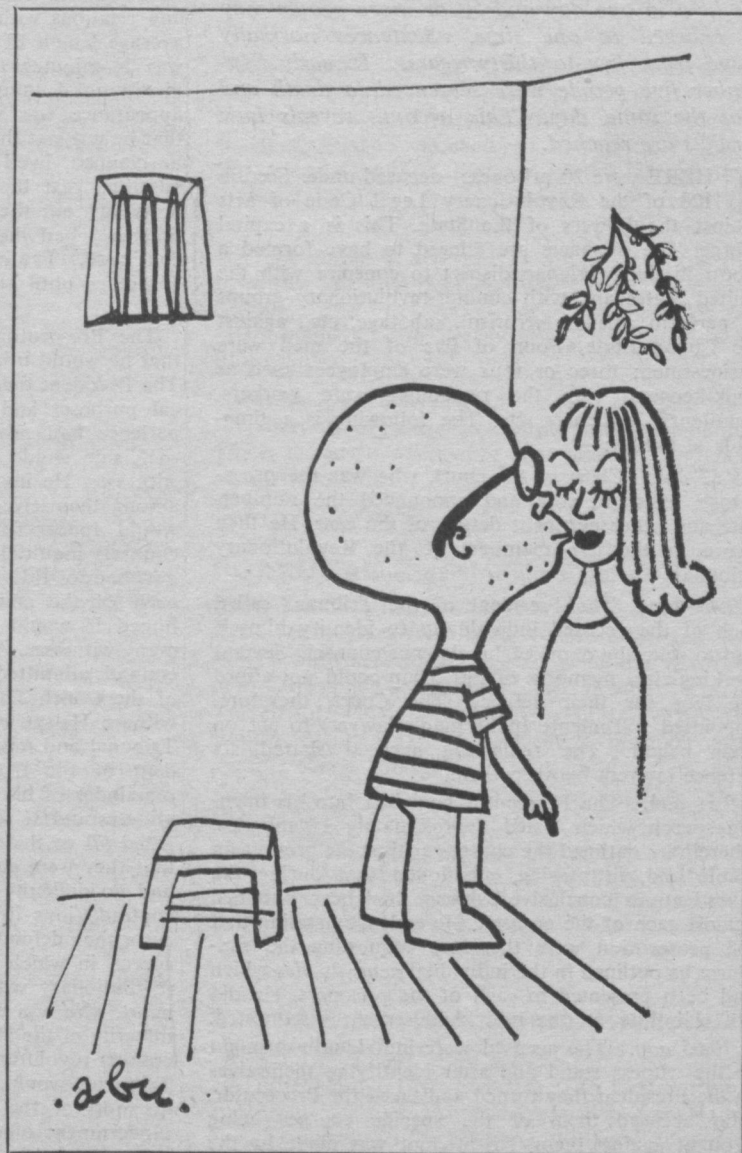


**Amnesty Writes to All  
Governments**  
page 8

**STOP PRESS**

**HUMAN RIGHTS  
DAY REPORT**

page 5



## The Cuban Tribunals

**R**EVOLUTIONARY tribunals in Cuba have received little publicity although they are, on occasion, open to the public. Our correspondent, who was present at the trial described below, reports that sometimes six to eight of these tribunals are held in one day and 50 or more people may be charged at one time. Sentences normally range from five to thirty years. In early September five people were sentenced to death and shot the same day. This account reveals how verdicts are reached.

**T**HERE were 20 prisoners—accused under Section 128 of the Revolutionary Legal Code of acts against the Powers of the State. This is a capital charge. The prisoners are alleged to have formed a group in the Marianao district to conspire with the United States and with counter-revolutionary groups to perform acts of terrorism, sabotage, etc., against the Cuban State. Four of five of the men were businessmen; three or four were employees such as book-keepers, etc.; the remainder were workers, chauffeurs, gardeners, etc. The following is a timetable of events:—

9.37 a.m. Clerk of the court, who was the prosecutor's assistant, rose and announced the number, date and other pertinent details of the case. He then swore in the five members of the Revolutionary Tribunal.

