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# Amnesty Group Watched by CIA, Red Agents

**WASHINGTON** — They suspect the CIA is trying to infiltrate their organization, and are certain they're being watched by agents of Communist governments.

They've been politely expelled from some of the best embassies, and impolitely tossed out of the most exotic nooks and crannies of the world.

Which often lead members of Amnesty International to ask—what's a nice group like us doing in a job like this?

Housewives, businessmen, students, clergymen, lawyers, tradesmen and retired people, they form a most unlikely com-

citizens to be embroiled in style imbroglios.

But by its very nature—an organization dedicated to seeking the release of prisoners of conscience on both sides of the Iron curtain and in uncommitted countries—amnesty is bound to attract the curiosity and attention of intelligence agents of sundry political shades and colors.

As proof, organization officials cite the occasion, when their London office was broken into, and their central file of cases professionally rifled.

The file of prisoners, called POC'S (prisoners of conscience) contains detailed information about some 7,000 people who

have been imprisoned for their political or religious beliefs. Much of the information would be considered classified in their countries of origin, or, at the least, delicate.

For example, the case of Mihajlo Mihajlov, imprisoned in Yugoslavia because he tried to set up an independent Communist journal, is a source of continued embarrassment to the Yugoslavs who claim that theirs is the "freest" of all the Communist countries.

Staff members at the Kenyan Embassy jump nervously at mention of the case of Caroline Okello-Odongo.

American-born, Howard Un-

iversity-educated, Mrs. Okello-Odongo was private secretary to ousted Kenyan Vice President Oginga Odinga. She was imprisoned in 1966 under an emergency security law, and has not been heard from since.

The case of Vyachaslivil Chornovil, still under investigation at London Headquarters, is likely to shape up those who believe the prevailing wind for writers in the Soviet Union has grown fairer. Chornovil, a Soviet-Ukrainian journalist, was arrested in west Ukraine when he questioned the legal premises for a trial of fellow writers in and intellectuals.

What impels ordinary Amer-

icans, Britons, Swiss, Australians and so on, to concern themselves with the fate of thousands of prisoners in foreign jails?

One clue can be found in the preface to Amnesty's handbook for its American members.

Richard N. Goodwin, former presidential assistant and now an Amnesty member, is quoted: "For anyone who dissents in his heart, not to dissent with whatever weapons he has—words or speeches, petitions or demonstration—is to find in the secret depths of his own mind the silent accomplice to horror."

Amnesty members are essentially dissenters, but dissenters who care enough to be moved

to action. Their organization has become a network of concern for those who have been imprisoned for political or religious beliefs, providing they do not advocate violence.

They take their mandate from Articles 18 and 19 of the United Nations Declaration of Human rights: "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion—everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression."

Amnesty employs every conceivable means, short of violence and organized law-breaking, to pry open the doors of the world's political prisons.