

AI seeks release of Namibian political prisoners



Amnesty International said Tuesday that it has appealed to the South African government to end detention without trial and the use of torture in Namibia, and to carry out a thorough review of the cases of all Namibian political prisoners. The appeal was made in a letter to Prime Minister P.W. Botha from the worldwide human rights movement. Criticizing the sweeping powers of arrest given troops and police, and the lack of protection for those seized, the letter said, "This system is bound to lead to abuse of the rights of detainees and to result, as it has, in cases of torture and reports of 'disappearances.'"

The use of electric shock, beatings and other forms of torture have repeatedly been reported to Amnesty International and to church groups.

Shootings of civilians have been described by defectors from the South African forces and by Namibian, British and South African church representatives. Amnesty International's letter called for an independent inquiry into reported killings of this kind. Urging a review of political prisoners' cases, the letter said those held only for non-violent expression of their views should be released immediately. Prisoners held without trial should either be charged and tried or released, it said, and the review should also benefit convicted prisoners whose trials failed to meet international standards of fairness. The movement called for an independent judicial inquiry into reports of torture, often said to take place at secret detention centers. Investi-

gation of torture reports is now in the hands of the South African military, who are implicated in many of the reports. In international negotiations for a Namibian settlement, South Africa has agreed in principle that the constitution of a future independent Namibia should include a declaration of fundamental rights. An AI representative pointed out that these basic rights must be protected at all times, and that they were being violated by decrees and procedures now in force. South African forces, controlling Namibia despite a 1966 United Nations decision to remove it from South African trusteeship, have been fighting guerrillas of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO). People suspected of sup-

porting or belonging to SWAPO, including its legal political wing, have been prime targets of arbitrary arrests and detention. Under South African security de-

press, troops or police can arrest people and hold them incommunicado for 30 days, and detention can then be prolonged under the authority of the Administrator-General. The location of detention camps and the number of people in them are closely guarded secrets, but there are believed to be hundreds of people held without trial at any one time, and torture is reported regularly. Making public its appeal, AI called attention to several cases in which people had "disappeared" after being reported seized by security forces and to more than 45 known political prisoners serving sentences ranging from five years to life.

Bethel program feeds poor neighbors

by C. Eddie Edmondson

This Thanksgiving had an extraordinary amount of the giving and sharing of food by families and friends with those who have less this year than last. The news media was awash last week with stories about the depth of local poverty and unemployment cleansed by the responses of those who read, saw and reacted to the results of Reaganomics. (The Reagan Administration took Thanksgiving Day as appropriate to announce consideration of taxing unemployment checks as a means of discouraging unemployment.)

food distribution programs, has been distributing food since Clara Mae People first paired Oregon farmers and urban poor in gleaning programs. Along with a large bag of groceries (which always includes fresh or processed meat) the Bethel-Community Care food program as it's called, includes freshly cooked hot, meaty meals sufficient for every member of the family except a nursing baby. Most hot meals programs don't provide a bag of groceries, and most grocery programs don't provide cooked meals.

(an earlier injury had confined her to a wheelchair), Peoples encourages and cautions her volunteers. Someone shouts for her to sit down; she smiles and moves out of their eyesight. "The reason we got this program at the church is to feed those among us who need help," she said. Although the program is self-sustaining and low budgeted she admits

some people just can't afford to pay. Her volunteers, she says, manage to show every weekend the kind of community concern and giving that is big news during major holidays like Thanksgiving and Christmas. And if that's true of her volunteers, and it appears to be the case, Clara Peoples is the spirit of holidays 52 Saturdays a year.



Mrs. Carolyn Brown, a longtime community volunteer in several food programs, oohs and ahs over a pan of chicken and noodles, while Mrs. Peoples smiles with satisfaction.

But at Bethel A.M.E. Church, 5828 N.E. 8th, church members and Community Care volunteers continued to operate their regular Saturday morning food distribution program in the same manner as they had before and after Thanksgiving. "Except that we added a couple of turkeys the Saturday before Thanksgiving," explained Clara Peoples, Community Care director and lifelong Bethelite. "I have to make sure my people get a turkey dinner, too," she shyly explained. Two days after Thanksgiving a volunteer critically noted, "Clara's got too much food out here; she forgot these people just got through eating a lot of food and stuff."

Community Care, the forerunner of many of the nation's non-profit

"Some of the participants bring large plastic bowls and containers to put their hot meals in," Mrs. Peoples observes happily. "We want to make sure they get one good full meal for the week." This emphasis on service also includes free coffee and pastry for those waiting while their bags and meals are prepared. "I can't do this without my volunteers," said Mrs. Peoples, who can be seen directing and coordinating the activities of groups of volunteers preparing grocery bags, cooking, making salads, bringing in a truck load or car loads (whatever transportation is available) of bread, boxes of fruits or vegetables. Moving about with her cane in hand

Ralph's Hollywood Florist
Flowers From Hollywood
 IN YAWS RESTAURANT
 2005 N.E. 40th
 Portland, OR 97212
 249-1888
 We Deliver Anywhere

YOU CAN SPREAD SOME WARMTH IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD THIS WINTER.



GIVE TO PROJECT HELP.

This winter we want to try and help make sure no one goes without heat.

That's why we created Project HELP, a local community emergency fuel assistance fund to help people who need financial assistance to cover electric heat and other fuel costs.

To help fund local Project HELP programs, we'll match donations from individuals and our employees with dollars from stockholders. All donations go right back into the community they came from. So it's really a case of neighbors helping neighbors.

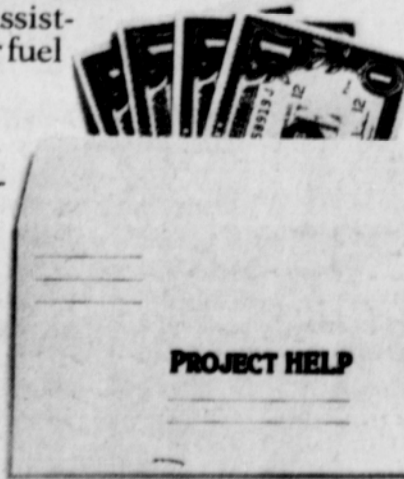
Project HELP will be run by existing local human services agencies who will manage and distri-

bute the funds to help deserving people pay for the electricity, natural gas, fuel oil, wood or coal to heat their homes.

You can help make Project HELP a success by adding your contribution. In your next bill, you'll find information that tells more about Project HELP. You'll also find an envelope for you to mail in your tax deductible contribution. Envelopes are also available in all our local offices.

Give any amount you want. Because whatever you donate, you're helping people and families in your community keep warm who might be left in the cold this winter.

And that should give you a warm feeling all over.



Use the envelope in your next electric bill to mail your contribution to Project HELP.



THE PEOPLE AT PACIFIC POWER

GOOD SCENTS

Choose from 85 perfume oils and luxurious custom-scented gift items. Everything from gift sets to stocking stuffers. Specializing in quality soaps, bubble baths, bath oils and moisture lotions.

esential
 lotions & oils
 727 NW 21st Avenue
 248-9748
 Mon-Sat 10-6