9.43 a.m. The President of the Tribunal called each of the accused individually to identify himself and to state the name of his defence counsel. Several working-class members of the group could not afford the fees for their defence. The Court, therefore, appointed a Teniente (poor man's lawyer) to act on their behalf. The remaining accused shared six defence lawyers between them.

9.51 a.m. The Prosecutor launched into his opening speech which lasted approximately 15 minutes, wherein he outlined the charges against the group as a whole and, in passing, mentioned that during the investigations conclusive evidence had been obtained against each of the accused. He ended by stating that the prosecution were therefore requesting the sentences as outlined in the individual *actas fiscales* which had been presented to each of the prisoners. He did not elaborate on the individual sentences requested.

10.05 a.m. The accused were individually brought to the witness stand and after identifying themselves to the President they turned and faced the Prosecutor, who accused them of the specific charges being brought against them. No attempt was made by the prosecution to support these charges with evidence.

The defence counsels were then permitted to question their clients. These questions were usually limited to eliciting whether the accused had even been in trouble before, whether they had ever participated in political activities of any nature, where and when they had been arrested and by whom, and whether they had any relations with other members of the group. The average length of appearance of each of the accused was 2½ minutes, the minimum being 37 seconds, the maximum 4 minutes and 14 seconds. The longest appearance was when one of the accused claimed that he was not the man listed in the indictment, who, he claimed, lived in the next street. The Prosecutor admitted that there may have been a clerical error in typing out the indictment, but he was convinced that they had the right man, and the trial therefore continued. The individual questioning of the accused continued until approximately 11.10 a.m.

\* \* \*

The Prosecutor then made a brief speech stating that he would bring witnesses to prove his statements. The President then intervened to state that for practical purposes and in view of the fact that past experience had proved satisfactory, he proposed that each side would be allowed to introduce only three witnesses. He invited the defence counsels to consult among themselves and decide which three witnesses would appear for the defence. One of the defence counsels inquired of the President whether it would not be possible to introduce three witnesses from each of the counsel. The President stated that he hoped it would not be necessary to introduce too many witnesses. After further consultation the defence counsel submitted a short list of names to the Clerk of the Court. The Prosecution then called their first witness. He sat with his back to the Court, facing the Tribunal and mumbled his name quietly to the President of the Court when identifying himself; the remainder of his testimony was audible. It lasted two minutes and 31 seconds. He stated that he had investigated all of the accused and he was quite convinced that they were guilty as charged. The defence counsel had no difficulty whatever in pointing out the many contradictions in the witness's statement. The Prosecutor then defended his witness in a short impassioned speech in which he stated that the agent was a true revolutionary with the best interests of the State at heart, who was working day and night to protect the integrity of the State against attacks from mercenaries, counter-revolutionaries, etc. He was certain that the Tribunal would discount these mean and useless attempts of the defence to impugn the name of a Government official. The prosecution then rested its case.

(Continued on page 6)

# NO PLACE FOR CHRISTOPHER PAYI

**T**WENTY-EIGHT-YEAR-OLD Arts Graduate Christopher Lindi Payi is today in prison somewhere in Portugal. He has committed no crime and has not been tried.

Living in South Africa, he was offered a scholarship to a University in Nigeria. His efforts to secure a South African passport were unsuccessful but he was granted an exit visa on the condition he renounced his South African citizenship.

On arrival on the island of Sao Thome in Portuguese West Africa, wishing to tranship to Nigeria, he found that his exit permit and Portuguese visa had expired. He was arrested as a destitute person and a suspected Angolan terrorist, handed over to the P.I.D.E. (Internal Defence Police) and sent to a political prison in Lisbon where he has been without any visitors since April of this year.

His friends, the Nigerian University authorities and the diplomatic representatives of a friendly country have been trying to secure his release, without success.

