

**The long passage of history:
The evolution of professionalism among journalists
and their international contacts**

by Kaarle Nordenstreng

<http://www.uta.fi/cmt/en/contact/staff/kaarlenordenstreng/index.html>

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- Origins of the profession
- First international conferences
- Early international associations
- Turning point World War Two
- Cold War developments
- Summary: international influence on professionalism

Origins of the profession

According to Oxford English Dictionary *profession* as a concept & word appears first in 1425, *professional* comes to use in the 17th Century, *professionalism* and *professionalize* in 1856, *deprofessionalize* in 1884

Many concepts have long history, e.g. *watchdog* was used in law discourse already in mid-19th Century

Journalism as a profession emerged in the 2nd half of 19th Century along with national guilds & unions

Grew out of political advocacy movements, boosted by commercial mass media in early 20th Century

Sociology of professions has rich tradition but so far not much application to journalism

First international conferences

- 1893 Chicago International Press Congress
- 1894 Antwerp Congr s internationale de la Presse
- 1897 London Journalists Friends of Peace
- 1904 St Louis World Parliament of the Press
- 1915 San Francisco Press Congress of the World
- 1926 Washington Pan-American Congress of Journalists
- 1927 Santo Domingo Congress of Latin American Journ.
- 1927 Moscow International Conference of Proletarian and Revolutionary Writers

International Congress of Press People Antwerp (Belgium), July 1894

Attended by representatives on mainly press owners from 17 countries, including France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, New Zealand, Russia, Spain and Sweden

Topics discussed included

- definition of journalist and dignity of the profession
- property rights, who own the news
- education of journalists
- women's emancipation
- false news and peaceful international reporting
- need to set up an international association

Early international associations

- 1894 International Union of Press Associations (IUPA)
- 1909 Imperial Union of Journalists (...Commonwealth)
- 1921 International Association of Journalists
accredited to the League of Nations
- 1924 International Sporting Press Association
- 1925 International Technical Press Federation
- 1925 International Federation of the Periodic Press
- 1925 International Catholic Union of the Press
- 1926 Fédération internationale des Journalistes (FIJ)
- 1928 Association of Proletarian-Revolutionary Writers
- 1933 International Federation of Newspaper
Publishers Associations (FIADEJ...FIEJ...WAN)

Fédération internationale des Journalistes (FIJ)

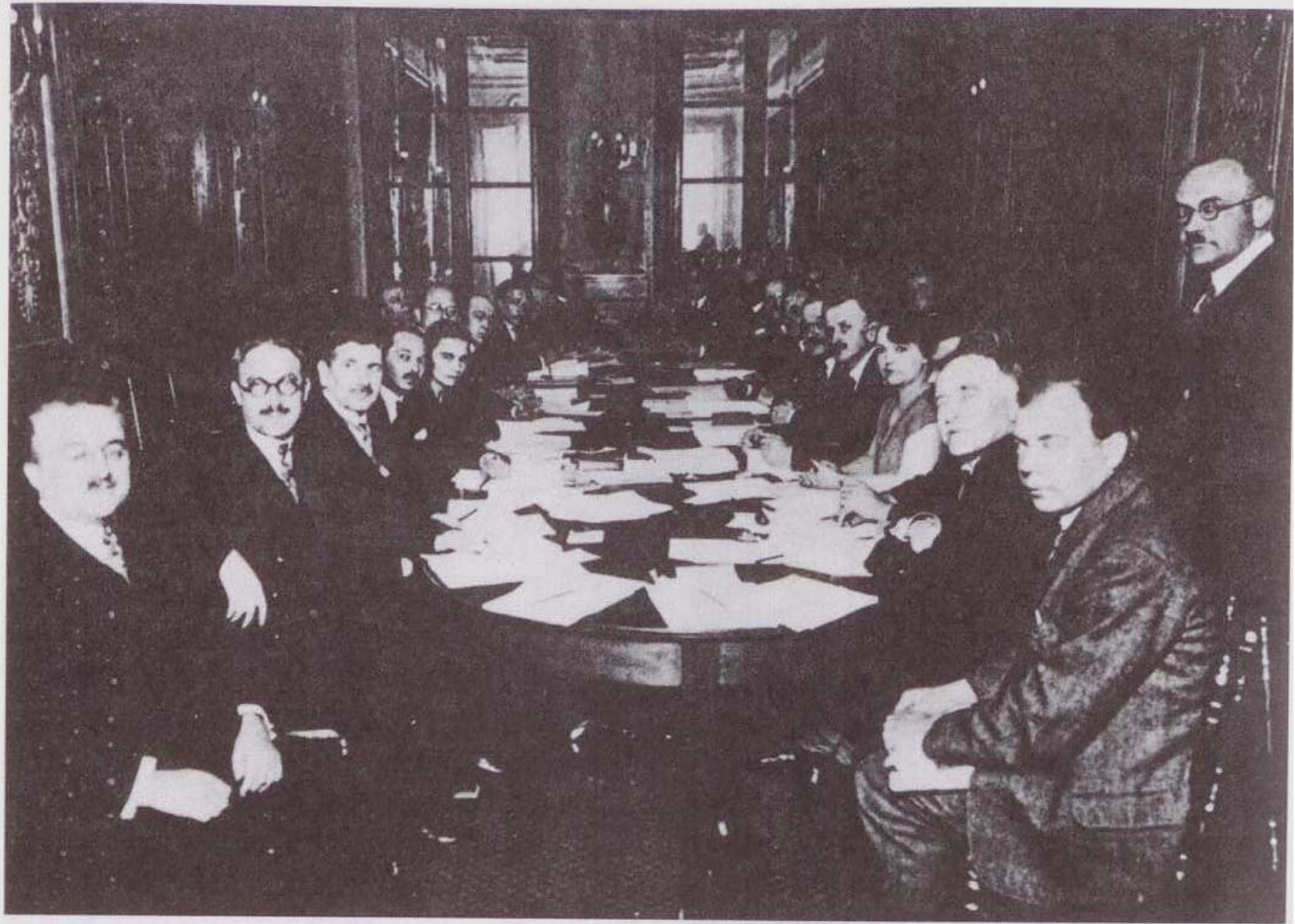
Founded in Paris in June 1926, first congress in Geneva at ILO in September 1926, HQ in Paris

