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**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FOR MASS COMMUNICATION RESEARCH**

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**ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE  
DES ÉTUDES ET RECHERCHES SUR L'INFORMATION**

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**NEWS ITEMS - JANUARY 1987**  
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In addition to news items on a wide range of issues, this package contains an updated list of all members, reports from the Sections and Working Groups which met in New Delhi, a price list of all available papers from the New Delhi conference, and information about the special issue of Gazette.

**NEW DELHI CONFERENCE**

The 15th General Assembly and Conference of the Association, which was held in the Ashok Hotel, New Delhi from 25-29 August 1986, attracted 360 participants who came from 42 different countries.

The Conference was opened by the distinguished international scholar, Shri G Parthasarathi, and the main speaker at the first plenary session was Professor Yash Pal, Chairman of the Indian University Grants Committee, with a world wide reputation for his achievements in communication and education.

The Conference was an undoubted success in every way. In addition to the plenary sessions, all eight Sections and seventeen Working Groups held meetings, and the contributions and presentations at these were of a very high standard. Overall the facilities, accommodation and food were first class, and the social and cultural arrangements most apt and generous. Commenting on the Conference the President of the Association, Professor James D Halloran, said that the success was mainly due to the efforts of the members of the National Committee and the local Organizing Committee. Personally, and on behalf of the Association, he thanked them and all the others who had contributed to an outstanding occasion.

**AVAILABILITY OF CONFERENCE PAPERS**

A list is enclosed of all the one hundred and ten papers presented at the New Delhi meeting which have been sent to Leicester. These are available on request from headquarters at the cost of reproduction (prices listed) and postage.

**REPORTS FROM SECTIONS AND WORKING GROUPS**

Reports from these are enclosed. Zoltan Jakab (Hungary) succeeded to the headship of the Political Economy Section on the resignation of Robin Cheesman (Denmark) who, over the years, has done so much to ensure the effectiveness of this Section.

*From the Office of the President:*  
*Professor James D. Halloran*

### SPECIAL CONFERENCE ISSUE OF GAZETTE

Largely due to the initiative of Frans Kempers, a special issue of Gazette was produced to mark the conference and its theme: COMMUNICATION, TECHNOLOGY, DEVELOPMENT AND THE THIRD WORLD. Details of the publication are enclosed, and copies may still be obtained from Leicester at the reduced price of US\$4, plus postage.

### XVI GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE

It was confirmed that Barcelona would host the next General Assembly and Conference, which would be held in late July 1988. The theme would be Mass Communication and Cultural Identity. Further details will be sent to all members after the meeting of the Programme Committee which will be held in Barcelona from 12-14 March 1987. Following the decisions of the International Council and General Assembly in New Delhi, and representations from several members, it was agreed that Hamid Mowlana, Elizabeth Fox and Bob White should be invited to join the President, Secretary General, Administrative Secretary, Manuel Pares I Maicas and colleagues from Barcelona on the Programme Committee. The Committee invite proposals, suggestions, comments, etc., from members about any aspect of the Conference. These should be sent to Leicester before the March meeting.

### FUTURE CONFERENCES

It was confirmed in New Delhi that in 1990 the Conference would be held in Yugoslavia. Several possibilities, including Canada and Scandinavian countries were discussed for later years, and the hope was expressed that, in due course, it would be possible to have a meeting in Africa.

### MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION, RECRUITMENT, PROMOTION & PUBLICATIONS

This currently stands at around 1000 from 62 different countries. In recent years the lapsation clause has been rigorously applied and this means that the Association now has fewer names on its list than it had some years ago. But, on the whole these are now genuine, active, paid-up members. An up-to-date membership list is enclosed. The President and Treasurer urge all members to attend to the payment of their dues for 1987, and would remind those who were reluctant in 1986 that it is still not too late to make amends for last year's shortcomings. Costs are always increasing.

There has been a solid core of members for some years, but as was reported in New Delhi every year sees both inflow and outflow. Since the adoption of the lapsation procedures the outflow has been more marked.

At the New Delhi meeting the Secretary General, Tamas Szecsko, announced the publication of the first occasional paper, COMMUNICATION POLICIES AND PLANNING - AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY. This would be sent to all members free of charge. Members who have not yet received their copy should contact Tamas Szecsko at Mass Communication Research Centre, Akademia utca 17, H-1054 Budapest, Hungary.

Tamas, together with Cees Hamelink, was proposing to publish further papers in 1987 in what it was hoped would become a well-established series. The Sections were asked to cooperate in this venture by selecting suitable papers from the many that were presented at their meetings. The Secretary General had also produced a special bibliography on the theme of the New Delhi Conference, and he thanked all those who had contributed to this, and UNESCO for its financial support.

