

INDONESIA: Report to International Executive
Committee

1. PROGRESS SINCE SEPTEMBER 1969

In the two months since the Geneva Council meeting, the first stage in the programme outlined by the International Executive Committee has been put into effect in the following manner.

- i. United Nations: On 19 September, Sean MacBride wrote to the Secretary General, U Thant, drawing attention to the continued detention of vast numbers of political detainees and proposing a scheme for the phased re-training, release and rehabilitation of all those against whom no specific charges are to be brought, and the radical improvement of conditions within the detention camps. (See attached copy).

Sean MacBride and Martin Ennals have had informal discussions with the UNHCR and the UNDP from which it seems probable that an application by the Indonesian Government for a release and resettlement aid programme would be agreed.

- ii. A Background Paper setting out the numbers and situation of the prisoners, and outlining specific proposals for the release of detainees has been prepared (see attached copy).
- iii. The Indonesian Government: In September, the Secretary General wrote to the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Adam Malik, asking for clarification of the situation of those detainees to be resettled on Buru island.

A full brief has been sent to Gidon Gottlieb for a meeting with the Indonesian Ambassador to Washington at which he will press Amnesty's proposals.

2. RELEASES

On 2 October, the Indonesian Attorney General announced the release of 26,000 category C detainees before the end of 1969, and the resettlement of 2,500 category B detainees on the island of Buru.

3. FUTURE ACTION

The International Secretariat recommends that the International Executive Committee agree to a second phase, consisting of two separate parts:

- i. A follow-up visit of one week to Djakarta by a locally-based delegate to report on whether the promised release of 26,000 has taken place. (If a suitable delegate can be found in Singapore, his costs would be about £185.0.0., of which £125.0.0. remains in hand from the Stone mission.)
- ii. An intensive effort by all national sections to bring pressure on their governments, through informed articles and discussion, to accept and press the proposals made in Sean MacBride's letter and in the background paper. This should be an exercise in lobbying rather than a mass campaign.

28 November, 1969.