

## **Andrei Twerdochlebow, Wladimir Archangelskii, Wladimir Albrecht und Ilja Kornejew to the International Council of Amnesty International in Vienna, 1973**

Greetings to the International Council of Amnesty International. Since childhood, we have been accustomed to hearing such phrases as “political action of the masses,” “the active foreign policy of the government and party,” “the struggle for social rights and the social reconstruction of society,” “the scientific and technological revolution” - and these are the things we imagined the world was preoccupied with. As for words like “conscience,” “dignity,” “conviction” - we are accustomed to apply them exclusively to the exertions and strivings of individual human beings. For who can help one to value such words, and to preserve their value, other than oneself and those to whom one is closest? At first, we were astonished, and could not grasp, that in fact total strangers can help, people who live in the most distant countries, in conditions utterly different from one’s own, in other cultures. It is this above all that we value in your example and your activity, insofar as we are in a position to judge them. Please accept our best wishes.