

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
MOVEMENT
FOR FREEDOM OF OPINION
AND RELIGION
ANNUAL REPORT**

JUNE 1, 1965 - MAY 31, 1966

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THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

is supported entirely by the subscriptions of its members and the donations of its supporters. It is independent and impartial in its endeavour to bring hope and release to all those who are persecuted for their beliefs.

Among those who support AMNESTY's appeal for funds to carry out its work are:

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Great Britain · Roger Baldwin, President of the International League for the Rights of Man, U.S.A. · Pablo Casals, Puerto Rico · Danilo Dolci, Sicily · Professor Erich Fromm, New York and Mexico · Lt.-Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, Great Britain · J-F. Lalive, Switzerland · Professor Salvador de Madariaga, Spain · Yehudi Menuhin, Great Britain · Professor Gunnar Myrdal, Sweden · Pablo Neruda, Chile · Professor Robert Oppenheimer, U.S.A. · Alan Paton, South Africa · Abbe Dominique Pire, Nobel Prize winner, Belgium · Mr. Walter Reuther, International President of the United Automobile Workers, U.S.A. · Sean MacBride, S.C., Secretary General of the International Commission of Jurists · Professor Z. K. Matthews, South Africa · Philip Noel-Baker, M.P., Nobel Prize winner, Great Britain · Professor Giorgio La Pira, Mayor of Florence, Italy · Professor Julius Stone, Australia.

Funds are held in Britain under the terms of 'The Prisoner of Conscience Trust', of which the trustees are representatives of the principal religious denominations and political parties. Rt. Rev. The Bishop of Birmingham (Anglican), Professor Ritchie Calder (Humanist); Ian Gilmour, M.P. (Conservative) The Rev. Dr. I. Grunfeld (Jewish); Lord Sainsbury (Labour) Dr. Ernest Payne (Baptist); The Most Rev. Archbishop Roberts, S.J. (Roman Catholic); Jeremy Thorpe, M.P. (Liberal).

Donations made to 'The Prisoners of Conscience Fund' by way of covenant rank for recovery of income tax at the standard U.K. rate by the Fund as it is a registered charity.

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Article 18. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19. Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

OBJECTS OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

The AMNESTY movement is composed of peoples of all nationalities, politics, religions and social views who are determined to work together in defence of freedom of the mind.

The spread of dictatorship, the tensions that have resulted from the Cold War, and the increasing cleavage between races of different colour, have combined to make state persecution of the individual the gravest social problem of the 1960's.

The principal object of AMNESTY is to mobilise public opinion in defence of those men and women who are imprisoned because their ideas are unacceptable to their governments. It has been formed so that there should be some central, international organisation capable of concentrating efforts to secure the release of these 'Prisoners of Conscience', and to secure world-wide recognition of Articles 18 and 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Essentially an impartial organisation as regards religion and politics, it aims at uniting groups in different countries working towards the same end - the freedom and dignity of the human mind.

The method by which the AMNESTY movement focuses attention on those imprisoned in violation of Articles 18 and 19 of the Universal Declaration, is that of 'adoption'. Members of the movement in different countries form themselves into Groups willing to adopt these 'Prisoners of Conscience', one from the East, one from the West, and one from the Third World. The Group uses every endeavour to induce the three governments involved to release these 'adopted' prisoners, and in the meantime works to improve their conditions and to relieve any financial distress among their dependants.

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INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT REPORT

1ST JUNE, 1965 - 31ST MAY, 1966

INTRODUCTION

Every day a prison gate somewhere opens and a 'Prisoner of Conscience' steps into what may be very temporary freedom, perhaps only half-freedom, if his relief is dependent on keeping silent about his beliefs. Every day, too, a 'restriction' or 'labour' camp somewhere else gains a new inmate. How can one strike a balance between the release of all but 7 of the more than 80 Greek Communists held under Law 375 and a vast extension of 'detentions' in Rhodesia, between an amnesty in Yugoslavia for more than 200 political prisoners and the Siniavsky/Daniel trial which seemed expressly designed to shock even Communist sympathisers in the West? The success of AMNESTY's work has imposed on it in the past year new responsibilities. For the first time we have sent volunteers overseas to take part in the actual distribution of relief as well as sending observers to trials and making representations to Governments.

Every International Secretariat initiative depends for its chances of success on the patient preparatory work of Groups and individual members. It is comparatively easy (except, alas, in terms of finance) to send an observer to a trial or to investigate the situation in a particular country. What is less easy is to ensure that the AMNESTY observer's report receives full and favourable publicity or that the Government concerned pays real attention to discreet representations. AMNESTY's effectiveness depends on its image as a genuinely impartial organisation which commands the support of thousands of people in all countries who believe in Human Rights and the dignity of Man.

Every time a Group or individual member writes to an Embassy or a Ministry of Justice not in hysterical or denunciatory terms but quietly, calmly and sincerely the name of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL becomes better known and its objectives better understood. There may be no reply—but a climate of opinion is being created in which AMNESTY's more spectacular initiatives have a better chance of success. Sometimes Groups with particularly difficult cases whose work seems to evoke almost no response from the imprisoning government may wonder if they are achieving anything. If they are helping to establish AMNESTY's genuine impartiality their work is not in vain. When their local newspaper readers and

their own personal friends, even if they don't become members of AMNESTY, have come to understand AMNESTY's work, then, AMNESTY's reports on crisis-situations are more likely to receive wide acceptance.

In this sense, then, all AMNESTY's members can take credit not only for their work for their own individual cases but for a share in the International Executive's larger-scale initiatives. When Peter Benenson visited Canada this year a newspaper spoke of AMNESTY as a 'network of concern'. This is what it should be. Even if the limitations on our terms of reference, which we willingly accept so as to make our practical work more effective, sometimes prevent us taking as much positive action, for example, in Vietnam, as we would wish, we can indirectly help by creating a climate of opinion in which the basic Human Rights are recognised as the supreme value. It is no accident that many of our members are active in other social or in political movements. This is as it should be. Once a person begins to care about his fellow human beings it is not easy to fix boundaries to his concern.

INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

The International Secretariat continues to share premises and many common services with the British Section. Several National Sections have increased their donations to the International Secretariat but our work has also continued to expand. The International Secretariat's co-operation with the British Section is not based on too strictly formal a division of work. The same spirit animates the full-time, part-time and volunteer workers of both sections and concern for 'Prisoners of Conscience' is the animating force. The International Secretariat on occasions requests the British Section to take special initiatives in matters affecting the British Government in British Guiana and Aden, and has provided speakers for meetings of British Groups and for seminars arranged by the United Nations Association and other organisations.

One of the most useful developments of the past year has been the increasing use of independent initiatives by National Sections other than the British. The German Section, for example, was especially active in Iranian cases and the Swedish Section plan to send a member of their National Executive to Aden and to make a substantial contribution towards the expenses of this mission. There is no doubt that every Secretariat-inspired campaign largely depends for its success on pressure from as wide a variety of countries as possible. We hope that the long-awaited establishment of an American Section will do much to enhance our international influence.

The establishment of the American Section follows the visit of Peter Benenson in April to the United States and to Canada. He addressed successful meetings at Freedom House in New York and in Washington. A wide range of organisations was represented, including spokesmen for Eastern European exile groups, organisers of relief for Spanish republican exiles and people in South African affairs. Mr. Michael Straight has agreed to be Hon. Chairman of the newly-established Section.

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE

The International Executive, elected at the 1965 International Assembly held at Scheveningen on 25th and 26th September, consists of one member from each of the language groups represented in the movement. At present the members are Sean MacBride (Chairman), Hans Göran Franck, Nicolas Jacob, Cornelis van der Vlies and Hajo Wandschneider; Peter Benenson (President), Robert Swann (General Secretary) and Martin Enthoven (Executive Secretary) are *ex-officio* members.

The Executive held two meetings during the year, at Scheveningen during the Assembly and in London in March, 1966. A Standing Orders Committee also met in London in June to draw up standing orders and to prepare the agenda for the 1966 International Assembly in Copenhagen.

INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The comparatively small but enthusiastic Dutch Section were hosts to the International Assembly in the pleasant seaside resort of Scheveningen on 25th and 26th September. More than 100 delegates and observers passed (among others) resolutions establishing a 'Central Emergency Fund' to finance emergency missions in cases where the death sentence is likely, requesting the United Nations to help secure an improvement of human rights and freedoms in Rhodesia and asking the Council of Europe to include on the agenda of its Consultative Assembly a proposal for the addition to the European Convention on Human Rights of a protocol defining the rights of conscientious objectors to military service.

One of the most interesting discussions in committee was on what AMNESTY could do in situations like that in Vietnam. It was felt that AMNESTY's image might be blurred and its practical effectiveness diminished if it attempted to establish, for example, a register of alleged breaches of the Declaration of Human Rights and of the Geneva Convention. On the other hand, individual members were encouraged to work through other organisations to ensure that the principles of the Geneva Convention were respected in Vietnam.

and elsewhere. One of the problems at the moment is that technically the Vietnamese War is a 'civil' war and hence the belligerents are not bound by the Geneva Conventions.

