

The International Organization of Journalists (IOJ) in Prague before, during and after the Cold War

Online lecture in Charles University,
Institute of World History and Cold War Research Group

Part of the series
“Students, Exiles, Intellectuals. Foreigners and Spaces of Encounter in Socialist Prague”
23 November 2021

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<https://sites.tuni.fi/kaarle/>

Outline

1. My own story in brief and my work on history
2. Overall history of the profession and its internationalization
3. IOJ history in six slides
4. IOJ in nine periods
 - i Founding: Copenhagen 1946 – Prague 1947
 - ii Crisis and split 1948–52
 - iii Consolidation 1953–65
 - iv Expansion 1966–75
 - v New World Order 1976–80
 - vi New Cold War 1980–85
 - vii Heyday 1986–89
 - viii Disintegration 1990–97
 - ix Demise 1998–2016
5. Discussion

My own story in brief (more at <https://sites.tuni.fi/kaarle/about/>)

- Born in Helsinki in June 1941 just before Finland joined Germany attacking USSR, first childhood memories from going to bomb shelter in Helsinki in February 1944
- Father was officer in the Finnish army, mother conservative housewife
- High school and university in Helsinki, MA in psychology 1965, PhD 1969
- Radio reporter as schoolboy in national radio, head of radio youth programmes at Finnish Broadcasting Company YLE while studying 1962-63
- Junior faculty member in journalism and mass communication at Tampere Univ 1965-65 (Scandinavia's first academic school of journalism established 1925)
- Head of research and member of long-range planning at YLE 1967-71
- Professor of electronic media at Tampere 1971-2009 (first chair in Scandinavia)
- First trip to Prague in September 1968, see [Reflexions of a veteran](#) (2014)
- Vice-President of IAMCR 1972-88, see <https://iamcr.org/history>
- President of IOJ 1976-90, see [Steering the International Organization...](#) (2019)

My work on history of international journalist movement

First, I prepared a book for the 40th anniversary of IOJ together with Secretary General Jiri Kubka, but by the celebrations in 1986 we managed to put together only prehistory of IOJ, entitled *Useful Recollections: Excursion into the History of the International Movement of Journalists, Part I* (Prague: IOJ, also in French).

Part II covering the first 20 years of IOJ until 1966 was published in 1988 – the continuation remaining in the air, while Kubka was removed from IOJ and I was preoccupied by other projects. [See covers of the two parts in the next slide]

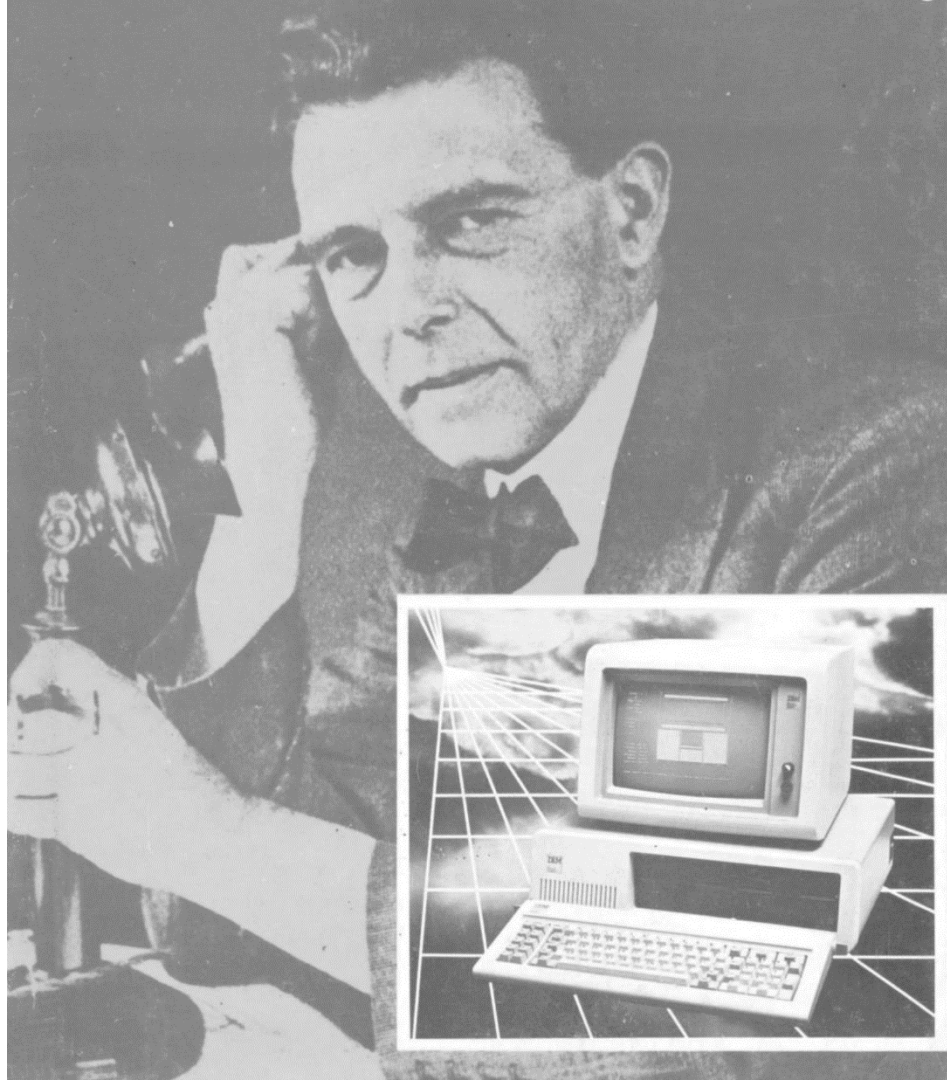
In 1994, in organizing a workshop in Antwerp to commemorate the centenary of the first international conference of journalists there in 1894, I decided to continue writing the history of IOJ, supported by Vaclav Slavik who had recently retired from IOJ and brought with him a lot of archives.

However, Part III took 26 years to finally appear in 2020. Meanwhile, I wrote with four other colleagues *A History of the International Movement of Journalists: Professionalism Versus Politics* (Houndmills: Palgrave, 2016). [See following slide]

USEFUL RECOLLECTIONS

PART I

Jiří Kubka and Kaarle Nordenstreng



USEFUL RECOLLECTIONS

PART II

Kaarle Nordenstreng and Jiří Kubka



International
Organization
of Journalists

Prague, 1988

Professionalism Versus Politics

Praha, 1. VI. 1947

PRAHA · ČESKOŠLOVENSKO
3.—10. VI. 1947

USEFUL RECOLLECTIONS

OF JOURNALISM BASED 1946-20

USEFUL

PART III

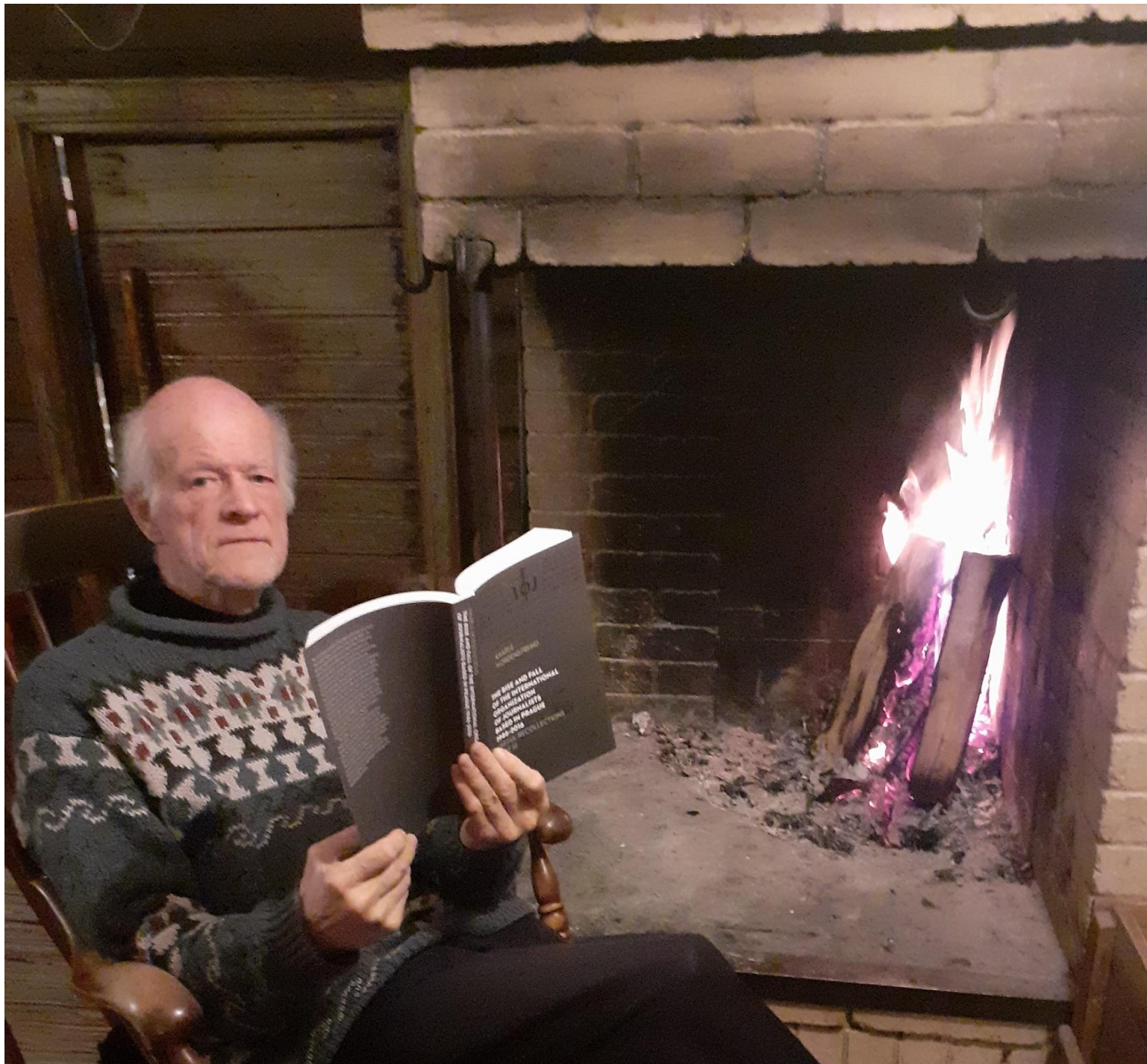
The aims of the I. O. J., as set out in the preambular constitution adopted at Copenhagen, were:

- 1) Protection by all means of all liberty of the press and of journalism
- 2) Promotion of international friendship and understanding through free interchange of information

Now that 25 countries have either applied for affiliation to the I. O. J., and the Prague World Congress is attended by 25 states (15 non-affiliated countries attending as observers). In addition, the Prague World Congress has representatives from United Nations, U. N. E. S. C. O., the International Labour Office and other world organizations concerned with the aims and work of the I. O. J.

President of the International
Organisation of Journalists:
r. Archibald Kenyon (United Kingdom)

Mr. Eugene Morel (France), Mr. Tor Gjerdal (Norway), Mr. Milton M. Murray (USA), Mr. Alexander Syrchov (USSR).



After 14 years as IOJ President and 26 years wanting to write its history, the book was out in January 2021, see <https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/distributed/R/bo86883947.html>

For its summary, see “Steering the International Organization of Journalists through Détente and Cold War” at the end of <https://sites.tuni.fi/kaarle/nordenstreng-publications/>

Overall history of profession and its internationalization

Journalism as a profession evolved with periodical publications since 17th century, established in Europe by late 19th, leading to national associations by early 20th.

