

INTERNAL (for AI information)

73110
4p.
NS 170/76

To: All National Sections
Indonesian Coordination groups
From: Alice Clark/Research Department

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
53 Theobalds Road
London WC1X 8SP
England

Date: 20 August 1976

BURU CAMPAIGN
INDONESIA

SUMMARY

Following the national section circular 151/76 dated 30 July 1976, there have been further developments concerning Admiral Sudomo's statement of 26 July which was carried by Reuters on their wire on 27 July. See 151/76 for a copy of the Reuters report 27 July.

Since receiving the Reuters report of 27 July, we have seen an article in the Indonesian newspaper Sinar Harapan dated 27 July. This article is also a report of the radio interview with Admiral Sudomo and it is the same interview that Reuters reported. However, the Sinar Harapan article does not mention any statement by Sudomo of the release of 2,500 prisoners on Buru. The Sinar Harapan article mentions that 2,500 'B' category prisoners are due to be released, according to Admiral Sudomo. We already knew of the government's alleged intention to release 2,500 'B' category prisoners and so this is not news but just confirmation of an intention they made several months ago (December 1975 to be exact).

It would seem that Reuters misreported Admiral Sudomo's radio interview and mistook his announcement that 2,500 'B' category prisoners were to be released to mean 'Buru' prisoners. No such statement about releases from Buru was made.

DISTRIBUTION

This circular and the attached report from Sinar Harapan is being sent to all sections and Indonesian coordination groups. You will recall that the circular 151/76 was not sent to the adoption group but you were asked to inform the adoption groups about the Reuters report of 27 July. Please do not inform the adoption groups about the Reuters report (unless you have already done so). I think it will complicate matters a great deal and will confuse the adoption groups if you try to explain all that has been reported. You may ofcourse inform them about the Sinar Harapan report as it is an interesting report in its own right (even though it is not strictly connected with the Buru campaign).

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Please continue with the Buru campaign as recommended in the circular 124/76 and ignore the instructions in 151/76.
2. Please do not tell the adoption groups about the conflicting reports as it will cause confusion.

.../..

3. Please make no mention of the Reuters report (27 July) when discussing the question of political imprisonment on Buru with Indonesian officials and embassy staff.

EXTERNAL

NS 170/76

Amnesty International
International Secretariat
53 Theobald's Road
London WC1X 8SP
England

KOPKAMTIB Chief of Staff to Radio Australia

2,500 'B' CATEGORY G30S PRISONERS RELEASED IN 1976

Jakarta, 26 July 1976 (Sinar Harapan)

The Indonesian Government has definite plans for resolving the G30S prisoners, which were commenced in 1972 by beginning to release the ex-category 'C' prisoners, and for this year a total of 2,500 'B' category prisoners are to be released.

Admiral Sudomo, Chief of Staff of KOPKAMTIB, in an interview with Radio Australia broadcast on Saturday evening reiterated that 'B' category prisoners are ex-PKI members (Communist Party of Indonesia) and were clearly indirectly involved, that is to say, after knowing about that rebellious movement, they displayed an attitude, whether in deeds or words, of agreeing with the said movement.

"It is not correct to say that they are not guilty. They were indirectly involved, but insufficient proof is available to bring them to court. If we had let them go from the beginning, who would have been able to guarantee that they would not continue with their crimes," he said. "This involves matters of ideology, of conviction, they would not retreat and would take advantage of every opportunity."

Sudomo stated that there is no state in the world that is prepared to risk its security. Every state has the right to take measures for security, to safeguard the state and nation. We have experienced rebellions by the PKI on two occasions.

Internal Affair

Sudomo said: "The question of the G30S/PKI prisoners is an internal affair, and no other state or social grouping in other countries has the right to interfere in this matter. We shall eventually resolve this question ourselves. It is a matter of time and how to reduce the security risk."

Sudomo said that the government released category 'C' prisoners in 1972. Then on 1 December 1975 it released 1,309 prisoners of the 'B' category and civil servants of the C2 and C3 categories may continue in their jobs until they reach their natural pension age provided they do not engage in activities harmful to the security of the state and nation. During 1976 it is intended to release a further 2,500 'B' category prisoners.

Amnesty International

In reply to a question, Sudomo said that there are conditions that must be met by Amnesty International in order to be allowed to visit places of detention in Indonesia, namely it must refrain from adopting a hostile attitude, it must not incite and it must not distort the facts.

Amnesty International has been infiltrated by and is being manipulated by communist elements. These elements must be cleansed and the organization must be restored to its purpose of struggling for basic human rights, "and only then shall we consider allowing it to visit our rehabilitation installations".

Admiral Sudomo mentioned that the International Red Cross has twice visited places of detention on Buru Island and elsewhere in 1972 and 1974.

'B' category prisoners who have already been released, according to Sudomo, are under supervision, are having to uphold a written undertaking that they would be on their good behaviour as Indonesian citizens, that they will not participate in activities and will abandon the communist ideology.

These ex-prisoners are getting help such as employment opportunities so as to continue their livelihood. While in detention, they were given training in vocational training courses and many of them were active during their detention in productive work, such as making toys, musical instruments, furniture, etc.

Sudomo confirmed that 540,000 'C' category prisoners have already been released. They are free to engage in any work they are capable of without restriction, except that they are not permitted to enter the Armed Forces, government service and vital enterprises. "We are not an established state. We are a developing country which is naturally not free of various challenges which confront us concerning the field of employment and the raising and distribution of incomes."