53 Theobald's Road London WC1X 8SP England Tel: 01-404 5831 Telex: 28502 Telegrams: Amnesty London

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday 14 October 1976

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL URGES THAI GOVERNMENT TO ACT ON STUDENT KILLINGS

Amnesty International today (Thursday 14 October 1976) appealed to Prime Minister Thanin Kraivichien of Thailand to take steps to prevent further killing of students and others, and to order the release of several hundred students arrested within the last week.

Secretary General Martin Ennals cabled the new Thai prime minister today urging the Thai government to prevent killings by vigilante groups.

According to reports reaching Amnesty International, 3,000 or more students have been arrested. Many of them have reportedly been brutally treated by the police.

An AI spokesman said: "It has been reported that the police have allowed bail for 1,400 students, but large numbers are still held in extremely crowded conditions, especially at Bangkhen Police Training Center. The reports of police brutality are particularly disturbing."

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Amnesty International is a worldwide human rights movement which works impartially for the release of prisoners of conscience: men and women detained anywhere for their beliefs, colour, ethnic origin, religion or language, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence. Amnesty International opposes torture and capital punishment in all cases without reservation and advocates fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners. Amnesty International is independent of all governments, political factions, ideologies, economic interests and religious creeds. It is financed by its membership and by subscriptions from all parts of the world. Amnesty International has consultative relations with the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States and the Organization of African United