The assembly heard reports on Persia by Dr. Hajo Wandschneider of the German Section, on Greece by Mrs. Eleanor Aitken, on South Africa by Bridget Mellor, on five Latin American countries by Niels Groth, on Portugal by Ian Macdonald and on Eastern Europe by Bruce Laird. Most of the speakers had only recently returned from the countries they were discussing.

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE LIBRARY

The 'Library' includes all those departments of the Secretariat engaged in cataloguing details of individual Prisoners of Conscience. It not only aims to serve the needs and interests of Amnesty Groups and members, but also to record all cases of persons detained for reasons of conscience in any country.

The Departments of the 'Library' are:

(i) *The Prisoner of Conscience Register.*

There are 6,000 registered Prisoners of Conscience in the world; 1,500 of these are adopted by Amnesty Groups. Among 6,000 released prisoners, 1,000 were adopted. This Register is available to any person, organisation or newspaper, interested in the problem of Prisoners of Conscience or other forms of persecution.

(ii) *The Investigation Department.*

This is the main work unit of the Library, which ensures the collection and analysis of press items and specific documents concerning Prisoners of Conscience. This Department also compiles Case-sheets, Information Sheets, lists of prisoners, the monthly Newsletter to Kit Scheme members and memoranda concerning prisoners. In the first six months of 1966, 600 Case-sheets were sent out to Groups. The collection of information on prisoners is from press material in part, but mostly from a network of contacts, including international organisations, opposition or exile groups, prisoners' families or friends and, on occasion, from prisoners themselves. The memoranda are specifically destined for investigators sent by AMNESTY or by other friendly organisations, observers at trials and for journalists.

(iii) *The Press Library.*

The volume of newspapers and specialist reviews regularly read, then cut or filed, is steadily increasing. Fifteen international daily newspapers a day, and 150 periodicals a week, in different languages, are absorbed by this Department. A recent development has been the establishment of press agents in various parts of the world, where there are Prisoners of Conscience.

(iv) *Research Bureau.*

Its function is to prepare and revise Background Papers for the guidance of Groups adopting prisoners, to compile lists of names and addresses of relevant Ministers and authorities to be approached by Groups and to supervise the general background information available to the movement.

(v) *The Book and Photograph Libraries.*

Both these units are in their infancy, but aim to collect books for, about and by Prisoners of Conscience, and photographs of prisoners and their families.

All this might suggest a large and experienced staff of librarians and research workers, so it is well to remember that 80% of those working in and for the Library are non-paid volunteers, to whom we must remain grateful for the hours devoted to the detailed work required. While volunteer assistance can often introduce elements of inconsistency and inexperience, we have nevertheless witnessed over the year an increased specialisation and thoroughness of research so important to an organisation working in the specific field of Human Rights. The Investigation Department can today boast an Eastern European Section, a Middle Eastern Section, a Central Asian Section, a Far Eastern Section, Portuguese and Spanish Sections, a Latin American Section and an African Section. In each of these Sections, a team of research workers, consisting of both full-time staff and volunteers, investigates the situation of Prisoners of Conscience in each specific country.

As the movement of AMNESTY spreads throughout the world, the Library will need increasing support—both practical and financial—if it is to serve adequately those working on behalf of prisoners. It is for this reason that we welcomed in May, 1966, the first volunteer, designated and partly financed by the Swedish Section, to come to work in the Library from a specific National Section. Bengt Albons is already making a really valuable contribution and we hope that his stay with us will be a happy one and that when he leaves someone else from Sweden may take his place on South African work.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has been immensely fortunate in having Andrew Mann as Head of the Investigation Department. His enthusiasm and his invaluable flair for finding contacts in the most 'difficult' countries have been largely responsible for the tremendous growth in AMNESTY's background knowledge. His insistence on really detailed case-sheets for Groups has made their work much easier and more efficient. We are sure that in Paris, where he will be resuming his studies at the Sorbonne, he will continue to be a tower of strength to AMNESTY.

PUBLICATIONS

Apart from the Annual Report AMNESTY's regular publications are the *International Bulletin* published quarterly in February, May, August and November, and the *Newsheet for Groups* which also appears quarterly between issues of the Bulletin. The Bulletin is sent to all members who subscribe £2 a year and to Kit members. Members paying £1 a year receive a copy of the Annual Report. The Newsheet is stencilled and is specially intended for Groups. It gives the latest developments in countries where Amnesty Groups have adopted prisoners and advice on tactics in particular situations.

The publication of reports on prison conditions in South Africa, Portugal and Rumania attracted considerable attention. We noticed with interest, but without surprise, that many Governments quoted with approval from our reports where they criticised Governments of a different ideology but were remarkably silent about their 'allies'. The greatest care was taken to ensure that the language of these reports should be as factual and unemotional as possible. At the meeting of the Committee on Periodic Reports of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in February 1966 the United States delegate singled out the reports from AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL and described them as 'especially heartening because, by selecting examples of infringements of human rights in countries with widely differing political and social systems, the organisation has demonstrated genuine objectivity'. The United Kingdom delegate also referred favourably to the reports and regretted that the Rumanian and Portuguese Governments had not thought fit to file a report of their own.

This year's reports on East Germany, Rhodesia and Paraguay are now in the final stages of preparation. No less than three observers were sent either to West or to East Germany and one observer each to Rhodesia and to Paraguay. We believe that these reports will attract even more attention than in 1965.

OBSERVERS' AND DELEGATES' MISSIONS

In previous years the majority of delegates' missions have been dictated by the need to increase knowledge about the numbers and names of prisoners suitable for adoption. In 1965/6 the main emphasis was on attendance at trials and the making of representations to governments. There are two main objects in asking a lawyer to attend a trial as an observer. First, the mere presence of a lawyer from a reputable and genuinely impartial organisation may cause the judicial authorities to hesitate in imposing harsh sentences or sweeping aside the legal rights of the accused. Secondly, a detailed report by an observer may bring to light errors in judicial procedure

or blatant bias on the part of the court. This enables AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL to enlighten the press and other interested organisations and provides the basis for reasoned representations.

In sending a delegate to make representations to a Government it is essential that the ground should have been prepared by patient, persistent and reasoning letters from AMNESTY Groups with prisoners in the country concerned. The choice of delegate is also vital since a Government may think, for example, that it has reason to distrust the bona fides of a delegate from what may be the former colonial power or from a country on opposite sides in the 'Cold War'. The International Secretariat is particularly anxious to make more use of observers and delegates from countries other than the United Kingdom. One of the problems, of course, is that it is frequently essential to send an observer at very short notice indeed and it is difficult to make the necessary arrangements with comparatively distant capitals. We are immensely grateful to the delegates and observers who frequently undertook missions which involved considerable financial sacrifice.

In addition to valuable information brought back by individual AMNESTY members travelling abroad and acting more or less informally, Ben Whitaker, M.P., went to Rhodesia (twice); Louis Blom-Cooper and Dr. Hans Heldmann attended the trial of students in Teheran; Morris Finer, Q.C., wrote a report on certain arrests in Greece; Lord Gifford had extensive discussions with Hungarian lawyers and Government authorities; Peter Archer, M.P., had depressing news of the probability of torture in Egyptian political cases; Lord Reay was in Ghana to make representations on behalf of detainees just at the moment when President Nkrumah was overthrown and attended a United Nations Seminar on Human Rights at Dakar; Sir Learie Constantine went to Nigeria after the *coup d'état* and David Stephens had the honour of being taken into custody by the P.I.D.E. (Portuguese Secret Police) while attending a trial of prisoners from Portuguese Africa.

THE KIT SCHEME

Originally devised and launched in May, 1965, to meet the developing interest in the U.S.A., this Scheme has had considerable success in many countries, both where there are established National Sections, and, more encouragingly, in countries where AMNESTY had previously made little headway.

In 12 months, the membership of the Kit Scheme has risen to 500.

The particular attraction of the Scheme is that it has enabled individual persons, unable both through lack of time or from isolation to join an AMNESTY Group adopting prisoners, neverthe-

less to play an active role in the movement. Indeed, this Scheme reproduces in miniature the working of an adoption-Group. The Kit consists of a cardboard container, which holds a hand-book and 36 cards (33 AMNESTY greeting-cards and 3 AMNESTY Christmas cards). The hand-book gives guidance on the type of message which should be written on the cards, according to the country and the person to whom they are addressed—Head of State, Minister, prisoner's family or prisoner. Short political histories of some 30 countries are included in the hand-book, and these are constantly revised and brought up to date, while new countries are added to their number.

Each month the Investigation Department compiles a Newsletter, giving the details of three topical cases, where immediate card-writing is thought likely to be effective. This Newsletter is dispatched by the Secretariat to all Kit members.