First international organization: *International Union of Press Associations (IUPA)*, 1894 (Antwerp) – 1936 (Prague)

International Association of Journalists accredited to the League of Nations (IAJA) 1921–27 (Geneva)

After World War I: *Fédération Internationale des Journalistes (FIJ)* 1926 – 1940 (Paris)

After World War II: *International Organization of Journalists (IOJ)* 1946 (Copenhagen) – 2016 (Angers)

Outbreak of Cold War in 1948 divided the united movement and culminated in 1952 in *International Federation of Journalists (IFJ)* as platform for western unions.

After Cold War in the 1990s unity was gradually regained when IOJ discontinued and most of its unions joined IFJ.

IOJ history in six slides

1 Founding | 1946-1947

The founding Congress in Copenhagen (1946) followed by the 2nd Congress in Prague (1947) elected the first IOJ leaders: President from the UK, Vice Presidents from France, Norway, USA and USSR. The first Secretary-Treasurer was from Australia, the second one elected in Prague to run the headquarters from Czechoslovakia.



2 Crisis and split | 1948-1952

Cold War confrontation of 1948 led to a split with western member unions leaving the IOJ. The 3rd Congress in Helsinki (1950) was limited to the Soviet-led eastern camp with unions from China and other developing countries. Two years later the western unions founded the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) in Brussels.

There's no place like
HOME NOTES

World's Press News
The National Newspaper
of the Press, Advertising,
Paper and Printing

Offices: 20, Tudor St., E.C.4. Phone: CENTRAL 4040
Vol. 66, No. 1,028. LONDON, NOVEMBER 25, 1948. Price 9d.
Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

Brian Chapman is New 'Daily Herald' Managing Editor

BRIAN CHAPMAN, former managing editor of the "Daily Express," has joined the "Daily Herald" in the same capacity. His duties will include taking charge of production at night.

This appointment, announced by the editor, Percy Oudip, is part of a reorganisation of executive duties in anticipation of larger papers. A. William Parry,

U.S. Delegate Walks Out

Political Attack on Western Press Splits IOJ Executive

C.J. Bundock Refuses to Take Further Part

DECLARING "I am not authorized by my organization to agree to the use of this meeting as a platform for political propaganda," C. J. Bundock, NUI general secretary, last Thursday refused to participate further in the International Organisation of Journalists' executive meeting in Budapest.

That he did not follow the example of Harry Martin, president of the American Newspaper Guild, who walked out of the meeting altogether can possibly be put down to the fact that he felt he owed it to the president of the IOJ, Archibald Kempson, to remain.

Mr. Martin picked up his papers and left the council meeting after David Yudin, one of the Russian representatives, had made a long speech attacking the "Western capitalist Press" for warmongering.

Yudin singled out the United States, Greece, Turkey and the Netherlands as having reached the climax of inciting war. He went further and labelled Lawrence (New York Times), Drew Pearson (New York Daily Mirror) and J. Edgar Hoover (Washington Post) as "warmongers."

Mr. Bundock was joined in his protest by 124 delegates from Holland, Belgium and Sweden, who all abstained from taking further part in a meeting which was being utilized for political propaganda.

New International Body

Harry Martin told New York reporters on his arrival home this week that he would recommend the withdrawal of the American Newspaper Guild from the IOJ. He stated further that he would recommend his executive when it met in February next to join the British, Scandinavian and "other free newspaper unions" in the formation of a new international body.

What steps the NUI will take remain to be seen. Mr. Bundock will be reporting to his NUIO this week, and it may be that no final action will be announced until the next Congress of the IOJ due to be held in Berlin next May or June.

"The withdrawal of the NUI Congress led to defiance of consideration of the demand



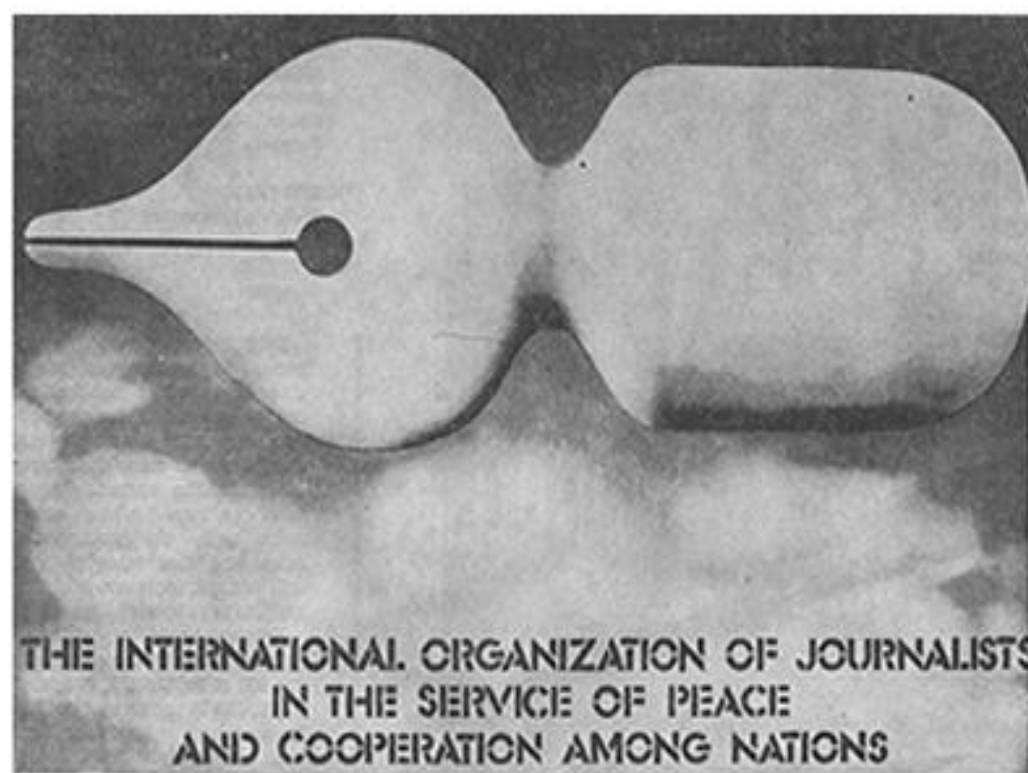
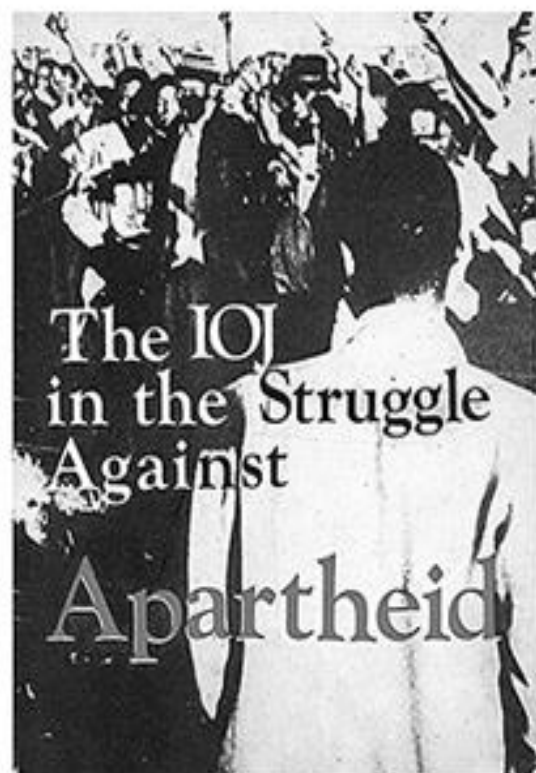
3 Consolidation and growth | 1953-1972

Membership grew in the Third World; their students were sent to schools in Berlin and Budapest. European members enjoyed IOJ hotels on the Black Sea and Lake Balaton. The IOJ Congresses grew in size from Bucharest (1958) to Budapest (1962), Berlin (1966) and Havana (1971). *The Democratic Journalist* became the IOJ flagship.



4 Détente and co-operation | 1973-1989

Solidarity was manifested with Vietnam, Chile, Palestine and southern Africa. More professional activities were also provided in training, publications, studies and meetings. The 8th Congress in Helsinki (1976) was a breakthrough of détente followed by East-West and North-South co-operation with the IFJ and regional federations, fostered by UNESCO



5 Disintegration | 1990-1997

Collapse of communist regimes in central-eastern Europe in late 1989 shook the foundations of the IOJ. The Czechoslovak member union was stopped and the new Syndicate refused to join, leading the Government to expel the IOJ. The Congress in Harare (1991) flagged reforms but the new divided leadership failed to prevent disintegration.