Christopher Lindi Payi is a victim of political persecution which he has done nothing to provoke. There are many hundreds of others in Portugal and other countries in the same straits, whose stories of persecution come into AMNESTY offices each day. On this page we publish some of the more recent cases reported in the last few weeks.

\* \* \*

## LIBYA—Trade Unionists in Prison

**T**WENTY trade unionists were arrested on the 10th September for leading a strike demanding the implementation of wage increases approved by a government commission. On the 24th, 18 were released but Salem Shita, Secretary General of the Libyan General Federation of Trade Unions, and Ali Bata, editor of the union journal, remained in custody. It is said that the Libyan government has sequestered Union funds, the police have destroyed the union premises, and the employers have been instructed not to re-engage the strikers, numbering about 300, unless they agree to leave the union. The Libyan government strongly deny all these allegations and state that only Shita remains in gaol awaiting trial.

Yet Mr. Elwyn-Jones, Q.C., M.P., who went to Libya in mid-November was refused by the government the right to plead for the trade union leader. His Tunisian assistant was refused a visa.

\* \* \*

## SPAIN—More Arrests

**A** RECENT visit by General Franco to Andalusia was taken as an excuse for the arrest of a number of people labelled "Reds." In Bilbao prison the régime holds a dozen socialists and members of the General Workers' Union arrested in August, allegedly for distributing leaflets and for working with "clandestine groups."

Last month the government prosecutor asked for a nine-year sentence on Julian Marcos Martinez, the principal defendant in the trial of seven spaniards accused of distributing illegal propaganda against Franco. Although he was arrested in 1956, he will not benefit from the recently-announced amnesty.

Eight workers, arrested 14 months ago for distributing socialist leaflets, were tried in Bilbao recently. The prosecution asked for terms of imprisonment of four to six years, and fines of up to about £150.

A military tribunal trying Sabino Barrena Isasi, the director of a Basque nationalist propaganda office, asked for a 20-year sentence for "offences against the State."

\* \* \*

## PORTUGAL—Petitioners Gaoled

**L**AST month the President of the Council of the Oporto Bar, Dr. Antonio Macedo, and five others were arrested. The names of the five men are Carlos Cal Brandao, his brother Mario, Teixeira da Costa, Arango Correia and Armando Bacela. No specific charges have been brought against them, though it is thought that the occasion for their arrest was determined by their signing a petition asking that a woman, held in gaol without trial for the past eight years and now ill, should be taken to hospital. All have taken prominent parts in defending political prisoners in the past few years.

\* \* \*

## INDONESIA—Eight Months for Slander

**T**WO men have been gaoled for eight months in Medan, north Sumatra, for "slandering" President Sukarno. Another man was imprisoned for 15 months in Surabaya, Java, for "spreading rumours."



# THE RADDATZ AFFAIR

**K**ARL RADDATZ was arrested in 1934 by the Gestapo because of his opposition to the Nazis, and, until his release in 1945, suffered the horrors of Hitler's prisons and concentration camps.

In 1947 all those in Germany who had been persecuted by the Nazis formed an organisation called the V.V.N. (an association of those persecuted by the Nazi régime), an interzonal group recognised by the four occupying powers. Karl Raddatz was elected secretary-general.

When Germany was split in two in 1949, Raddatz, who lived in the Eastern zone, continued his activities in the V.V.N. until, in 1953, it was replaced in the German Democratic Republic by a "Committee of Antifascist Resisters". Towards the end of 1960 M. Gunther Siegewasser, son of the Minister of Culture in the G.D.R., fled to West Germany. He revealed that Karl Raddatz had been arrested "round the middle of 1960" and secretly imprisoned, together with his wife, secretary and a number of his friends.

Siegewasser also stated that he himself and a number of others had been "put under pressure to give evidence against Raddatz, who was accused of having had relations with espionage organisations sponsored by the West."

