

PRISONS AND PRISONERS
IN
PORTUGAL

AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION
by
LORD RUSSELL OF LIVERPOOL

The author of this independent enquiry is a former Deputy Judge Advocate General, HQ First Army (1942-43); Allied Forces Headquarters (1943-45); GHQ Middle East Forces (1945-46); HQ British Army of the Rhine (1946-47); and Assistant Judge Advocate General (1951-54).

His publications include "The Scourge of the Swastika" and "The Trial of Adolf Eichmann".

PRISONS AND PRISONERS IN PORTUGAL

During the past eighteen months there have been a number of allegations made by certain organisations such as Amnesty of the torture and ill-treatment of political prisoners in Portuguese prisons and of the conditions in which they live. A number of articles have also been written in certain British newspapers repeating these allegations.

The Portuguese Government were anxious to get some impartial and authoritative observer to enquire into prison conditions, allegations of torture and the ill-treatment of political prisoners, as all denials by the Portuguese Government are either disregarded or disbelieved. I was approached in March, 1963 to see whether I would be prepared to undertake such an investigation. At the same time I was promised that I would be given a completely free hand and would have access to all prisons and prisoners and I agreed to do this on that understanding.

I arrived in Lisbon on the 20th April and started my investigation on the 22nd, completing it on the 1st May. As promised I was given every facility to visit all the prisons and to see and talk with any prisoners whom I wanted to interview or who wanted to talk to me. In order to be able, if necessary, to compare the conditions in which ordinary criminal prisoners live with the conditions in which political prisoners live I visited two penal establishments in which only ordinary criminal prisoners are held.

Before leaving Lisbon I had long interviews with the Minister of Justice, the Minister for the Interior, and lastly the Foreign Minister, to whom I made certain constructive suggestions, particularly about Aljube prison (*qv*).

THE PRISON HOSPITAL AT CAXIAS

Visited on 23rd April.

This extremely modern and well-equipped hospital of 184 beds was completed less than seven months ago. It has every possible convenience and every modern apparatus and is equal to any modern hospital I have ever visited. All political prisoners who are awaiting trial or serving sentences of imprisonment in any of the Portuguese prisons, if seriously ill or in need of special hospital treatment or surgery, are admitted to this hospital. One political prisoner from Peniche was in the hospital when I visited it and two others arrived from Peniche that same afternoon.

I interviewed the prisoner from Peniche, Antonio Correia Terruta, aged 52, who is suffering from a form of cancer in the neck and who is shortly to be operated upon. He is at present serving a sentence of three years for infringing the law as an active member of the Communist Party in Portugal. When I spoke to him he was in a single room, well furnished and decorated with a large window looking out over the countryside equal, if not better, to any private ward I have ever visited in any English hospital. He had no complaints.

There is a large medical staff, including three surgeons.

PENICHE PRISON

Visited on 24th April.

This prison is situated fifty miles north of Lisbon within the walls of a 16th century fort. It is an old-established prison now entirely used for political prisoners. The buildings inside, however, are very up-to-date and in excellent condition and further work on improving them was in progress during my visit. This work is done by ordinary prisoners who come from other prisons. When the work is completed they return to their own prisons.

The political prisoners are not in solitary confinement but are housed in large well lit rooms, about ten to each room, with proper beds and bedclothes. They are allowed one-and-a-half hours exercise each day in a bright sunlit courtyard. They take their meals together and may spend two hours daily in the library, and in the morning between 7 and 9 may go to the washrooms and bathrooms together. Between these hours there is constant hot water every day and baths are available twice a week. No political prisoners are forced to wear prison clothing and they all wear their own. The maximum capacity of Peniche is 140, but at present there are only 114 prisoners there. There is no overcrowding.

There is an up-to-date medical inspection room and a pleasant light sick-bay containing six beds. The prison doctor, whom I saw, attends each day and if the doctor considers it necessary the patient is removed to Caxias prison hospital.

Most of the prisoners in Peniche are serving sentences of less than three years with 'security measures'. Two or three are serving sentences of ten years but these have been convicted of serious crimes of a treasonable nature and one man is serving a sentence of twenty years because of his complicity in a plot to kill Dr. Salazar in Lisbon. There is no death penalty in Portugal. It was abolished almost a hundred years ago, nor is there any term of life imprisonment.

