I N T E R N A T I O N A L B U L L E T I N

A U G U S T 1 9 6 4: Quarterly: February-May
August-November

FROM: The International Secretariat:
TO: National Sections and Principal Groups:

1. INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY, CANTERBURY:

(a)Up to the present 45 applications for accommodation have been received. Already this equals the supply of bedrooms at the COUNTY HOTEL, but the Secretariat is arranging to accommodate a number of the British delegates in other establishments so as to insure, if possible, that those coming from abroad can stay under one roof at the COUNTY HOTEL. The last bulletin (May, 1964) asked that applications for the International Assembly should reach the Secretariat Office in London by 15th July. Although this date has now passed, it is still administratively possible to accept overseas applications up to 10th September, although no guarantee can now be given that the "en pension" costs will be as low as those quoted in the May bulletin. Late applicants may have to be accommodated in more expensive hotels.

(b)Sections which have not yet sent in a list of representatives coming to Canterbury are asked to do so without delay. Even if there is no one able to attend the Assembly, the Secretariat wishes to be told this.

(c)RESOLUTIONS: for discussion at the International Assembly can be accepted up to 10th September. Each Section and group is asked to consider between now and the International Assembly the two questions printed in the July issue of EUSTOMY:-

1. Should AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL seek the release from imprisonment of those who use violent methods in support of the objects of their racial group? If so, in what circumstances?

2. Is there any practicable method which can be adopted within the framework of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL to mitigate the suffering caused by racial intolerance.

The main subjects for discussion at the Assembly will be the movement's future attitude to racial violence, and in particular towards the innocent victims of racial violence. Resolutions on this topic - or any other - may be either in the form of requests for the movement to define its policy or statements of what that policy should be. It is also appropriate to suggest amendments or additions to the Code of Conduct towards Prisoners of Conscience.

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(d)All persons registered as attending the Canterbury Assembly will later receive the synthesis of the replies received to the questions about racial violence set out in "Eustomy". Apart from this document, the Annual Report and the resolutions, the only other document which it is intended to circulate for discussion at the Assembly is the International Executive's decision on the extension of the term "Prisoner of Conscience" which was remitted to the Executive by the Konigswinter Assembly /See item 2(b) below/. It is proposed to arrange for oral reports to be given on the current situation in the U.S.A., Roumania and South Africa; these will be given by delegates with recent first-hand experience of these countries.

2. SUMMARY OF THE PRINCIPAL DECISIONS OF THE MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE AT HAMBURG ON 4th and 5th JULY, 1964:

(a)Report by the Secretary:

The Secretary reported on the recent releases of prisoners in Egypt, Roumania and Greece. He pointed out that there are cases where groups find that their prisoner had been released prior to adoption. The groups must be persuaded to consider themselves part of a large enquiry machine - one office divided geographically. Head Office intervenes in cases where the death sentence has been passed, if possible by sending a representative to plead for the condemned. Bent Knudsen went to the Lebanon, Nicolas Jacob to Morocco. A great deal of hard work and expense could sometimes be saved if National Sections would let the Head Office know when they have a suitable person going to a country where they might be of service as an AMNESTY representative.

(b)Definition of "Prisoner of Conscience":

It was agreed that groups should be permitted, but not encouraged, to take on cases of reunification of wife and husband or of parent and child.

The list of categories excluded from the definition of "a prisoner of conscience" was approved by the Committee and will be submitted to the International Assembly. The list is as follows:-

(a) Homicide.
(b) Armed assault.
(c) The detonation of explosives or firearms.
(d) Robbery with or without violence.
(e) Betrayal of military information to a foreign power.
(f) Disruption of transport in circumstances likely to cause physical injury.
(g) Arson.
(h) Kidnapping.
(i) Poisoning of water, food or animals.

