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FORM NO. 51-58 PREVIOUS EDITIONS MAY BE USED.

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CAH/56/748

6-7-'56.

SUBJECT: Meeting of the International Organization of Journalists,  
held in Helsinki from 10 to 15 June 1956.

Attached to the present we pass you 5 papers concerning the above subject for the use of your Service, viz.:

- a. a report on the meeting the International Organization of Journalists held in Helsinki from 10 to 15 June, 1956;
- b. a list of persons who attended the meeting;
- c. a stencilled paper entitled "Informationen", which contained a number of directives for the visitors;
- d. three press-communications published on the occasion of the meeting;
- e. a number of resolutions and suggestions drafted at the meeting.

ENCLOSURES: 5. (TO HQS only)

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International Meeting of Journalists  
Helsinki June 1956

Resolution

I



Journalists assembled at this International Meeting, devoted to the cause of co-operation and unity within the journalistic profession, are fully alive to their special role and responsibility in promoting good will and understanding among men and among the nations of the world.

To this end, they pledge themselves to be objective, truthful, fair and honest in the discharge of their professional duties and undertake to subscribe to the principles of the international code of ethics drafted by the United Nations Committee on Freedom of Information.

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## INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF JOURNALISTS

HELSINKI, June 1956.

II.

### RECOMMENDATION

This International Meeting of Journalists at Helsinki, attended by representatives and observers of professional organisations and newspapers together with individual participants from forty-two countries, is of the opinion that the work done by the United Nations and especially by UNESCO in the field of press, radio, television and information represents a valuable contribution to the development and strengthening of friendly ties, mutual understanding and professional co-operation between journalists, and journalists organisations of all countries and should therefore be the basis for further efforts in this direction, having especially in view the following measures:

1. The introduction by UNESCO of an international Press Card which would be issued only on the recommendation of national professional organisations. In the event of a journalist failing to obtain the recommendation of his appropriate national organisation he may apply direct to UNESCO, and, once his professional standing has been established, that body itself may issue him with an international Press Card.
2. Frequent exchanges of all kinds between different editorial offices, so as to help journalists to familiarise themselves with the editorial techniques and with the press in general, in all countries.
3. Exchanges of radio and television programmes on a reciprocal basis, as well as exchange of documentary material relating to the press between newspapers, press agencies, and radio and television stations.
4. The establishment or perfecting of such services as may provide all possible help for foreign journalists, on the part of the professional organisations in the various countries, or a network of correspondents wherever it is impossible to organise a press service. The names and addresses of each of these correspondents will be distributed to the national organisations.
5. The organisation, on a very large scale, of group and individual journeys, both on professional business and for holiday purposes. The establishing of "travelling scholarships" for such journeys, or of similar institutions which could help in this matter.
6. The organisation, with the support of UNESCO, and also by other means, of specialised international conferences of journalists of different branches and categories (agency correspondents, sports reporters, radio and television commentators, press photographers, literary and other critics etc.).
7. The establishment or broadening of centres for documentary material for the corresponding Associations of Journalists in all countries; with the recommendation that a similar centre be set up with the support of UNESCO, to be available to journalists.

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## INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF JOURNALISTS HELSINKI - June 1956

### III

#### Recommendation

The International Meeting of Journalists at Helsinki, in which representatives of professional organisations and newspapers and observers took part, together with individual participants from 42 countries, has looked into the present situation of journalists and the facts and circumstances which constitute obstacles to their providing truthful information, and has arrived at the conclusion that the free unimpeded movement and activity of journalists regardless of nationality, race, religion or political convictions constitute the most pressing demands on the part of all journalists.

In order to make freedom of movement and freedom from obstacles to their work possible for all journalists, the International Meeting is of the opinion that there must be international conventions guaranteeing the following basic facilities for the work of journalists. These conventions could be agreed either en bloc or item by item through agreements between governments with the assistance of professional organisations of journalists.

1. Any journalist who wishes to go abroad should be entitled to the following without delay: passport, exit and entry visas for all countries, permit to travel freely throughout the countries visited, all this without any discrimination.
2. Special reduction of fares (rail, air, ship, and road) for all journalists who are engaged on professional duties.
3. Grant to all journalists in countries visited in the course of professional activities of special exchange rates for travel and subsistence.
4. Authorisation for "press collect" facilities for cables, in all countries, as well as reverse charge telephone calls (payment charged to the receiving end) and reduction in press cable and telephone calls.
5. Abolition of censorship of press cables, telephone calls, or letters sent abroad by foreign correspondents, together with all restrictions of this nature.
6. Government authorities should grant to fully accredited foreign correspondents all possible access to sources of information.
7. Transfers of journalists fees and authors' royalties for works published or ordered abroad should be facilitated.

