

1971, Amnesty International had until recently taken up no new cases in Peru. Political arrests, however, have continued and reached their highest pitch in May 1973, after unions in several towns declared a general strike against government policy. Students, intellectuals, trade-unionists and others were rounded up in large numbers and subjected to brutal interrogation. Other political prisoners have been detained for well over a year without being brought to trial, and the International Secretariat has received reports that the judiciary can no longer be considered independent under the military regime. The Government continues to increase its central control over the press and trade union movements and to purge the extreme left-wing political parties. Amnesty has again begun to take up individual cases in Peru, and there are signs that there may be an increasing call for Amnesty intervention. Amnesty has now adopted several political prisoners detained in May 1973.

URUGUAY

Despite its tradition of stability and parliamentary rule, Uruguay has for several years experienced political unrest, with the Tupamaros movement as the expression of the left-wing violent struggle. The **Medidas Prontas de Seguridad** (the Uruguayan form of State of Emergency) were in force until the situation sharpened. A state of Internal War was declared in April 1972, and full powers were given to the Executive to combat subversion. In a telegram to President Bordaberry, Amnesty International expressed its regret at this step.

In spite of the deteriorating political situation, parliament has been functioning, and it is there that the most serious accusations of torture have been presented repeatedly by its members. Torture is reported to take place during the prolonged periods of interrogations when the prisoner is often held **incommunicado**. On several occasions Amnesty International has protested by letter or telegram about the use of torture and the death of several prisoners while in detention. Unofficial right-wing terrorist groups are also guilty of harassments and assassinations of members of the opposition.

Although Amnesty has not yet been able to initiate an adoption programme of prisoners of conscience among the several thousand political prisoners, it has approached the Uruguayan Embassy in London on behalf of 14 individual cases, almost all intellectuals and artists, of whom at least 5 were later released.

Telegrams were also sent on behalf of imprisoned doctors who were reported to have been tortured. Individual members of the medical profession and several medical associations sent appeals on behalf of their colleagues following a report in the July newsletter.

Several prisoners have been released while Amnesty was investigating their cases, and 2 prisoners of conscience have expressed their appreciation for having received important help.

The judicial system in Uruguay remained independent in spite of the rapidly deteriorating political situation and the increasing erosion of civil liberties and individual guarantees. However, since April 1972, everybody arrested and accused of a political offence has been tried by military courts **in camera**. The creation of various new laws such as the law of State Security (July 1972) does not augur well for Human Rights in Uruguay.

UNITED STATES

The policy of looking behind alleged criminal cases to determine, with a view to adoption, the existence of miscarriages of justice instigated for political purposes, has been extended. Accordingly, it was decided to adopt Martin Sostre, the owner of a radical "Afro-Asian" bookstore. He had been convicted of the illegal sale of narcotics. The principal police officer involved was subsequently suspended from the police force and the main witness against Sostre signed an affidavit confessing to participation in a frame-up.

With the assistance of a thorough report prepared by the German USA-Coordination Group, it was determined that Dr. James Grant had been falsely convicted in North Carolina of burning riding stables and assisting fugitives from justice. He has been adopted.

An observer was sent to the Los Angeles trial of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo who were responsible for publication of the secret Department of Defence study on the origins of the Vietnam War. Because of previously undisclosed wire-tapping of telephone conversations of Ellsberg by the White House agents responsible for the now famous Watergate burglary, a mistrial was declared. No re-trial is expected.

The bulk of Amnesty prisoners in the United States are conscientious objectors, indictments against whom continue to be handed down. These COs are alleged Selective Service System violators whose service was due prior to the termination of draft calls. It is not known whether this policy, together with that of refusing amnesty to draft resisters, will be mellowed by the changed atmosphere induced by "Watergate".