Interviews with Prisoners at Peniche.

GONCALVES, Mario Pedroso.

Arrested May, 1958, first at Aljube and then at Caxias. Tried December, 1959. Defended by Dr. Figueredo of Lisbon. I first explained who I was and told him that I had been invited by the Portuguese Government to inspect the prisons in which political prisoners are awaiting trial or serving their sentence and told him that he need not be afraid of talking to me and that I wanted him to be perfectly frank with me.

I explained the contents of an article written about him entitled PRISONER OF THE MONTH in the first issue (March, 1963) of Amnesty's bulletin. In this article it was stated, I told him, that his health had suffered terribly in prison and that those who knew him claimed that he had been severely beaten and tortured whilst in prison awaiting trial and that sometimes he returned from interrogations by the P.I.D.E. in a state of unconsciousness and that, as a result of his ill-treatment his kidneys caused him so much pain that they gave rise to the greatest anxiety. Eventually his prison companions staged a hunger strike as they could no longer bear his screams. It was only then in June, 1961 that permission was granted for him to attend the prison hospital. Whilst in hospital he was operated upon and after a year returned to filthy damp prison conditions, where his health is giving rise to fresh anxieties.

When I questioned Gonçalves he told a very different story. When arrested he had his hands in his pockets and kept them there and a policeman pulled his hands out and told him to stand at attention. Once during interrogation he was hit on the face a couple of times with the hand of one of the interrogators. He had suffered no other ill-treatment and he assured me that the kidney trouble from which he is now suffering was not in any way caused by any ill-treatment or the conditions under which he lived in prison. He stated that at the present time he was on a special diet and was being given medication for his complaint and kept under constant medical observation. He had been told that if his condition did not soon improve he would be taken to the special prison hospital quite recently opened near Caxias and which I had already inspected on the previous day. The story that he had already been operated on in hospital and then returned to damp quarters, he told me, was totally untrue.

Incidentally, the living quarters, kitchens, dining rooms, recreation rooms, and the medical inspection room and sick bay are impeccable. The only part of the prison which is not in keeping with the high standard of the general accommodation is the room where the prisoners are allowed to see

visitors. There are no partitions dividing one prisoner from another and there is, therefore, little privacy. In most of the other prisons I visited there were partitions. When I was shown this room, which is called the prolatorium, I was told that the interior was shortly going to be altered and this would ensure that prisoners could have private conversations with their wives and other relatives without the other prisoners being able to overhear.

I also discovered that conditions in the prolatorium were previously better but that these alterations had been made after a mass escape from Peniche in June, 1961. Gonçalves' sentence has now been fully served and he has also served twenty-two months of his 'security measures' but it is practically certain that he will soon be released.

RAMOS, Dr. Orlando

In an article written by Mr. Neville Vincent, Q.C., in the *Spectator* of the 13th April, 1962 he wrote the following about Dr. Ramos: "Aged 35, completed medical school 1951. Worked for the Portugal Cancer Institute since 1955. Well-known lecturer. Author of several medical papers. In July, 1960 was arrested by P.I.D.E. Tortured for five days and five nights. Kept in prison until his trial in 1961 when he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment to be followed by 'security measures'. This virtually means life sentence and he is now in Caxias Fortress living in an atmosphere of terror and under appalling conditions."

Dr. Ramos confirmed the fact that he was arrested in August, 1960 and said that he was interrogated in a cell in the P.I.D.E. prison in Lisbon (Aljube) for ten days incessantly without being allowed any sleep. It is possible, from other investigations I have made that he was subjected to a very lengthy interrogation, for he is an important official in the Communist Party, but it is very doubtful whether it was for such a long period as ten days. He also stated that he was kept in isolated confinement for four months in one of the tiny cells in Aljube (I have since inspected these cells, see separate report on Aljube prison). He was then transferred to Caxias and thence to the P.I.D.E. prison in Oporto. He told me that he was in good health and that he had not been physically ill-treated in any way. He agreed that the living conditions in Peniche are excellent but complained that his only occupation there was to continue his medical studies and that he found difficulty in getting the books he required to do this. He also complained that newspapers which he was given to read were censored by certain items being cut out. (I was interested to discover