The net result is that 3 prisoners a month receive or have sent on their behalf 300-500 cards. The encouragement to the prisoner, if he is allowed to receive the cards, is obvious, while Governments must surely pay attention to the quantity and diversity of the appeals.

The Kit Scheme is available to all full members of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, at a small extra charge, and has proved to be the simplest and often most satisfying way of taking part in the movement.

Since May 1965, prisoners detained in the following countries have been selected for the Kit Scheme: South Africa (3 times), Yugoslavia (twice), Spain (twice), Rhodesia, India (twice), Hungary (twice), Brazil (twice), Cuba, Algeria, Mozambique, Guinea, U.S.S.R. (3 times), Taiwan (Formosa), Greece, Muscat and Oman, Rumania (twice), Turkey (twice), Iran, Tanzania, Portugal, East Germany, Colombia, West Germany, Malaysia, Poland, British Guiana (Guyana) and Burma.

While several prisoners have been able to answer many of the cards addressed to them and several Governments have answered more or less favourably, we are happy to report that in 12 months 7 of those prisoners selected for this Scheme have subsequently been released.

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE OF 1965

At the time of writing the Prisoner of Conscience of 1965, Koumandian Keita, a leader of the Schoolteachers Union in Guinea, has not been released. Some National Sections have been particularly active on his behalf and have managed to enlist the support of their National Unions of Teachers. In other countries we have

been a little disappointed at an apparent lack of professional solidarity and sympathy. Perhaps Guinea seems far away and they do not fully realise the value of living in a country where the rule of law prevails.

At the Copenhagen Assembly AMNESTY will be choosing a Prisoner of Conscience from a Communist country. The establishment of special committees within National Sections to work for the Prisoner of Conscience of 1966 will also be proposed by the Norwegian Section.

RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL has been represented in New York at the United Nations Headquarters by Alan Kalker, who has been particularly active and effective. We have also been represented at meetings in the Palais des Nations in Geneva by members of the Geneva Group. Peter Benenson has added to his many interests the establishment of Human Rights Advisory Service designed to give assistance to persons wishing to bring cases before the European Court at Strasbourg. Both he and Sean MacBride have had invaluable contacts at meetings of non-governmental organisations in Strasbourg, Geneva and Paris.

Elizabeth Gordon visited Geneva where she stayed with Hilary Cartwright, a member of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL at present working for the International Commission of Jurists. She discussed common problems with the International Red Cross, the Headquarters of the United Nations Association, the Ecumenical Patriarchate as well as the International Commission of Jurists.

We cannot possibly list the enormous variety of political, religious, welfare and relief organisations who give us information and with whom we co-operate on specific issues. We should however mention the encouragement we receive from the regular information and support given by the I.C.F.T.U. (International Confederation of Free Trades Unions), the I.S.C. (International Student Conference) and the I.P.I. (International Press Institute).

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL's work has on several occasions been confused with that of different organisations with a somewhat similar title, as, for example, the Appeal for Amnesty in Spain. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL cannot work in direct association with any group with specific political or denominational affiliations. We are always grateful when such organisations give us information and can frequently co-operate informally for limited objectives. In this connection we record increasing contacts with some Communist orientated organisations.

INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL continues to give active support to the project for the establishment of a United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the lines of the present United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In December 1965 the Third Committee of the General Assembly considered a resolution submitted by Costa Rica asking the Human Rights Commission to give priority to its report on the feasibility of the project. Unfortunately, the request for priority met with some opposition and the proposal was remitted to the Human Rights Commission without any recommendation about priority.

However, to AMNESTY's gratification, the U.N. Human Rights Commission accepted by 13 votes to 4 a resolution calling upon the Commission to study the feasibility and cost of establishing a High Commissioner and to report back at the next session.

The AMNESTY sponsored resolution to suspend and finally abolish capital punishment for peace-time political offences was not formally presented to the General Assembly but it was discussed with several delegations by Alan Kalker, AMNESTY's representative at the United Nations. We are hoping that Scandinavian Governments can be persuaded by AMNESTY Sections jointly to support the resolution or a modified version of it. We gather that many countries that would be opposed to the complete abolition of capital punishment for political offences might be willing to support the idea of a six months suspension of execution after judgement.

The acceptance by the United Kingdom of the right of individual citizens to bring cases before the European Court at Strasbourg is particularly gratifying.

COUNTRIES IN WHICH AMNESTY HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY ACTIVE

RHODESIA

AMNESTY's special connection with Rhodesia has developed steadily since January 1965, when representatives of the Legal Aid and Welfare Committee in Salisbury visited London and asked AMNESTY's help in finding a volunteer to help in relief work. With generous financial assistance from an AMNESTY supporter, Hugh Vodden was able to work in Rhodesia from February to September, 1965. His help both in distributing relief to the families of restrictees, as Secretary of the Legal Aid organisation, and in the field of prison education was invaluable and the deep respect he had won made the work of subsequent volunteers infinitely easier.

When in November 1965 the Smith regime made its illegal Declaration of Independence AMNESTY was already planning to

send out a replacement for Hugh Vodden in January 1966. Ben Whitaker, a London barrister, twice visited Rhodesia, once on behalf of Leo Baron, a white solicitor for African nationalists who had been detained by the Smith regime, and once through funds donated by David Astor, editor of *The Observer*. His reports indicated that AMNESTY should try to extend its work in Rhodesia to meet the increasing need for relief work following widespread detentions. The World Council of Churches also asked us to send volunteers to help the Christian Council of Rhodesia which has largely taken over relief work from Legal Aid and Welfare. The World Council of Churches have paid the fares and living expenses of volunteers.

In January 1966 an AMNESTY team went to Rhodesia to help in distribution of relief from offices in Salisbury and Bulawayo. The original team and subsequent volunteers have managed to do invaluable work despite harassment by the Smith regime. This usually takes the form of refusing a work permit, though the volunteers are receiving only board-and-lodging and no money at all from Rhodesian sources. The eventual aim has been the establishment of offices manned entirely by Rhodesians and this has already been achieved in Salisbury. Meanwhile AMNESTY volunteers have helped in the distribution of several thousand pounds from the World Council of Churches, from AMNESTY Groups and from special donations earmarked for Rhodesian relief. Some Groups have given special help to a Rhodesian family in addition to their regular adoptions.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL published in February a report to the Heads of Commonwealth Countries on Human Rights in Rhodesia which received considerable publicity. As arranged at the Scheveningen Assembly one of this year's reports on political imprisonment deals with Rhodesia.

GREECE

Mrs. Eleanor Aitken's detailed report on her visit to Greece persuaded AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL to re-adopt more than 80 Greek Communist prisoners held under Law 375. A vigorous campaign was waged on their behalf and a special effort was made when King Constantine visited England. Amongst those who addressed appeals to the King was Sir Brian Horrocks who had commanded British troops during the liberation of Greece.

The King was especially requested not to hold up an amnesty law originally submitted by the Papandreou Government. Despite the clash between the King and Papandreou which followed the latter's dismissal the King was eventually persuaded, not only to

sign, but also to authorise subsequent releases. One of the best known Greek prisoners, Spyros Kotsakis, was one of the Card Scheme's Prisoners of the Month; he was subsequently released. At the time of writing only 7 prisoners are still held under Law 375.

It is perhaps worth mentioning that Morris Finer, Q.C., a London barrister with special Greek interests, went to Greece in connection with incidents following the dismissal of the Papandreu government. His report suggested that those arrested had been involved in violence and should not be 'adopted'. AMNESTY does not blindly assume that Governments can do nothing right and prisoners nothing wrong.

EASTERN EUROPE

The post-Kruschev period in the Soviet Union has clearly been one of internal conflict in which the harsh or lenient treatment of non-violent critics of the regime has largely depended on power struggles within the Soviet hierarchy. In October 1965 AMNESTY took up the case of Zhenya Belov, a student who had been placed in a mental asylum as an alleged schizophrenic because, although an enthusiastic Communist, he had criticised certain aspects of the regime and had written to party authorities. The case came to AMNESTY's attention through four British student friends of Belov and attracted a good deal of attention because it recalled the accounts of asylum life given in Valery Tarsis' *Ward 7*. The custom of declaring political opponents 'insane' was in fact current in Tsarist days. Although it has not been possible to secure Belov's release, attention has been drawn to a particularly unattractive feature of political repression in the Soviet Union.

Even greater attention was given to the cases of Andrei Siniavsky and Yuli Daniel though it was unfortunate that these cases were widely exploited for Cold War purposes. AMNESTY put Daniel on the Card Scheme in December 1965 before his trial. Our main objective was to try to prevent the trial taking place at all as once it had taken place the verdict was almost inevitable. Distressing though this trial was, it is perhaps encouraging that the two writers did not appear to have been intimidated and were at least able to make a courageous defence in open court.

