

# Amnesty adopts prisoner

By MIRIAM DEBLY  
Brunswickan Staff

Currently in Fredericton an Amnesty International group has been active to attain the freedom of Prisoners of conscience. They are fighting for the Human Rights of all those suppressed in countries where civil unrest is present.

The Fredericton branch of Amnesty International has adopted Pyoter Rumachik as a prisoner of conscience (an individual imprisoned anywhere in the world, because of his or her beliefs or origins, who has never used or advocated violence).

"Reverend Pyoter Rumachik" is 55 years old and has spent 17 years of his life in-

various prison sentences. His most recent arrest in the Soviet Union was in 1981 when he was tried and convicted of three charges: "circulating anti-Soviet slander;" "violating the laws separating church and state;" and "anti-social activity under the pretext of conducting religious ceremonies."

He was sentenced to 5 years of imprisonment in a strict regime labour colony in the Chita region which borders Mongolia and China. In this type of camp, prisoners sleep in double bunk-beds over crowded barracks, few toilets, minimum heat in the winter and minimal ventilation in the summer.

Pyoter Rumachik suffers



from high blood pressure and heart trouble. He didn't expect to survive his last term of imprisonment.

In addition, just prior to finishing his 5th term, he was re-arrested and charged with "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" and sentenced for another 5 years.

Rumachik is the vice-chairman of the Council of Evangelical Christians which refuses to accept government restriction on religious activities such as publishing religious papers and state control over the appointment of clergy and the content of their sermons.

For his appeal toward attaining these rights for the

public, he has undergone imprisonment.

Amnesty International is campaigning for his release on the grounds that his imprisonment is in violation of Articles 18 and 19 of the "International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights" which the USSR ratified in 1973. Article 18 states: "Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion."

Both publicity and letter-writing can have as significant effect on the lives of these long-term prisoners. A number of surprising releases recently have offered new hope for other prisoners and their families.

# He's mad about the Contra-versy

By Don Eady

This article was written in wake of the controversy caused by McMaster University Young Progressive's donation of 20 dollars to the Nicaraguan Contra movement.

Last year the McMaster Young Progressive conservative Association donated US \$20 to the Nicaraguan Contras - those fun-loving murderous band of mercenaries dedicated to keeping Central America American. That they sent US dollars indicates something about where the Tories' hearts lie on the free trade debate but that's another issue.

Apparently, they also funnelled the money through a US college Republican organization. They also have never received acknowledgement of the donation which could be a problem at tax time. We are told by the PC Club President that all the money was used for humanitarian purposes. If you believe that I have some land in Quebec for sale, real cheap! All this stuff is mere background to the more serious issue of where the money came from. Did the PC Club hold a bake sale at which they sold chocolate "bomb" cakes to unsuspecting students from other Universities, the proceeds from which were channelled through a series of shady middlemen and right-wing fringe groups? Was the Mac PC President fully informed of the donation? Or was it done by

some overzealous young PC out to make a name for himself? I smell a scandal. Let's look at some possible scenarios. SCENARIO NO. 1: The money from the bake sale was funnelled through a couple of failed Western banks, then through the Republican organization where it was finally tacked onto Col. North's "private" donation. I'll bet it was then used to buy 4 or 5 bullets with the inscription "Take that you pesky commies - Love the Mac PCs". SCENARIO NO.2:

Perhaps the Mac PCs got a hot tip from the leaky cabinet up in Ottawa, bought some Swiss arms manufacturer stock and decided to donate the proceeds to the Contras. Sort of an Ivan Boesky meets Sinclair Stevens meets Eugene Hasenfus type scenario. If you don't recognize these names you've been working far too hard and should take a break and read the paper once in a while. SCENARIO NO.3: Simply put, the donation was a monumentally stupid act by a bunch of overzealous right-wing idiots

with absolutely no morals and even less political intelligence. If the Tories have so much money to throw around they would be wise to put some of it into salvaging their political future, or, failing that, into a legitimate charity.

Giving money to a murderous band of terrorists bent on overthrowing a legitimately elected government strikes me as being an extremely poor use of funds. However, if the Tories are intent on giving money to groups

trying to overthrow governments I can think of a couple which could use it. How about sending a cheque to the African National Congress or if that is too painful for members of Dan MacKenzie's Party (he's the Tory MP who stunned observers when he said that South African blacks weren't ready for the vote but they were good with their hands and would make good mechanics) how about the rebels in Afghanistan?

Scared? Nervous?  
Worried? Got any  
questions? If so  
send them to  
Sharkey c/o the  
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Bruns Room 35



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