

that the results are not unsatisfactory. However, the International Commission has reserved the right to forward petitions from individual citizens who consider that they are entitled to benefit by the amnesty and the Government has agreed that they will be considered by the Ministry of Justice.

PETITIONS:

17. Petitions continued to be presented to the Commission from former resisters or their relatives seeking redress or protesting against acts of the authorities. The teams of the Commission were kept busy in investigating these petitions. It will be adequate for the purposes of this interim report if we refer to the main types of petitions and the action taken thereon.

18. The Commission received petitions stating that persons had been arrested because of their participation in the resistance movement. The teams investigated these petitions to determine the circumstances of the arrests. The Commission, through its Political Committee, examined the investigation reports with an eye to ensuring that the arrested persons were being treated in accordance with the law and that there were no grounds to believe that the arrests constituted reprisals. One essential point in determining whether the Commission should intervene was whether the alleged crime was committed during or after cessation of hostilities and whether the crime could be construed as an act which was part of the hostilities.

19. Other petitions concerned the continued detention of former members of the K.R.F., extortion of money by local officials, harassment of relatives, harassment of released prisoners, etc. In all these cases, the teams were asked to investigate if the complaints related to the ex-K.R.F. and the matter was then further taken up with the Government or the local authority concerned. It must be said that the provincial authorities, with one or two exceptions, were not slow in examining complaints brought to their notice by the Commission.

20. The overall picture regarding reintegration of former resisters is that the position is more encouraging than at the time of the last report. The number of complaints has begun to diminish. The attitude of the Government towards normal political activity is changing for the better, though a measure of suspicion towards the ex-K.R.F. still persists in certain quarters.

COMPLAINTS FROM GOVERNMENT;

21. Numerous complaints have been received from the Government which have been investigated by the Commission. They can be divided broadly under the following heads:

- (a) That there is reluctance on the part of former members of the K.R.F. to reintegrate themselves into the national community and that they continue to make propaganda against the Government. Armed bands too, the Government said, were roaming the countryside.