In April 1965 Lord Gifford visited Hungary and his reception by the Hungarian Lawyers' Association and by the Ministry of Justice showed a far wider understanding of AMNESTY's genuinely impartial role. It must, however, be said that the Hungarian authorities have not yet carried out their promise to give specific answers to questions about individual cases submitted in writing by Lord Gifford.

We decided to withdraw from adoption certain Yugoslav prisoners who had almost certainly been associated with violence. While our Research Bureau do their utmost to avoid sending out cases that later have to be withdrawn, there will inevitably be a very few mistakes of this nature largely caused by the reluctance of certain Governments to give us accurate information. At the time of writing there has just been a report of an extensive amnesty affecting amongst others more than 200 political prisoners.

IRAN

In 1964-1965 two AMNESTY observers, one, an English journalist, and the other, Dr. Hajo Wandschneider of the German Section, had visited Teheran to report on conditions in Iran and in particular on the circumstances surrounding the trial of 6 students and others charged with complicity in an attempt to assassinate the Shah at his Marble Palace in April 1965.

In October 1965 Louis Blom-Cooper, the London barrister and author, attended their trial before a military tribunal. His report and widely publicised articles in *The Observer* and *The Guardian* stressed the inherent unfairness of bringing such a case before a Military Court as well as judicial errors in procedure. He deliberately refrained from raising the issue of torture though there was unfortunately some evidence for this. Peter Benenson made public a letter to U Thant.

In November Dr. Hans Heldman of Munich attended the appeal at which Parviz Nikkah, the intellectual leader of the student group, was sentenced to 10 years instead of life imprisonment. Two other death sentences were, however, confirmed.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL felt that one of the men sentenced to death could not be 'adopted' as he had certainly had knowledge of violence but that we should support a campaign for the commutation of the death sentence in both cases. Dr. Wandschneider appeared on German television and in London a Parliamentary deputation of all 3 parties and both Houses saw the Counsellor of the Persian Embassy.

On Christmas Eve the Shah announced a reprieve for the two men and was immediately congratulated on his decision by AMNESTY. Subsequently, AMNESTY has followed three further trials with close interest. In two cases AMNESTY did not feel able to 'adopt' the cases (in one case there was a certainty, in the other a strong possibility of violence) but did ask for three death sentences to be commuted. One reprieve has been granted, the other two are under consideration. In the third case, that of Dr. Maleki of the Persian Socialist Party, AMNESTY proposes to adopt the prisoner.

BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA)

The decision to grant British Guiana independence as Guyana in March 1966 caused Groups which had adopted detainees in the colony to redouble their efforts to secure their release. The British Colonial Office and Mr. Forbes Burnham's Government in Georgetown claimed that all the detainees had been associated with terrorism but declined to produce any evidence.

The British Section and the British Parliamentary Group went on two deputations to the Colonial Office in an unsuccessful attempt to force the authorities to reveal the alleged evidence for accusing the detainees of terrorist activities or intentions. When the Guyana Independence Bill came up for debate AMNESTY played a large part in briefing the Members of Parliament, who opposed the Second Reading of the Independence Bill on the grounds that it was unprecedented to grant independence to a colony in which detainees were being held without trial. Two lengthy debates in the House of Commons showed the extent of feeling on this issue.

Though there was no official change of policy either in London or in Georgetown, four of the remaining detainees were released on the eve of the independence celebrations and the rest within one month of independence being granted. There can be no doubt that AMNESTY, through its direct and indirect work, played a large part in bringing about this gratifying conclusion.

FINANCE

The International Secretariat's income for 1965/66 was just under £7,000 of which £3,800 came from National and Regional Sections, £800 from individual members including Kit Scheme members and about £2,300 from Foundations and other organisations. It would have been impossible to balance the Secretariat's budget if certain salaries and other expenses had not been paid by the British Section and if the Prisoner of Conscience Fund had not made a contribution towards the cost of work in the library. There is no doubt that the lack of International Secretariat financial resources is the main obstacle to further development of the movement's work.

RELIEF

The separately administered Prisoner of Conscience Fund has continued to carry out the major part of the movement's general relief work, as distinct from financial help provided by AMNESTY Groups in individual cases. A special grant of £100 was made for the relief of released Ghanaian ex-detainees through the Christian Council of Ghana and medicine was subsequently sent by the

British Section. Several further Groups have decided to support additional families of prisoners as well as those of their adopted prisoners.

STAFF

The full-time staff members were: *International Secretariat*—Robert Swan, General Secretary; Martin Enthoven, Executive Secretary; Stella Sweetman, Secretary. *Library and Investigation Department*—Andre Mann, Head of Invest. Dept.; Bruce Laird, Eastern Europe and West Germany; Maureen Teitelbaum, Portugal/Latin America; Marlys Deeds, Rhodesia, Malawi, Uganda; Elizabeth Gordon, India, Pakistan, background papers.

In addition numerous volunteers dealt with particular countries, language translations and press cuttings. We are enormously grateful to them and hope they will forgive us for not mentioning them individually by name. Without them the movement would be quite unable to undertake its present wide range of work.

AUSTRALIA

New South Wales

Lincoln Oppenheimer, 522 Old South Head Road, Rose Bay, N.S.W., Australia.

The appearance of the article on AMNESTY in the November issue of the Australasian edition of the *Readers Digest* was backed by radio and television programmes and resulted in a flood of enquiries and many new members and Groups, particularly in Queensland. The turnover of prisoners has been gratifyingly rapid and we have reliable evidence that individuals in a number of countries, including South Africa, East Germany and Spain, have benefited from our pleas to governments on their behalf.

In accordance with the resolution at the Annual General Meeting of the Branch in 1965, at each of our quarterly meetings a paper was read on Civil Liberties in one of the South East Asian Nations; members had the opportunity to question the speakers who were experts in their respective fields. Mr. Ferrar gave a very optimistic account of the Philippines. Mr. Varughese, who had spent some two years teaching in Sabah, pointed out the problems of a very peaceable and conservative people in the Borneo States of Malaysia coping with Confrontation. His report of the resistance by local farmers to 'education' highlighted a universal problem facing any free society undergoing a crash development programme. Mr. Lupton gave a masterly analysis of the problems facing South Africa.

Queensland

Mrs. Mary Burnell, 59 James Street, Toowoomba.

Following the publication of the Australasian edition of the *Readers Digest* carrying the article on AMNESTY, a number of enquiries reached the headquarters of the New South Wales branch. With the help of the N.S.W. Section, two Groups were formed in Queensland, the first Groups ever to be established in this state.

Mrs. Burnell has spoken to a number of organisations, one of her talks resulting in the formation of the second Group. There has been good TV, radio and press coverage.

South Australia

Ian Brown, 42a Davenport Terrace, Wayville, South Australia.

Growth this year has been steady rather than spectacular, hindered by a considerable turnover of office-bearers.

The Adelaide Group still meets at the University but more frequently than before and the new Group at Eden Hills (a suburb of Adelaide) is flourishing.

Wilderness School merges its United Nations Association and AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL activities with great success. The three groups co-operate in publishing a quarterly Bulletin which passes news on AMNESTY matters to all members and includes regular prisoner reports for London.

At a United Nations Association function for Human Rights Day, three members gave brief talks on AMNESTY which resulted in some enquiries.

Further publicity came from the Christmas card campaign which was successful despite the unavoidably late start. Replies were received from two prisoners.

A non-denominational ceremony is planned for Human Rights Day this year, for the first time in South Australia. Plans are in hand for TV coverage by A.B.C.

A new publicity leaflet is shortly going to be printed. Sections in other states have been invited to share in the project so that a start can be made in introducing inter-section co-operation in this and other fields.

Tasmania

Mrs. Bertha Rolls, 194 Waterworks Road, Hobart.

A great many letters have been written during the past year on behalf of adopted prisoners, one of whom is Koumandian Keita of Guinea, the 'Prisoner of Conscience of 1965' who has been under adoption by the Hobart Group for the past two years.

Financial support has been given to the Hobart Group's South African prisoner and also to their released Greek prisoner. In

addition appeals have been made on behalf of U Nu's cabinet, imprisoned in Burma.

There has been good press coverage, particularly of the Human Rights Day Ceremony and of a painting display, arranged in order to publicise the work of AMNESTY and the imprisonment of Koumandian Keita. A talk has been given by Mrs. Rolls to the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

In March a second Tasmanian Group was formed at Launceston.

Victoria

Mrs. Clare Wositzky, Driffield Crescent, Sassafras, Victoria.

Fifteen members in scattered country areas are participating in the Card Scheme and membership of the ten groups operating in Victoria has become more settled and established during the year. There is now better liaison with the two groups operating at the University. The number of prisoners dealt with at present is 36, and in addition 12 prisoners on the files have been released during the year.

The most encouraging aspect of the releases has been the subsequent contact with the prisoners, and in the case of Jan Stefanides of Yugoslavia, the members experienced the exciting satisfaction of a personal meeting with him in Melbourne. After serving four years of his sentence on Goli Otok Island, he was released and was able to join his family here, when he confirmed that he had gained his freedom as a direct result of our representations to the authorities.

