

work with citizens who wish to promote rehabilitation, directly or indirectly, whether they be parents, citizens' committees or employers. This window for the inmate on the "outside world" is also a window for the citizens on the "inside world", and a hope for a positive change in mentality on both sides.

Finally, ideas and letters (given by those who work with the institutions and in the parole area) could be referred to associations able to play a role in the release of inmates of the inmate, with the purpose of presenting facts, dignities, questions, hopes and of promoting a fruitful and efficient co-operation.

#### (b) The role of the volunteers

This rôle seems very important to us and should even be broadened. In fact, we have noted that while working in institutions, volunteers manage to establish relationships with the inmates which are often of a more faithful and fulfilling nature than those the inmate had known himself. Furthermore, these volunteers often fill a void the inmate has to face because of a break in family or marriage ties. We know the importance for many prisoners of having "someone who thinks about him" outside; often, this volunteer means "I am still worth something" or "I can still hope" or "when I get out, I will have someone to help me" or even "I will have a visitor next Sunday". The individuals of these volunteer visitors in observing these various apprehensions seems precious to us and even vital in some cases.

On the other hand, we are able to verify the lack of communication among voluntary visitors, institutions and the parole service. We do not know exactly what the visitors think and do, just as they do not know exactly what we think and do. One of the first objectives would certainly be to have meetings in order to understand each

other and establish together an effective co-operation program, especially with respect to releasing inmates on parole. We believe, indeed, that we must go beyond peaceful co-existence in order to really co-operate. This co-operation could focus, for example, on the preparation of the future return of the individual into society and on the period during which the individual is a parolee; we are of the opinion that the parolee may at times have a much closer relationship with his voluntary visitor or visitors than with his parole supervisor and that, consequently, the visitor can sometimes do more and prevent difficulties for the parolee better than anybody else. A trusting co-operation would bring about the total objectives of both organizations: the well-being of the prisoner and of the parolee and the protection of society.

One point remains: we realize that the delinquents sometime succeed in "using" their voluntary visitors just as they tend to use everybody else. The visitor gets caught, as we do, but maybe more easily so. We are sure that the visitors are aware of this but we would like to co-operate with them and with the parole service to increase the chances of success of the parolee beyond the drawbacks of these manipulations, the arguments of which are often convincing, but which lead to useless expenditures of energy and to unfortunate circumstances.

Finally, we consider the voluntary visitors as an association of friends of the prisoners who could also inform the public of what is going on with parolees and who could, in cooperation with the parole service, develop practical means of helping the parolees as well as prisoners in institutions; for example, provide opportunities for intellectual and artistic development and make broader contacts with employers and services who could eventually help the parolees.