during my visit to Aljube that there the papers are not censored. It is difficult to understand why this should vary in different prisons. The only explanation which I have so far been given, not very satisfactory, is that the Governor of each prison can use his discretion whether or not to censor the papers.) Ramos told me that for certain offences the prisoners were kept in a special cell for periods of from fourteen days to one month. This, however, is common practice in the prisons of many civilised countries and is allowed by Portuguese law in the prisons for ordinary criminals where they can be sentenced by the prison Governor to detention in a punishment cell for a maximum of thirty days.

Dr. Ramos also complained that the system of 'security measures' means in effect that a political prisoner can be kept in prison for life. I made very careful enquiries and am satisfied that it is *very rarely* that a prisoner serves more than a three year's period of 'security measures'. This statement by Dr. Ramos I have checked both with the Minister of Justice and the Minister of the Interior. At the present moment only three political prisoners, out of a total of 325, are serving a longer term and in all three cases their crimes were very serious, one of them having been implicated in a plot to assassinate the Prime Minister, Dr. Salazar. It should also be borne in mind that at the termination of a period of three years' 'security measures' the question of whether the prisoner is released or sentenced to a further term has to be considered by the Court, who take into consideration the prisoner's own statement and the recommendation of P.I.D.E.

LOPES, Dr. Humberto.

In the same article written by Mr. Vincent entitled *THE SHAME OF PORTUGAL* he wrote "Dr. Humberto Lopes remains in prison. After being there for six months for investigation he was set free only to be re-arrested for giving legal advice to another political prisoner when in custody. . . For giving this advice Dr. Lopes was sentenced to two-and-a-half years' imprisonment to be followed by six months' 'security measures'." As always, this is extendable and although his sentence was completed in May, 1960 and in spite of frequent entreaties by his wife, P.I.D.E. has done nothing to free him. Dr. Lopes' own version of what has happened to him since his first arrest on the 13th November, 1953 is as follows: — He was interrogated with some brutality and made to undergo the statue ill-treatment, *i.e.*, kept in an upright position for several hours. He also says that on one occasion he was beaten by one of the P.I.D.E. interrogators with a truncheon. He was not tried

until March, 1955 (that is to say, he spent one year and four months in prison awaiting trial and at his trial he was acquitted). Later he was re-arrested and Dr. Lopes described the circumstances of his second arrest. He told me that some time after he left prison some papers were found in the room in which he had been kept in custody. One piece of paper which he acknowledged to have been written by him contained some legal advice on a private matter which he had given on request to a fellow prisoner. There was nothing incriminating in this advice. Other papers were discovered at the same time of an incriminating nature about which he was totally ignorant. The prosecution submitted that because his legal information was found with the other papers that this proved his knowledge of their contents and on the 23rd July, 1957 he was sentenced to two-and-a-half years' imprisonment and 'security measures'. He told me that the reason why he was sentenced to 'security measures' was that he was so exasperated at the Court's verdict that he lost his temper and told them in no uncertain words that they were not a Court and that they were 'nothing but a fraud'. Later, at the expiry of his sentence on the 22nd July, 1960, he received a pardon in respect of his contempt of Court and from that date the 'security measures' came into force. He is still in Peniche prison and has already put in his application, in accordance with the standing regulations, to be released on the 22nd July this year.

Dr. Lopes is a lawyer of some standing and an extremely cultured man. He also happens to be very musical and complains that only on two or three occasions during the whole of his prison sentence have the prisoners been allowed to hear any music. (N.B.—In the ordinary prisons which I have visited prisoners are allowed to have radio sets in their cells and to attend concerts. As well as having a band of their own in the Lisbon Penitentiary artistes attend from time to time to give concerts and other purposes and they also have an amateur dramatic Society which the prisoners run themselves.) Dr. Lopes complained that when he asked the head warden whether a volume of Shakespeare could be added to the prison library he was told that the chief warden had never heard of Shakespeare. Although in Peniche the prisoners are allowed to take exercise in a yard which gets the full sun they are not allowed to play games as they are in the ordinary civil prisons.