A letter received recently from the niece of a Hungarian priest stated that a relation had been allowed to visit him for the first time for 18 months at Easter time and that the family believed this concession to be as a result of our many letters to the authorities—about 400 were sent. Letters have been published in the *Australian* and *The Age* about the Rhodesian situation and referring to our prisoners there, and another in the *Australian* about one of our Portuguese prisoners, Louis Carvalho. Three daily papers ran the story about Natalia David's continued detention in Portugal even though her sentence has expired.

The two members of the study committee on the situation of the Aborigines completed their task and the report was published early this year. It received much publicity in the press and on the radio, and there has been great demand for copies from interested bodies; only a few of the 350 copies printed now remain. The executive has since drawn up the basis for AMNESTY action in the case of Aborigines.

A donation of 350 dozen Christmas Cards were sold this year, co-operation in distribution being received from all States in Australia. £69 sent to prisoners, £57 sent to Library Fund, London.

BELGIUM

Dr. Herman Todts, Van Notenstr. 18, Duerne-Z-Antwerpen. The Belgian Section continues to work actively on behalf of its prisoners in Spain, Cuba and Colombia. The Colombian prisoner was put on the Card Scheme and replied to a number of members who sent cards to him.

The Section was represented at the International Assembly at Scheveningen by Dr. Herman Todts and Maitre Kiebooms.

Dr. Todts also attended the Meeting in Strasbourg of all organisations in Europe, having consultative status with the Council of Europe, concerned with Human Rights, which was held on 'Europe Day', 5th May.

BRITAIN

12 Crane Court, Fleet Street, London, E.C.4.

POLICY OF THE BRITISH SECTION

It was clear during the year that certain issues on an international level should be the especial concern of the British Section. This policy was anticipated in the British Section's resolution to the International Executive in September 1965, which called upon the member states of the Council of Europe to grant the right of conscientious objection to military service. It then became increasingly apparent that initiatives could be taken on issues where the British Government was involved, notably concerning the detainees in British Guiana (now Guyana). Representation was made at the time when the British Guiana Independence Bill was debated in Parliament. Representations have also been made to the Government about prison conditions and detainees in Aden. Letters have been exchanged with a Legislative Assembly member of W. Irian-Papua concerning the plight of refugees crossing the border.

PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

This is a major step in developing the wider policy of the British Section. It was realised that more effective action could be taken by forming a Group of Members of Parliament interested in the work of AMNESTY. The idea was launched last autumn when members from all parties became the spear-point for action. They are asked to raise points informally with Ministers and to put down questions in the House and take action in conjunction with Head Office in London. This involves much consultation and to ensure smooth co-operation, a Liaison Officer has been appointed. Already this Group has done extremely valuable work in connection with Guyana.

GROUP WORK AND MEMBERSHIP

Prisoners from 69 countries are being cared for by 189 Threes Groups in Britain. During the year 23 Groups have been disbanded and 22 new Groups have been formed. We estimate that there are 1,900 individual members, a slight increase during the year, but it is difficult to give an accurate figure as the London office had a burglary in March and many records were stolen. 200 members also belong to the Card Kit Scheme, launched last summer. A stimulus to join the scheme came in October when the Belov case hit the headlines and brought enquiries flooding into the office from people who wanted to help. These were enlisted to send cards on behalf of Belov and this led many to take up Kit membership.

FINANCE

The Section depends largely on the annual membership subscriptions, donations and the annual contribution from the Threes Groups. But there have also been other money raising efforts. A good profit was derived from the raffle, but the outstanding contribution of the year was made by a small Group in Knightsbridge. With inspiration and hard work, they ran a highly successful Art Sale which resulted in the magnificent profit of £2,750. Hundreds of artists were asked to help and thousands of invitations sent out. The Shrewsbury Group raised £300 for prisoners to be distributed at the discretion of head office.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

This was the fifth annual ceremony at which the AMNESTY candle was lit in honour of a Prisoner of Conscience selected to symbolise all those held in prison for their beliefs. The prisoner for 1965 was Koumandian Keita, a teacher in Guinea. This year's ceremony was held in Church House, Westminster, London, and was attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Chancellor. A selection of readings from the documents and letters written by and about prisoners, entitled 'Out of Prison', was read by five well-known actors. The anthology was divided into four sections, Injustice, Comfort, Suffering and Hope, with music between each section. This was a quiet but moving occasion and received a wider audience when it was broadcast on the Home Service of the B.B.C.

Many other celebrations took place throughout the country organised and supported by local Groups.

CANADA

Geoffrey Cliffe-Phillips, Box 867, Station F, Toronto 5, Ontario. There are two Groups in the Canadian Section, one in Toronto and

another in Vancouver (2,800 miles apart). These vast distances are an indication of the problems involved in uniting the scattered band of AMNESTY supporters across the country. A further indication is that all four Groups listed in last year's report have since disbanded. The present two Groups are, however, in a healthier state: each having about a dozen 'hard core' members.

The Card Scheme is slowly expanding and as of 22nd March consisted of 20 members representing 13 cities in 5 Provinces.

In terms of publicity AMNESTY has achieved a breakthrough in the past six months. A programme was broadcast on the national radio network and articles were written in a national magazine and local papers. In April Peter Benenson visited Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal as part of his North American tour, addressing several meetings and giving numerous interviews. Coverage by the mass media was excellent for this visit. It is hoped that, as a result, new Groups will eventually be formed in Montreal and Ottawa and additional ones in Toronto and Vancouver.

Since last autumn 8 prisoners have been adopted in Ghana, South Africa, Hungary, Portugal, Burma (Toronto), Rhodesia, Tanzania, and a second prisoner from Hungary (Vancouver Group). Of these two have been released, a Ghanaian professor and the widow of a South African Chief. Money has been sent to a prisoner's family in Portugal and assistance was given to a Rhodesian contacted through the Christmas Card lists.

The Toronto Group has been acting as an unofficial national headquarters, answering enquiries, sending out information, arranging publicity, etc. The problem until now has been manpower, finances, and the distances in our country. When more Groups are formed and firmly established a national headquarters will be established, possibly by next year.

DENMARK

Bent Ostergaard, Gyldenlovesgade 12B, Copenhagen K.

During the past year 15 new Groups have been established and 5 Groups have closed down. There are at present 40 Groups altogether. The number of members has grown from 430 to 800.

Prisoners under adoption by the Danish Groups have been released in many countries including South Africa, Mexico, Portugal, Pakistan, Spain, East Germany, U.S.A., Czechoslovakia, Iraq, Hungary, U.S.S.R., Greece and Guyana. More than 40 prisoners have been released.

At the Danish Annual General Meeting in May 1965 a letter was sent to Dr. Salazar asking for the release of Dr. Julieta Gandra. At the Annual General Meeting in May 1966 an appeal was sent to

Sekou Touré on behalf of Koumandian Keita. When the Russian author Mikhail Sholokhov was in Stockholm to receive the Nobel Prize a letter was sent asking him to intervene on behalf of Daniel and Siniavsky. A letter was also sent to the Union of Soviet Writers in Moscow.

3,500 Christmas Cards were sold; most of them bought in London and some from the Irish Section. A number of replies were received from prisoners. 1,600 sheets of seals have also been sold.

£800 has been sent to the International Secretariat. This sum includes £200 raised by the pupils of Hellerup Gymnasium.

The Group in Aarhus has continued to help families of Rhodesian prisoners. 20 sub-Groups (10 to 30 people) have raised £6 a month for the families.

Delegates from Denmark have travelled to East Germany, Czechoslovakia and several of the Latin American countries. A member of the Danish Executive was refused a visa to visit South Africa in July 1965 but later another Danish Member visited South Africa. This summer it is planned to send delegates to Spain, Morocco, Turkey, Poland, Ghana, Guinea and Greece.

When the Danish Government set aside £12,500 to aid the victims of apartheid in South Africa, the Danish Section was invited to be a member of the committee, appointed by the Foreign Ministry, to distribute the funds.

Human Rights Day was commemorated by several Groups. A ceremony was held in Copenhagen in co-operation with the local section of 'World Federalists'. This included a lecture and readings from the letters of Rhodesian prisoners. There was also a short programme about AMNESTY on the television.

In January there was a large meeting at which Ruth First spoke on her imprisonment under the 90 days law in South Africa. In March Martin Enthoven visited Copenhagen and spoke about the work of the International Secretariat to members of the Groups. During his visit the initial plans were made for the Assembly.

There has been good press and radio coverage and several members have spoken about the work of AMNESTY in schools and to a variety of organisations.

The Section issues a Bulletin but in addition a new publication has been started called *Threes Group News* which is sent to all the Groups in Scandinavia. This publication relates the experiences of the various Groups and is a valuable means by which Groups can exchange ideas.

Up until January of this year the AMNESTY Office had been in a private house but an office has now been established. This will be a considerable help to the organisation of the Section.

