THE GENEVA ASSOCIATION OF UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENTS



THE FIRST 20 YEARS 1949—1969

ASSOCIATION DES CORRESPONDANTS AUPRÈS DES NATIONS UNIES A GENÈVE

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PREFACE

Our Association is like a ship. The ship's company changes continually over the years, as some grow old and others move elsewhere. Newcomers learn their skills from those who still remain on board. The ship must always sail on, as surely as before, even when all who first embarked are gone.

This chronicle is like a ship's log-book, recording past events. But it should serve also as a navigation manual, indicating how to steer a steady course in future. Anyway, it charts a good many rocks and sandbanks to be avoided.

Even if it is read by no one else, it must be read by all who are called upon to hold office in the Executive Committee. A consciousness of what has gone before is essential to them if they are to guide the Association with a sure hand and continuity of purpose.

Every official entering the United Nations family of Information Services, in New York as well as in Geneva, should also read this chronicle. For them, if they are to advise and act to best effect in their organizations, it is essential to appreciate the fundamental principles for which the Association has always fought.

Foremost among these principles is that Geneva correspondents must be treated on an equal footing with their colleagues in the United Nations Correspondents Association in New York.

The Association has built up a number of solid traditions, some rooted in its Statutes and others in unwritten law. Basic among them is that membership is strictly limited to professional correspondents covering United Nations activities in Geneva as a substantial part of their work.

As a bright facet of its apolitical and totally non-discriminatory character, the Association also has a tradition of excellent personal and professional relations uniting its heterogeneous membership. It has proved its solidarity in many different circumstances.

In writing a history of the Association, the only aim has been to provide a reference book - not a literary work in which elegance might obscure fact or give rise to controversial interpretations. The style is deliberately dry.

It was impossible, unfortunately, to find time to produce a version in French. A simple work of translation would inevitably be inaccurate. The task would entail going through the archives again from beginning to end, as many of the documents quoted in this English version have been translated from French originals.

This chronicle can summarize only the more outstanding events in the Association's life. It cannot enter into the everyday routine work of the Committee. This has become increasingly heavy, particularly for officers of the Bureau, as Geneva has grown in importance as a conference centre and membership has climbed from 33 in 1949 to more than 120 in 1969. Several hundreds of correspondents have passed through the Association.

Newcomers may be forgiven for finding fault. They are often right, for there is always scope for improvement. But if they read this chronicle, they will get an idea of how things were before they came. They will also get a hint that the infinitely better conditions of nowadays, though achieved slowly, were made possible only because of the time-consuming labour of many colleagues who put the general interest above their own.

Our ship has often had to sail against the wind. The future will certainly bring an occasional storm. It can be hoped, however, that the experience gained in these first 20 years will help the Association to keep on making headway in a long voyage for the good of all on board - and of the United Nations.

John Myers

Palais des Nations, Geneva

February 1969

1948 - FIRST STEPS

The oldest document in the archives, dated August 30, 1948, is a circular addressed to members of the International Association of Journalists Accredited to the League of Nations. It was signed by François Laya (Agence France-Presse) on behalf of an Action Committee of journalists working at the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva.

This circular informed members of the old Association, which was founded in 1921 and had ceased to function effectively with the League, that the Action Committee had been set up "to reorganize our Association on a new basis" and notably to secure accreditation with the UN in Geneva. Members were asked to sign a proposal to convene a General Assembly of the Association so as to adopt new Statutes and to elect a new Executive Committee.

Only 12 replies were received, all affirmative, but not enough to convene an Assembly. From later documents, it appears that the last President of the old Association, H. Challinor James (Daily Mail), was the main source of opposition. The reasons for his attitude, however, were obscure.

A first decisive step towards forming a new Association was taken on January 7, 1949, at a meeting attended by 15 correspondents in the Palais des Nations. They included those who had been most active in trying to surmount the juridical and personal obstacles which had prevented UN correspondents in Geneva from organizing themselves ever since the opening of the European Office. They addressed the following circular to all journalists accredited to the UN in Geneva:

"WHEREAS the Executive Committee of the International Association of Journalists Accredited to the League of Nations has not found it possible to revive that Association and adapt it to the new conditions prevailing in Geneva since the dissolution of the League of Nations and the opening of the European Office of the United Nations; and

"WHEREAS many of the members named on the last official membership list have died, moved away from Geneva or ceased to be active members of the profession, and those members of the International Association of Journalists Accredited to the League of Nations who are now accredited to the European Office of the United Nations have therefore been unable to contact sufficient members to obtain the quorum needed to convene a General Assembly of the Association for a revision of the statutes; and

"WHEREAS members of the Association and other correspondents now accredited to the Geneva Office of the United Nations find it necessary to have an active organization to promote the professional interests of United Nations correspondents at Geneva; they have

"RESOLVED to invite all correspondents accredited to the United Nations at Geneva to meet in the Press Room of the Palais des Nations on Wednesday, February 2, 1949, at 2.30 p.m. to establish the GENEVA ASSOCIATION OF UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENTS".