Dr. Lopes is not an attractive personality, but this may be because he is so bitter. It took me some time to convince him that I was not some international policeman and even when he finally accepted my identity he was extremely evasive but from my own experience of a very large number of war

crime trials in Germany I came to the conclusion that his evidence about the alleged 'statue' ill-treatment should be treated with great reservation. He was sentenced on July 23rd 1957 to 22 years major imprisonment. To be followed by detention under security measures of from six months to three years.

Having appealed, however, he remained under preventive detention pending the Appeal Court's decision. His appeal was dismissed and in consequence it was not until January 1958 that he began to serve his sentence. The latter was completed on the 27th July 1960 when the security measures came into operation.

I had an opportunity of discussing his case fully with the Minister of Justice and have no doubt that he received a fair trial.

LISBON PENITENTIARY.

Visited on 25th April.

This is the main prison in Portugal for ordinary prisoners serving sentences of more than three years' imprisonment. It is situated in the centre of Lisbon and is built on the well-known 'star' system. Nevertheless, the building is in excellent condition and the cells very roomy and the prisoners are allowed to have their own ornaments and other belongings in the cells and there is a radio set in each cell and a radio-room run by the prisoners themselves from which they send out their own programmes and records as well as relaying the ordinary Portuguese programmes. Outside many of the cells the prisoners have their own canaries in cages. They have two hours exercise a day and also play games. While I was there there was a basket ball game in progress. I visited all the workshops where they make, *not mail bags*, but furniture, cardboard boxes, taps and other plumbing requisites, and do chromium plating. There is also a large printing press complete with lithograph and typograph machines in which books and government pamphlets are printed and bound.

I had an opportunity of seeing nearly all the prisoners and speaking to anybody to whom I wanted and was left with a very favourable impression.

CAXIAS PRISON—NORTH AND SOUTH.

I visited both these prisons on the 25th April in company with an Inspector from P.I.D.E. I was first shown the North Prison, which is at present empty as it is being thoroughly renovated and modernised. Nevertheless, I inspected the

rooms in which the political prisoners will be housed when this prison is ready. Each of these rooms are about 35 feet by 25 feet and each room has a very large window which lets in the sun. A number of these rooms have a dining room leading off them. There is an adequate medical inspection room, a good visitors' room with partitions and a modern cookhouse is to be installed. The washing and lavatory accommodation is more than adequate and includes a few baths as well as wash basins.

While these renovations are being carried out a number of prisoners, who were formerly housed there, are now being housed in Caxias South which is, therefore, overcrowded, and there are about eighteen men in each room instead of only ten. The result is that instead of sleeping in ten beds, five on each side of the room, they sleep in bunks built in two tiers. In this prison, as in all the other prisons, the prisoners are allowed to have extra food and drink (non-alcoholic), which they can either purchase themselves from the prison stores or which are brought to them from time to time by visiting relatives. There are a number of women political prisoners in Caxias South but there are not more than ten in any room and they have proper beds with clean sheets, etc. The general condition of this prison is inferior to that of Peniche, and this is freely admitted by the prison authorities, but nothing has been done to make improvements because as soon as the renovation of Caxias North is completed Caxias South is to be closed. The conditions in which these prisoners are kept at the present moment cannot, however, be described as poor, and they will, by November, be excellent.

I spoke privately to Dr. Julieta Gandra, a well-known physician from Luanda in Angola who was sentenced at her trial to one year's imprisonment to be followed by 'security measures'. According to Mr. Vincent's article she appealed against her conviction but the appeal was disallowed and her sentence was increased to one of four years. She told me that she was not allowed to be present at her second trial. The legal position is that if her appeal was purely on a point of law she would not have been allowed to appear.