FAROE ISLANDS

Mrs. Maud Heineson, P.O. Box 209, Torshavn.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FAROE ISLANDS SECTION. The moving force behind the establishment of an AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Section in the Faroes was Mr. Roland Thomsen of Denmark, who had taken part in the work of the Danish Section before moving to the islands. By means of press statements and a radio talk interest in the movement was aroused and on 27th June, 1965, he invited a group of people to a briefing on the organisation in Torshavn.

On 29th August the First General Meeting was held. Out of 75 people invited 21 came to the meeting. A committee of 5 was elected, Mr. Povl Skarup, Mr. Eyoun Johannesen, Mrs. Johanna Jensen, Mr. Finnur Johansen and Mr. Roland Thomsen, with the last named as Chairman. At the General Meeting three Groups were formed. One Group was formed a little later, and Mr. Thomsen had already been working for about a year, so that the Faroese Section had five AMNESTY Groups in all with 14 members, as well as some contributing members, the number of which has gone up to 35 as at 31st May, 1966.

THE SECTION'S FURTHER ACTIVITY. The Annual General Meeting was held on 10th December, 1965. Among other things the proposed statutes were discussed and adopted. Further it was decided that the secretaries of each Group were to form the Committee, which accordingly got the following members: Mr. Palle Burla, Mr. Marius Johannesen, Mr. Fraser Eysturoy, Mrs. Maud Heinesen and Mr. Roland Thomsen, with the last mentioned as Chairman. Mr. Thomsen, however, went to Denmark at the end of February 1966, which reduced the Committee and the number of Groups as well to four, and Mrs. Heinesen was elected Chairman.

During the year Group members have secured some new contributing members, and there have been some statements in the Faroese newspapers. Material received from London, Copenhagen and Oslo has been distributed. The Chairman is in regular contact with the London Office.

The Chairman was invited to attend the General Meeting of the Danish Section, but was not able to go. It has been decided, however, that the Chairman will attend the International Assembly in Copenhagen in September 1966.

FINANCIAL STANDING. The only receipts have hitherto been the subscriptions, which are DKr. 30,- for individual members and DKr. 40,- for married couples, but the financial standing is quite good, as expenses are few, and most of the work is done voluntarily. However, the Committee would like to raise more money so that

the Office in London can receive more financial support from the Section. In this connection it is worth mentioning that a meeting including fund raising was planned, but it has been put off until September, when it is likely to be more successful.

FINLAND

Märta Salmelin, Bergmansgatan 23 a A 5, Helsinki 14.

The work of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL in Finland commenced a new and active phase this winter. In November 1965 John and Elizabeth Gordon from the London Headquarters visited Finland and spoke about the work of AMNESTY.

At a meeting in Helsinki on 21st January two Groups were formed, consisting of 10-12 members each; the occasion was honoured by the presence of Alwar Sundell, M.P., who spoke on the situation of prisoners in Spain.

The actual Group work began more than a month later when the case sheets of our prisoners from Yugoslavia, Tanzania, Rhodesia (two prisoners), Iran and Hungary, arrived from London. As yet we have not made contact with any one of our prisoners. The Finnish Section is learning that AMNESTY work requires a lot of patience.

Nevertheless, interest in AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL is ever increasing. At the moment there are 40 active members and 20 passive or supporting members in Helsinki only. Great interest has been shown in the towns of Vasaa and Turku where we hope to found our next Group.

Since March 1966 Miss Märta Salmelin has acted as temporary co-ordinating secretary of the Section. Mr. Pär Stenbäck has been informal adviser. The Groups have met every month to discuss their prisoners and the general set-up of AMNESTY work. The Group secretaries have been in close contact with the co-ordinating secretary. The main organisational difficulty has proved to be the forming of successful Groups of the many scattered individual members. The Group work has proved most effective where the members have formed more or less 'natural Groups'. We hope that the Card Scheme, which was introduced in Finland early this winter, will solve this problem.

Members of the Section have given talks on AMNESTY; in March at a meeting of 'Svenska Fredsvännerna' (the Swedish Peace Friends), and in April at a meeting of a Finnish Society of Artists. There have been two long articles on AMNESTY in the daily newspaper *Vasabladet* (17th and 18th March), and another article in one of the Student Papers in Helsinki (*Studentbladet*) in April.

A bank account has been opened and an information pamphlet is being published in Finnish and in Swedish. Contact has been established with the Swedish and Danish Sections.

In May there was a collection of money among AMNESTY members and supporters for the benefit of a Greek political prisoner's family. The result of the collection, 200 Fmk, will be presented to the family in July by Miss Martina Aminoff of the Finnish Section, who will visit Greece on her vacation in July 1966.

Two representatives of the Section have visited the London Headquarters during 1966. The Section will be represented at the Annual Assembly in Denmark in September 1966 by two members.

FRANCE

Maitre Nicolas Jacob, 90 Boulevard de Courcelles, Paris 17.

In the course of the year the French Section has made modest progress in its work in defence of the Rights of Man. The celebration of Human Rights Day was an occasion of special importance because of the presence of the world famous violinist, Mr. Yehudi Menuhin. The latter had expressed a wish to insert in the programme of his Paris concert an appeal on behalf of the Prisoner of Conscience of 1965, Koumandian Keita. The Association has also organised a press conference in the course of which Mr. Menuhin handed over a plaque to a Guinean delegation representing the prisoner. Many prominent persons and journalists took part in the press conference. As a result of this press conference contacts were established with various political groups from French-speaking Africa.

The French Section has been invited to take part in numerous activities on behalf of the Rights of Man, side by side, for example, with the Congress for Cultural Freedom (the Siniavsky/Daniel affair), the movement "Esprit" (the Casamayor case), the Christian Trades Union Movement (the Clerco affair in Madrid) and the liaison committee for the struggle against apartheid (inspired by the Christian Social Movement in the Bram Fischer case). The Section took part in certain activities organised jointly by other national and international bodies and has encouraged the Paris Bar to work for the creation of an Institute of Human Rights.

GERMANY

Carola Stern, 5 Köln, Am Rinkenpfuhl 57.

FIRST GERMAN ANNUAL CONFERENCE. The Cologne Groups for the first time invited all Groups in the Federal Republic to meet in Cologne on 23rd and 24th April, 1966. The speakers were Hilary Cartwright, London (at present in Geneva), who spoke about the

aims and work of AMNESTY on the international level, the first Chairman of the German Section, Gerd Ruge (Washington), the present first Chairman, Dr. Wandschneider (Hamburg), and Rechtsanwalt Schultz (Munich), who spoke on the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S.A., the trial in Teheran and political justice in the Eastern countries of Europe.

During a working session the representatives of the individual Groups discussed the successes and difficulties of their activities. A new committee was elected and a new constitution was accepted.

THREES GROUPS. During the past 12 months 10 new Groups were founded (as compared with eight in the year 1964/65); two Groups had done no work and, therefore, were disbanded.

PUBLICITY. In the course of the last year 16 articles were published in German newspapers on the work of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL and on the German Section.

In addition, several radio stations broadcast interviews on the work of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.

For the purpose of recruiting more members the German Section in March bought 500 copies of the magazine *Horizont* in which Reimar Lenz had published a very vivid and comprehensive article on AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL; furthermore a leaflet was printed. The numerous enquiries are now answered by a duplicated standard letter of three pages length. Apart from this, the committee of the German Section sends out newsletters to the Threes Groups, at irregular intervals.

FINANCE. Due to donations the bank balance of the German Section has risen from DM 500 (July 1965) to DM 1,250. These donations include many small contributions from AMNESTY friends with modest means.

INDIA

Sri Satyendra Nath Verma, Janakpur Road, Dist. Muzaffarpur, Bihar, India.

The Indian Section was established in January 1966 and so far consists of only one Group. They have adopted prisoners from Poland, Guinea and Rhodesia. They have been active in trying to start an AMNESTY Group in Bombay and Sri Verma has been in contact with several other people interested in AMNESTY and with other organisations concerned with human rights. They have also been active in sending press cuttings to London with regard to persons detained under the Defence of India Rules. Sri Verma has also been to New Delhi where he discussed their prisoners' cases with the Polish and Guinean Embassies and with the British High

Commission. They held a ceremony to publicise the case of the 'Prisoner of Conscience of 1966' and lit a candle in his honour. It is very much hoped that Sri Verma will be able to attend the International Assembly at Copenhagen this year.

IRELAND

Mrs. Karin O'Donovan, 31 Oaklands Drive, Rathgar, Dublin 6. In spite of an increase in membership to over 250 the Irish Section deliberately limited the number of its Groups for Three to eighteen, all of which have shown a particular aptitude for the work involved. The release of nine adopted prisoners from jails in East Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Mexico, Poland and Portugal during the year is indicative of their success. There was again a widespread response to the appeal published by the Section to send Christmas cards to twelve selected prisoners. One of them, a sixteen-year-old Portuguese schoolboy on whose behalf his adopting Group had already agitated very consistently, was released in early 1966 after a flood of Christmas cards from Ireland. Many of those who sent greetings at Christmas have since received moving letters of thanks from jails in Thailand, Rhodesia and Mexico.

