



UNIVERSITY  
OF TAMPERE

# My highlights as IOJ President

Presentation of Kaarle Nordenstreng  
Professor Emeritus, University of Tampere, Finland

IFJ World Congress 2016  
Preconference Celebrating Our Histories  
Angers, 7 June 2016

Congress in Helsinki Finlandia Hall 1976: one year after the CSCE Final Act was signed in the same place – great moment of détente, IFJ attending first time

UNESCO 1978: consultative meeting of international and regional organizations of journalists

Consultative meetings 1980-83: International Principles of Professional Ethics in Journalism

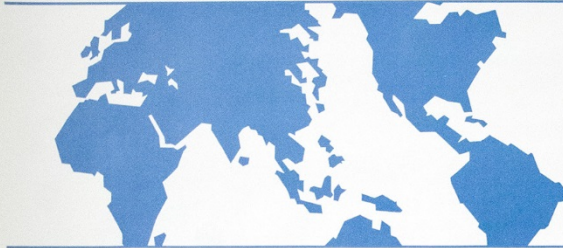
UN 1982: Special session on disarmament

Prague 1986: 40th anniversary and study of the roots – *Useful Recollections I–II, A History of the International Movement of Journalists, The Rise and Fall of the IOJ*





# International Principles Of Professional Ethics In Journalism



International and regional organizations of professional journalists, representing altogether 400 000 working journalists in all parts of the world, have held since 1978 consultative meetings under the auspices of UNESCO.

The second consultative meeting (Mexico City, 1980) expressed its support to the UNESCO Declaration on Fundamental Principles concerning the Contribution of the Mass Media to Strengthening Peace and International Understanding, to the Promotion of Human Rights and to Countering Racism, Apartheid and Incitement to War. Moreover, the meeting adopted the "Mexico Declaration" with a set of principles which represent common grounds of existing national and regional codes of journalistic ethics as well as relevant provisions contained in various international instruments of a legal nature.

The fourth consultative meeting (Prague and Paris, 1983) noted the lasting value of the UNESCO Declaration in which it is stated inter alia that "the exercise of freedom of opinion, expression and information, recognized as an integral part of human rights and fundamental freedoms, is a vital factor in the strengthening of peace and international understanding". Furthermore, the meeting recognized the important role which information and communication play in the contemporary world, both in national and international spheres, with a growing social responsibility being placed upon the mass media and journalists.

On this basis the following principles of professional ethics in journalism were prepared as an international common ground and as a source of inspiration for national and regional codes of ethics. This set of principles is intended to be promoted autonomously by each professional organization through ways and means most adequate to its members.

## Principle I People's Right to True Information

People and individuals have the right to acquire an objective picture of reality by means of accurate and comprehensive information as well as to express themselves freely through the various media of culture and communication.

## Principle II The Journalist's Dedication to Objective Reality

The foremost task of the journalist is to serve the people's right to true and authentic information through an honest dedication to objective reality whereby facts are reported conscientiously in their proper context, pointing out their essential connections and without causing distortions, with due deployment of the creative capacity of the journalist, so that the public is provided with adequate material to facilitate the formation of an accurate and comprehensive picture of the world in which the origin, nature and essence of events, processes and states of affairs are understood as objectively as possible.

## Principle III The Journalist's Social Responsibility

Information in journalism is understood as social good and not as a commodity, which means that the journalist shares responsibility for the information transmitted and is thus accountable not only to those controlling the media but ultimately to the public at large, including various social interests. The journalist's social responsibility requires that he or she will act under all circumstances in conformity with a personal ethical consciousness.

## Principle IV The Journalist's Professional Integrity

The social role of the journalist demands that the profession maintain high standards of integrity, including the journalist's right to refrain from working against his or her conviction or from disclosing sources of information as well as the right to participate in the decision-making of the medium in which he or she is employed. The integrity of the profession does not permit the journalist to accept any form of bribe or the promotion of any private interest contrary to the general welfare. Likewise it belongs to professional ethics to respect intellectual property and, in particular, to refrain from plagiarism.

## Principle V Public Access and Participation

The nature of the profession demands that the journalist promote access by the public to information and participation of the public in the media, including the right of correction or rectification and the right of reply.