In Mr. Vincent's article it is stated that Dr Gandra is now in Caxias Fortress suffering from a serious liver disease, that she is in continual pain and denied any proper medical care. I ascertained from the P.I.D.E. inspector that prisoners are allowed to see a specialist of their own choice should they wish to do so and I asked her why she had not seen a specialist having regard to the fact that she, a physician, believed that she is suffering from a gastric ulcer. She told me that she

would like to see Dr. Edmundo Lima Bastos but that anyone wishing to see a doctor of his or her choice would have to pay the doctor's expenses and expenses for radiology, etc. and that there were other women prisoners with her who could not afford this and she was not, therefore, willing to enjoy a privilege which was denied to them. She gave me the names of three other prisoners who, she said, needed specialist treatment. Albina Fernandez, in need of a gynaecologist, Natalia Martins, in need of an endocrinologist and Aida Paula, in need of psychiatric treatment. I made enquiries and confirmed that Albina Fernandez saw a specialist on the 23rd April and Natalia Martins also saw a specialist about a month ago.

There are about eighteen women political prisoners in Caxias. Fifteen are political prisoners including Dr. Julieta Gandra, who are awaiting trial and three others, from Angola, who were suspected of being concerned with the terrorist movement in Angola but who are shortly to be released. In addition to a dormitory of about 35 feet by 25 feet the women also have a living room of the same dimensions leading from the dormitory. Both these rooms have a large window, dimensions 4 feet by 6 feet which let in plenty of sun during the morning and light all day and a view of the sea can be seen from each window. Like the political prisoners in Peniche both male and female prisoners in Caxias are allowed to have extra rations which they can buy in the prison or which are brought by visitors. While I was in this prison about 12.15 p.m. a bus full of visitors arrived and all had large baskets full of food including cheese, fruit, vegetables and cereals.

I also visited the men's dormitories, in some cases they also have living rooms adjoining and when Caxias North has been renovated there will be a living room to each dormitory. In one of them I spoke to Fr. Joaquim Pinto de Andrade. On the 9th February, 1963 in an article entitled FOSTERING AN APOSTOLIC LAITY IN ANGOLA it was stated that, according to the Leopoldville news agency DIA the condition of Fr. Andrade's health was causing grave concern. The article went on to state that "the worst must be feared, above all when one knows that the P.I.D.E. have practised even worse measures than usual on Fr. Andrade. His cell is so narrow that it is impossible to move . . . his bed is dirty and full of fleas and bed bugs . . . Fr. Andrade is suffering from a liver complaint. They have taken away his spectacles, watch, books and suitcase, there is nothing he can do all day in that dark cell either for his soul or for his body". This statement was undoubtedly written to describe the conditions in which Fr. Andrade lived in the P.I.D.E. prison of Aljube before he was moved to Caxias where I saw him. He repeated most of the story and doubtless some of it is

true. He is, however, now in good health, and his description of the cell in which he was incarcerated is grossly exaggerated (see page 15). It is not without significance that on the very day on which I myself talked with Fr. Andrade, 25th April, Radio Moscow in a broadcast about the Portuguese political prisoners stated that he was gravely ill. As far as I could observe, and from what he himself told me, this was a complete fabrication.

Fr. Andrade is still awaiting trial but he now appears to be in perfectly good health and informed me that he was so. He was wearing his spectacles and his watch has been given back to him. He was well dressed and, when I entered the room and before he knew who I was, was sitting near the window reading a book.

I have inspected Fr. Andrade's dossier and am satisfied that he was an active member of the MPLA (Movimento Popular de Libertação de Angola). He is the brother of Mario Coelho Pinto de Andrade who was an active and dangerous member of the Portuguese Communist Party's Youth Movement (commonly known as M.U.D. Juvenil), and who has taken part in various international communist conferences all over the world and as recently as 27th September 1962 took part in a Communist conference in Leopoldville. It is in this part of the Congo that large numbers of the Banongo tribe are trained in terrorist tactics before being sent to Northern Angola to take part in terrorist activities.

All the other male prisoners whom I saw in Caxias South appeared to be in perfect physical condition and both before I entered their room and while I was talking to some of them others were quietly reading, engaged in handicraft work of their own, or sitting in small groups chatting to each other. Although I spoke to nearly all of them none of them had any complaints to make about their treatment or accommodation in Caxias.

ALJUBE PRISON, LISBON

Visited on 25th April.

