

# Amnesty movement set up by Britain

by Steven Meyer

Amnesty International is a unique, well-placed support organization for international terrorism. Established in Great Britain in 1961 by Peter Benenson, a British lawyer, Amnesty International's real purpose has never been to fight "human rights violations." Rather, Amnesty has been a British intelligence project, put to work to erode the principle of national sovereignty.

Over the years, Amnesty has cultivated contacts in both the terrorist "freedom fighter" community, as well as the international law community that has defended terrorist groups like the Baader-Meinhof Gang. Amnesty takes on an astounding 5,000 cases of "human rights violations" every year. By establishing themselves with the authority of "nongovernmental observer" status at the United Nations, Amnesty operatives have been able to enter prisons to ascertain the treatment of prisoners; they have even been allowed to meet with prisoners whom they often turn into international heroes. And they have established extensive networks in 78 countries.

## Amnesty's networks

In 1965, Columbia University professor Ivan Morris, Peter Benenson's close friend, formed a sister organization calling itself The Riverside Group. Two years later Benenson formed a full nationwide branch of Amnesty, incorporated in New York State. He chose another close friend, Michael Straight, as the first U.S. chairman, while Morris joined him as a member of the board of directors of the U.S. organization.

Morris was born in England, served with U.S. Naval Research during World War II; joined the news department of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in 1950 for two years, then served in the research department of the British Foreign Office in London for five years before moving on to the United States. Straight, of the Wall Street family that founded *The New Republic*, was trained at the London School of Economics and Cambridge University, and was a close friend of Guy Burgess and Sir Anthony Blount. Blount personally tried to recruit him into the now-infamous group of double and triple agents of the Queen.

Sean McBride, the first chairman of the International Executive Committee of Amnesty, rounds out the

picture. McBride, who held that post from 1963 until 1974, was also an executive committee member of the Pan-European Union. This organization, headed by Count Otto von Hapsburg, is dedicated to shattering Europe into a loose union of bucolic ethnic regions under oligarchic rule, in place of industrial nation-states.

In recent years Amnesty groups have worked on cases in Iran; in 1975, 118 cases alone. In January 1979, by the time former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark walked the streets of Teheran under the banners that read "Death to America," Amnesty and other rights groups had extensive networks there that helped create the preconditions for the overthrow of the Shah. Clark was a member of the board of directors of Amnesty International-U.S.A. He and Prof. Richard Falk of Princeton University, a member of Amnesty's national advisory board, continue to support Khomeini.

In Germany, Amnesty has recently intervened into a hunger strike by a member of the Red Army Faction (RAF) or Baader-Meinhof, and demanded 'improved' prison conditions, thus legitimizing the terrorists' demands. They were even allowed into the prison where Baader-Meinhof gang members were jailed, and held negotiations with prison officials. West German Defense Minister Gerhard Baum, who is openly lenient toward terrorists, acquiesced to Amnesty's demands that the terrorists be taken out of isolation cells and be permitted visitors and meetings with other prisoners.

In Ireland, Amnesty invited Ramsey Clark and Jesuit priest Daniel Berrigan to meet with imprisoned IRA member Bobby Sands, who is near death due to a 2-month hunger strike. The British government has heightened the tension already caused by a week of rioting in Belfast in sympathy with the IRA by refusing to allow Clark and Berrigan access to Maze Prison, where Sands is being held.

Amnesty International has a National Advisory Council whose members are drawn from both the "left" and "right" sides of the political spectrum. They include: **James Abourezk**, former Democratic senator from South Dakota; **Zbigniew Brzezinski**, Jimmy Carter's National Security Adviser; **William F. Buckley, Jr.**, editor of *National Review* and advocate of drug decriminalization; **Prof. Richard Falk**, member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Institute for World Order; **Richard Gardner**, former U.S. ambassador to Italy under Carter; **Rita Hauser**, member of the Committee on the Present Danger; **Jacob Javits**, former Republican senator from New York and adviser to the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws; **Paul Moore, Jr.**, Episcopal bishop of New York; **Stewart Mott**, General Motors heir and environmentalist patron; **Prof. George Wald** of MIT, leading antiwar and antinuclear activist; and **Rev. William Wipfler** of the World Council of Churches.