## Principle VI Respect for Privacy and Human Dignity

An integral part of the professional standards of the journalist is respect for the right of the individual to privacy and human dignity, in conformity with provisions of international and national law concerning protection of the rights and the reputation of others, prohibiting libel, calumny, slander and defamation.

## Principle VII Respect for Public Interest

The professional standards of the journalist prescribe due respect for the national community, its democratic institutions and public morals.

## Principle VIII Respect for Universal Values and Diversity of Cultures

A true journalist stands for the universal values of humankind, above all peace, democracy, human rights, social progress and national liberation, while respecting the distinctive character, value and dignity of each culture, as well as the right of each people freely to choose and develop its political, social, economic and cultural systems. Thus the journalist participates actively in the social transformation towards democratic betterment of society and contributes through dialogue to a climate of confidence in international relations conducive to peace and justice everywhere, to détente, disarmament and national development. It belongs to the ethics of the profession that the journalist be aware of relevant provisions contained in international conventions, declarations and resolutions.

## Principle IX Elimination of War and Other Great Evils Confronting Humanity

The ethical commitment to the universal values of humankind calls for the journalist to abstain from any justification for, or incitement to, wars of aggression and the arms race, especially in nuclear weapons, and all other forms of violence, hatred or discrimination, especially racialism and apartheid, oppression by tyrannic regimes, colonialism and neo-colonialism, as well as other great evils which afflict humanity, such as poverty, malnutrition and diseases. By so doing, the journalist can help eliminate ignorance and misunderstanding among peoples, make nations of a country sensitive to the needs and desires of others, ensure the respect for the rights and dignity of all nations, all peoples and all individuals without distinction of race, sex, language, nationality, religion or philosophical conviction.

## Principle X Promotion of a New World Information and Communication Order

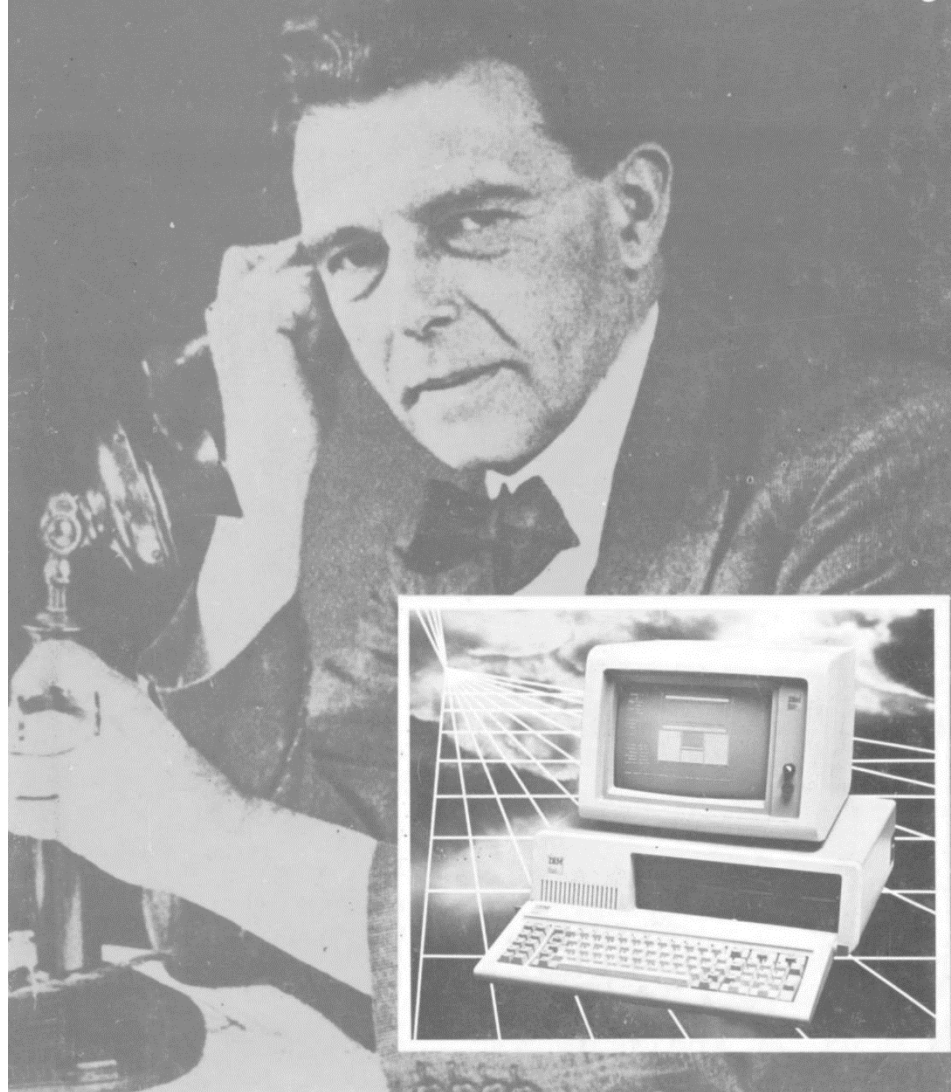
The journalist operates in the contemporary world within the framework of a movement towards new international relations, in general and a new information order in particular. This new order, understood as an integral part of the New International Economic Order, is aimed at the decolonization and democratization of the field of information and communication, both nationally and internationally, on the basis of peaceful coexistence among peoples and with full respect for their cultural identity. The journalist has a special obligation to promote the process of democratization of international relations in the field of information, in particular by safeguarding and fostering peaceful and friendly relations among States and peoples.