This is a small, badly lit building opposite the Cathedral church of Lisbon. There were, on the day of my visit, thirty-nine political prisoners in custody awaiting trial there. For interrogation purposes they are taken to the P.I.D.E. Headquarters. There are thirteen small cells and the remaining twenty-six prisoners are kept in other rooms which could hold four beds without overcrowding, and on the top floor there are about twelve other rooms, larger and brighter, in one of which was an ex-Major of the Portuguese Air Force who was one of

the leaders of a revolt against the Government in Angola but who was arrested before it took place.

The whole atmosphere of this prison, except for the top floor, is one of gloom and despondency and the inmates look very different from their fellow prisoners in the other prisons.

Those who are confined in the tiny cells, when I saw them, looked rather like caged animals. I tried to speak to one of them, who was in cell 13, and he just stared back at me as though he had seen a ghost. There was a coloured youth from Angola in another cell, I think it was No. 16, to whom I spoke. In spite of the fact that my identity was explained to him he appeared to be terrified when I talked with him through an interpreter and he shook all over. Until we entered the cell it was pitch dark (this was while it was still broad daylight outside) and even when the light was switched on it was impossible to read.

He did, however, say that although the conditions in which he was confined were terrible he had not been physically maltreated. These thirteen cells are very small, there is only just room for a bed and about one foot of space between the bed and the wall. The prisoners in Aljube get no exercise at all, because there is nowhere they can be exercised, and there is no room for them to walk about in these cells. Nor are they allowed to read or have any other form of recreation. In some cases, for as long as 2-3 months, they are left alone in these dark dungeons, for that is what they really amount to, with nothing but their thoughts.

The P.I.D.E. Inspector who showed me round the prison told me that they were very ashamed of it and that as soon as Caxias North was ready Aljube would be used no more. *Nevertheless, in my opinion, the thirty-nine prisoners now in Aljube could, meanwhile, be temporarily housed in Caxias South without much difficulty. Failing that a wing of some other prison should be set aside for these political prisoners until the new accommodation is available.*

These narrow dark cells, however, are not as bad as the description given me by Fr. Andrade. He told me that he was confined for months in a narrow dark cell so small that he could not even raise his knees or get into a sitting position on the bed. This is quite untrue for although the cells are dark, narrow and cold they are twelve feet high. I inspected this prison from top to bottom, and every shut door was opened at my request. There are no such cells as were described to me by Andrade, and this was confirmed by José Bernardino another active Communist awaiting trial who made a drawing for me showing where the thirteen cells are situated.

In an article published in the *Observer* of 4th March, 1962, which was written by a Mr. Michael Moynihan, he quoted Mr. Neville Vincent, Q.C., a London barrister, as having said. "there must be at least 1,000 people jammed into Libson's two political prisons, Caxias and Aljube". I have no idea from whom Mr. Vincent got this information, but he was certainly gravely misinformed. There could never have been anything like that number and in fact the number in Caxias and Aljube at that time was 233. When I visited these two prisons on the 25th April this year there were 114 prisoners in Caxias and 39 in Aljube, a total of 153. The grand total of prisoners convicted by the Courts of committing crimes against the security of the State who are at present in custody is 353.

Prisoners questioned by me in Aljube Prison on 25th April.

José Bernardino, Miss Hart said in her report at the Conference, was an illustration of the human suffering imposed on those who dared to speak out. Bernardino, she said, was arrested last June and was subjected to two successive periods of 'statue' torture, being forced to remain awake for nine and then seven days. His hearing, she said, is now seriously impaired, his health broken and he has not yet been brought to trial. The idea of this has doubtless sprung from the Stehzelle punishment which used to be inflicted on concentration camp inmates by their S.S. guards in Auschwitz and other camps during Hitler's war. Stehzelle is standing or kneeling for hours (and sometimes days) on end and confinement in a dark narrow cell which is specially designed for the purpose. I searched every nook and cranny in all the prisons and had every door opened which might conceivably be concealing something, but there was nowhere this punishment could have been carried out, though it is, of course, possible to keep a person standing to attention for a length of time though it would not be long before he fainted.

