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COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF JOURNALISTS,
WARSAW, 2ND AND 3RD OCTOBER, 1961

Note by the United Kingdom Delegation(1)

The original initiative for this meeting appears to have come from the Russians: the Poles were probably picked as hosts because they were the most acceptable public sponsors. The Conference was apparently arranged hurriedly but Soviet motives are by no means clear: it seems likely that they were looking for a way to show that the Berlin situation was not going to be pressed to an immediate showdown and that they wanted to relax tension by demonstrating publicly their willingness to talk things over.

2. It appears that the communists tried hard to secure a representative and influential group of Western journalists to balance the high-powered communist team, Messrs. Adzubej and Satiukov, the editors of "Izvestia" and "Pravda". For example, Messrs. Lippman, Childs and Reston were all invited from the United States, but all declined, and considerable pressure was put on the editor of "The Economist" to accept an invitation. As full a list as we have been able to obtain of those who were invited is attached at annex A with a note of those whom we actually know were present. Apart from a few leading press figures from France and the United Kingdom the Western journalists were, for the most part, responsible but not particularly influential. A handful of Afro-Asians (including Ben Barka of Morocco) were present but do not appear to have played any significant part.

3. The discussions appear to have been amicable but frank. Though there were differences of emphasis, there was no sign of any disunity among bloc speakers. Messrs. Adzubej and Satiukow delivered long prepared speeches following orthodox lines, but the only really "poisonous speeches" (to quote a British participant) came from the representatives of "L'Humanité" and "Unita" though Gerhard Eisler of East Germany

(1) This note is based on a report from the British Embassy in Warsaw.

apparently also made a speech which did not go down well. The Poles and most other satellite journalists concentrated mainly on themes of revanchism in Western Germany and the Oder-Neisse line, although they did not give undue emphasis to the horrors of the Nazi record in Poland.

4. On the Western side various people made effective use of themes such as the Soviet resumption of atomic tests, the dangers of unilateral action and "sabre-rattling" as a diplomatic technique, and the impossibility of reaching peaceful solutions by negotiation if the Soviet bloc started from the premise that the Western powers were planning a war of aggression. It is interesting that one of the British participants was separately congratulated by two Polish journalists who encouraged him and his colleagues to put the Western case as strongly as possible. Another British participant was approached on similar lines by a Czech journalist who expressed appreciation of the British speakers' criticism of the East Germans.

5. Although Westerners had been invited on the explicit understanding that there was to be no publicity, the Communists wished to have a communiqué at the end. It was, however, agreed that the communiqué (a copy of which is at Annex B) should merely describe the subjects discussed and not attempt to reach conclusions. In the drafting committee, however, the communists tried some tricks designed to prejudice the issue. For instance, the Russians pressed for the wording "the problem of universal disarmament and the banning of atomic tests" but were forced by Mr. Astor and M. Bourdet to accept "the resumption of nuclear tests" on the grounds that this was what had actually been discussed.

6. After the meeting Mr. Satiukov pressed Mr. Astor ("The Observer") to agree to a further meeting on much the same lines in Moscow in the near future. Mr. Astor declined to commit himself and emphasised that if the Russians wanted to talk to the Western press they should, above all, get in touch with leading American editors.

OTAN/NATO,
Paris, XVIe.

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PROVISIONAL LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN
THE JOURNALISTS MEETING, WARSAW,
2ND AND 3RD OCTOBER, 1961

1.	Adzubej, Aleksiej [*]	USSR	Izvestia
2.	Andrieu, Rene [*]	France	L'Humanité
3.	Andersson, Caleb	Sweden	
4.	Astor, David [*]	Great Britain	The Observer
5.	Ben Barka [*]	Morocco	At Tahrir
6.	Beuve-Mery, Hubert [*]	France	Le Monde
7.	Bokov, Georgi [*]	Bulgaria	Robotniczesko Dielo
8.	Bourdet, Claude [*]	France	France Observateur
9.	Burkow, Borys	USSR	Nowosti
10.	Caroll, Nicolas [*]	Great Britain	Sunday Times
11.	Dolejsi, Vojtech [*]	Czechoslovakia	Tvorba
12.	Domenach, Jean Marie [*]	France	L'Esprit
13.	Doudera, Karel [*]	Czechoslovakia	Rude Pravo
14.	Eisler, Gerhard [*]	East Germany	Radio
15.	Floyd, David [*]	Great Britain	Daily Telegraph
16.	Gottesman, Gustaw [*]	Poland	Przeglad Kulturalny
17.	Hansen, Elin	Denmark	
18.	Hansen, Georg	East Germany	Neues Deutschland
19.	Hermann, Jean-Maurice [*]	France	Liberation
20.	Haynol, Kornel [*]	Hungary	Esti Hirlap
21.	Hofman, Michal [*]	Poland	Polska Agencja Prasowa
22.	Ivascu, Georges	Roumania	Contemporanul
23.	Kasman, Leon [*]	Poland	Trybuna Ludu
24.	Konsek, Laszlo	Hungary	Nepszabadsag
25.	Kosorowy (invited but <u>did not attend</u>)	USA	Chairman of National Press Club, Washington, D.C.
26.	Korotynski, Henryk [*]	Poland	Zycie Warszawy
27.	Lambilliotte, Maurice ^{**}	Belgium	Syntheses

