

In November 1972, Amnesty arranged to sponsor a French mission to South Vietnam, but its members were unable to get visas. Further missions are under consideration.

Amnesty International continued to work for the handful of prisoners it has adopted in North Vietnam. They include two of the so-called "Nhan Van" group of writers and intellectuals imprisoned in 1960 after calling for greater liberalization, as well as several members of a pop group imprisoned in 1971. In spite of several enquiries by visitors to North Vietnam, including a British Labour Party delegation, little progress has been made.

#### CAMBODIA

Amnesty International protested to the Phnom Penh Government about the mass arrests that followed the declaration of a State of National Emergency in March 1973. It pressed inquiries about several individual detainees, including members of the Royal Family.

#### INDONESIA

During the year, Amnesty International has taken 2 major initiatives on Indonesia. In February, a communication was submitted to the Secretary General of the United Nations for the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Treatment of Minorities asking the Commission on Human Rights "to intercede with the Government . . . of Indonesia to ensure the immediate trial or release of all untried prisoners." Evidence was presented to show that the Government's policy "revealed a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms." The Communication will be considered later this year.

In March, a documented and illustrated report called *Indonesia Special* was published jointly by the International Secretariat and the Dutch Section. In January, Seán MacBride wrote to President Suharto appealing to the Indonesian Government to announce a general amnesty for all untried prisoners (including those on Buru island), whose total number was set at more than 55,000. The letter also asked, *inter alia*, for the commutation of death sentences, the establishment of a target date by which legal proceedings should have been initiated in those cases where the Government intended to charge prisoners with major criminal offences and the "publication of an immediate and comprehensive list of all prisoners in detention whether or not officially registered as detainees." The report and the proposals were published simultaneously by all National Sections; a press conference was held in the Hague and later Seán MacBride presented both documents to the Dutch Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Commission.

In April 1973, the International Secretariat sent letters to the Heads of Governments of all States who are members of the Inter-Government Group on Indonesia, the body concerned with co-ordinating

the aid programmes for Indonesia, drawing their attention to the political prisoner situation.

Since August, the now customary debate on numbers in detention has continued, informed this year by Government statistics which are never mutually compatible and often wildly disparate. Official figures for categories "A" and "B" have ranged from 39,000 (October 1972) to 13,000 (March 1973) despite the fact that no releases for these groups were reported; equally, numbers for category "A" alone (those awaiting trial) were put at 10,000 on February 28 (by the Foreign Minister) and at 2,000 on March 14 (by the President). Also in March, the President announced that "80,000" "C" group prisoners had been freed in the preceding year—a release figure unconfirmed by any other sources, and 4 times larger than the number for "C" group admitted in previous official statements. Amnesty International has taken 55,000 as the minimum figure for all those held in the 5 known categories—A, B, C, X and F, but this is almost certainly an under-estimate, in view of the large numbers of prisoners, theoretically free, who are known to remain in camps or custody, or who perform compulsory labour under military direction. Arrests continued during the year and rose sharply in the weeks before the President's re-election in March.

Trials have continued at a slow but persistent rate. Several death sentences were reported, but no executions. On each occasion, Amnesty has appealed for clemency. There have been more reports of torture during interrogation.

The Government's attitude towards Amnesty International has been marked by ambivalence. In July 1972, a mission by Professor Telford Taylor of Columbia University, New York, and James Harrison, Chairman of the USA Section, had to be cancelled when the latter's visa application was refused. But in February 1973, the Indonesian Foreign Minister told his Dutch colleague that his Government was "open" for contacts with Amnesty.

Conditions within the prisons have continued to be the cause of grave concern. In December, the International Secretariat passed to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reports that malnutrition among detainees in Salemba Prison, Jakarta, had increased as a result of the national rise in rice prices. Official figures show that 73 have died out of the original 10,000 sent to Buru Island, while unofficial reports describe living conditions of the starkest destitution among the detainees who, once the initial deportation is completed, depend on their own agricultural efforts for survival.

The number of adopted prisoners has more than doubled and now exceeds 130. Lists of prisoners from specific fields have been prepared and publicized—journalists, writers, trade unionists, etc; they have then been used to arouse the interest of national and international professional organizations.