Issued by the fourth consultative meeting of international and regional organizations of professional journalists, held in Prague and Paris in 1983 and attended by representatives from the following organizations: International Organization of Journalists (IOJ), International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), International Catholic Union of the Press (UCIP), Latin American Federation of Journalists (FELAP), Latin American Federation of Press Workers (FELATRAP), Federation of Arab Journalists (FAJ), Union of African Journalists (UJA), Confederation of ASEAN Journalists (CAJ).

# USEFUL RECOLLECTIONS

PART I

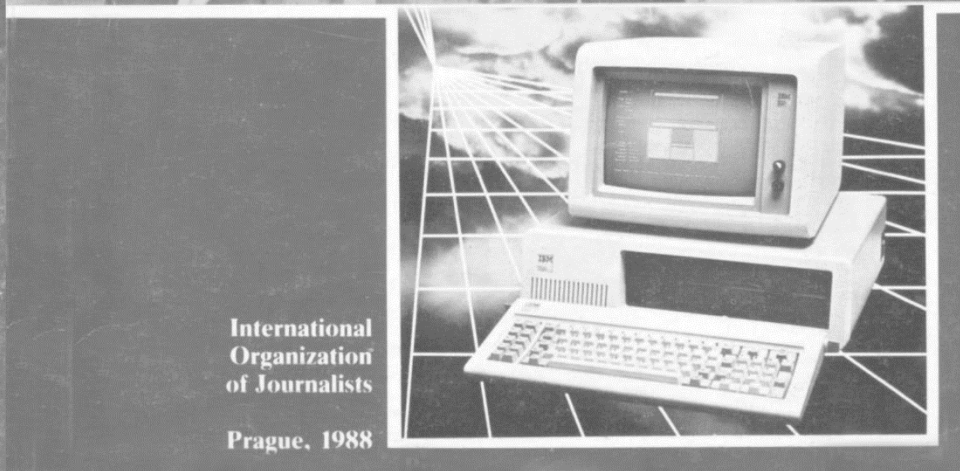
Jiří Kubka and Kaarle Nordenstreng



# USEFUL RECOLLECTIONS

PART II

Kaarle Nordenstreng and Jiří Kubka



International  
Organization  
of Journalists

Prague, 1988

Palgrave Studies in the History of the Media



# A History of the International Movement of Journalists

Professionalism Versus Politics

Kaarle Nordinström  
Ulf Jonas Björk  
Frank Beyersdorf  
Svennik Hoyer  
Epp Lauk



## **Letter from the IOJ**

I bring you an important letter from Suleiman Al-Qudah (Jordania), elected President in the last IOJ Congress in Amman in 1995, and Manuel Tomé (Mocambique), elected Honorary President on the same occasion.