International
Conference Centre
Harare, Zimbabwe

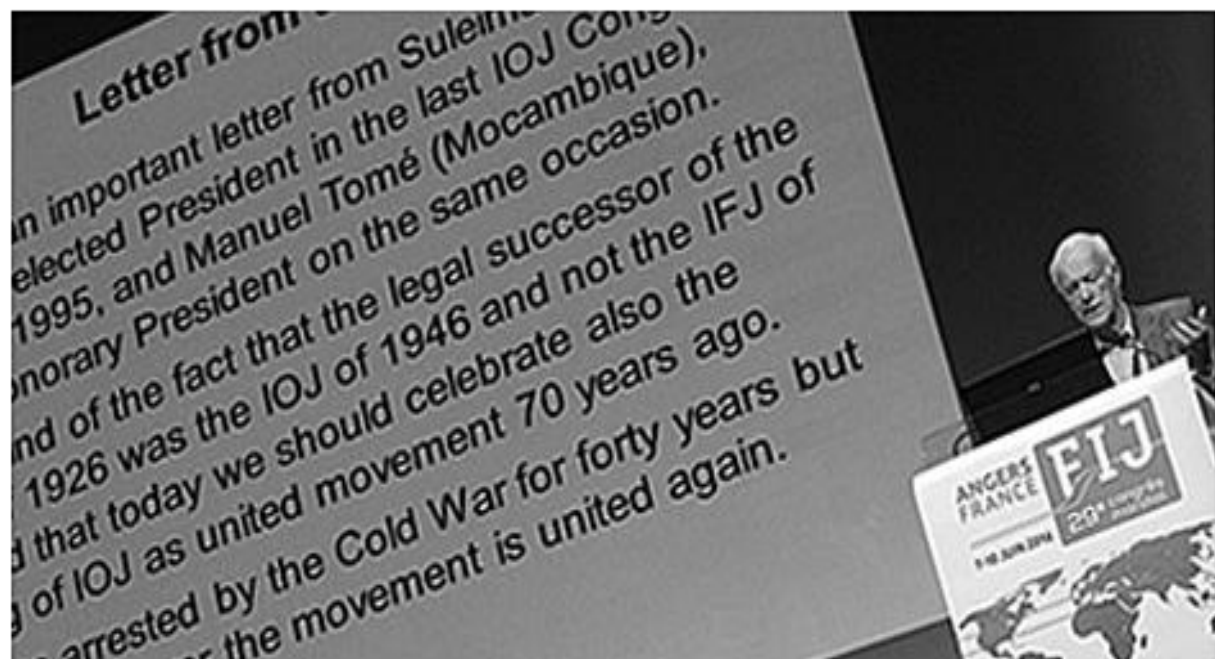
• January
1991

• The IOJ
11th
Congress

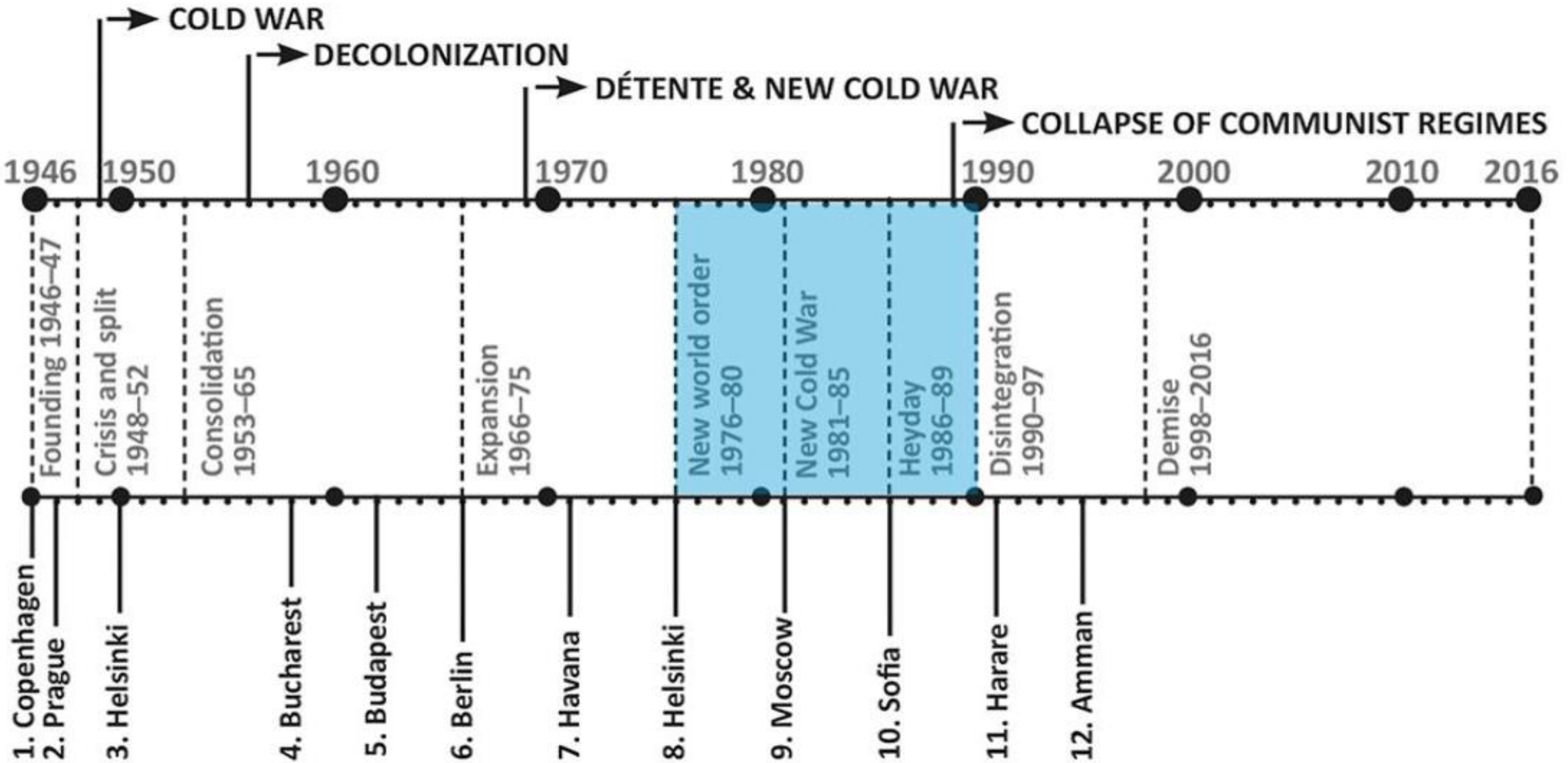


6 Demise | 1998-2016

After the last energetic Secretary General died in 1997, the IOJ had no operational Secretariat and no sustainable financial basis. The leadership offered the ailing IOJ to the Chinese association in 1998, met by silence. The end of the IOJ was a letter by the last two Presidents to the IFJ congress in 2016 – an offshoot of working on this history book.



IOJ in nine periods and its 12 congresses (my presidency in blue)



Founding : Copenhagen 1946



Opening session of the IOJ founding conference in the Danish Parliament, with 165 delegates from 21 countries, the Crown Prince of Denmark and UN officials.

Founding: Prague 1947



The second part of the founding in Prague finalized the Statute and the organization. It was addressed by Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk.



From left to right: British President Kenyon, Czech delegate Zieris, Swedish delegate Eek and newly elected Czechoslovak Secretary General Hronek.

Crisis with the Cold War 1948–52



3rd Congress took place in Helsinki in September 1950, after France refused to grant visas to delegates from behind “iron curtain”. Participants came from 30 countries – western mostly individual journalists, while the East Europeans represented unions. New members came from Africa (Algeria, South Africa...) and Asia (China, Korea...).



The western trade unions of journalists, which left IOJ in 1949, convened in Brussels in 1952 and founded a new International Federation of Journalists, the IFJ. It represented 14 national unions with a total membership of 40,000 journalists, while IOJ covered 50,000 from 30 countries.

Consolidation 1953–65

Cold War was accompanied by decolonization as a global trend in the 1950s, helping IOJ to develop North-South co-operation beyond the crumbling East-West relations. World Meeting of Journalists was held in Helsinki in 1956, gathering 259 participants from 44 countries, led by Brazilians and Indians aiming at uniting the divided movement. Hosted by small Finnish IOJ member union and attended by IOJ, while IFJ refused to attend.





I N T E R P R E S S F O T O

B E R L I N

The first INTERPRESSFOTO, which was held in Berlin, was a great success and evoked lively interest. The exhibition lasted six weeks and even had to be prolonged. 256 press photographers from 32 countries took part. From the 2668 photographs received the international jury selected the 433 best for showing. The Berlin exhibition was a veritable world meeting of press photographers and a variegated review of their labours, the quality of which was of a high international level. (To the photo: View of the installation of the exhibition.)



B U D A P E S T

The second INTERPRESSFOTO took place in August 1962 in Budapest. This time the exhibitors from 34 countries from all continents exhibited some 500 photographs. The importance of the exhibition lay not only in its power of communication, but also in its ability to stimulate indignation, above all concerning certain negatives aspects of life in the world today. A large number of the photographs gave direct expression to the ideas of humanity, democracy, a lasting peace and social justice. (To the photo: View of the inauguration of the exhibition.)



W A R S A W

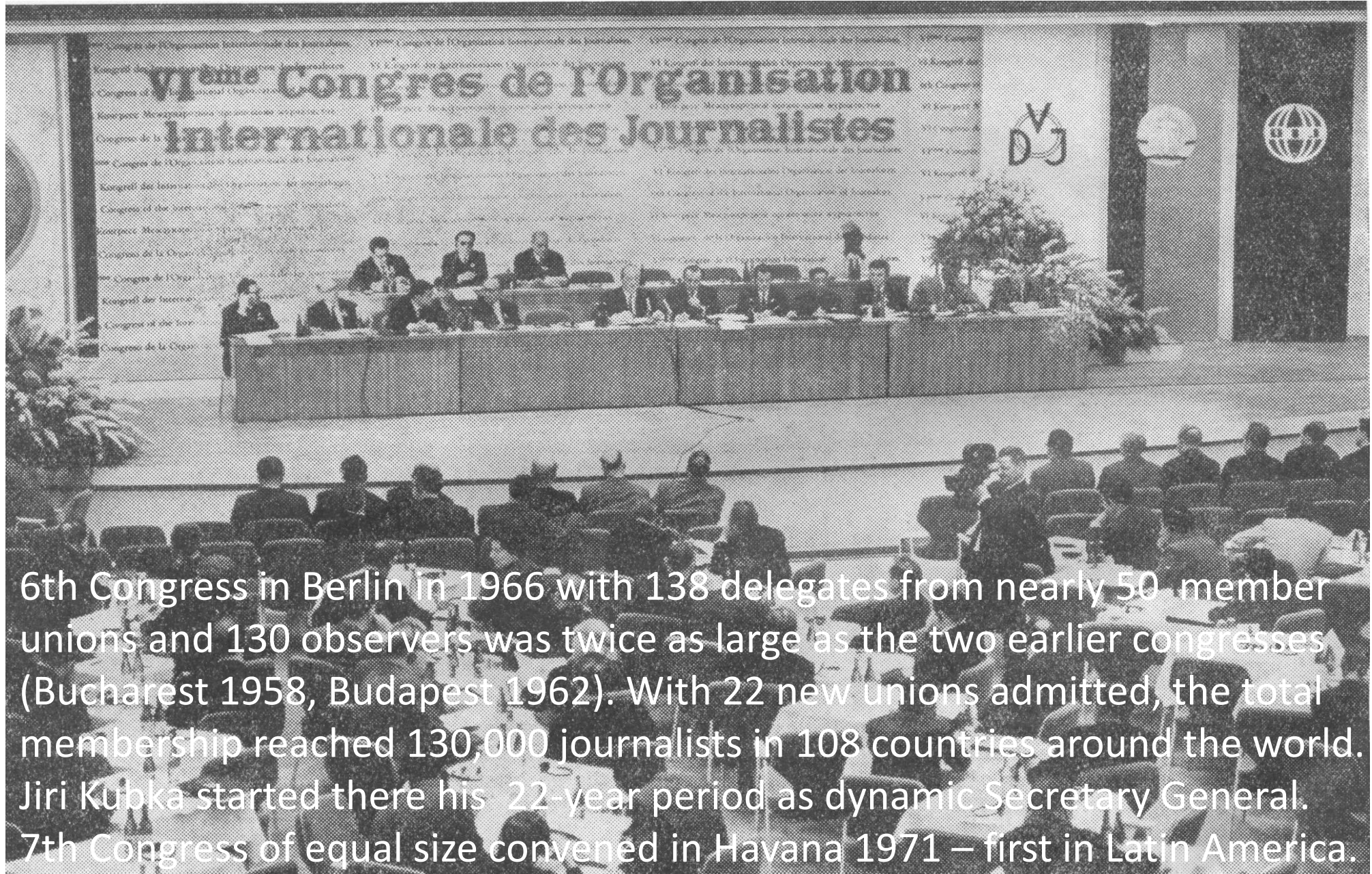
The third INTERPRESSFOTO was organized in 1964 in WARSAW. It showed 372 photographs chosen from the 1,200 pictures submitted from 21 countries. There were photographs from Algeria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France, the German Democratic Republic, the German Federal Republic, Poland, the U.S.S.R., and other countries. The series "The Gate of Tragedy", which received the Grand Prix, and other winning pictures spoke very clearly about the problems of our epoch. (To the photo: View of the big hall of the exhibition.)



Training schools in Berlin (GDR), Rostez (Czechoslovakia), etc.



Expansion 1966–75



6th Congress in Berlin in 1966 with 138 delegates from nearly 50 member unions and 130 observers was twice as large as the two earlier congresses (Bucharest 1958, Budapest 1962). With 22 new unions admitted, the total membership reached 130,000 journalists in 108 countries around the world. Jiri Kubka started there his 22-year period as dynamic Secretary General. 7th Congress of equal size convened in Havana 1971 – first in Latin America.



The old, now destroyed I.O.J. quarters ...

... and the new ones.



I.O.J. GENERAL SECRETARIAT MOVED TO NEW QUARTERS

The I.O.J. General Secretariat, and our editorial office along with it, moved from the busy central part of Prague to Pařížská Street — in the oldest quarter of the city, the Old Town. In the coming years this street is expected to become a second centre of Prague; it will house the offices of plane companies, of travel bureaux, of luxurious shops, and so forth. This will add to its attractions since this quarter is the site of romantic, picturesque nooks, many inns, full of crooked, narrow streets, passageways and alleys. The street branches out from the Old Town Square — the site of one of the greatest treasures in Prague, the Old Town Hall — which all of you undoubtedly know if you have ever been to Prague. It leads to the river embankment and from there it is only a short walk to the Charles Bridge with its magnificent view of Hradčany, the Prague Castle.

The reason for the move was simple. Prague is being reconstructed, a bridge is to be built across one of its valleys and this bridge will end very close to the site of I.O.J.'s former headquarters. In addition, Prague's first underground is under construction. With such plans for modernisation and reconstruction it goes without saying that some buildings will have to be torn down. This fate has met a whole block of houses, including ours at No. 3, the former headquarters of our organisation and of the Union of Czechoslovak Journalists. This is one of the last photos of the building before it was demolished.