It was also understood that the ex-secretary-general, founder of the V.V.N., had been arrested

because he had "publicly" declared that the policies followed by the G.D.R. "were incompatible with the attitude of a convinced socialist." It appeared that a "secret" trial was held at Erfurt at the end of May 1961. The principal defendant—presumed to be Raddatz—was sentenced to six years imprisonment. Further inquiries revealed without much doubt that it was indeed Raddatz who had been arrested and imprisoned once more for his beliefs.

## Amnesty picture wins praise

**A**RT knows no language barriers. One of the aims of Amnesty has been to persuade artists and composers to produce works with the spirit of Amnesty as their theme, in this way catching the imagination in unusual form.

Originally it was hoped to hold an exhibition of painting this year in a London gallery. Unfortunately the cost was too high. Instead, artists who had already expressed interest in the idea were asked to submit paintings to local exhibitions under the title "Out of the darkness, light—Theme for Appeal for Amnesty 1961".

Alice Berger Hammerschlag, a keen supporter in Northern Ireland, is the first artist to our knowledge who has done so. Her picture is on view at an exhibition

of six contemporary Ulster Artists in the Whitla Hall, Belfast.

A review in the *Belfast Telegraph* says:—

"Alice Hammerschlag emerges with tremendous power. It is not fanciful to see in her work shades of the romanticism one associates with Friedrich, a German painter who sought, through the forms of landscape, to express deeply subjective experiences.

"Mrs. Hammerschlag makes no reference to the great stormy peaks and forests of Friedrich's art, but the same elevated feelings inform her 'Black Energy' and 'Appeal for Amnesty,' the latter the *finest thing I have seen from her brush.*"

Other artists may be inspired to follow Miss Hammerschlag's fine example.

## A Call to Catholics

**M**EMBERS of all religious denominations have shown sympathy to Amnesty's plea to remember the persecuted on Human Rights Day. Cardinal Godfrey, Archbishop of Westminster, has referred to this persecution in his pastoral letter, dated 3rd December, 1961, to Catholics in England and Wales. He writes: "The Hierarchy has decided to ask all the faithful to remember throughout Advent all those who are suffering persecution. We earnestly beg you to keep this in mind as you prepare for the commemoration of the Incarnation of the Son of God."

The Cardinal has also mentioned it in his letter to priests of the Diocese of Westminster (16th November) in which he asks them "to urge their people to pray throughout Advent for the Church of Silence and for all those undergoing persecution."

Most of the Bishops have also mentioned Amnesty in their respective letters to the Clergy.

## CONVOYS LTD.

Officially Appointed Travel Agents To  
"ODYSSEY"

### Head Office

6, Bouverie Street, London, E.C.4.  
FLEet Street 4060 (15 lines)

21, Tothill Street,  
London, S.W.1.  
Trafalgar 5445.

6, Carlton Place,  
Glasgow, C.5.  
Glasgow South 3325.

17, Merton Road,  
Bootle, Liverpool, 20  
Bootle 4141.

Worsley Road,  
Swinton, Manchester.  
Swinton 3221.

6 p.m. Sunday, December 10

STOP PRESS

## The First Vigil at St. Martin's

THE Human Rights Day ceremony in the bare, crowded crypt of St. Martin-in-the-Fields was over. The first vigil, five men and one woman, representing six nations, lined the entrance to the church, flanking the unlit Amnesty candle. The rain was falling outside on the pavements of Trafalgar Square. Then, as the crowd gathered and the press cameras flashed, the candle, symbolising hope for prisoners of conscience all over the world, was lit, and the cord binding the handcuffed hands of a man and a woman severed in its flame. The candle on its stand was carried out onto the steps of St. Martin's—the first vigil had begun.

The rain fell gently and the crowd slowly departed; only the noise and bustle of the square

remained. What did that solitary flame, burning unsteadily in the wind, signify to the Amnesty movement? Did it mean merely the culmination of months of work? Or did it rather mean that a step, however small, had been taken in the direction of Amnesty's goal?