They remind of the fact that the legal successor of the old FIJ of 1926 was the IOJ of 1946 and not the IFJ of 1952 and that today we should celebrate also the founding of IOJ as united movement 70 years ago.

Unity was arrested by the Cold War for forty years but now once it is over the movement is united again.

The letter makes a historical statement that the IOJ has come to a natural end and that the heritage of the pre-war FIJ is now passed on to the IFJ.



## INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF JOURNALISTS

### Message to the 29th IFJ Congress in Angers, France, on 7–10 June 2016

Dear delegates – fellow journalists!

On this occasion we are invited to recall the history of our international movement. It is indeed a long and complicated story. The movement started over 120 years ago in 1894, when the first international conference of “press people” took place in Antwerp. But it took until after World War I for the first proper association of professional journalists to be established in 1926 with the encouragement of the International Labour Organization ILO and the League of Nations. It took as its name *Fédération Internationale des Journalistes* (FIJ) and its secretariat was located in Paris. The FIJ was destroyed by the German army’s occupation of France in 1940. During World War II the movement was hosted by the British Union of Journalists, which helped to set up the *International Federation of Journalists of Allied or Free Countries*. This federation in exile organized new beginning for the movement in 1946 in Copenhagen, where the *International Organization of Journalists* (IOJ) was founded among Europeans together with Russians, Americans and Australians – as the legal successor of the FIJ.

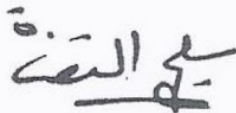
The Cold War since the late 1940s led to a split in the movement, whereby the Western member unions left the IOJ and in 1952 established a new association, the present *International Federation of Journalists* (IFJ). Meanwhile, the IOJ consolidated itself in Eastern Europe and spread to the developing world. The world of journalist associations was divided between the Prague-based IOJ and the Brussels-based IFJ, with some, like the French and the Finns, having membership of both. The two internationals followed the Cold War division between “Communist East” and “Free West” leading to a politicization of the movement and a competition for new associations in the Third World.

Today it is obvious that the IFJ is the sole representative of professional journalists around the world. This does not mean that the IFJ is the direct successor of the pre-war FIJ, whose legal heritage was passed to the IOJ. On this occasion of the 29th IFJ Congress in 2016 it is important that the IFJ perceives itself correctly in history as a successor of both the pre-war FIJ and the post-war IOJ. While celebrating the 90th anniversary of the founding of the FIJ, we should not forget that a common IOJ was founded in Copenhagen exactly 70 years ago, on 3–9 June 1946 – with high hopes, until it was split by the unfortunate Cold War.

Dear colleagues,

As the President of the IOJ and its Honorary President elected in the last IOJ Congress in Amman in 1995, we note that the historical development has led to a natural demise of the IOJ as an operational organization. While closing this page in history, we are pleased to pass on to the IFJ the heritage of the pre-war FIJ. We wish you every success in taking good care of this valuable heritage.

Amman and Maputo, 3 June 2016

A handwritten signature in Arabic script, reading 'سليمان القداح' (Suleiman Al-Qudah).

Suleiman Al-Qudah, IOJ President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Manuel Tomé'.

Manuel Tomé, IOJ Honorary President

## **Three moments of unity to celebrate**

Looking at broad history of our international movement, let us note that there are three organizational moments which justify the celebration of unity:

First, the founding of FIJ after World War I in 1926

Second, the founding of IOJ after World War II in 1946

And third, the regaining of unity after Cold War – here in Angers where we got a notice that IOJ is finished with the heritage of old FIJ being passed to new IFJ

Three years: 1926, 1946 and 2016 – all in June

We are really witnesses of closing a page in history – here in Angers



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# Thank you!

[kaarle.nordenstreng@uta.fi](mailto:kaarle.nordenstreng@uta.fi)

[http://www.uta.fi/cmt/en/contact/staff/  
kaarlenordenstreng/index.html](http://www.uta.fi/cmt/en/contact/staff/kaarlenordenstreng/index.html)