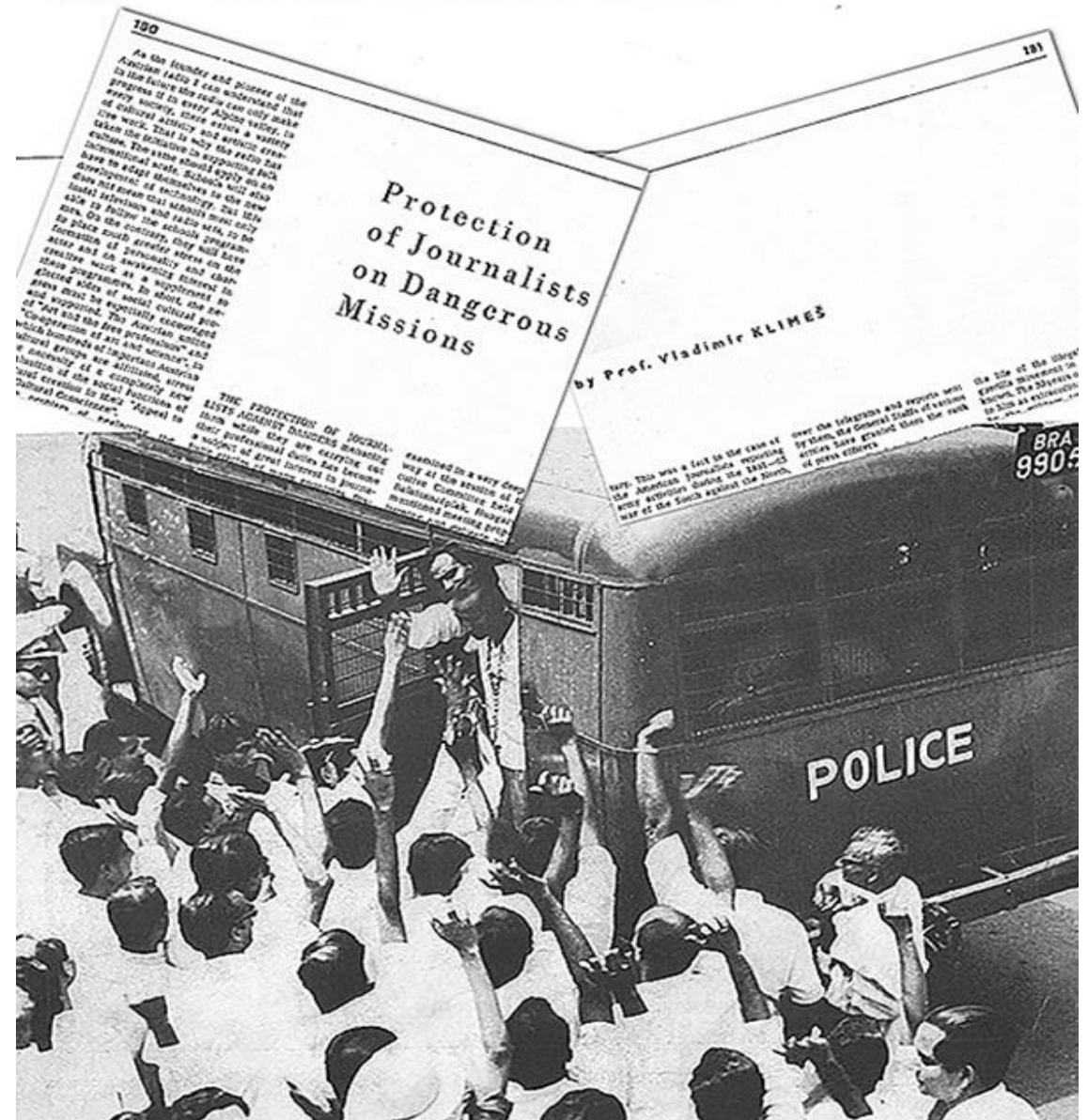
The new headquarters which the International Organisation of Journalists now occupies takes up practically the whole floor of two buildings that are joined together. The General Secretariat has thereby expanded its floor space and will now have its own meeting hall, lounge, and as formerly, together with the Union of Czechoslovak Journalists, a club and a restaurant.

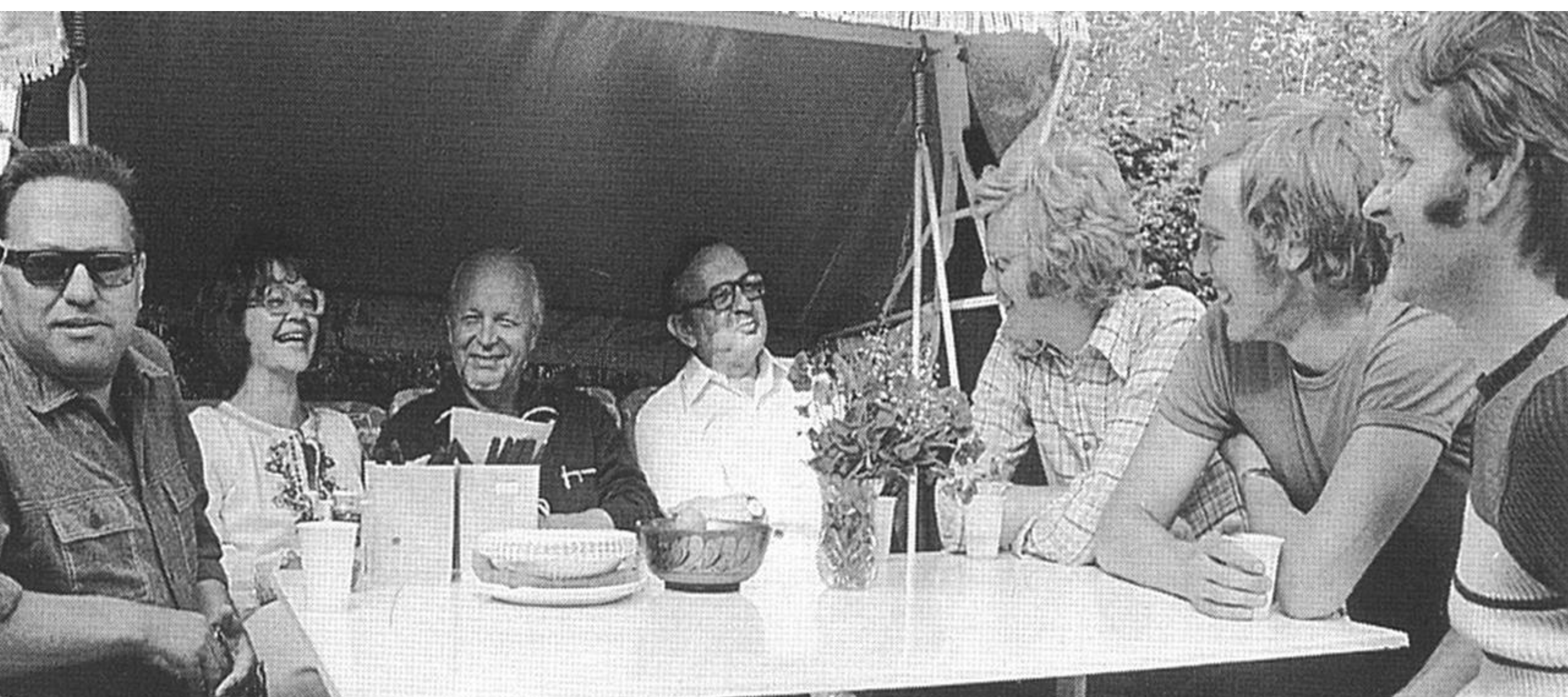
Finally, we can only hope that in the new, better headquarters our work will be improved and more fruitful than heretofore and that the tasks which our organisation has before it will be successfully fulfilled.

dgr.



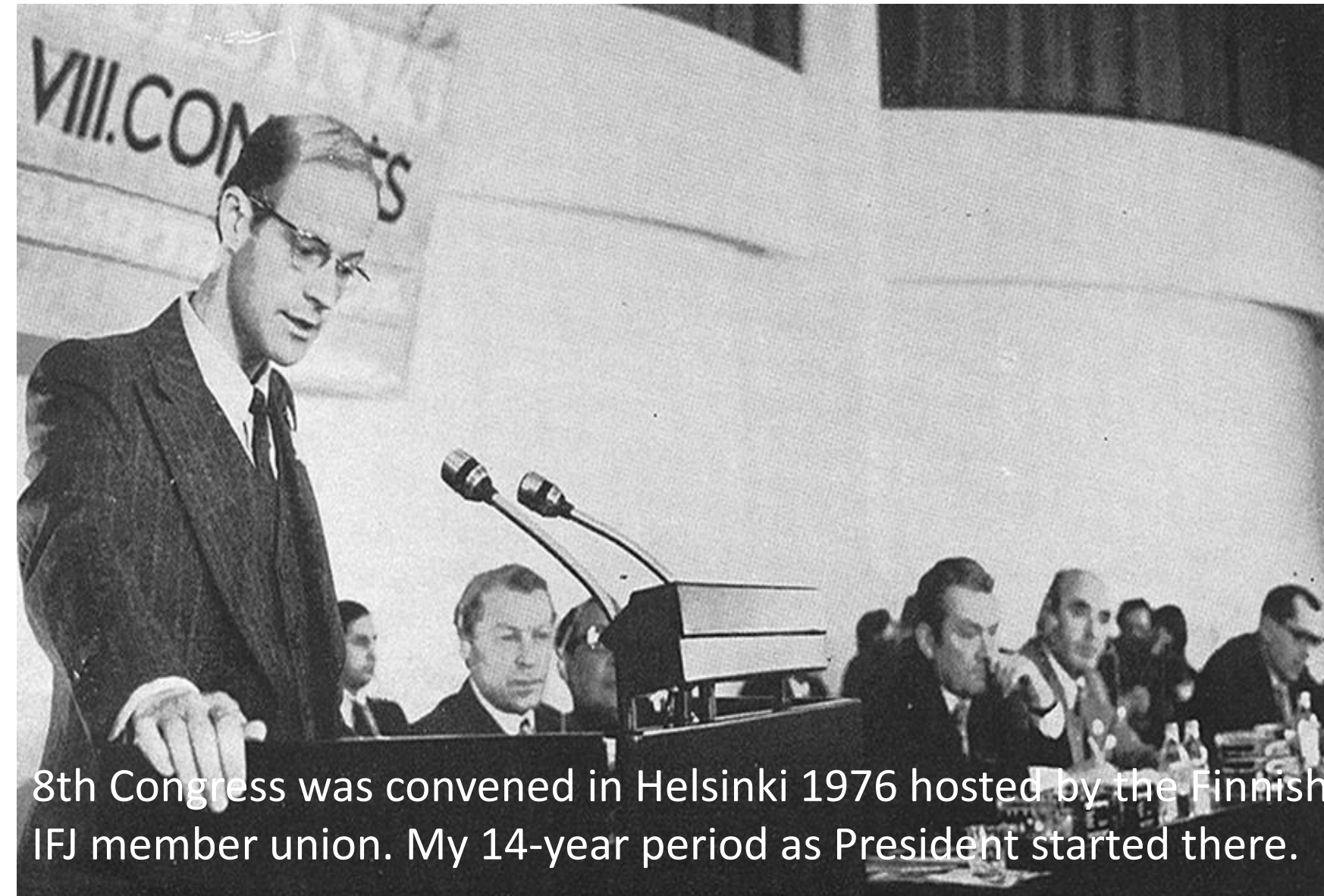
The Prague Spring and its aftermath was not widely covered in IOJ activities – they were continued as if nothing happened.