One of the many difficulties faced by Groups was that of finding, on investigation, that an adopted prisoner was not a 'prisoner of conscience' according to the AMNESTY definition. These cases were abandoned with great regret, especially in one instance in which the Irish Section had already taken exceptional steps to obtain the prisoner's release. The greater efficiency of AMNESTY's investigation bureau in obtaining and evaluating information should reduce such cases to a minimum in future.

The Section's Handbook for Groups for Three has more than proved its value to Irish Groups and has now been distributed at their request to several other national sections to assist them in producing a similar guidebook in their own language.

The considerable although often latent support for AMNESTY throughout Ireland is indicated by the fact that, as a result of a short but intensive campaign in the area, there is now an active core of members in Limerick and Shannon. It is hoped to mobilise this support in other centres outside Dublin in the year to come with the help of existing local members, although the initial cost to the Section in both time and money is high.

Another pleasing development is the solid body of student support which exists in University College, Dublin, largely thanks to the energy of Group members who organised both a special meeting and a fund-raising raffle with notable success. Several other Groups also showed great initiative in raising funds, but in spite of the exceeding

generosity of many members as well as of members of the public the problem of money continues to be a nightmare. During the year Irish artists generously contributed over sixty works of art to the Section's art auction in Dublin; this was modelled on the art auction run so successfully by AMNESTY members in Belfast last year and proved the Irish Section's biggest single source of income.

Although the sale of Irish-produced and -designed Christmas cards took a considerable upward swing (thanks both to a bulk purchase by the Danish Section and, undoubtedly, to the fact that there was a choice of two designs on offer), the actual profit on their sale is regrettably very small indeed. The Section is deeply indebted to the artists who gave their designs without fee and hopes to produce a third design for Christmas 1966.

The Section was represented by an observer at all meetings of the international executive and by three delegates at the international assembly at The Hague in September 1965. There, the emergency fund for use in cases where an adopted prisoner's life is at stake was established on the resolution of the Irish Section with initial contributions of £100 each from the Danish and Irish Sections; contributions from other national sections and from individual members have since brought the fund to a realistic level. Apart from this contribution to the emergency fund, the Section contributed over £450 to AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL during the year, of which £50 was earmarked for the Prisoner of Conscience Fund. Additional payments were made for material received (such as the AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL bulletin, which continues to be sent to all the Section's members).

A leading member of the Danish Section and the hon. secretary of the Irish Section were asked to assist in compiling the AMNESTY report on prison conditions in East Germany, due to be published this autumn. The hon. secretary's interviews with released East German prisoners are intended to provide the factual basis for much of the report.

Perhaps the most immediate concern of the Section is the impending formation of an all-party parliamentary Group. Apart from the direct effect which an AMNESTY Group of Irish parliamentarians is expected to have in making representations on behalf of imprisoned parliamentarians in other countries, this Group should do much in Ireland to make clear AMNESTY's non-political and impartial nature.

ISRAEL

Jerusalem Branch

Mrs. Neta Eran, Beth Hakerem, Hechaluzstreet 56, Jerusalem. The total membership is still about 20 people but the work over

the past year has been more evenly distributed among the members. There have been four meetings of the Jerusalem branch. Two of the Group's adopted prisoners have been released. A parcel containing food and vitamins, sent to the Group's Hungarian prisoner, was returned. A parcel was sent to the Group's restrictee in Rhodesia.

Funds have been raised from membership fees and by the selling of specially designed New Year cards.

A representative of the Group will be attending the International Assembly at Copenhagen.

Haifa Branch

Mrs. Bella Ravdin, P.O. Box 6116, Haifa.

This year's activities were marked with thought and initiative. Various organisations have been addressed throughout the country and this has resulted in an increase in the membership. Information has been sent to the Investigation Bureau concerning the remaining Israeli prisoners held in Syria.

There are four active Groups that have 15 prisoners under adoption at the present time. The most active Group consists of seven students. This Group was formed two years ago. They sent telegrams on behalf of a Spanish trade unionist who was recently released.

Over the year, four prisoners have been released, one in Spain, two in South Africa and one in Rhodesia.

A total of £95 has been raised. £25 of this was used to send food parcels, books and financial help to three prisoners and their dependants. £25 was sent to the 'Emergency Fund' at head office. As in previous years the money was put in the Trust Fund, whose trustee is Justice Cohn.

An article on AMNESTY was given to the students' journal circulating among all the four universities and Technion.

Human Rights Day was commemorated at the Haifa University College. Justice Cohn gave a lecture on the 'United Nations' Fight Against Racial and Religious Discrimination'. This was followed by a discussion.

A documentary film on the activities of AMNESTY will be shown on Human Rights Day this year in Tel-Aviv, Haifa and at Kibbutz Maayan-Zwi and, on request, at other places as well.

ITALY

Mrs. Annina Armstrong, Vico Paraso N.13 int. 4, Bogliasco (Genova).

The Section has registered a slow but steady growth in the number of members. About 30 people work in the six Groups and a further

30 take part in the Card Scheme. This has to be considered a positive result in view of the fact that no publicity of importance has been obtained so far in the daily press.

Mr. Roncella and Mr. Martinelli represented AMNESTY at the trial of Don Milani in Rome. Mrs. Comberti represented AMNESTY at the meeting held by War Resisters' International in Rome in April. Mr. Merlino addressed two public meetings in Genoa on the aims and scope of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL.

£100 has been gathered through subscriptions and donations. £25 of this has been sent to the International Secretariat.

NETHERLANDS

Drs. Cornelis van der Vlies, Postbus 4076, Rotterdam.

After last year's Annual Assembly at Scheveningen it was decided to found a National Section and to expand the number of groups. Work done at the national level is still largely in the field of publicity. Regularly Dutch newspapers and periodicals published articles about AMNESTY's aims and methods or news from the AMNESTY movement.

There are at present two Groups, at Amsterdam and at Rotterdam. The Amsterdam Group has had some turnover in its prisoners, as a Greek prisoner was released shortly after the Group was formed and a South African prisoner was set free after a 180-day period. There are a number of active Card Scheme members. Work is in progress to found Groups in more towns throughout the country.

The AMNESTY cause is making rather slow progress in the Netherlands, but it is hoped that the work done will provide a firm basis for expansion.

NEW ZEALAND

P.O. Box 5397, Wellington, New Zealand.

On 8th July, 1965, the first New Zealand Group of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL met in Wellington. Seventeen people attended and began working. Since that meeting the movement has become quite well-known; six Groups have been formed in different centres and five others are being organised.

A provisional National Section was formed late last year and a draft constitution is at present being circulated to all members for comment prior to our first Annual General Meeting in July or August. We have recently informed the 200 people who have shown interest or support of our work of our intention to form a National Section. So far 36 of these have sent in £2 subscriptions to become full members (including five who wish to join the Card Scheme) and

18 have paid £1 to become members receiving the Annual Report. The International Affairs Committee of the Methodist Church has become an affiliated member as has the Wellington branch of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. There are approximately 84 people active in Group work and this number will increase greatly soon, as the result of the extra Groups in the process of formation. Several of the Groups have reported that they are sending financial assistance to their prisoners' families and getting a good response to letters sent. Others have found it impossible to establish any sort of contact but keep on trying. The Rev. Chymlevshyj of Russia, adopted by a Wellington Group, has died in prison but three other adopted prisoners have been released; one from Spain, one from Guyana and one from Hungary.

Publicity has been good. All the leading Church magazines have printed articles on the movement, letters and articles have been published by the main daily newspapers and the National Broadcasting Corporation has broadcast nationally news items, a television film and an interview on our work.

Speakers have addressed a number of bodies, including the Labour Representational Council, the Rationalists Association and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

A meeting was held on Human Rights Day in conjunction with the Council for Civil Liberties and the New Zealand branch of the International Commission of Jurists. Our speakers were Sir Walter Nash, an ex-Prime Minister of New Zealand, Professor Ralph Brookes, Professor of Political Science at Victoria University, Roger Clark, our President and a member of the Law Faculty at Victoria University, and Mr. A. E. Hurley, a prominent solicitor. The meeting was chaired by Professor J. C. Beaglehole who is renowned for his work in Civil Liberties in this country.

Until our Annual General Meeting the National Section has three officers, Roger Clark as President, Stan Roberts as Treasurer, and Mary Bryan as Secretary.

NORWAY (NORSEC)

Arne Christensen, Oscarsgt. 50, Oslo 2.

INTERNAL BUSINESS. The number of Groups has increased from 12 to 36, of which 18 are in Oslo and 6 in Bergen. The Groups adopted 113 prisoners of which 13 were released during the year.

