

International Commission for the Protection of Prisoners and against Isolation.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Commission held at the Trans National Institute in Amsterdam on March 28-29 1980.

Present: Herman van Aalderen, Pieter-Herman Bakker Schut, Claude Bourdet, Georges Casalis, Christa Cullen, Willem de Haan, Margrit Schiller, Wienke Zitzlaff (as members and associates of the Commission) and about twenty-five relatives of prisoners and members of support groups that work together with the International Commission, from Belgium, Holland, and the F.R.G. (Messages were sent by Stefanie Mistura and Manolos Glezos).

Discussion of Principles. Members of the Commission decided to have a discussion first among members and associates only. Bourdet and Casalis, who had a mandate to speak in the name of Faye and Soulier as well, gave their commentary on the statement of principles (A copy of their position paper is enclosed). After a lengthy but fair discussion the members of the Commission unanimously concluded that an unbridgable gap separated the position taken by the French members and all the other member of the Commission, mainly a difference in views, concerning the character of effective political solidarity (as expressed in the statement of principles and the french comments on the statement). The possibility of drafting a compromise statement was also rejected after a short discussion. The french members thereupon decided to withdraw as members of the Commission.

Prospects for work and Future Tasks for the Commission.

On Saturday 29th members of the Commission discussed with relatives and supporters future plans of action. The discussion took place in a very comradly atmosphere. Reports were given on recent developments and activities in G.B., Holland and the F.R.G.: Luebeck, Düsseldorf and Berlin. The following decisions were taken:

1. From the Statement of Principles the fifth statement will be erased, because it is not really a principle, but merely expresses a short term position. An alternative formulation was suggested by Tony, stressing that the Commission will establish a collaborative relationship with the prisoners.
2. A paper will be drafted by Willem and Tony presenting the work of the Commission to a general public, specifying goals and means etc.
3. A list of political prisoners and basic information about their detention situation will be compiled by the support groups (coördination by Helmut and Ilonka).
4. At the 8th Conference on State Control of Information in the field of Deviance and Social Control in Leuven (Belgium) 4 - 7 September 1980 a presentation will be given on the detention-situation of political prisoners in the F.R.G. A more detailed schedule will be discussed at the next meeting of the Commission including: Facts, analysis and strategy. A resolution will be prepared to be supported by approximately 150 social scientists, attending that conference, organised by the European Group for the Study of Deviance and Social Control. The manifesto of that Group, although somewhat outdated now, will also be enclosed.
5. Foreign members (non-F.R.G.) of the Commission will give a presentation at a public meeting in the F.R.G. Eventually one or more prisoners will be visited. Visits to be organized by support groups.
6. An analysis will be prepared on the political significance of the trial presently held at Düsseldorf, against Christof Wackernagel and Gert Schneider, members of the R.A.F., arrested November 1977 in Amsterdam and extradicted October 1978 on request of the F.R.G. (Heide, Peter).
- 7) Next meeting of the Commission will be held in Italy as suggested by Sergio Piro. Anneliese will contact italian members to arrange exact date (end of July) and location.
John McGuffin, suggested as new member of the Commission, will be invited to participate.

8. The name of the Commission will remain the same. Such a decision was taken after a short discussion. Several reasons were specified why the name of the Commission should not be altered.
9. Financials: Travel and other expenses of members of the Commission will be reimbursed by their respective support groups/committees who should raise a fund.
10. Declarations of solidarity to Northern Ireland and to Italy. Definitive texts formulated during the meeting and approved by the participants, will be sent off by Tony and Anneliese.

Amsterdam, 2nd April 1980.

Willem de Haan.