The importance of developing an active publication policy was fully recognized, as was its relevance to promotion. The President assured the Assembly in New Delhi that the situation was under constant review, but that the financial implications were not always recognized. He said that he had been most impressed by the initiative and work of his colleagues in launching this new series. Details of further publications would be announced in due course, and detailed plans would be presented to the next meeting of the International Council.

As previously announced, copies of promotional leaflets had been available from headquarters at Leicester for some time, but these had not been widely used.

#### ORGANIZATION, ADMINISTRATION, ETC.

It had been accepted for some time that economies and efficiency demanded that organization and administration of the Association should be centralized at the Leicester headquarters, and in recent years various steps had been taken to streamline the administration whilst recognizing, of course, that most of the work was carried out on a voluntary basis. The President informed both the International Council and General Assembly in New Delhi that the development of the "cabinet system" of working over the past few years, and having fairly frequent meetings between the officers of the Association had been very much appreciated by him, and had clearly led to a smoother operation and increased efficiency. He thanked Tamas Szecsko, Olof Hulten, Cees Hamelink and Peggy Gray for their efforts and cooperation in this connection.

#### HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to Eapen K Eapen on being unanimously elected honorary life member of the Association. This was so well deserved for his excellent contributions and tireless efforts over the years, particularly with regard to the New Delhi meeting.

#### IAMCR AND UNESCO

Alan Hancock represented UNESCO at the New Delhi Conference and Assembly, and informed members of the latest developments at the Organization and the several difficulties he and his few colleagues were experiencing.

A grant from UNESCO in support of the joint programme of the International Communication and Communication Technology Sections had enabled several of the Association's members from the Third World to travel to New Delhi and contribute to the proceedings. The Professional Education Section had also benefitted from UNESCO assistance in a similar way, and had received support for a feasibility study on The Promotion of Textbooks for the Training of Journalists in Anglophone Africa as part of the IPDC programme. Additional support may be forthcoming for further work in this area.

A grant from UNESCO enabled the President to organize a preliminary meeting to explore the possibility of carrying out a comparative study in Western Europe under the general heading of The Social Implications of Developments in Communication Technology. The meeting has been planned for 18-20 February 1987 and will be held in Nijmegen, courtesy of Professor James Stappers. Representatives from research institutions in The Netherlands, Sweden, France, Spain and the Federal Republic of Germany will attend.

The Association, primarily through Hamid Mowlana, Head of the International Communication Section, will make a substantial contribution to the UNESCO-sponsored International Symposium on the 1978 Mass Media Declaration, which will be held in Tampere, Finland, from 26-28 June 1987. Several IAMCR members are expected to attend this symposium. Other members will be asked by UNESCO to contribute to its periodic report on the state of communication in the world - WORLD COMMUNICATION REPORT.

At the General Assembly in New Delhi, the President expressed his thanks to Alan Hancock and to UNESCO for its continued help and support, particularly in view of the difficulties experienced by the Organization.

The following resolution was passed by the General Assembly:

The XVth General Assembly of the International Association  
for Mass Communication Research/Meeting August 29, 1986 in  
New Delhi, India -

In recognition of the fact that 1986 has been declared by the  
United Nations "International Year of Peace"

Emphasizes the critical importance of multilateralism in  
International Relations as the world community faces acute  
and global problems;

Notes with concern the increasing pressures to dismantle the  
United Nations system and in particular the pressures on  
UNESCO;

Expresses the need to counteract the declining attention to  
research and reflection on communication issues within  
the UNESCO programme of activities.

A proposal from the Professional Education Section was also accepted for submission to UNESCO with regard to the development of professional education in journalism and mass communication in the spirit of the Mass Media Declaration.

#### PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE STATUTES OF THE ASSOCIATION

Regular readers of these news items and presidential letters will have become only too familiar over the years with the apparently never-ending debate about the possibility of changing policies, practices, protocols, programmes, procedures and even people, underpinned in all cases and from all sides by laudable intentions to bring about a more effective, more successful, more active, more attractive Association.

The basic intentions, the sought-after end products, although never very clearly defined at operational levels, have never been in question. However - and this should not surprise members of a scholarly community, with an international membership - proposals as to the means of achieving the ends and attempts to implement the laudable intentions have not always manifested the degree of uniformity, nor at times even the degree of consistency necessary to facilitate smooth, democratic change.

As indicated in earlier news letters and other communications, the officers of the Association, with invaluable advice and assistance from the Association's legal adviser, Professor Martin Loeffler prepared, not on their own initiative but on the instructions of the International Council, and following representations from many sources over a period of years, a set of recommendations a number of which called for changes in the Statutes.

This is not the place for a detailed account (a relevant paper is being prepared and will be sent to all members), but the proposed changes included: composition and tasks of governing bodies; election procedures; rotation of membership; term of election; number and role of Vice Presidents; function of Sections and status of Section Heads - in fact most of the issues discussed over the past decade as areas where changes might be usefully considered in the interests of the Association.

