POLITICAL DISSENTERS

The question of political dissent in relation to the alleged abuse of Psychiatry was again discussed at the Annual General Meeting on 9 July. It was reported that the Public Policy Committee had investigated the case of Dr. Semyon Gluzman as far as possible and was asking Council as a matter of urgency to consider what further and effective action might be taken by the College.

It was also noted that after the Public Policy Committee, and in the absence of a reply to Sir Martin Roth's most recent letter, the following telegram had been sent to Professor A. F. Snezhnevski, the President of the Institute of Psychiatry in Moscow:

> 'On behalf of the Royal College of Psychiatrists I wish to protest in the strongest terms against the continued incarceration of Gluzman, Bukovsky and Plyushch which appears a perversion of psychiatric practice and denial of natural justice. Your refusal to take action or to respond constitutes a slur on our profession.
>
> MARTIN ROTH.'

It was agreed that the following message be sent to Dr. Gluzman from the College:

> 'We are sending you this message of support and friendship and would assure you we will continue our efforts to relieve your present plight.'

Dr. Denis Leigh, Secretary General of the World Psychiatric Association, associated himself with the message to Dr. Gluzman and also with the decision to consider more deeply than hitherto the whole matter of psychiatric abuse and to seek ways of bringing pressure to bear on countries where abuses occur.

After the Meeting, in response to a Press question, the President, Professor Linford Rees, said that he believed that national professional bodies could have a great influence on the behaviour of countries abusing psychiatry.

Appropriate statements have been released to the Press.

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