Initiated by French journalists' syndicate as follow-up of 1925 ILO poll on working conditions of journalists

Members: national associations of professional journalists with main income from journalistic work

Purpose: defence of their rights and professional interests, liberty of the press and journalism, extension of these to journalists of all countries

Active until 1930s when rise of Facism began to complicate affairs and finished in 1940 with German forces occupying Paris and destroying headquarters



Session of the FIJ Executive Committee in The Hague in October 1931

LE TRIBUNAL
D'HONNEUR
INTERNATIONAL
DES JOURNALISTES



FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE
DES JOURNALISTES

2, RUE MONTPENSIER, PARIS

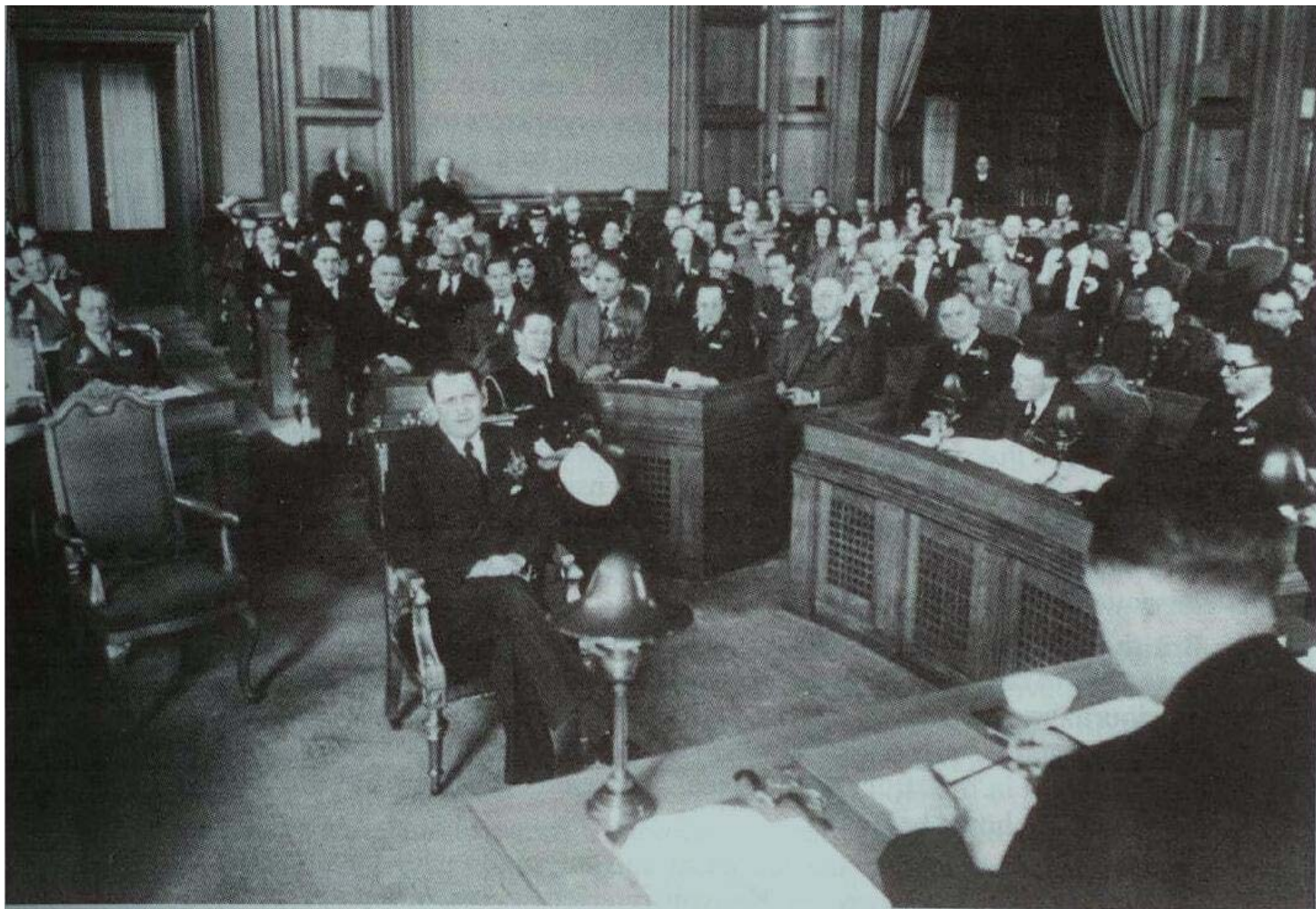
Turning point World War Two

FIJ with projects such as international court of honour and international card stood for working journalists

After IUPA as common platform for workers and employers failed, publishers organized around FIADDEJ

War-time successor of FIJ convened in 1946 congress in Copenhagen, attended by 165 delegates of journalists' unions from 21 countries, from USA and USSR to Australia and Peru, deciding to establish the International Organization of Journalists (IOJ)

I served as IOJ President in 1976-1990 and wrote with its Secretary General two-part history of international movement of journalists (source of this presentation)



Opening session of the founding IOJ congress in Copenhagen.

Cold War developments

After founding congress in Copenhagen IOJ had in 1947 successful congress in Prague, where HQ was placed