There can be no doubt that the ceremony was a success. Now it remains to translate the symbolism of the Amnesty flame into the actuality of hard work and action to secure the release of the hundreds of thousands of prisoners all over the world. Much remains to be done; perhaps the work will never end—but our hope and endeavour must go on.

It is six o'clock, and the first vigil is over.

MICHEAL HARNETT.

---

## Ghana Students Appeal to Amnesty

THE situation in Ghana remains disturbing. Since our last issue has come news of proposed measures by the Government against students at the two universities. Reports of unrest among students in Ghana broadcast by the B.B.C. representative, led to his expulsion. At the same time the correspondent of the *Daily Express* was expelled from the country.

Over 300 Ghana students in Britain have formed their own association. One of the objects of this association is to protest against the series of recent arrests, and the introduction of the Emergency Courts Act. A deputation of the Students' Association complained to AMNESTY that they had been threatened with loss of nationality—and sanctions against their parents—if they continued with their activities. AMNESTY undertook to make representations on their behalf to the Ghana Government, to the British Government and to interested international organisations if these threats continued.

There have been a number of rumours about the health of the men detained on 3rd October; some of these refer to under-nourishment and ill-treatment. AMNESTY has addressed a letter to the International Red Cross asking them to endeavour to send an observer to inspect conditions in the prisons and detention camps.

At the time of going to press (December 10), the Ghana Government has not published its promised White Paper stating the grounds on which 149 men and women were detained on 3rd October. Although the failure of the Government to publish this statement is contradictory to a promise made by President Nkrumah to both AMNESTY and the International Commission of Jurists, the delay is not altogether unsatisfactory. It had originally been supposed that the Government would issue the White Paper as soon as the Royal Visit came to an end, and that trials on capital charges would follow within a few days.

The respite in publishing the charges and bringing those accused to trial has allowed plans to be completed for sending out an international team of defence counsel. It is possible that the delay on the part of the Ghana Government is due to the realisation that there would be respected defence lawyers present from other parts of Africa. It is also said that the Government has become apprehensive of the unfavourable impression made on American opinion at a time when it is negotiating further financial aid. Whatever the reasons for the delay, the plight of the prisoners' families remains. One of AMNESTY's most important tasks is to organise effective assistance for the dependents of political prisoners in Ghana—and in other countries.

# THE CUBAN TRIBUNALS—An eye-witness report

(Continued from page 2)

The defence then called their witnesses. There were ten in all and their average length of appearance was just under two minutes. As each witness was called he stood before the President and identified himself. The President then asked him whether he was prepared to swear to tell the truth; the witness was required merely to answer "yes"; he was also asked whether he was a friend, enemy or had any connection with any members of the group. With three exceptions, who said they worked for various accused, all answered in the negative. The defence counsels confined themselves to asking the witnesses whether they had ever heard any of the accused make counter-revolutionary statements, participate in counter-revolutionary activities, make any reference which would lead them to believe that they were not satisfied with the present Government, and, finally, whether they had any contact with any known counter-revolutionary. The Prosecution did not deign to cross-examine. Following this evidence, the Prosecutor, at 11.46, delivered his closing speech. This lasted for 12 minutes and was an impassioned political tirade which bore no relation whatever to the case until the final two sentences, when he reiterated that he was convinced that the accused were guilty because, in any case, he had documentary evidence to prove it. (These documents were not available to the defence counsels). His closing sentence was to reiterate his request for the penalties as specified in the *actas fiscales*.