The Chairman of the Board was Mr. Arne H. Christensen with his office in Oscarsgt. 50, Oslo 2, as the address of the Secretariat. The other members of the Board were Mrs. Tove Rognlien, Mr. Otto Falkenberg and Mr. Carl Thiis.

NORSEC has continued and improved contact with the Secretariat in London—through correspondence as well as through personal calls to Crane Court.

NORSEC has regularly issued an information Bulletin to all Group members (approximately 200) and to about 50 good AMNESTY friends such as press contacts, officials, organisations, etc.

A Parliamentary Group was established in the 'Storting' consisting of two well-known politicians assisted by a professor in Public and International Law, Mr. Torkel Opsahl, who will be available to deal with the more complex political problems. NORSEC has already submitted three such problems to this committee, viz.: (1) Abolition of death penalties in peacetime; (2) U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights; (3) Inspection of prisons, and prison reports. A letter to this effect has been sent to the Norwegian Foreign Minister.

A national meeting was held in Oslo on 8th December, 1965, attended by approximately 50 members from 11 Groups. The board was asked to continue until the next annual meeting (15th June, 1966). The meeting agreed on a resolution in favour of Greek prisoners of conscience.

FINANCIAL POSITION. During autumn 1965 NORSEC arranged the printing of 2,500 AMNESTY wall-calendars of which the greater part was sold before Christmas at a substantial profit for NORSEC as well as for the respective Groups. The remaining 800 calendars will be sold during autumn 1966—with new blocks for 1967.

NORSEC received considerable gifts and contributions of which a donation of N.Kr. 3000.- (£150) from the Dag Hammarskjöld's Fund was a most encouraging one.

Close co-operation was maintained with the South African Committee in Oslo who contributed financially to the legal defence of a prisoner in Rhodesia.

NORSEC has remitted £185 to the Secretariat in London whereof £75 to the Central Emergency Fund. In the same period Norwegian Groups have sent a total of £163 additionally to London.

PUBLICITY. PAX Publications have published a booklet in the Nordic countries on AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL with a Group member, Johan L. Mowinkel, as author. About 4,000 copies of the booklet were issued and contributed considerably to making the movement better known.

There have been quite a lot of programmes on AMNESTY on the Norwegian radio and TV stations in which various groups have participated.

Lots of articles about the movement have appeared in the press, in reviews and in periodicals all over the country.

The six Groups in Bergen have established a Bergen Section which has been very active indeed. In March 1966 they gave a press conference followed by programmes over the local radio, a concert performance and speeches by Mr. Edvard Hambro (now Norway's Ambassador to the United Nations in New York) and Mr. Johan L. Mowinkel. Finally they organised a fund raising project together with the Students' Association which raised more than N.Kr. 3000.- (£150) earmarked for prisoners in Rhodesia.

A special campaign was launched in favour of Koumandian Keita in which press, broadcasting and TV were engaged all over Norway. Letters were sent to President Sekou Touré in Guinea and to their Embassy in Moscow.

NORSEC has protested to the U.S.S.R. Embassy in Oslo at the severe sentences of the two authors Siniavsky and Daniel.

The 'Handbook for Groups' has been translated into Norwegian and the text adapted to local conditions. Copies are being distributed to new and prospective Groups.

NORSEC was represented at the International Assembly in the Netherlands by Mr. Otto Falkenberg and Mr. Torkel Opsahl.

SWEDEN

Mrs. Ingrid Lilja, Bergsgränd 6, Stockholm NO.

The Swedish Section now has approximately 1,400 paying members and 52 Groups.

Special appeals from the Swedish Section have been made for political prisoners in several countries, for instance for the Russian authors, for the 'Prisoner of Conscience of 1965' in Guinea, and for the Kurdish minority in Iraq and Iran. A special commission is at work on this question. A Swedish AMNESTY member spent some months in Greece and had contact with the Greek Minister of Justice and other authorities and also the families of political prisoners. He said that there are now only about 15 political prisoners from the civil war period, but that new political prisoners are being prosecuted.

A special fund has been started for:

1. Legal aid to political prisoners, especially those threatened with capital punishment.
2. Economic assistance to released prisoners.
3. Economic assistance to the families of political prisoners.

A contribution from the fund is to be used to send a delegate to Aden and for legal aid to a Trade Unionist prosecuted in Thailand.

The activities in regard to South Africa, which commenced with an appeal for Albert Luthuli, have continued with two informative meetings in co-operation with the South Africa Committee.

The soirée that was held in Stockholm in January gave the movement added impetus, and the Swedish Section has more than trebled its membership since this event. Three similar soirées followed in Norrköping, Lund and Gothenburg. The main speakers were Alva Myrdal (Ambassador), Peter Benenson, and the two former political prisoners, Ruth First from South Africa, and Virgilio de Lemos from Mozambique. The evenings were attended by more than 3,000 persons, and provided about £3,000. All artists, stage-workers, etc., worked without fees. A gramophone record was made at the Stockholm soirée and 2,100 records have been sold.

There was a collection of clothes for refugees in Tanzania in February and over 2,000 kilos of clothing, blankets, etc., were sent to Dar-es-Salaam.

The Section brought over three young men, refugees from South West Africa, to study in Sweden. Funds for this were raised by a special appeal.

In a letter dated 13th January, 1966, to the Swedish Prime Minister the Government was urged to instruct the Swedish Delegation in U.N. to support the resolution made by AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL to abolish capital punishment for political offences committed in peacetime, as also the resolution for a High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In this letter the financial aspects of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL were pointed out. The main obstacle to the development of AMNESTY's activities was lack of money. As the Swedish Government in some cases had granted money to non-governmental international organisations, such as the Defence and Aid Fund and, recently, two million Sw. crowns to International Planned Parenthood Federation, it was felt that the Swedish Section could ask for help for political prisoners. Subsequently the Swedish Government was asked to grant AMNESTY one million Sw. crowns. A question like this must however be put as a proposition before Parliament for the next budget.

In May this year there was a two-day conference held in Stockholm with representatives from the various groups. About 90 members came from all parts of the country. Groups with prisoners from the same countries discussed common problems. Also there was a lively discussion on the Handbook and on general principles and definitions.

At the beginning of June a young AMNESTY member was sent to England to help with the work in the International Secretariat. He is to specialise on South African questions.

The Section sends out a Members' Bulletin; hitherto four issues have been published. It contains reports of the work of all the Swedish Groups as well as background information, news items of general interest, etc.

Publicity, TV and radio coverage must be said to have been satisfactory.

SWITZERLAND

Lothar Belck, 12a Chemin de Gilly, 1212 Grand Lancy, Geneva. AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL activities in Switzerland are still centred on the Group at Geneva. Unfortunately, this year's work on behalf of our prisoners did not yield any tangible results. We are in correspondence with one of our prisoners, but to date we have failed to get any useful response in our other cases.

Otherwise, the AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL movement is making slow but steady headway in Switzerland. On several occasions, we had favourable publicity in the French-language press. Inquiries from interested individuals in other parts of Switzerland are on the increase. And as this report goes to press, moves are underway to found another Group in the Zurich area. We trust that this will be just another step in a pattern of continuing growth.

U.S.A.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL of the U.S.A., 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10010.

The American Section first took shape in November 1965 when an organising committee was formed in New York under the guidance of Roger Baldwin, founder of the American Civil Liberties Union, and Honorary President of the International League for the Rights of Man. The Section was formally established in April 1966. Peter Benenson, who travelled to the United States to participate in the event, spoke to two large and enthusiastic meetings in New York and Washington. Three Groups were created in the course of his visit and it is hoped that many more will be organised before the first annual conference of the Section is held, early in 1967.

The Group that was established in Missoula, Montana, in January 1965, has continued to work actively on behalf of its three prisoners, in Rhodesia, Iraq and Czechoslovakia. They have also sent £10 to the International Secretariat.

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SWITZERLAND

Edwin Bell, (21, Oberstrasse, G.P., 1212 Grand-Lancy, Geneva), AMNESTY's first and only active member in Switzerland, are still active in the Group at Geneva. Unfortunately, this year's work on behalf of our prisoners did not yield any tangible results. We are in correspondence with one of our prisoners, but to date we have failed to get any useful response in our other cases.

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

WAYS OF HELPING

By becoming a subscribing member for £2 a year (or the equivalent in foreign currency) you receive all literature and reports. For £1 a year you receive a copy of the Annual Report.

By joining the Card Scheme.

By joining an existing Group, or forming a new Group.

By volunteering to help in the London Office, or doing translating and typing at home.

By offering to do research into individual cases or for background papers.

By contacting the Secretary of your National Section if you live outside Britain. Where the address is not given in the Annual Report, as in the case of some individual Groups, write to the London office.

By getting your local paper, magazine or journal to publish something about the work of Amnesty International.

By offering to speak to local organisations about Amnesty International. (Speakers' notes provided.)

By making a donation to The Prisoners of Conscience Fund.

By encouraging local organisations in Britain to affiliate for £3 a year and national organisations for £5 a year.



