

President:
PROF. JAMES D. HALLORAN, Director
Centre for Mass Communication Research
University of Leicester
104 Regent Road, Leicester

Secretary:
PROF. DR. EMIL DUSISKA
Direktor, Sektion Journalistik
Karl-Marx-Universität
Karl-Marx-Platz 9
701 Leipzig

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR MASS COMMUNICATION RESEARCH

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE
DES ÉTUDES ET RECHERCHES SUR L'INFORMATION

JDH/MJG

Administrative Office:
Centre for Mass Communication Research, University of Leicester
104 Regent Road, Leicester LE1 7LT, England. Tel. Leicester (0533) 555557

1 September 1981

Dear

Those members of the Programme Committee who were at Sigtuna (Dajani, Hamelink, Reyes Matta, Robinson* and Halloran) met both before and after the meeting of the International Council.

The President reported to the International Council on the deliberations of the Programme Committee, giving particular attention to the several serious problems stemming from the fact that our French colleagues had still not been able to make a firm decision about the time and place of the 1982 Conference.

The International Council (25 members were present), whilst recognizing the difficulties, expressed its grave concern at this uncertainty at such a late stage - never before had we been so far behind in our arrangements. Invitations to speakers (again an unprecedented delay), translations, applications by members for travel funds and their general arrangements would all be adversely affected. Following a lengthy discussion in which several possibilities, including emergency measures and changing the venue to another country were considered, the President was asked, as a matter of great urgency, to visit France at his earliest possible convenience and take whatever steps (including direct approach to government and UNESCO, if considered appropriate) to expedite conference planning and arrangements. Because of the urgency and the time factor, the President was empowered to take whatever decisions he considered necessary, without prior reference to the International Council or Programme Committee. This even included change of venue, which he would discuss with Cees Hamelink who had undertaken, as an emergency measure, to explore the possibility of holding the conference in the Netherlands, providing he was suitably briefed before the end of September.

Despite these emergency measures, however, it was emphasized that it was still our intention to ensure a successful conference in France on the occasion of our 25th Anniversary, and the Council asked French colleagues, in their absence, to do their utmost to bring this about.

The International Council discussed conference matters, both generally and more specifically, with regard to the proposals for the 1982 conference. Information about the general discussion will be provided at a later date, as will other information about Sections, publicity, provision of conference information, etc. etc. The one point I find it necessary to make here has to do with the structure of the afternoon sessions on the first day, and the split into English and French language groups, as approved by the Programme Committee at its Paris meeting (see attached plan). Other bases for divisions, e.g. themes, sub-topics, etc., were considered more appropriate, and the members of the Programme Committee present at the Council meeting readily recognised how their task of filling the chair and discussant slots had not been made any easier by the language division. Choice

* G.G. Robinson was present in her ex-officio capacity as Deputy Secretary General. Emil Dusiska was unable to attend. This means that, apart from Dusiska, all members of the Programme Committee have attended at least one meeting.

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

had been "artificially" restricted. The disproportionate distribution of those attending the Conference between the groups might also cause problems. It was appreciated, however, that it was probably too late to do anything about this (unless the Conference was held in another country, when changes could be made), but the President was asked at least to keep the matter in mind. I would welcome your immediate reactions on this point.

After the Council meeting those members of the Programme Committee present at Sigtuna, whilst recognizing the problem, decided in principle to keep to the original plan. All other general organizational matters as decided at the Paris meeting were accepted, although some of these could only be confirmed when the date and place of the Conference had been fixed. There was a general feeling that in view of the increasing activity and consequent demand on timetable by Sections, small groups, workshops, etc., should be kept to a minimum, and that wherever possible "proposers" should be encouraged to link up with Section programmes - to facilitate this the next and further Presidential letters should contain as much Section information as is available. However, where necessary provision would still be made for ad hoc groups, and there would still be the possibility of spontaneous formation of round tables, luncheon discussion groups, etc. Request for Spanish translation in at least Technology, International Communication and Political Economy "even more essential than French"!!?

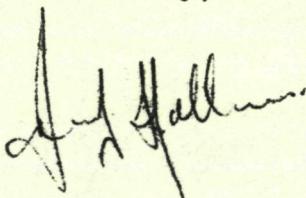
With regard to the speakers, discussants, etc., for the main sessions on the first day of the Conference, the Programme Committee presented to the Council the attached list which had been compiled from the many names which had been proposed in accordance with the conventional criteria of record of scholarship, relevance of research interests and publications to the Conference theme, and disciplinary and geo-political representativeness. The proposals were accepted with the comments that

- (a) there was no Asian representative, although Asia was the location of several interesting experiments in communication and democracy. (The Programme Committee had considered this problem without being able to solve it from the names proposed, although Dr Bhatia (Malaysia), a member of the International Council, had been mentioned as a possible discussant - he could be held in reserve.);
- (b) it might be worthwhile inviting a "star speaker" to open the Conference, or to contribute to the main sessions. Dr Soedjatmoko (Indonesia, Rector U.N. University) and Dr Oloo Aringo (Minister of Culture in the Kenyan Government) were suggested, but the Programme Committee decided to take no action for the time being.

In the case of refusals, other "reserves" might include Thomas Gubach (USA), Martin Brouwer (Netherlands), Dieter Prokop (Federal Republic of Germany), Breda Pavlic (Yugoslavia), Emile McAnany (USA), Fernando Reyes Matta (Chile/Mexico), Heinz Uekermann (Federal Republic of Germany), Tamas Pal (Hungary), Charles Gifford (USA), Frank Ugboajah (Nigeria), Dr Yadava (India), Karl Eric Rosengren (Sweden) and Roque Faraone (Uruguay/France).

Please let me have your immediate reactions to the above, and any other related matters you consider appropriate. Although details have still to be finalized, my plans are to visit Paris some time in the week beginning 6th September.

Yours sincerely,



James D Halloran

P.S. The relationship of the Programme Committee to the International Council was discussed, both generally and specifically, with regard to the 1982 Conference - the general principles of the Committee's autonomy and responsibility being the main concern. Conventional wisdom would appear to have it that the Programme Committee, being elected by the General Assembly (on the recommendation of the International Council) is responsible to the Assembly and reports, as a courtesy and as the situation demands, to the International Council. As Professor Loeffler reminded us, however, the Statutes state that the International Council shall "control the execution of the programmes approved by the General Assembly", and in the present circumstances surrounding the 1982 Conference, it was obviously necessary to refer to the International Council.