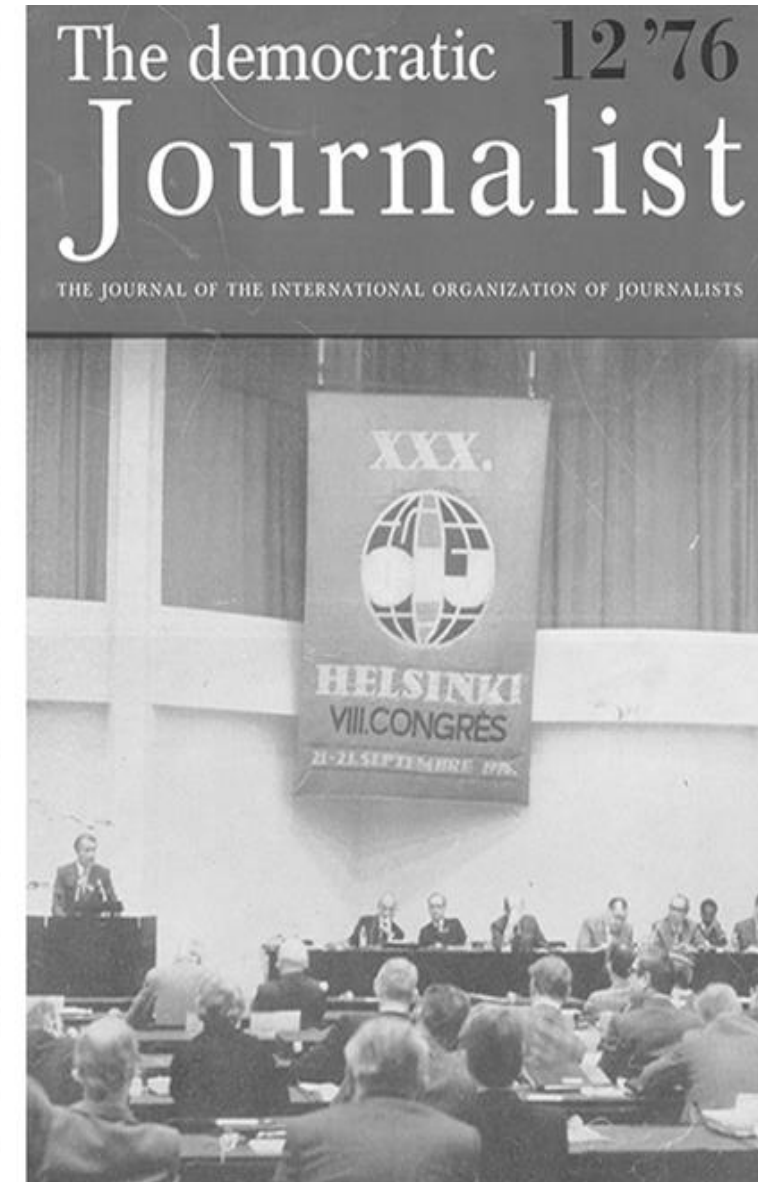


East-West détente in the early 1970s improved relations with IFJ and its West-European unions, especially in Finland. Leaders of Finnish Radio and TV Journalists' Union (on the right) pioneered in 1974 contacts with IOJ Headquarters, including its Soviet Secretary Oleg Zagladin (on the left) – his brother Vadim being advocate of détente in the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee.

New world order 1976–80



8th Congress was convened in Helsinki 1976 hosted by the Finnish IFJ member union. My 14-year period as President started there.





**THE SECOND CONSULTATIVE
MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL
AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
OF JOURNALISTS**

*COMMUNIQUE of the second consultative
meeting in Mexico City 1-3 April 1980*

1. In accordance with the agreement of the first consultative meeting between the organizations

representatives of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and the Union of African Journalists (UAFJ)

Representatives of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and the Union of African Journalists (UAFJ) met in Mexico City on 1-3 April 1980 for the second consultative meeting. The meeting was welcomed by the Mexican government as a historical step, both

**MEXICO
DECLARATION**

The second consultative meeting among international and regional organizations of journalists was held in Mexico City from 1 to 3 April, 1980. The participants unanimously approved a very important document for journalism – the „Mexico declaration“, the full text of which we publish below.

We, the representatives of international and regional bilateral meetings of journalists' associations in South-East Asia, and

UNESCO convened in 1978 all international and regional organizations of working journalists (not those of editors and publishers) to a consultative meeting on media ethics and other professional issues. This led to intensive co-operation, with regular meetings until 1990. At the table from the right: UNESCO host Hifzi Topuz and leading officers of IFJ, Catholic Union of the Press, IOJ, ASEAN Confederation of Journalists and Latin American Federation of Journalists. Second meeting was in Mexico City in 1980.

New Cold War 1981–85

First half of the 1980s brought new contradictions in international politics with militarization in the North and debt crisis in the South. Media became a focus of high politics and IOJ had central role in information war as defender of UNESCO and the South against western corporate interests.

IOJ news letter

1981
MARCH

5

THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF JOURNALISTS

WEST ATTACKS UNESCO MEETING

Concerted action of USA prevented adoption of measures for personal protection of journalists on dangerous assignments

The consultative meeting, convened by the UNESCO to Paris from 16 to 18 February, 1981, which had to debate experiences, possibilities and measures for the protection of journalists on dangerous assignments, was frustrated by the U. S. A. in a prepared, directed and concerted action.

progress in the sphere of personal protection of journalists on dangerous assignments, the USA representatives boycotted any agreement, and went so far as to withdraw their own draft of a Final Communique in the last minute, and refused to agree with any final report.

Therefore records of UNESCO carry

United Press International and The New York Times Service attempted jointly, to jeopardize all kinds of progress and to put under pressure the representatives of the developing countries.

The vice-president of the session, Cheick Mouctary Diarra, Secretary General of the Union of African

Unesco to Consider Plan for Licensing Journalists Despite Western Objections

By Paul Lewis
New York Times Service

PARIS — A plan to create a new international organization to license journalists and ensure that

generally accepted rules of professional ethics" and could censure them by withdrawing identity cards.

While the plan does not attempt

the meeting was to be closed to news coverage.

After complaints by groups representing the West, Unesco has now agreed to hold

... had been informed

U.S. News Official Warns Unesco On Moves to Regulate Journalists

United Press International

PARIS — An American news executive said Monday that any attempt by the UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization to issue regulations to protect jour-

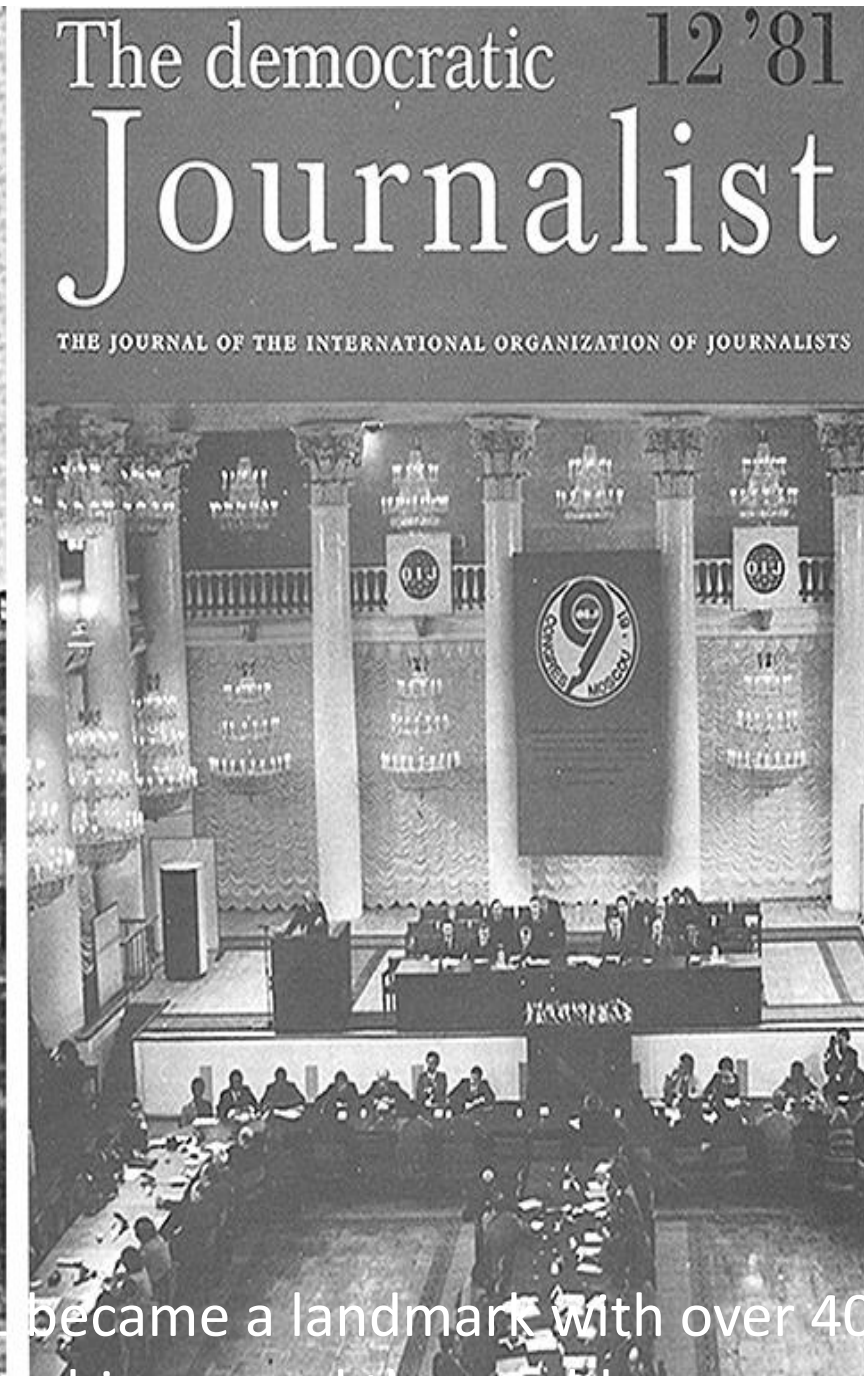
States — Mr. Beebe and Dana Bulen of the World Press Freedom Committee — said they were admitted only after they learned of the meeting.

THE WASHINGTON POST.

'Ethical' Censors at Unesco

There is a dangerous new burst of solicitude for the safety of journalists at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

that feel themselves unfairly covered by the media.



9th Congress in Moscow 1981 became a landmark with over 400 delegates and observers from 82 countries. Growing membership around the world now reached 180,000 from 120 countries.

Consultative meetings of IOJ, IFJ and regional organizations led to unprecedented co-operation. They hosted the meetings in turn – IOJ 1983 in two parts: first in its conference centre in Prague Bila Hora and second in its regional centre in Paris. Historical outcome was consensus declaration on universal ethics for journalists – first of its kind after UN and UNESCO failed in earlier efforts.





4th Consultative Meeting of International and Regional Journalists' Organizations



Prague—June
Paris—November
1983



IOJ

IFJ

UCIP

FELAP

FELATRAP

FAJ

UJA

CAJ

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 1979 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.

I

Principle 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.

V

Principle 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.

X

Principle 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.

II

Principle 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.

VI

Principle 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.

VII

Principle Respect for Public Interest

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

VIII

Principle Respect for Universal Values and Diversity of Cultures

A true journalist stands for the universal values of humanism, 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.

IX

Principle Elimination of War and Other Great Evils Confronting Humanity

The ethical commitment to the universal values of humanism 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 racism and apartheid, oppression by tyrannical regimes, colonialism and neocolonialism, 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 nationals 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.

III

Principle 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.