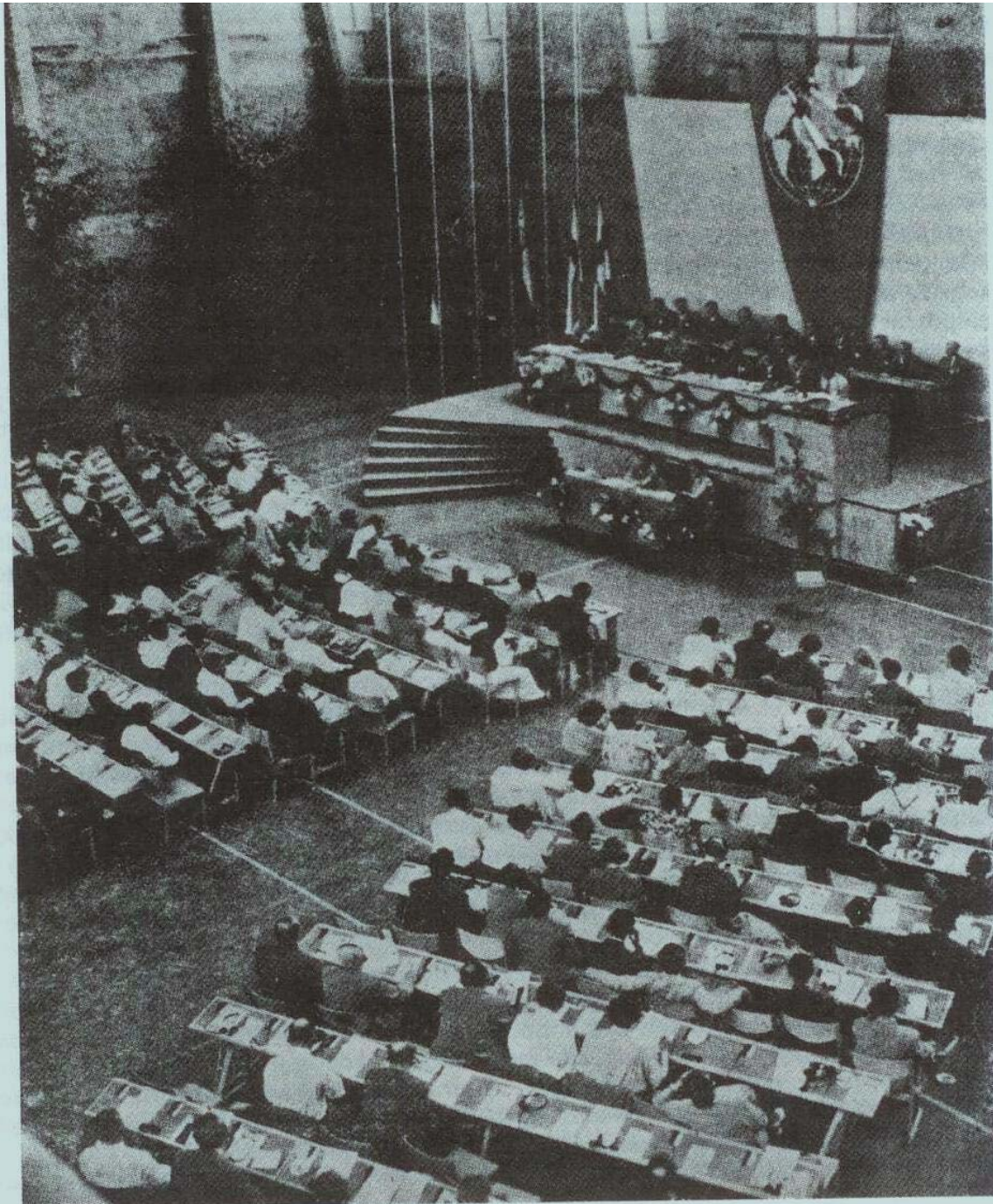
But in 1948 rise of Cold War led to split: US and West European members left, while unions from Eastern Europe and developing countries stayed

In 1952 US and West European unions established in Brussels the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)

World meetings of journalists were convened in 1956-1964, with IOJ support, to unite the divided movement

Journalists in Africa, Latin America and Asia established regional associations and increasingly joined IOJ

However, IOJ-IFJ division continued until the 1990s



World Meeting of Journalists in Helsinki, 1956

Pan-African Conference of Journalists

BAMAKO, MAY 1961

L'UNION PANAFRICAINNE

des Journalistes

REVUE MENSUELLE

PREMIERE ANNEE - N° 1

DECEMBRE 1961

Direction - Administration :

Secrétariat de l'U. P. A. J.

BULLETIN DE LIAISON ET D'INFORMATION

Edité par le Secrétariat de l'U. P. A. J. — Boîte postale 721 — BAMAKO

Le premier numéro de notre bulletin vient de paraître. Il doit servir de trait-d'union entre les journalistes Africains, et relier ceux-ci aux journalistes du Monde. Ainsi que nous l'avons clairement défini dans nos résolutions, nous sommes des journalistes engagés dans la lutte de l'Afrique toute, entière pour sa libération, sa dignité, son bonheur. Notre bulletin vivra de l'appui de tous nos confrères. Nous demandons à tous d'envoyer de là matière, des articles, des documents, des études, au Secrétariat de l'U. P. A. J., Boîte postale 721, Bamako.

La lutte de tous les peuples d'Afrique nous intéresse. La lutte de tous les peuples du Monde pour la liberté, la démocratie s'identifie avec la lutte de libération des peuples Africains.

The first issue of our bulletin has been printed. It should be an hyphen between African journalists and to connect them to world journalists. That, we have clearly defined in our resolutions. We are engaged in the struggle of all African for its liberation, its dignity, its happiness. Our bulletin will survive from supports of all our colleagues. We demand them to send necessary materials, articles, documents and desearches to the Secretariat of Pan African Union of Journalists PO. Box 721, Bamako.

We are interested to all African people struggle. The freedom struggle of all world people for freedom, democracy identifies with freedom struggle of African peoples.

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Summary: international influence on professionalism

- Tactical: boosting the collective identity & status of the profession (power)
- Strategic: improving the skills and articulating the role of journalists in society (competence)
- Despite international influence, journalism remains predominantly national, while parallel development
- The long passage of history continues after 2000 with the profession showing contradictory trends of
 - diversification
 - disintegration
 - de-professionalization