

for Christians and all believers in communist countries who are suffering persecution for their faith. The acquisition of Keston College will give us the room to develop research work in other areas – the Ukraine, Belorussia, Latvia, and all East European countries – as and when funds permit. We shall also have better storage for our considerable archives and library, both of which will continue to grow.<sup>4</sup>

#### FORTHCOMING PROGRAMME

March 20 –		Director on lecture tour of Australia and New Zealand. Contact : Prof. G. Clark, Karvah, Bannoon Rd., Eltham 3095, Victoria, Australia.
end of April.		
April 2		Development Director at Dartford Clergy Chapter.
May 6	a.m.	Director at Bristol Cathedral School.
	7.30 p.m.	Director at Collegiate College of Theology, Cardiff.
13	5.00 p.m.	Director at St. Anthony's College, Oxford.
20	12.30 p.m.	Director at East London Baptist Fraternal (to be confirmed).

## BBC Documentary on KGB

On the day that Solzhenitsyn was expelled from Russia – a timing that is almost unbelievable – an outstanding documentary film was shown on BBC-TV. Entitled quite simply “KGB”, the film lasts well over an hour and is produced and introduced by Mischa Scorer. One of the film's two chief advisors was Peter Reddaway, a Council member of CSRC. The CSRC itself provided material and advisory assistance.

The film, which is to be entered for the Cannes Film Festival, focuses with gripping concentration on the history, structure, character and targets of the KGB, the “Committee for State Security”. Commonly understood as the Soviet “secret police”, the KGB in fact, with its proliferating departments and an estimated half a million officers, also covers international activity. It is reckoned to draw on the assistance of hundreds of thousands of informers in all walks of life.

In the creation of this film, Mr. Scorer drew on a wide range of documentary material (including photographs of the Orthodox artist Yuri Titov in the Kashchenko mental hospital and the Baptist pastor Nikolai Baturin recently sentenced to four years. (see *RCL* No. 2, 1973, p. 17). He also drew on the experience of Soviet émigrés who had brushed with the

KGB and, in one case, actually worked for them at a high level. From the testimony of these people a vivid picture of the character and methods of the KGB emerges – an organization that has changed its image and tactics considerably since the days of the Revolutionary *Cheka* and Beria's NKVD, but which retains its chillingly universal authority.

One of the areas covered by the department for internal control is religion; the significance of the drive for religious liberty in the face of severe government pressure is emphasized throughout. In this connection part of an amateur 8mm film of unregistered Baptists meeting in the woods near Kharkov (Ukraine) was shown, together with snatches of singing and preaching from a tape-recording of the same meeting. (*The Times* critic singled out this sequence for special mention.) Part of the testimony of Sergei Kourdakov, a young man who as a Soviet *druzhinnik* led raids on meetings like this (see this issue p. 17), was also given.

*RCL* has already written about Fr. J. Zdebskis, the Lithuanian Catholic priest sentenced in 1971 to a year's imprisonment for teaching religion to children (see *RCL* No. 1, 1973, p.9). In the film a Lithuanian judge, who defected from the USSR in 1972, described how he had been pressurized by the KGB in Kaunas to dismiss Fr. Zdebskis' defence lawyer and replace him with another who simply "went through the motions".

A matter of hours before the film was due to appear, the news broke of Solzhenitsyn's expulsion. It was found possible to add a reference to this at the last minute. The documentary film "KGB" should be seen by all students of contemporary Soviet affairs.