IV

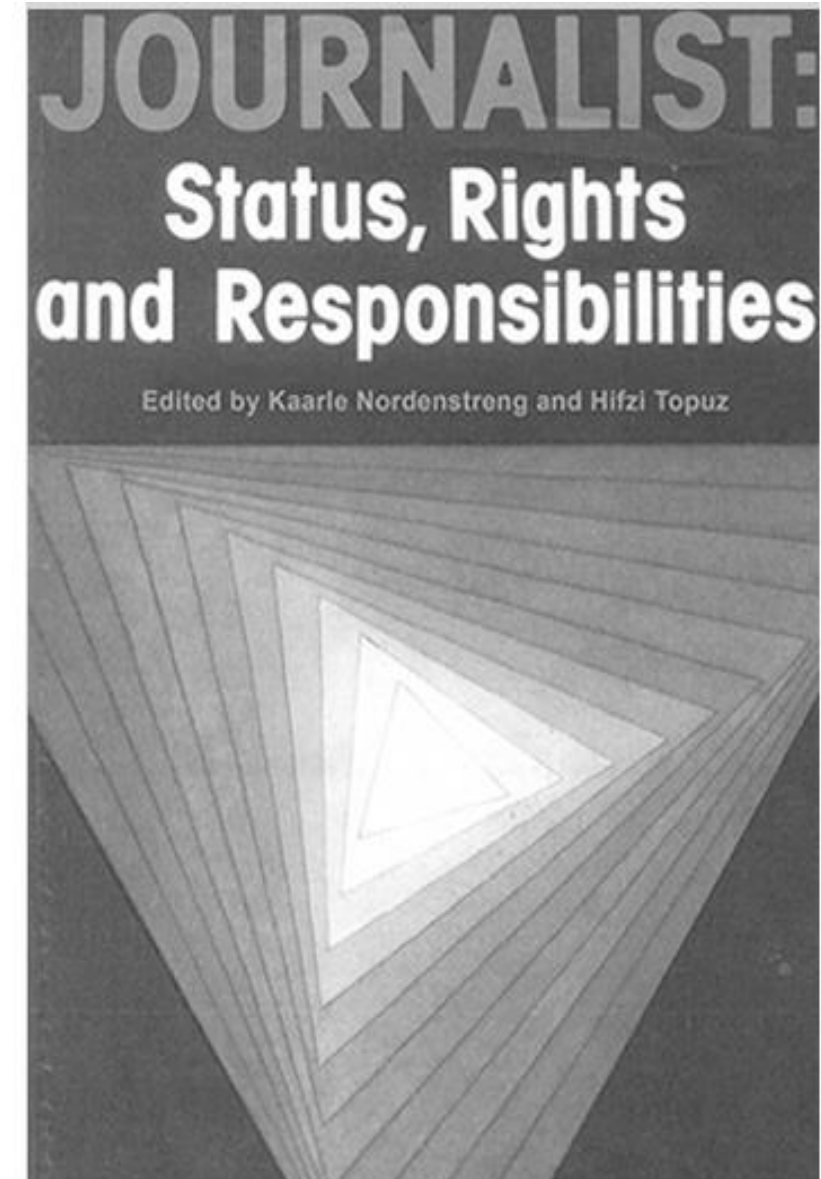
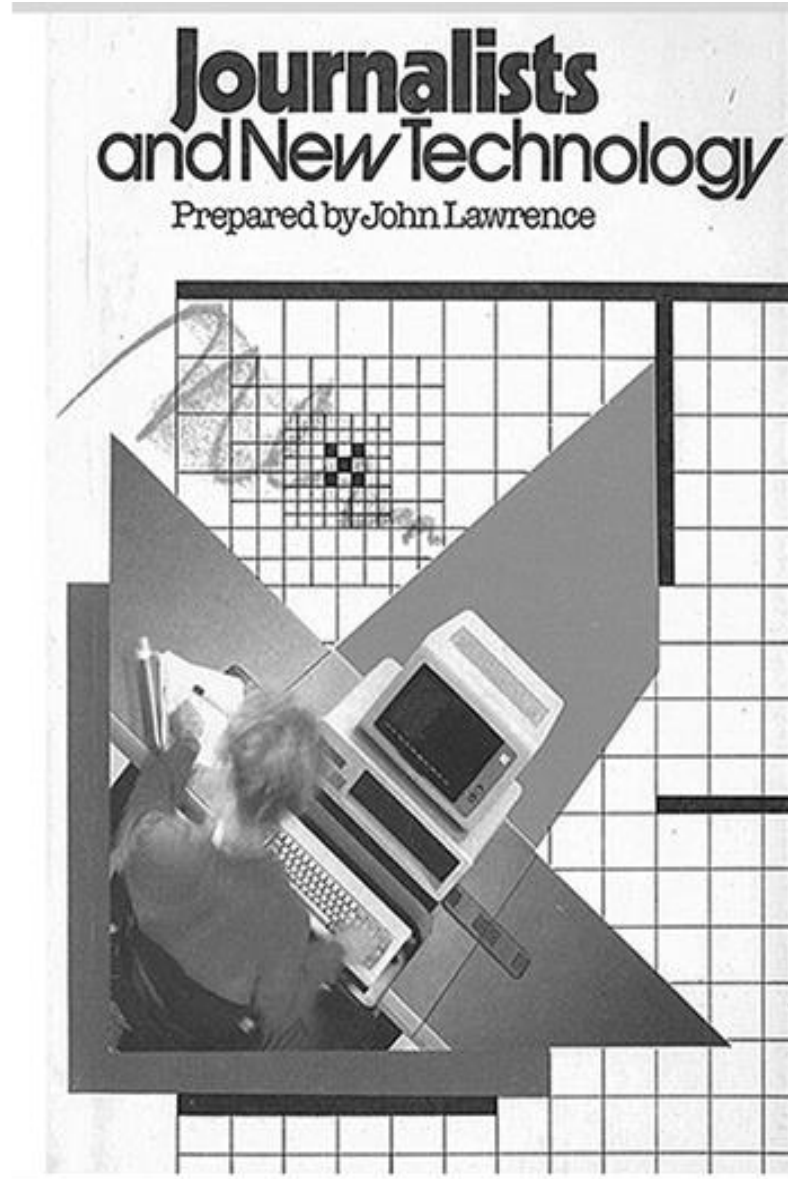
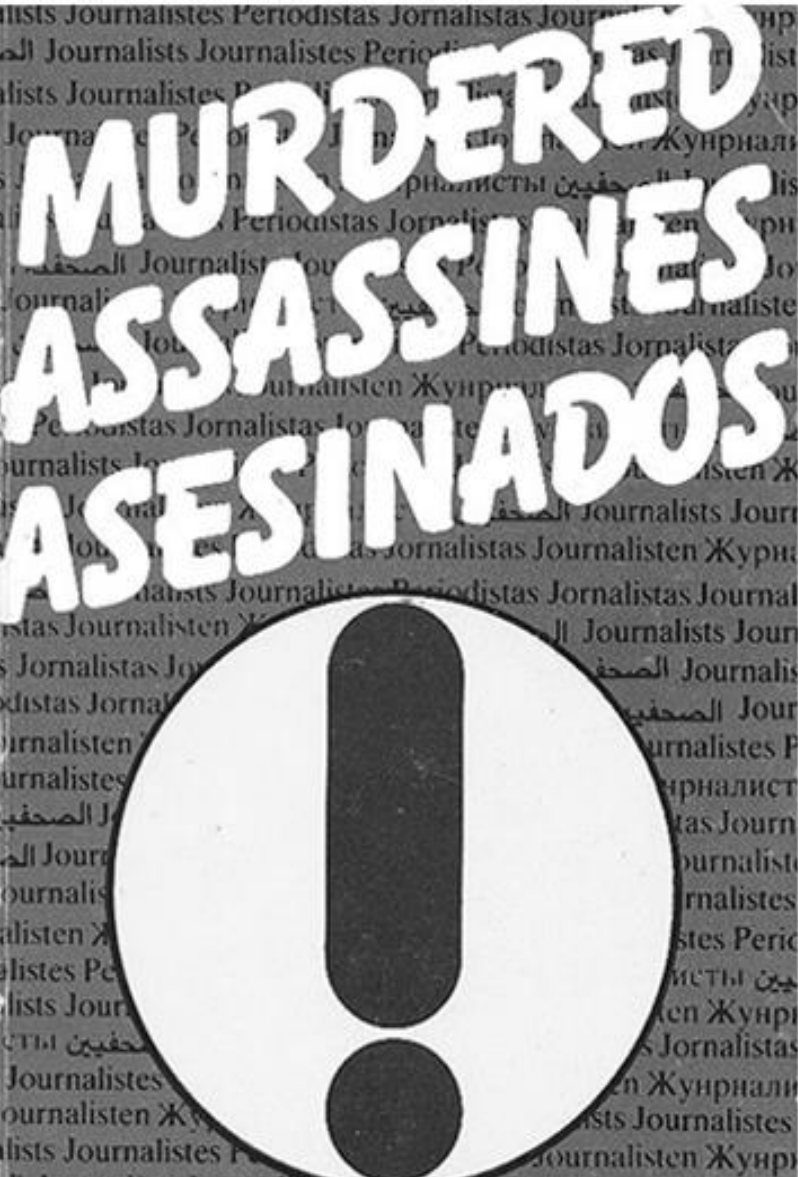
Principle The Journalist's Professional Integrity

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.

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).

Designed by Barbara Prokopiuk for UNESCO Department of Information and Press
Printed in Warsaw, 1983

Publications of the international and regional organizations were jointly written by IOJ and IFJ members and published by IOJ in Prague. The co-operation by now named “Consultative Club”.

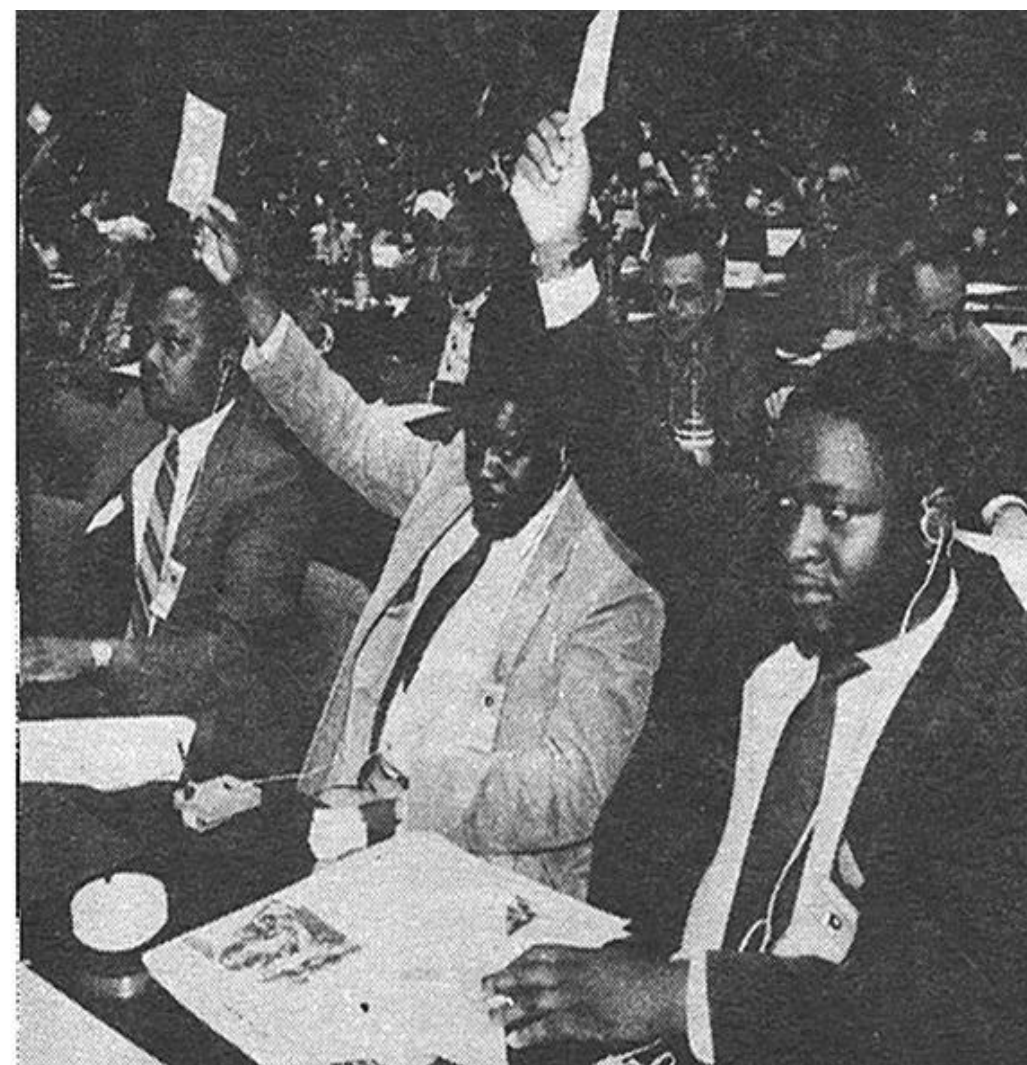


Heyday 1986–89

In 1986 IOJ turned 40, celebrating in the same *Slovanský dum* where the 2nd Congress was held. The ceremonial session was addressed by Deputy Prime Minister Matej Lúčan. At the table from the right: Ján Risko, President of the Czechoslovak Union of Journalists, Secretary General Kubka, President Nordenstreng and Mrs Gusta Fuciková. On the right first Secretary General Hronek.



