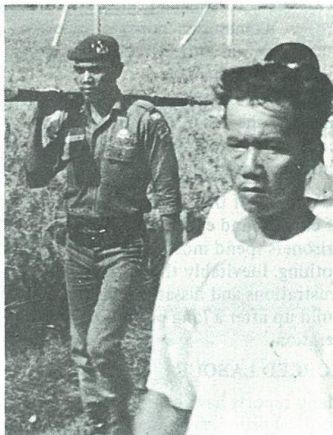


worse than at prisons. These units operate in converted old houses, and prisoners sleep in tiny, unventilated rooms or along half-exposed corridors. In some places, the prisoners have no proper sleeping accommodation at all but make use of raised stone platforms or ledges under a ceiling so low that it is impossible to sit up.

All prisoners, whether at prisons or camps, sleep on the floor, which in Indonesia means upon stone or tiles. They are nowhere provided with any kind of bedding, and what mats they use have been supplied by relatives outside or by church organisations. They fold whatever clothes they have for use as a pillow, and many sleep with no cover at all. The damp, cold walls and floors and the lack of mats and bedding inevitably cause pulmonary and respiratory disorders.

FOOD AND OTHER PROVISIONS

The standard diet for political prisoners consists of two plates of rice a day, but this can vary in quantity from a full plate to just a few spoonfuls. At the Padang Prison, the prisoners get only two handfuls of rice for each meal. With the rice, the prisoners receive a small dish of watery vegetables, one minute piece of soybean cake (*tempe* or *tahu*) and occasionally a small piece of salted, dried fish. The diet is not only lacking



Prisoners marching to work under armed military guard.

in quantity and quality but also variety. Meat and eggs are rarely provided, usually only on festive days when donations are received from local religious organisations.

The only beverage is boiled water, twice a day, and in many of the detention camps, the prisoners must supply the paraffin with which to boil the drinking water. The prisoners get no tea or coffee,

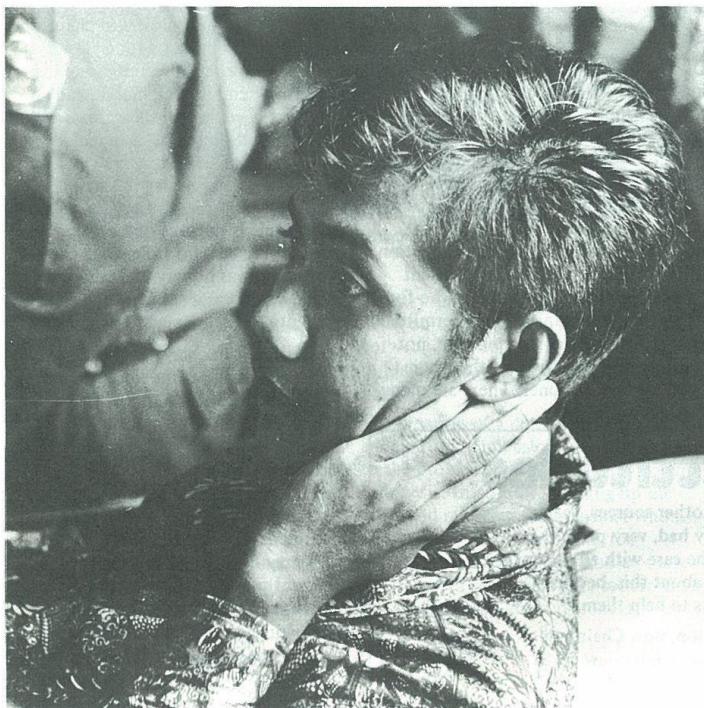
no sugar or milk and no other kind of food, nothing in fact but the two meals referred to above. No soap is provided, neither do the prisoners receive clothes, towels or tooth-brushes. The clothes the prisoners wear are provided by relatives outside or by fellow prisoners. Many of the men wear nothing but a pair of tattered pants and a grimy vest.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Medical facilities are seriously lacking in all places of detention. Detention and interrogation centres have no medical facilities at all; there are no visits by doctors and no medicines are available. In case of sickness, the prisoners must rely on what they themselves or colleagues receive from outside, and if a visit to a clinic or hospital is required, this must be paid for by the detainee who has to pay transport expenses and give his military escort a good tip. Many detainees have no money at all and must therefore do without, even when seriously ill. The most widespread illnesses are pulmonary and intestinal disorders and skin diseases.

Some prisons have a rudimentary medical service and some an ill-equipped hospital block, but doctor's visits are irregular, and medicines are scarce and difficult to obtain. When prescriptions are issued by the doctor, they must be bought and paid for by relatives. Prisoners who have no relatives to visit them must rely on an occasional dose from the prison stock of medicine. Even medicine purchased outside must be stored at the prison office, and in many cases they are not all handed on to the prisoner. Much of the medicine used comes from private donations, particularly from church organisations, and the officers in charge take a good share before anything reaches the prisoners.

Young political prisoner hospitalized in Buru.



indonesian attitudes

"I am against the inhuman treatment of these prisoners. We all know that most of the prisoners categorised as political prisoners are not really communists. They were starving people, very poor people who didn't know what they joined. At the time, the communist party was the most effective party. I have to say this because of my moral sense."

Arief Budiman, Indonesian psychologist and former student leader in an interview with Dutch television, August 1970.