J113

IOJ news letter

1989
NOVEMBER

21

THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF JOURNALISTS

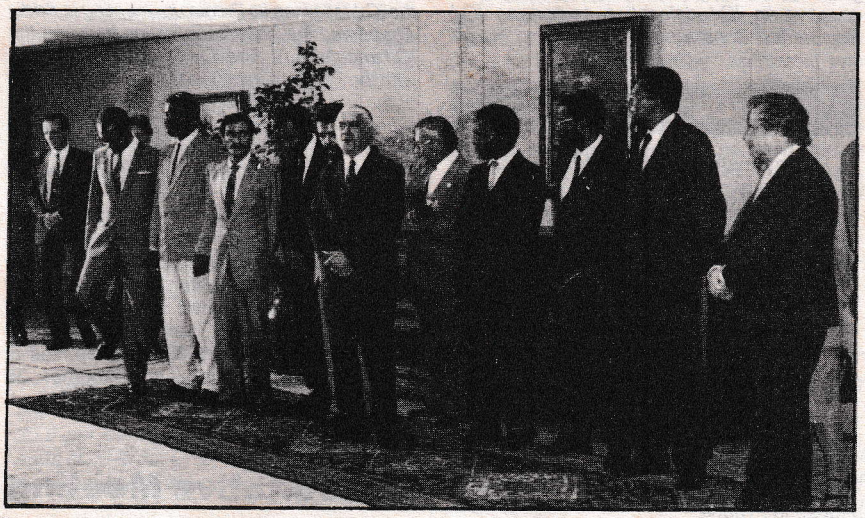
PERSONAL

IOJ Protests Arbitrary Acts

■ The IOJ Secretariat sent a telegram to the Egyptian Press Syndicate in Cairo expressing its deep concern on the arrest and torture of a number of Egyptian colleagues. The IOJ expresses its support and solidarity with these colleagues who are the victims of arbitrary actions by the security forces.

■ The IOJ Secretariat also expressed its solidarity with a member of the Secretariat of the Association of Arab Journalists, Mani Issawi, arrested by the Israeli occupation authorities. The IOJ condemns most strongly this arbitrary act and demands the immediate release of H. Issawi and other detained Palestinian patriots.

■ The IOJ Secretariat sent a telegram to the Prime Minister and Minister of Information of Morocco, in Rabat, expressing deep anxiety concerning the court case taking place against M. Mohamed Drissi Kaitouni, chief-editor of the daily "L'Opinion", for publishing the communiqué of the Moroccan Organization for Human Rights on September 13 in the paper. The IOJ regards this case as a violation of freedom of expression and the rights of journalists to freely exercise their profession and truthfully inform the public. The IOJ emphatically calls for the annulment of this case and urges the Moroccan authorities to guarantee journalists the necessary conditions to exercise their profession.



Brazilian President José Sarney received delegations of the Portuguese-speaking countries. On the photo with heads of delegations to the meeting.

THE BEGINNING OF UNITY IS COMMUNICATION

Second Meeting of Portuguese-Speaking Journalists

The second meeting of portuguese-speaking journalists, held from October 2 to 5 in the capital of Brazil, was not only an important occasion for thought and analysis, but also a celebrated event in Brazilian life. Brazilian President José Sarney received all the representatives of the journalists unions in the government palace. On this occasion José Sarney had a friendly talk with IOJ Secretary General Dušan Ulčák, heading the IOJ delegation.

This meeting was attended by large delegations from seven Portuguese-speaking countries. The central points of debate at this second gathering were: mechanisms and means of attaining systematic communication among Portuguese-speaking countries, and a project to create a mobile school to raise the qualifications of journalists. Members elected to the organizing commission of this project were Hilario Matusse (Mozambique), Mario Guerra (Angola), Carvalho Santos (Cape Verde Islands), Pedro Albino (Guinea Bissau), Filipe Gomez (Sao Tomé y Príncipe), Cesario Borga (Portugal) and Anisio Felix (Brazil). It was agreed that the organizing commission will come together at a working meeting in Luanda in about six months and decide on practical measures to quickly set the school.

On the occasion of this meeting, a special bulletin was brought out called "Jornal dos Sete" (Diary of the Seven). This 40-page publication contains interesting works about journalism, social communication and characteristics of Portuguese-speaking countries — all under the slogan

(continued on page 2)

CONGRESS OF VIETNAMESE JOURNALISTS

To Modernise Media

The 5th Congress of the Association of Vietnamese Journalists (AJV) was held in Hanoi between October 16 and 18, 1989. The main address was delivered by Dao Tung, AJV Secretary General and IOJ Vice-President.

The document analysed the activities of Vietnamese journalists in the press, radio and television for the period between this and the earlier congress, and was directed especially to the conception of "restructuring" in the mass communication media, which represents an overall plan of modernization of work in editorial offices of newspapers, radio and television, upgrading the qualifications of journalists to improve and increase their competence in such a way that informing and moulding public opinion can keep step with the scientific and technological program and with all social transformations.

(continued on page 2)

ADVANCE OF SATELLITE TELEVISION II

Great Britain was not too happy about satellite broadcasts and oriented itself to ground stations, of which it has a dense network. Unlike this, in countries where the classic ground network of transmitting the signal was not yet completed, the approach to satellite television was more positive. In Japan about a half million households on remoter islands or mountainous regions were unable to receive TV broadcasts. The same is true in big agglomerates where there are tall buildings and where reception is not good because of reflection, absorption and electrical interference. For instance, Canada went in for satellite television because in the north of the country there are large territories with small scattered communities for whom any link-up with the TV signal in the traditional way would have been very expensive.