9th Congress in Sofia 1986 manifested further growth – IOJ now covering 450,000 journalists. Headquarters had a staff of over 50 and in addition there were regional centres in Paris and Mexico City, all working under Secretary General Kubka, who was enthusiastic in employing computers in the service of management – one of the first international organizations to do so.



New Soviet policy of *perestroika* and *glasnost* under Mikhail Gorbachev since 1985 was welcomed by IOJ and also encouraged the European members of IFJ to hold East-West round tables, first in Helsinki 1985, then in Vienna 1987 (photo on the left) and Warsaw 1989 (on the right) – in photo centre the President of Poland Wojciech Jaruzelski surrounded by IFJ and IOJ leaders.



IOJ ran several commercial companies in translation, publishing, etc., serving customers in CZ and abroad, generating income used to finance most of the Secretariat and other activities. Their management was in Washingtonova.

International Organization of Journalists

IOJ Videopress
Introducing



PRAGUE 1984

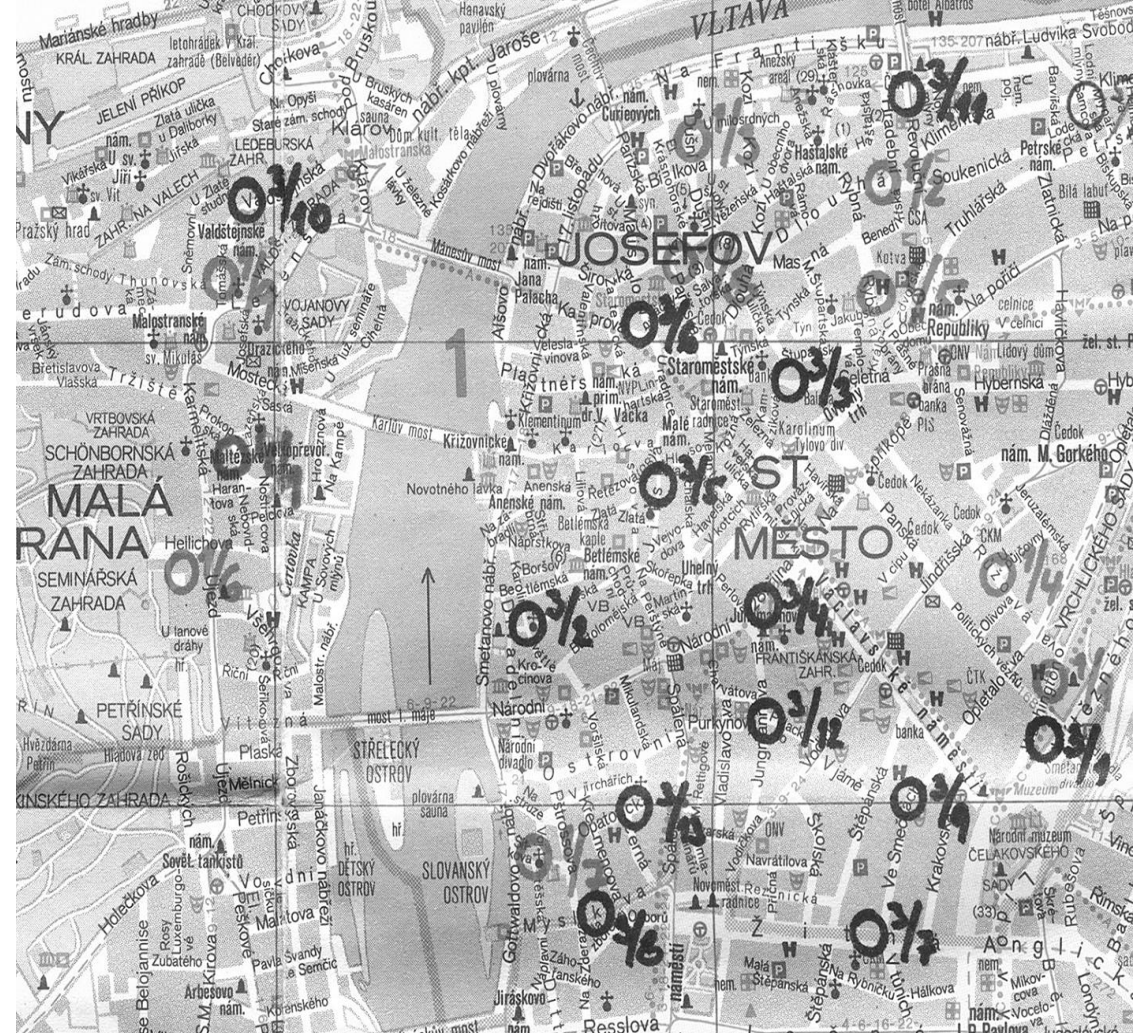


IOJ Secretariat moved at the end of 1989 to new premises in the corner of the Old Town Square, in a restored 13th century building. IOJ also occupied several offices and flats around Prague. Its fleet of western cars with diplomatic plates added to the image of a privileged organization.



On December 10, 1989, the IOJ Secretariat opened its new headquarters in Prague. The simple ceremony was attended by the IOJ President Kaarle Nordenstreng and Secretary General Dušan Ulčák as well as members of the IOJ Secretariat.

The new IOJ headquarters are situated in Celetná Street near the historical Old Town Square in the restored 13th century building. The new address of the IOJ Secretariat is Celetná 2, Prague 1, 110 00, Czechoslovakia.



By the end of the 1980s the IOJ was an empire

- Members in 120 countries, individual journalists through national unions totalled 250,000 in 1988, by 1990 already 300,000.
- Headquarters in Prague had senior representatives of member unions from the USSR, GDR, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Cuba, Zimbabwe and Finland as heads of different departments, assisted by Czechoslovak staff. Locals in administration and in divisions for publishing, studies and documentation added to the size of the Secretariat over 50 full-time employees. The foreign secretaries had a flat and car; also the local staff enjoyed privileges well known in Prague – it was a real bubble.
- Commercial companies, established first for translation and publishing in the 1970s, had grown to an enterprise system extending to electronics and building renovation, employing over 1,000 – an island of capitalism in the sea of socialism.
- The enterprises produced over 90% of the revenues, solidarity lotteries 5% and membership fees only 2%; there was no longer any state funding.
- By and large IOJ was the world's biggest international NGO in the media field.

Disintegration 1990-97

The collapse of the communist regime in CZ at the end of 1989 shook the base and environment of IOJ: its member union in the host country was discontinued and the new one refused to join.

IOJ newsletter

1

1990 / JANUARY

THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF JOURNALISTS

On the Year 1990

IOJ MESSAGE

As the world enters a new year and a new decade — a decade leading to the 21st century — the International Organization of Journalists (IOJ) conveys best wishes to its members and fellow journalists around the world. The IOJ hopes that the advent of a new year will lead us to a new era and that the new decade will be one of peace and progress for humanity as a whole.

This hope has been recently nurtured by the fact that developments in international relations have signalled the end of the Cold War and its ramifications. The relaxation of tension between the major powers, the progress in disarmament, the serious efforts to settle regional conflicts by peaceful means, the growing awareness of the need to overcome underdevelopment and debt in the Third World, all give rise to new prospects in East-West as well as North-South relations.

The IOJ welcomes these positive developments. At the same time it should be recalled that the IOJ was born in 1946 out of the desire of journalists all around the world to establish the broadest unity in order to assure — as its original aims and objectives stated — “the protection by all means of all liberty of the press and journalism; the defence of the people's right to be informed honestly and accurately; the promotion of international friendship and understanding through free interchange of information; and the promotion of trade unionism amongst journalists”.

Unfortunately, the Cold War hampered and complicated efforts in this direction and left its mark on the world of journalism.

However, the IOJ together with other organizations of journalists has tried to overcome many of the problems.

(continued on page 3)



JOURNALISM IN A COMMON EUROPEAN HOUSE

For three days, from December 11 to 13, 1989, the representatives of the Ecumenical Workshop for Information in Europe (EWIE), the International Organization of Journalists (IOJ), and the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC) came together not far from Munich to a round table

Religious Matters of the USSR Council of Ministers Mikhail Ivogin, and Yuri Smirnov, another representative of the Council for Religious Matters,

IOJ newsletter

2

1990 / JANUARY

THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF JOURNALISTS



1990 - International Literacy Year

January 1, 1990, marked the beginning of International Literacy Year, launched by the United Nations General Assembly. UNESCO was asked to administer the events to be organized during this campaign.

At the present time there are 889 million illiterates in the world over 15 years of age, i.e. every fourth adult. Almost 98 per cent of illiterates are in the developing countries, most of them in Africa. More than 100 million children between the ages of six and eleven are unable to attend school in Asia and Africa

and every third woman is illiterate.

The World Conference for the Education for All, to be held in Jomtien (Thailand) from March 5 to 9, 1990, will be an important event. UNESCO, UNICEF, UN Development Program and the World Bank will be the organizers of this conference.

CZECHOSLOVAK JOURNALISTS AND NEW PERSPECTIVES

On January 6, 1990, an extraordinary congress took place in Prague of the Czechoslovak Union of Journalists (CSSN), whose almost 250 delegates unanimously decided to publicly announce the disbandment of this journalist organization. This important decision was preceded by the congresses of both national unions, the Czech and Slovak Unions of Journalists (CSN, SSN), whose decisions clearly led to this move.

The immediate impetus for such a step was the slow and unconvincing reaction of the Union to the police suppression of the student demonstration in Prague on November 17, 1989, and the events which then followed. This fact was reflected in the congress proceedings where it was said that the new social and political situation in Czechoslovakia “makes it

must be based on democratic principles. It must be an independent and open organization, creating good conditions for the work of journalists, providing legal protection for them, an organization which “will return the honour and authority of the journalist's card”. Under J. Marková's leadership the CSSN's Presidium adopted new positions on certain earlier decisions, for instance, it invited journalists who were expelled after 1968 to return to its ranks and apologized to those who had been

(continued on page 2)

The 3rd International Conference to Support the Intifada in Occupied Palestine took place in Athens on 16th and 17th December 1989. The Conference was organized by the International Popular Committee of Artists and Intellectuals to Support the Intifada and hosted by the Panhellenic Cultural Movement.

