

plantungan

a women's detention camp

In April 1971, the first batch of women political prisoners were transferred to a newly-established detention camp in Plantungan, Central Java. The camp is situated several miles to the south of the town of Sukoredjo and is approachable only by an almost impassible road.

By August 1971, when the second batch of prisoners had been sent there, there were 360 women prisoners

at Plantungan and the number was scheduled to increase to 600 in 1972. The prisoners are from the 'B' cate-

gory whose detention will be virtually permanent. Some were originally thought to be 'A' category but their transfer to Plantungan shows that the Government has abandoned plans to try them and has re-classified them for indefinite detention.

The women at Plantungan must work from morning till night in the fields to produce their own foodstuffs. They are only provided with rice and vegetables and must rely on relatives for other food, such as sugar, tea and coffee as well as soap and clothes. Relatives are not permitted to visit prisoners at Plantungan and although food parcels can be sent, communications are difficult and costs are high.

The women prisoners at Plantungan working on the fields. This is compulsory labour, and they have to live from their produce.