\* \* \*

At 11.58 the first of the defence counsel rose to make his closing speech. After three minutes he mentioned the word "liberty," whereupon the President of the Court rang his bell for silence. The President then rose and said that he considered this a suitable moment to reaffirm the Declaration of Havana, and therefore he called upon all present to rise to their feet while he re-read the Declaration. This took 22 minutes, at the end of which he then stated that he and all the members of the Tribunal proposed to sign the Declaration and invited all present to do likewise. After the Tribunal had signed, the prosecuting counsel and other Court officials signed the document. It was then passed to the defence counsel for their signature and thereafter each prisoner was given the opportunity of signing. It was then passed along the first two or three rows where the public were sitting. Forty-two minutes after the defence had been interrupted, the President announced that a table would be set up on the verandah outside the court room and all members of the public who had not yet done so but who wished to sign the Declaration could go to the verandah and sign. He then invited the defence counsel to resume his closing speech, 44 minutes after he, the President, had interrupted it.

The remaining six defence counsels made speeches of varying lengths. The *Teniente*, who was defending eight or nine accused, spoke for 4 minutes and 37 seconds. His speech consisted of informing the President of the names of the accused he was representing, and then stating that they were poor, misguided souls who, though they had undoubtedly performed the acts of which they were accused, could not be held responsible since they had been led astray by the others who were mercenaries, etc. The final speech by defence counsel ended at 1.46 p.m. The President then asked if any of the accused had anything further to say in their defence. The man who claimed that he was there because of mistaken identity attempted to re-introduce the subject. The President gave him short shrift. One of the other accused, a coloured boy who worked as a gardener, stated that he was not guilty of any of the acts of which he was accused, and that he had never been in contact with any counter-revolutionaries. The President then announced that the Tribunal would adjourn to consider the verdicts, which would be announced in due course.

One of the defence lawyers who specialises in acting at the Revolutionary Tribunals told me that this was the usual procedure. However, in view of the leniency of the Court during recent weeks, he thought that, in general, sentences would range from three to ten years, but that possibly two or three of the ring-leaders might get heavier sentences. He told me that the conclusions of the Court, and the final sentence passed, would be typed and a copy handed to the prisoner. This would probably be the only notification the accused would have of the sentence meted out to him, since during recent months it had not been the normal practice to reconvene the Court and bring back the accused for sentence.

\* \* \*

The members of the Tribunal, with the exception of the President who made some attempt to pay attention, were quite openly bored with the whole procedure. They read newspapers, had their "elevenses" of coffee, beer, hot dogs, etc., answered a telephone which rang frequently, and, in general, took little part in the whole affair. One member asked one of the accused whether he had served with Fidel in Oriente. He had not and the *Teniente* promptly lost all interest. Another member of the Tribunal, a *Teniente* in militia uniform, asked one of the accused if he was in the militia, and if not, why not? The accused was not in the militia and could give no satisfactory reason for this lapse. His reply merited a brief note on the Tribunal's pad. Apart from these two questions no other member of the Tribunal spoke to the accused or witnesses.



# Have you joined Amnesty yet?

**T**HE purpose of "Amnesty" is to mobilise public opinion throughout the world in favour of releasing Prisoners of Conscience, and effective guarantees for opinion and religion. Our job is to set a tide running in the affairs of the world against persecution of people for their ideas, and set up organisms which over the years may prove effective in bringing about both releases and improvements in the law.

**Y**OU can become a subscriber to "Amnesty" to help with the work of collecting and publishing information about Prisoners of Conscience and finding out the financial position of their families.

**A**NYONE can join by paying a minimum of £1. This entitles him or her to free issues of the bulletin, to take part in any special meetings or conferences and to make use of the library. One pound is the minimum subscription. Donations over and above are welcome.

To: AMNESTY

(An international movement for freedom of opinion and religion).

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

\*I wish to join the AMNESTY Movement (minimum annual subscription £1) and I enclose cheque/ P.O. for £      s.      d.

\*I am sending the names and addresses of the following people who I think would like to hear more about the AMNESTY Movement.

1. ....

.....

2. ....

.....

3. ....

.....

My name is .....

Address .....

\* Delete if inapplicable.

## "The Spectator"

*The first and liveliest of the  
British weeklies*

Every Friday, 9d.