* Actual attendance confirmed

28.	Loe, Eric	Norway	Arbeiderbladet
29.	Mackenzie, Norman [*]	Great Britain	New Statesman
30.	Marinescu, Teodor [*]	Roumania	Scinteia
31.	Midgley, John [*]	Great Britain	Economist
32.	Moniceli, Franco [*]	Italy	Paese Sera
33.	Nystad, Henning	Denmark	Politiken
34.	Phombeah, Dennis	Morocco	At Tahrir
35.	Pierce, Marilyn [*]	USA	Chicago American (Moscow corres- pondent?)
36.	Polewoj, Borys	USSR	Pravda
37.	Poulsen, Fleming	Denmark	Ritzen
38.	Rais, Stefan	Czechoslovakia	CTK
39.	Rakowski, Mieczyslaw	Poland	Polityka
40.	Reichlin, Alfredo [*]	Italy	Unita
41.	Satiukov, Pawel [*]	USSR	Pravda
42.	Said, Umar [*]	Indonesia	
43.	Sindermann, Horst [*]	East Germany	Neues Deutschland
44.	Singh, Igbal [*]	India	National Herald
45.	Stomma, Stanislaw [*]	Poland	Tygodnik Powszechny
46.	Traikow, Haralambi	Bulgaria	Zemedelsko Zlame
47.	Vandenberg, John	Holland	Vrij Nederland
48.	Vogli, Fiqri	Albania	Zeri I Populit
49.	Wohl, Paul [*]	USA	Christian Science Monitor (newly arrived Warsaw correspondent)
50.	Woronow, Jurij	USSR	Komsomolskaja Pravda
51.	Johanson, Otto	Norway	Morgen posten

* Actual attendance confirmed

JOURNALISTS FROM THE EAST, THE WEST AND THE NON-ALIGNED
COUNTRIES IN FAVOUR OF THE PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF
CONTROVERSIAL PROBLEMS

The journalists' round table conference has ended.
(Trybuna Ludu No. 273, October 4, 1961)

A round table international conference of journalists in Warsaw, devoted to the problems of Germany and security in Europe, ended in the evening of October 3.

The participants in the conference unanimously approved the text of the final communique stating as follows:

"A conference of journalists from the West, the East and the non-aligned countries, devoted to the problems of Germany and European security, was held in Warsaw between October 2 - 3. The general and detailed aspects of these problems were discussed.

In the course of an extensive discussion, the various elements of the situation - the problem of the international recognition of the fixed frontiers in Central and Eastern Europe, the existence of the two German States, the problem of the German peace treaty, the status of West Berlin, the resumption of nuclear tests and the various disengagement proposals in Central Europe, including the Rapacki Plan - were analysed in a constructive spirit as steps in the direction of a broader solution of existing problems. The conference is of the opinion that all these problems can and should be solved through negotiations. In this respect we, the journalists, bear a special responsibility.

The aim of the conference was not the reaching of a political declaration, expressing a common attitude towards these problems, but the acquainting of the participants in the discussions with the views of their colleagues from other countries and - through them - with the feelings of public opinion in their countries, so as to avoid - if it is possible - any misunderstandings and errors, which are the source of danger.

Journalists are able to appraise these feelings well and they are also responsible for the formation of public opinion in the right way, according to the facts and not as one chooses. From start to finish the conference took place in an atmosphere full of freely expressed diverse views; moreover, the participation of representatives of the East, the West and of the non-aligned countries was balanced, in spite of regrets expressed by the participants that the journalists from the GDR

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and some journalists from the United States, who had been invited to the Conference, were unable to come.

Conference members are satisfied that at present they better understand mutual motives, fears and the manner of reasoning. Notwithstanding the difference in views of many problems, all members are agreed that international problems ought to be settled by peaceful negotiations in a climate relieved of any threats and pressure, and that it is the duty of all press correspondents to assist in the removal of such methods. The conference members expressed their hope that similar meetings will be organized in the immediate future. They are convinced that such meetings will promote further progress and mutual understanding and that this will assist both public and government opinion to sidetrack dangerous situations and measures, and thus ease the solution of pressing problems.

On the second day of the conference, the following persons took the floor in the discussion: Jean Maurice Hermann ("Liberation" journal - France), Claude Bourdet (Chief Editor of the "France Observateur" weekly - France), Stanislaw Stomma ("Universal" weekly - Poland), David Floyd ("Daily Telegraph" - Great Britain), Iqbal Singh ("National Herald" - India), Horst Sindermann ("Neues Deutschland" journal - GDR), Norman Mackenzie (Deputy Chief Editor of the "New Statesman" weekly - Great Britain), Aleksiej Jazubej (Chief Editor of the "Izvestia" journal - USSR), Maurice Lambilliotte (Chief Editor of "Syntheses" - Belgium), Mieczyslaw F. Rakowski (Chief Editor of the weekly "Polityka" - Poland), Georgi Bokov (Chief Editor of the journal "Robotnicesko Dielo" - Bulgaria), Nicolas Caroli, "Sunday Times" weekly - Great Britain), Kornel Haynol (Chief Editor of "Esti Kirlap" - Hungary), Umar Said, press correspondent Indonesia, Stefan Rais (Czechoslovak Telegraph Agency CTK), Hubert Bouvo-Mery (Chief Editor of the journal "Le Monde" - France), David Astor (Chief Editor of the weekly "The Observer" - Great Britain), Henryk Korotynski (Chief Editor of the journal "Zycie Warszawy") and Pawel Satiukov (Chief Editor of the journal "Pravda" - USSR).

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