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INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF  
JOURNALISTS,

HELSINKI, June 1956

## RECOMMENDATION

### IV

The International Meeting of Journalists at Helsinki, at which representatives of professional organisations and newspapers, together with individual participants, from 42 countries took part, considers that, in those countries which are temporarily divided, freedom of movement over the whole country must be guaranteed to journalists of those countries and to foreign correspondents residing in one or the other part of those countries to enable them to carry out accurate reporting.

The Meeting calls upon the journalists of the different relevant regions to make every possible effort to ensure greater travel between the zones of one and the same country temporarily divided.

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INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF JOURNALISTS  
HELSINKI - JUNE 1956

## Recommendations

V

1. The International Meeting of Journalists takes note of the recommendations of the UNESCO meeting of experts on professional training held in Paris in April 1956, and declares its approval of these.

The meeting considers that the implementation of these recommendations would be greatly facilitated by the existence of a single international organisation of journalists and by the cooperation of all national organisations.

2. The International Meeting considers that the governing bodies of schools of professional training may consult the professional organisations of journalists. It would be desirable for such organisations to have representatives on the advisory or governing bodies of such schools, in order that the instruction may correspond to the needs of the profession. The Meeting also asks that the ethics of journalism should be given an important place in the programme of studies.

3. In order to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of the UNESCO meeting of experts on professional training, and to cooperate effectively with them, the meeting has decided to set up a committee to enter into liaison with the UNESCO, and to coordinate the different experiences of the various nations. To this end national associations are urgently requested to send all necessary information and documents to the chairman of the committee.

The chairman may nominate a secretary from his own country and co-opt new members as the need arises.

The members of the Committee are:

Professor I. P. SINGH (chairman), India  
Dr. Luis Beltrão, Brazil  
Mr. Fadi Meshir, Sudan  
Professor W. Hildemann, Germany  
Professor Halpern, Poland  
Professor Juan Honorato, Chile  
Professor Mataichi Kido, Japan  
Mr. Isaac Mansour, Lebanon  
Mr. B. Platz, Australia  
Mrs. Zdenka Zimova, Czechoslovakia.

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INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF JOURNALISTS  
HELSINKI - JUNE 1956

## Resolution

### VI

Journalists gathered at Helsinki consider that they should obtain reciprocal information on material conditions of editors and journalists through the publications of the professional press and add to this information by correspondence between the Secretariats of professional organisations;

make an appeal to UNESCO and the ILO to publish a booklet dealing with the material and moral conditions of journalists throughout the world; and appeal to the international organisations of journalists-the International Federation of Journalists and the International Organisation of Journalists- and to national organisations for their support for this appeal. The publication of such a booklet would put into the hands of journalists of all nations a working tool for improving their social conditions, which are particularly bad in some countries;

call on all journalists' trade unions to exchange materials relating to the conditions of journalists and insure their publication in their respective countries.

Journalists gathered at Helsinki suggest that journalists' trade unions and professional organisations should come together both nationally and internationally, to put forward common demands with the aim of obtaining the most urgent improvements necessary for the profession.

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INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF JOURNALISTS

HELSINKI JUNE 1956

## RESOLUTION VII

The International Meeting of Journalists held in Helsinki from 10th to 15th June 1956, expresses the opinion that the present organizational division among journalists at international level, which is a result of the cold war and of the artificial division of the world into antagonistic blocs, is harmful to the basic interests of journalists ; and considers that the lessening of international tensions opens new possibilities for the abandonment of the negative consequences of the past and for the creation of a universal international and fully representative journalists' organisation based on the principles of the United Nations. For the attainment of this goal the widest cooperation of all national journalists' organisations, as well as of existing regional associations of journalists, is needed. This cooperation must be governed by strict respect for democratic principles, and should be free from any attempt to interfere in the internal affairs of others, and from any attempt at domination by anybody .

The Meeting expresses the hope that the National Organisations of Journalists will show good will in taking the initiative to facilitate the coming together of the existing international organisations.

The Meeting thanks the Initiating Committee which organized the Meeting, and invites it to continue its efforts by ensuring the distribution of the resolutions adopted at Helsinki, and by following up the results of so doing, and by continuing to work for better mutual understanding and for unity among journalists.

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INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF JOURNALISTS  
HELSINKI JUNE 1956

## RESOLUTION VIII

The International Meeting of Journalists in Helsinki welcomes the initiative shown concerning the building of an international journalists' rest-home in Bulgaria on the shores of the Black Sea, and asks Bulgarian journalists to secure the assistance of the Bulgarian Government for the building of this home.

Meeting calls upon journalists' Organisations in all countries to take part in the building and maintenance of an international rest-home and the Meeting, entrusts the Initiating Committee with the task of organising the organisation of international rest-homes in any country in which a similar proposal is made.

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