At the beginning, organizations bringing the picture to users received the television satellite image through a system of ground stations or more frequently by cable. But from the beginning of the 1980s there was a rapid development of reception from telecommunication satellites by individuals. Direct satellite sendings, intended as a clear substitute for the "classical" reception method, began in the USA in 1980 and then in Japan.

After several years of experiments, the Japanese public company Nippon Hoso Kyokai began regular sendings in 1986. In 1987, 620,000 customers were supplied with parabolic antennas, and by the beginning of 1989 the number had jumped to 1.8 million. This rapid advance is explained by the improved technical quality of the picture and stereophonic sound.

In the second half of the 1980s there was a rapid spread of satellites for direct transmission. For the moment, however, there are not too many households equipped with parabolic antennas. There is, rather, the collective reception of satellite television in a distribution centre and from there it is circulated to customers by cable.

In Western Europe at the present time about 13 million households can watch satellite reception by cable; this is about one tenth of all TV owners in that area. Even though the further spread of satellite television is moving forward very rapidly, there are problems. These being with unsuccessful launches of satellites because of the rocket launchers, continue with faults in the satellite systems, in placing them in orbit, followed by problems of programming and financing. The public does not intend to bear the increased costs, and most are for partial self-financing of these satellite channels from advertising.

Technical problems, for instance, caused the loss of the West German satellite TV SAT 1, launched into orbit by the French rocket Ariane in November 1987. The solar wings of the panels used to produce electrical energy failed to open. The control centre on earth carried out a number of experiments to adjust this but was not successful. On the other hand, the French satellite TDF 1 was successful. It was launched 11 months later and the first experimental transmission was undertaken at the end of November 1988.

(to be continued)

HDTV

The Finnish Nokia Corporation has joined the Eureka project for the west European High Definition Television (HDTV) broadcasting. This prominent Finnish television producer is thus the first firm outside the EEC intending to prepare the west European HD-MAC norm. The first test broadcasts of this norm are to take place during the Olympic games in 1992.

On U.N. Information Work

Representatives of journalist, trade union, cultural, social, women's, church, environmentalist organizations and Czechoslovak mass media were present at the press conference with Mrs. Thérèse Paquet-Sévigny, Under-Secretary General of the U.N. Department of Public Information, which was held on October 13 in Prague, Czechoslovakia. Mrs. Paquet-Sévigny came to Czechoslovakia in the frame of her visit to the UN national centres.

In this connection she spoke about possibilities to strengthen contacts with all willing people which makes the multinational U.N. system stronger and more efficient. She went on with saying that they can't be satisfied with their work in communication sphere. There is a great problem in providing full and up-to-date information about U.N. activities. The growing interest in information in the world poses the question of approach to information in the UN system and she asked the mass media for more popularity and publicity for the U.N. work.

EVENTS

A joint supplement called "Liber" began publication at the beginning of October for several West European newspapers. These are the "Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung" (FRG), "Le Monde" (France), "L'Indice" (Italy), "Times Literary Supplement" (Great Britain) and "El Pais" (Spain). The articles are printed in the language of the paper for which it is a supplement and deal especially with cultural matters.

In Great Britain the Independent Broadcasting Authority has permitted the setting up in 1989 of thirty local radio stations. Six concessions were allowed for London, the others are in different parts of the country. The concessions are given for a range of only about six kilometres.

By a majority the Greek parliament adopted a bill allowing private television stations. The main criterion for permitting such a station is the quality of its proposed program composition and the level of activities to date in the mass media field by applicants. Permission to establish a television station will be given for seven years with the possibility of having this extended. None of the companies that will operate the transmissions can own more than 25 per cent of the shares. Another condition is that no less than half the programs of the stations must be of European provenience.

The US and the Soviet Union have jointly launched a unique arms control magazine, Science and World Security, which will carry articles by specialists from Western and socialist countries. Its Soviet and American editors believe that their brainchild is unique because none of the scientific periodicals published in both the USSR and in the US deals exclusively with security issues. The magazine will benefit scientists and politicians alike. It comes out in English and Russian and is distributed throught subscription, but eventually it will be sold from the newsstands.

After a hiatus of more than two years, another issue of the magazine "Afrique-Asie" came out in Paris; it is now called "Nouvel Afrique-Asie". The publication failed to appear because of financial difficulties; it was deeply in debt. This bimonthly, issued for 18 years, has now become a monthly. Before it interrupted publication it had an edition of 160,000 copies.

By the end of 1988, 1,400 journalists applied for jobs in their profession in the Federal Republic of Germany, according to the Federal Board of Labour in its annual report. Half of that number were women. For that period, the labour department registered only 42 openings.

British TV satellite Sky Television, owned by Australian-American media tycoon Rupert Murdoch, incurred losses of 123 million dollars during its first five months of operations. On the other hand, the Australian News Corporation, part of the Murdoch media empire, increased its turnover by 31 per cent to reach a total of six thousand million dollars.

Published by I.O.J. — International Organization of Journalists
Editorial office: Široká 12, Prague 1, Czechoslovakia
Telegram: INTORGJOUR Prague — TELEX: 122631 — JOUR C
Telephone: 232 59 58

Printed by I.O.J. Printing Office