SUPPORT THE INTIFADA

Prominent intellectuals from a number of European countries as well as leaders of organizations of solidarity with the Palestinian people took part in the meeting. The IOJ was represented by Secretary Mazen Hussein.

Intellectuals and artists from both the occupied Palestinian territories and Israel presented reports on the situation in the occupied territories and the effect of Israeli occupation and repression on the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The reports detailed the intensified brutalities and terror practised by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian population, and called for stepped-up international action to put an end to Israeli occupation and to support the Palestinian Intifada.

The meeting decided to intensify its efforts to mobilise intellectuals and artists around the world in support of the Palestinian Intifada. Concrete plans of support were elaborated and a number of meetings and fora on the Intifada were held.

A press campaign was waged against IOJ accusing it of the sins of former communist rule in CZ.

mladá fronta

Pátek
26. leden 1990
Ročník XLVI
Číslo 22 / 14 072
1 Kčs

Deník
čs.
mládeže

z těch, kteří na vlastní kůži pocítili jeho zvláštní během jeho působení v oblasti naší zahraniční služby a kteří na případech mohou dokumentovat, že D. U. setrvávání ve funkci generálního tajemníka MON je ostudné nejen pro naše novináře, ale pro Československo.

poznámky — D. Uličák v MON reval nejen jako stoupenec stalinistické linie, ale i tvrdě postupoval vůči všem, kteří si dovolili mu oponovat. Zneužíval svého postavení a přátelských osobních styků s M. Jakešem, V. Biřákem, M. Štefaňákem, M. Štěpánem a dalšími. Za svého působení v Sýrii ve

JUDr. R. Bobčík, ing. J. Lébl, ing. J. Opava, ing. Z. Motálik, ing. M. Musil, federální ministerstvo zahraničních věcí

MON: na jaký tón?

PRAHA (sch). Rezignaci generálního tajemníka Mezinárodní organizace novinářů (MON) ing. D. Uličáka oznámil na

té výjimky, ale ty se týkají především několika národních svazů, nikoli organizace jako celku.

MON ztratila kredit

Má tato organizace morální právo působit v Československu?

FRÁZE, POLOPRAVDY A VÝMLUVY tvořily donedávna jádro projevů našich

MAFIE

MON: nevládní organizace pokrokových novinářů, jejímž cílem je obrana svobody tisku, dodržování pravdivosti informací, zabezpečování svobodné výměny informací, ochrana hmotných a profesionálních práv novinářů atd. (Vojtěch Houška, Jiří Kettner, Slovník mezinárodních organizací, hnutí a skupení, Praha 1984, str. 74)

Čemu slouží?

Měl jsem na stole stručný vzkaz: Běž zítra v deset hodin na tiskovou konferenci, kterou pořádá MON, bude to zajímavé. Bylo. Poněkud jinak.

Kritizovaná MON

(fk): Na páteční tiskové konferenci v Praze, které se zúčastnili čelní představitelé Mezinárodní organizace novinářů (MON), hovořil prezident této organizace prof. K. Nordenstreng z Finska o některých aspektech minulé i budoucí práce MON. Rekl, že zástupci or-

Pokračování na str. 3

Distancujeme se od MON

(čtk): Prozatímní správní rada Syndikátu novinářů, sdružujícího českou a

The GUILD REPORTER, January 5, 1990

5

Revolution sweeps East European newsrooms, too

By Aidan White
Int'l Federation of Journalists
Behind the dramatic headlines
and powerful photographic

With the walls between East and West in Europe literally and figuratively tumbling from Berlin to Prague and beyond, Aidan White, general secretary of the Int'l Federation of Journalists, writes a personal assessment of the changes' impact on journalists. The IFJ.

rian media. More big players will follow.

Soon journalists in both the East and West will face a common chal-

certainly give much thought to the future.

Meanwhile, 'we will concentrate on the immediate needs of the

Czechoslovakia: Witch-hunting and 'democracy'

SADHAN MUKHERJEE

Czechoslovakia seems to be pointing over what has transpired there in recent days. Many citizens speak of a sort of reverse play of John Reed's Ten Days

are "parasites" that suck the lifeblood of the Czechoslovak economy. Further, it is claimed that these bodies are "ideological" outfits and they have to provide to Democratic Czechoslovakia. The last one is of course a contradiction in terms, as under the

slovak economy. The point was very demonstratively and clearly explained in a press conference in Prague on March 2, addressed by IOJ president, Karle Nordenstreng, among others. But nothing of this press conference has been reported

responsible for information and dealing with the Press. He did not show any of such feelings against the IOJ; on the contrary, he wanted to know more about the organisation, its work, its financial activities and so on. The IOJ delegation seemed to

high. According to the latest OECD data, the gross debt in convertible currencies rose to 6.9 billion dollars in 1989, an increase of 21 per cent over the previous year. Net debt is up by 33 per cent. However, as of now, Czechoslovakia's net debt-

Meanwhile, IOJ publications were supporting new developments in CZ and in post-Cold War world.

MONTHLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF JOURNALISTS • FEBRUARY 1990 • 2

THE DEMOCRATIC JOURNALIST

(see pp. 16-20)

Revolution in the Czechoslovak Media



16 THE DEMOCRATIC JOURNALIST



Wall posters written, distributed and posted by the students and opposition groups played a unique and invaluable role - always a source of the latest information, witty and to the point. They will undoubtedly make a chapter in the history of communication in Czechoslovakia.

Revolution in the Czechoslovak Media

The mood of revolt that engulfed Czechoslovakia in November 1989 and fundamentally changed the face and content of most communication media, arose from anger at the brutal use of force by Czechoslovak police against a peaceful student demonstration called to mark the 50th anniversary of International Students Day, on Friday November 17. Almost four hundred journalists met in Prague two days after the attack on the students, denounced the police brutality and protested against the beating up and injuring of several Czech, British, Dutch and American journalists by the police. They also rejected the one-party monopoly over the nation's media. This meeting was an initial step towards a new character and structure of the journalists' organization in Czechoslovakia. It has become a syndicate supervising press freedom and journalistic ethics and asserting the professional and social interests of journalists, open to all professional journalists, including those who were formerly prevented from carrying out their profession due to past political activities.

The media revolt began on November 20, when a number of newspapers called the police action "unreasonable". Efforts to inform the public truthfully and objectively, however, were particularly difficult in the news agency ČTK and radio and television, whose hard-line man-

Different representatives today come forward and say they knew everything in advance but that others ruined it for them. I knew nothing in advance. The Czechoslovak people completely overwhelmed me and allowed me to experience the most beautiful surprise of my life.

Nonetheless, by way of introduction I cannot but recall the efforts of journalists who - perhaps problematically, in a half-hearted yet characteristic way, tried to do something about it. For instance, the young journalists' letter protesting against censorship, hundreds of official writers signing their names on petitions calling for the release of imprisoned colleagues Ruml and

No More Censorship

Zeman, along with all political prisoners. However, I hope that this revolution has put an end for good to the censor's "reckoning of services rendered".

"I'm finally producing a newspaper," shouted an older colleague on Tuesday November 21. All of us shared his enthusiasm. The "famous" telephone, through which the press section of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia (CPCz) directed the staff's management, was hopelessly silent. The censor's thick red pencil which had the force of a fierce slap in the face for the bolder material, remained (forever?) still. But this freedom that seemed to fall from heaven was, for us, a

period of confusion. On that Tuesday, of course, I didn't know that Thursday's out-of-town edition of the newspaper *Mladá Fronta* would be confiscated (for the last time?) because of a single photograph and one paragraph with the names of politicians who, today, belong to the less pleasant side of history.

To come back to that confusion. As far as I know, in all dailies the management basically carried out the will of the CPCz CC and acted the role of an internal censor. All editors, more or less, knew about this quiet agreement on what could and what could not appear. If anyone tried to write what, in principle, could not be written, he realized it was a waste of energy and paper. The journalist only did it for his own conscience. The chief editorial heads were respected, at least on this point, since everyone knew they were not the ones who made decisions and if they were to allow such an article they would lose their jobs. If there was any suspicion that something like that could happen, the already limited powers of the chief editors were taken away "from above".

But to get down to business: without wishing to offend anyone, the managements of almost all Prague papers found them-

selves in a situation on November 20 they were absolutely unable to handle.

The initiative was taken by a group of experienced editors who created a provisional conception and divided up the work. But they didn't really have to do even that. The younger editors themselves raced to report every piece of action, they didn't sleep, they followed everything that was happening. Enmity and envy disappeared completely among authors. The name ceased to be important, the only important thing was that the story be published in the paper. The typesetter and make-up typesetter acted in the same way - at least they were able to respect their own calling.

Taboo subjects filled the newspapers. It turned out that journalists are like most citizens of the nation: they were silent when they had to be, but 20 years of propaganda, luckily, had left very few serious traces. Matters, of course, were different with the top people. The system employed until now had been a deception, therefore it literally fell apart. The doors to the chief editor's office were open to anyone with ideas and willing to carry them out, no longer just for a meagre fee, but so that the newspaper was really a newspaper. The truth is that it is wonderful to do one's work and realize that people do not repudiate you but believe once again that newspapers have a raison d'être as the guarantor of liberty and democracy.

The hierarchical structure hitherto involved in the running of the press is now a shambles. The core of the staff should, in future, be a modern team based on the horizontal principle. More a coordination centre than a command mechanism. The management must have full confidence in its editors. Its main task is to create the policy of a more or less independent newspaper and to discover its ideological conception, and also to delegate the work. All administrative tasks must be carried out by a staff of professionals - managers, lawyers and economists. The management of the staff should be made up of journalists. The young, who fortunately do not have the experience of the last 20 years and who - mildly speaking - are not exaggeratedly cautious, should be given a chance.

Newspapers can now expect really competitive struggle, where only the best will survive. Readers have a right to this. I think those dailies and weeklies which do not adapt to these new conditions are condemned to a sorry end. A unique chance has arisen for Czechoslovak journalism. In November I realized how many talented and



FEBRUARY 1990

Despite attempts to satisfy demands of the new regime at the 11th Congress in Harare 1991, IOJ was seen in CZ to offer “too little too late”. Hence, by the middle of the 1990s, most of its money-making commercial companies collapsed and income shrank. Secretariat was drastically reduced and moved first to a four-room basement in Mánesova and later to two rooms in Londynská.



12th Congress in Amman 1995 elected new leadership, replacing the inept Secretary General Gerard Gatinot by the brilliant Antonio Nieva. Executive Committee in Hanoi 1996 celebrated the 50th anniversary. These were the last statutory meetings before the finances were exhausted.



Demise 1998–2016

Key documents for history writing were saved by Václav Slavík, long-time officer in the Secretariat, while some materials were chaotically stored in a warehouse outside Prague.



After 1998 IOJ had no activities and in 2016 the last two Presidents declared its end in a letter addressed to IFJ Congress, presented there by me – 70 years after IOJ was founded.



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

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, appearing to read 'سليمان القداح' (Suleiman Al-Qudah).

Suleiman Al-Qudah, IOJ President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Manuel Tomé'.

Manuel Tomé, IOJ Honorary President

Discussion

IOJ has been inseparable from the geopolitics of the time, first post-war ecumenical idealism and then embroiled in the Cold War, where it was not possible to remain neutral – the same applied to the western IFJ.

But the INGOs still had considerable room for movement, notably in the 1970s, when I embarked on the platform to promote East-West détente and North-South decolonization.

I had the total approval of the Soviets and other socialist countries on the strategic line; they were my fellow travellers rather than vice versa.

On the other hand, I was their ally and was stigmatized in the West as head of the “Prague-based communist organization”.

My book is only a basis for the IOJ history – more research is needed on this empire and its impact in the world. Exciting topics are waiting...