I had a long talk with Bernardino in the Aljube Prison in the Governor's office without anyone else being present. He had not been given, nor had any of the other prisoners been given, any information about my visit and he was, therefore, quite understandably suspicious particularly when I told him that I had been given every facility by the Portuguese Government to visit all prisons in which political prisoners are in custody awaiting trial, or serving their sentences, and to speak to any prisoner I cared to name. I had previously assured him that I was not Bertrand Russell and explained that I was not a policeman, not a member of Interpol, but an ordinary member of the House of Lords and a lawyer. Eventually, after showing

him my driving licence and a photograph of myself which happened to be in it, he was satisfied as to my identity and talked freely.

I had already been given particulars of Bernardino's dossier and he did not seek to dispute the fact that he was secretary of a number of student organisations which the Portuguese Government consider subversive and that he was, and remains even though he is now in prison, a leading official of the Portuguese Communist Party.

He repeated, in more or less the same terms, the allegations of brutality mentioned by Miss Hart. It is, perhaps, more than a coincidence that the only allegations which have been made to me personally of this form of Gestapo ill-treatment have been made by three prisoners who are without doubt leading members of the Communist Parties in Portugal and Angola. Except for a complaint made by one other prisoner that he was slapped on the face, no prisoner whom I have questioned, and I have talked with many of them without it being known in advance that I was going to do so, has complained of physical ill-treatment. For the reasons given in my report of my visit to P.I.D.E. headquarters in Lisbon I am satisfied that it would be physically impossible to carry out the 'statue' punishment as alleged by Dr. Orlando Ramos and José Bernardino. Miss Judith Hart reported in December that when she visited Portugal last summer Bernardino's hearing was seriously impaired and his health broken. He has certainly made a remarkable recovery. His hearing is quite normal, his mind quick and perceptive and his health appears to be excellent. Furthermore when I asked him if his health was all right he said that it was.

He is, at present, awaiting his trial which is due to take place early in July. Meanwhile he is accommodated with two other prisoners, whose interrogations are also completed, in a room 20 feet by 20 feet. Each man has a bed and there are three chairs and a large table. Like all the other rooms in Aljube, however, they are very dark and rather airless. Bernardino told me that apart from the 'statue' punishment during his interrogation he had not since been physically ill-treated.

THE SCHOOL PRISON AT LEIRIA

Visited on 26th April.

This establishment is the equivalent of one of our Borstal institutions. It is situated just outside the historic town of

Leiria in beautiful surroundings and all the prisoners are between eighteen and twenty-five years of age and must be serving a sentence of not less than six months.

Most of the work is agricultural and the prison has its own vineyards and makes excellent wine and eau-de-vie. The accommodation is above the average.

There is a special building in which a number of prisoners who are allowed to work outside are housed. They have very pleasant bedrooms, a good dining room and a recreation room and are not locked in. The windows of most of the bedrooms and the recreation room look out on to the open fields. All these young men are working in Leiria itself at trades which they either practiced before they came to prison or are now learning as apprentices. I saw them all and asked them what trades they were working at and they all looked extremely happy and well.

I asked the Governor what percentage of his prisoners returned to prison after serving a term in the school and he showed me the figures. The percentage was a very low one, under 6 per cent.

THE P.I.D.E. PRISON IN OPORTO

Visited on 27th April.

This is a very small prison under the control of P.I.D.E. where a small number of political prisoners are sometimes held during their interrogation period but most of this is done in the Aljube prison. The building in which the interrogations take place and the offices are situated was formerly a private house. It is quite large, well appointed, and extremely light. The whole of the first floor on which the rooms lead out from a parquet floored gallery is lit with a skylight. I inspected all the interrogation rooms which are well decorated, and have parquet floors and a table and two ordinary chairs. The chairs for the interrogator and the interrogated are exactly the same and the rooms are well lit and very bright.

The total number of prisoners in this prison at the present moment is thirty-six. Of these fourteen are not political prisoners at all but are Portuguese who had illegally immigrated into other foreign countries and have been returned to Portugal. If this is their first offence many of them will be bound over and the most severe sentence will be in the neighbourhood of one month. The remaining twenty-two are political prisoners, two of whom are awaiting trial and twenty under sentence. All

these political prisoners are housed in large light rooms lit by both a skylight and a large window. All have beds and bed clothes. As soon as Caxias North has been completely renovated and is ready for occupation these prisoners will be transferred there as it is not usual to keep any prisoners in this prison except those awaiting trial or under interrogation. I spoke to a number of the prisoners and told them who I was but none of them had any complaints to make regarding their accommodation or treatment.