# AMNESTY WRITES TO ALL GOVERNMENTS

## Call for a Christmas-time gesture

ONE of the principal purposes of the Human Rights Day Ceremonies is to make the 10th December a special occasion asking each Government to review the case of those held imprisoned on account of their opinions or religion. If the ceremony of lighting the Amnesty Candle of Remembrance and the unlocking of the handcuffs catch the public imagination, then year by year the importance of the ceremony will grow. It matters vitally that it should. For only when a ceremony is held in every country will Governments take notice of the underlying purpose.

That purpose is not just to commemorate the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but to advertise to all the world that 13 years afterwards its terms are more honoured in the breach than in the observance. The purpose of the ceremony is to plead the cause of the million people who are held in prison in defiance of the terms of the Universal Charter. And, above all, the purpose is to appeal to Governments to recognise that Christmas is the best possible time at which to make a new start—a beginning of releasing everyone held in prison contrary to the terms of the Charter.

\* \* \*

During the ceremony at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, the Vicar handed a Boy Scout a pile of identical letters, one addressed to the representative of each Government in London. And from outside St. Giles's Cathedral, Edinburgh, the site of the old Tolbooth prison, a set of similar letters was sent to every diplomatic mission in Scotland. This is the text of these letters:—

Today, Human Rights Day, Sunday, 10th December, 1961, groups of people in different parts

of the world are commemorating the proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is the day specially set apart by the United Nations for this purpose.

Until now little attention has been paid to Human Rights Day. But this year, 1961, has seen the establishment of a new movement of men and women pledged to uphold the freedom of men's mind. The movement is known as AMNESTY; its principal object is to secure the release of those who are imprisoned on account of their opinions or religion. Supporters of AMNESTY are organising a number of ceremonies in different centres with a view to upholding the aims of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and in order to emphasise that without continuous vigilance human freedom is always in danger.

Without respect for human personality and tolerance for the opinions of others guaranteed by a system of law and an independent judiciary, there can be no effective human freedom—and in the end no lasting peace. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, signed on 10th December, 1948, marks a significant step forward in the direction of a proper system of guarantees of individual freedom. But it is only a beginning. And in the whole course of the 13 years which have followed the Declaration, despite repeated debates in the United Nations, no machinery has been agreed to enforce these guarantees.

This letter expresses the hope of many people, spread throughout different countries, that your Government will give its help in building up effective guarantees of human freedom. A start could be made by reviewing the cases of those prisoners who are detained on account of their opinions. Over Christmas and New Year men and women all over the world are wishing each other happiness. We are writing to ask your Govern-

ment to act in this spirit by allowing these prisoners to return to their families.

On an earlier page you will find the story of Christopher Payi, the prisoner who has been chosen this year, 1961, as the living symbol of all "forgotten prisoners." Christopher Payi is stateless; he will spend this Christmas in a prison among people whose language he speaks not one word, in a country which he never intended even to visit.

\* \* \*

AMNESTY has selected three prisoners on whose behalf to make a special appeal for a Christmas-time release. The first, well-known, has several times been mentioned in this paper, Archbishop Beran, Primate of Czechoslovakia.

The second is Junius Scales, who has recently begun a six-year sentence under the Smith Act in the U.S.A. His story was printed in *Amnesty* No. 10. In a recent article *The New York Post* picks up the idea of AMNESTY's appeal to President Kennedy.

Quoting Mrs. Scales as saying "The only thing I care about is getting my family back in one piece," the newspaper columnist goes on to say, "It seems to me that the President of the United States has a connection with the Attorney General which should make that possible by Christmas."

Lastly, representative of the "third world" is Luis Taruc, former leader of the Filipino Huk, who like Junius Scales has long since formally abandoned his Communist views. Following an exchange of correspondence with the Philippine Embassy in London, AMNESTY is acting on their suggestion to send a formal petition addressed to the President of the Republic of the Philippines. As in the case of Archbishop Beran and Junius Scales, this also asks the Head of State to exercise his power of clemency in time for Christmas.