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THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF JOURNALISTS



The director of the Polish news agency Interpress opens the Meeting of the Periodic Press

AN INSTRUMENT FOR UNDERSTANDING

Under the slogan "A Free Press for a United Europe" the 2nd European Meeting of the Periodic Press was held at the beginning of October in Cracow, Poland. The meeting was attended by publishers and journalists from Poland, Italy, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria. The IOJ was represented by its Vice-President Gérard Gatinot and Secretary Leena Paukku.

Among the participants in this event, held under the auspices of Poland's and Italy's Presidents, Italians were in the majority and it can be explained by the fact that the first meeting of the European periodic press was called over ten years ago in Reggio di Calabria, in the south of Italy, by the Union of the Italian Periodic Press (USPI).

This Union, together with the Polish news agency Interpress, was the organizer of this year's meeting in Cracow. It was held in a very different political atmosphere than the first one – at a time when the European continent is ceasing to be divided by sharp ideological barriers, a time when ideological confrontation in the media is being replaced by tolerance for differing views and concentration on general human values.

Among the most intensively discussed themes was the question of press freedom and its responsible usage. The participants supported the proposal of USPI President Vitto-

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Afghanistan Appeals To Journalists

An appeal was made to journalists of the world to exert all efforts to mobilize public opinion for a peaceful settlement of regional conflicts that pose a great threat to international peace and security.

The appeal was made in a resolution adopted by participants at a two-day seminar called on September 16 and 17 in the Afghan capital, Kabul, on the theme: "The role of the mass media in the solution of regional conflicts."

Seventy-four participants from 31 countries took part in this seminar organized by the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO), hosted by the Afghan Peoples' Solidarity and Friendship Organization. The participants called on journalists to publicize any and all violations of the Geneva Agreements and any continuation of foreign intervention in the Afghan conflict. The Geneva Agreements signed nearly a year and a half ago between Pakistan and Afghanistan, with the U.S. and the USSR as guarantors, facilitated the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the cessation of foreign intervention in the Afghan

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DELEGATION FROM SENEGAL IN PRAGUE

On the invitation of the IOJ Secretariat a delegation from the Senegalese trade union of journalists (Syndicat des professionels de l'information et de la communication du Senegal – SYNPICS) was in Prague between September 24 and 29.

The delegation was led by the Deputy Secretary General of SYNPICS, Ababacar Niang and was received by IOJ Secretary General Dušan Ulčák. During their talk they considered a joint event in Senegal and in West Africa. At the end, a protocol was signed in which specific steps on cooperation for 1989 and 1990 were approved.

During the visit to Prague there also was a meeting with the leadership of the Czechoslovak Union of Journalists.

Then the delegation travelled to Berlin on a short visit to discuss the possibilities of bilateral cooperation with the leadership of the Union of Journalists of the GDR.