P.I.D.E. HEADQUARTERS, LISBON

Visited on 30th April.

Having been given all the facilities which I was promised and having visited all the prisons in which there are political prisoners either awaiting trial or serving their sentences and, in addition, having visited other ordinary civil prisons in order that I could compare the conditions under which ordinary prisoners live with those under which political prisoners live, I had a final talk with the Director of P.I.D.E. at his headquarters in company with Inspector Passo who had accompanied me on my visits to Caxias and Oporto.

I told the Director that I knew that I was the first foreigner ever to be allowed to inspect all these prisons and question any prisoner whom I wanted to question, and that after having given the matter full consideration I had only one serious criticism to make and that concerned the thirteen narrow dark cells at Aljube Prison where prisoners are held during their period of interrogation sometimes for several weeks. The Director said, as Inspector Passo had already told me, and the Minister for the Interior, whom I saw later the same day, also told me, that as soon as the renovations of Caxias North were completed nearly all the prisoners would be moved from Aljube to Caxias and that those who remained would only be kept there at the most for a few days whilst being interrogated at P.I.D.E. headquarters. When I spoke to the Minister for the Interior that same evening I mentioned this to him also and, when he gave me the same answer, I said that I hoped that the few prisoners who would remain in Aljube during their period of interrogation would no longer be kept in those cells. I told him that I quite understood that during interrogation it was not feasible to allow prisoners who had just been interrogated and those who were about to be interrogated to mix, but I asked him, when only a few prisoners have to be kept in Aljube it should surely be possible for the small cells to be closed completely and all the prisoners confined in the much larger single rooms

on the top floor, where the ex-Major of the Portuguese Air Force was detained. If there were not enough rooms on the top floor to accommodate all those awaiting or undergoing interrogation it should be quite possible to construct at least a dozen more cells on the floor below and this would then allow for twenty-four prisoners. That would be ample as there are only about five interrogation rooms in the P.I.D.E. headquarters.

I inspected the P.I.D.E. headquarters from top to bottom. I visited all the interrogation rooms and they are plain rooms about 8 feet by 12 feet large, with a desk and two chairs. Each room has a very large window which lets in plenty of light and air. I saw several prisoners being interrogated and I talked to each one, having first of all asked the interrogator to leave the room. They all looked in excellent health and spoke to me quite freely. None of them are really serious offenders and it is almost certain that they will be released after interrogation. One of the prisoners being questioned was the young coloured man from Angola whom I had seen five days earlier in one of the dark cells in Aljube. He was, until his arrest about a fortnight ago, a student at Coimbra University reading law. As I wrote in my report on my visit to Aljube, on that occasion he looked extremely frightened and was shaking all over. When I saw him at P.I.D.E. headquarters, and he seemed very surprised to see me again, he was an entirely different man. He had apparently realised that if he told the truth he would not be sent to trial as he had not really been implicated in any subversive activities and I was told that before the week is over he will be released and returned to the University. These rooms in which the interrogations are carried out are the same rooms that were described by Mr. Neville Vincent, in an article entitled *THE SHAME OF PORTUGAL*, published in the *Spectator* on 13th April, 1962, as those in which people "practically out of their minds are put in a room with yellow walls painted blue round the top. They think the blue represents the outside world and take crazy running jumps at the walls with terrible consequences." It is true that these rooms were previously painted as Mr. Vincent states. The walls were yellow, as they still are, and the ceiling was painted blue. Anyone who knows the South of France must have seen, in many old period houses, rooms decorated in exactly the same way. Having myself seen the interrogation rooms in the P.I.D.E. H.Q. I find it difficult to believe that the prisoners who entered them, when they were painted blue and yellow, can have behaved in the way described by Mr. Vincent's informant.

LISBON,

2nd May, 1963.