On more than one occasion in the past the officers and governing body of the Association have been accused of dragging their feet and of being reluctant to propose changes so, in a way, it could be regarded as a definite step forward when formal proposals for Statute changes were presented to all members, within the statutory time limits for final submission to the General Assembly in New Delhi.

But, as things transpired, the answer from the sixty-two people who voted at the New Delhi General Assembly was "no change". The proposals for statutory changes were clearly rejected reflecting, amongst other things, an apparent change of heart and mind on the part of the International Council, or at least of a substantial part of it.

The composition of the Council, of course (that is those actually attending meetings), varies from meeting to meeting, and clearly this has its problems.

The immediate problem for the International Council and Executive Board is to return to these and related questions at its next meetings, as advised by the General Assembly. Provisional dates for these - both requiring final confirmation - are Executive Board, Tampere, Finland, 29-30 June 1987, and Executive Board and International Council, Copenhagen, Denmark, 21-24 September 1987; this latter thanks to the efforts of Erik Nordahl Svendsen and Robin Cheesman.

#### ELECTIONS IN BARCELONA 1988

One of the implications of the rejection of the proposed changes in the Statutes is that the elections in Barcelona will follow exactly the same pattern and procedures as in the past. In fact, even if Statute changes with regard to elections, procedures, etc., were to be agreed in Barcelona, these could not come into effect in a way to influence election outcomes until 1992. According to the unchanged Statutes, which will govern the Barcelona elections in 1988, all members - officers, Board and Council members - will be elected for a period of four years - 1988 to 1992.

As far as the election process is concerned, the President invites all members of the Association to submit nominations to him for any of the officer positions and for membership of the Executive Board and International Council. Those nominated must, of course, be members of the Association, and must have given their consent. According to Statutes re-election of current holders and members is possible in all cases, and there is no set figure for the number of Vice-Presidents who may be elected. As far as the International Council is concerned, due attention should be given to disciplinary and geo-political distribution.

Within the above framework members may nominate as many other members as they wish. They might also care to provide supporting statements. Any other related comments would be most welcome. All names and comments received at the Leicester headquarters by 31 July 1987 will be distributed to members of the International Council, who will then be in a position to discuss the nominations at their September meeting. Following this meeting it is proposed that a selected list or lists will be sent to all members of the Association for their reactions, and that these reactions will be further considered by Board and Council before final submission of a list or lists to the General Assembly in July 1988 in Barcelona. According to Statutes, the General Assembly is the sole final body in the election process.

#### REGULATION OF SECTIONS

At the New Delhi meeting it was decided to draw up a list of requirements which would govern the establishment, operation and dissolution of Sections. These will be formulated in accordance with existing Statutes and circulated to all members.

#### OTHER SECTION ACTIVITIES

On the occasion of the ICA Annual Conference in Montreal in May 1987, Hamid Mowlana has organized a joint meeting between the International Communication Section of IAMCR and ICA on INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AS A FIELD OF STUDY: THE STATE OF THE ART. The meeting will take place on 23 May, and several members of IAMCR will be making presentations. Those requiring further information should contact Hamid Mowlana, Director of Program in International Communication, School of International Service, The American University, Washington DC 20016, U.S.A. Cees Hamelink, 123 Burgmeester Hogguerstraat, Amsterdam, The Netherlands will be pleased to hear from all those interested in joining the Law Section, which plans a special programme for Barcelona.

#### OTHER MEETINGS

##### UNION FOR DEMOCRATIC COMMUNICATIONS

Third National Conference and General Meeting  
California State University, Los Angeles, U.S.A.  
Friday, 27 February - Sunday, 1 March 1987

Further information from Professor Tim Haight/UDC,  
Department of Communication Studies  
California State University, Los Angeles  
5151 State University Drive  
Los Angeles, CA 90032, U.S.A.

##### GROUP FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COMMUNICATION IN THE AMERICAS

Intercultural Conference on Latin America and the Caribbean  
University of Miami, Florida, U.S.A.  
5 - 6 February, 1987

Further information from Dr Ramona Rush  
Department of Communication  
230 McVey Hall  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, Kentucky 40506-00452, U.S.A.

EVERY GOOD WISH FOR HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS IN 1987

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It is with the deepest regret that we  
have just learned of the death of  
**PROFESSOR MARTIN LOEFFLER**  
on Wednesday, 4th February, at the age of 82.

Professor Loeffler was a founder member of the Association and had been Head of the Legal Section and the Association's Legal Adviser for many years. Although not enjoying the best of health in recent years, he continued to serve the Association with a willingness, dedication and commitment which had been the hallmark of his contributions for over a quarter of a century. As recently as last summer he wrote at length from his sick bed with proposals and comments on possible constitutional changes. The Association is deeply indebted to him and he will be sadly missed.

*From the Office of the President:*  
*Professor James D. Halloran*