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(c)Prisoner of the Year:

The "Prisoner of the Year" for 1962 came from a non-alligned country and the one for 1963 from the East, so it was agreed that this year the prisoner should be chosen from the West. Dr. Julietta Gandara of Portugal was chosen as "Prisoner of the Year" subject to the approval of the International Assembly. It was agreed to refer to previous prisoners of the year when publishing the choice for 1964. Details of the case of Dr. Julietta Gandara are:-

DR. JULIETTA GANDARA: PORTUGAL:

A physician from Luanda, well-known in Angola for her democratic feelings and sympathies towards the movement for colonial liberation.

Arrested in 1959 in Luanda, put on secret trial in Angola and sentenced to two years' imprisonment with "security measures" by a court which did not give her any possible chance of defence. Dr. Gandara appealed to the Supreme Court in Lisbon, but this court in 1960 increased her sentence to four years with security measures. The charge was plotting against the "external security of the state". She was transferred to Caxias prison in Portugal where she still is, in bad health; she has just finished serving her sentence and the "security measures" will now come into force.

(d)International Secretary:

The Chairman explained that the Secretary has been ordered to rest by his doctor. An advertisement for the position had been sent out. The Secretary, together with Andrew Martin, Norman Marsh and Neville Vincent, were authorised to prepare a short list of Candidates for submission to the Chairman.

(e)Roumania:

The Secretary reported that the cost of sending a delegate to Roumania would be about £100. The choice of Anthony Rhodes as delegate was confirmed and it was agreed that he should be particularly asked to verify whether all the 122 adopted prisoners had been released.

3. CHRISTMAS CARDS:

Enclosed with this Bulletin is a sample of the 1964 Christmas Card together with at least one order form. In order to give Sections and Groups outside Britain the opportunity to make a profit on the sale of Christmas Cards, bulk orders from abroad for 100 cards or more will be sold at £2.0.0 sterling, post free. This should permit a re-sale profit of from 25-50%, which may be retained by the Section or Group.

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Please note that all orders for the 1964 Christmas Cards, whether placed by individuals or in bulk, should be sent to:-

MANTON (Westminster) LIMITED,
153, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.

4. AMNESTY LEAFLETS:

A new leaflet has been designed for use throughout the world, a copy of which is enclosed. The last (4th) page has been left blank to permit over-printing with information in the national language about activities in a particular country or district. Copies will be supplied upon application to the International Secretariat at the rate of £1.0.0 per ~~100~~ 250, post free.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS DAY:

Sections and Groups are asked to make early plans for Human Rights Day commemorations. Experience shows that music is generally the most effective way of gathering a crowd. To save the time and trouble of organising a special concert it may be thought sensible to approach a leading orchestra or musician with a concert booked during the Human Rights Day week, asking for one or more appropriate items of music to be included on the programme.(Anthologies of suitable music are available from the International Secretariat). Another way of commemorating the day is by asking a local drama society to put on a play with an appropriate theme during the period. Either method permits a short speech about the significance of Human Rights Day and the work of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL to be made during the interval. If the executants are not prepared to make a proportion of the box-office takings available to AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, they may agree to the taking of a collection during the interval or on the way out.

As in previous years, religious denominations should be encouraged to hold special services, or at least appropriate prayers on the Sunday before Human Rights Day - Sunday, 6th December.

Schools should also be encouraged to have a Human Rights Day commemoration either by direct contact with the Head Teacher or through the Ministry of Education.

Television companies and radio stations should be given an early reminder of Human Rights Day, stressing that the request for special programmes comes from the United Nations. Where a commemoration is planned by a Section or Group, it is appropriate to ask that radio or television company to cover this event.

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The central Human Rights Day ceremony this year is planned for St. Paul's Cathedral, London, where at 6 p.m. on the evening of the 9th December, music will be played by Yehudi and Hepzibah Menuhin, and the AMNESTY candle will be lit in person by the now-released 1963 Prisoner of the Year, Heinz Brandt. Overseas radio and television stations could be invited t o give coverage to part of this musical ceremony on their national programme.