This text bore the names of the following 15 correspondents who adopted it:

Pierre Allemand (Agence Télégraphique Suisse)
Robert Allen (Daily Telegraph)
Bernard Béguin (Journal de Genève)
Patrick Crosse (Reuter)
Michael Goldsmith (Associated Press)
Dudley Harmon (United Press)
Lynn Heinzerling (Associated Press)
Michael Hoffman (New York Times)
François Laya (Agence France-Presse)
René Le Grand Roy (Tribune de Genève)
Carl Loosli (Neue Zürcher Zeitung)
Victor Lusinchi (Exchange Telegraph)
Julius Pentman (News Chronicle)
Leng-Tsiao Wang (Central China News Agency)
Berthold Wyler (Daily Herald)

The meeting on February 2 was held in Room H-3 in the Palais des Nations. It was opened by Lusinchi, on behalf of the 15 convenors, with Béguin acting as secretary. Lusinchi recalled the reasons which had led to the proposal to create a new Association. He also spoke of contacts made with representatives of the United Nations Correspondents Association at Lake Success, and of the possibility of affiliation with it.

Lusinchi was elected chairman of the meeting, on the proposal of Hoffman.

The main difficulties were raised by members of the Committee of the Foreign Press Association in Switzerland (APES), particularly those resident in Berne and Zürich, who urged the need to avoid rivalry. Hoffman, as a member of the APES Committee resident in Geneva, was an active conciliator.

Joseph Olanié (Agence France-Presse, Berne) proposed that a "special section" of correspondents accredited to the UN should be created within the APES.

Lusinchi pointed out that the APES Statutes would prevent the admission of Swiss correspondents accredited to the UN in Geneva.

Reginald Langford (Reuter, Zürich), President of the APES, finally recognized that a new organization was necessary. But he thought that there would be regrettable rivalry.

The meeting eventually decided "in principle" to form an organization of journalists accredited to the UN in Geneva. It entrusted a five-member drafting committee with the task of considering Statutes and reporting to a further meeting at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9.

Main events:

UN Conference on Freedom of Information.

1949 - THE FOUNDATION

The meeting on February 9, 1949, was the Foundation Assembly of the Geneva Association of United Nations Correspondents.

It was held in Room H-3 in the Palais des Nations under the chairmanship of Lusinchi, with Béguin again acting as secretary.

Discussion was opened on the proposed Statutes presented by the drafting committee composed of Lusinchi, Olanié, Béguin, Goldsmith and Wyler. The draft was based on the Statutes of the United Nations Correspondents Association at Lake Success. It was presented unanimously with Olanié reserving the right to submit any amendment with a view to permitting liaison with the APES. In fact, no such amendment was ever submitted.

The Statutes, with various relatively minor amendments, were adopted unanimously by the 33 correspondents present at the Assembly. The Association thereby came into existence.

Lusinchi proposed that the Executive Committee, subject to ratification by the General Assembly of the Association, should negotiate the relations to be established with the Association at Lake Success - "an affiliation, an agreement for joint action, or any other arrangement of mutual benefit to the two Associations". The proposal was accepted.

Hoffman, speaking on behalf of the Committee of the APES, proposed the following draft resolution:

"The Assembly notes the proposal of the Committee of the APES designed to establish permanent and close relations between the two organizations, and directs the Executive Committee of the Geneva Association of United Nations Correspondents to undertake discussions as soon as possible with the Committee of the APES with a view to establishing such collaboration and defining the manner thereof".

Laya thanked the Committee of the APES for the "effort of conciliation" represented by this draft resolution, and proposed that it be approved without discussion. Olanié agreed on condition that the terms of the proposed collaboration should be subject to ratification by the Assembly.

The resolution, including the amendment acceptable to Olanié, was then adopted by 30 votes in favour, with one abstention.

Before asking for nominations for the election of the Executive Committee, Lusinchi observed that the Committee would have the power to choose the members of the Association. The election of any candidate to the Executive Committee would therefore be equivalent to an automatic recognition that he possessed the qualifications required by the Statutes for membership of the Association.

Rodolphe Singer (Le Soir, Zürich), Treasurer of the APES, said he agreed that the four members of the Bureau should be residents of the Geneva area, as stipulated in the Statutes. He proposed, however, that two of the three ordinary members of the Committee should represent the interests of correspondents resident elsewhere. Lusinchi replied that the elections were open.

The results of the elections figure at the head of the next Chapter. Olanié was the first and last non-resident of the Geneva area to become a member of the Committee.

The admission fee was set at Swiss Frs. 20.-- and the annual subscription also at Frs. 20.--.

The Assembly approved the expenditure of Frs. 16.34 by Lusinchi to meet the costs of organizing the two constituent meetings of February 2 and February 9, 1949.

It approved by acclamation a motion of thanks to Sybil Atkins, of the United Nations Information Service in Geneva, previously an official of the League of Nations, for the "staunchhelp" which she had given to the organizing committee.

The Foundation Assembly was closed. The life of the Association had begun.

President: Victor Lusinchi (Exchange Telegraph)

Vice-President: François Laya (Agence France-Presse)

Secretary: Bernard Béguin (Journal de Genève)

Treasurer: Michael Goldsmith (Associated Press)

Members: Patrick Crosse (Reuter),

Michael Hoffman (New York Times), Joseph Olanié (Agence France-Presse).

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The Executive Committee set to work immediately after the Assembly, planning the work required to bring the Association into operation.

Applications for membership began to come in. From the first, the Committee made plain that it intended to admit only professional journalists actively engaged in covering UN activities in Geneva. Consequently, some 15 applications were withdrawn or rejected during the following months.

On February 19, 1949, a letter was sent to the UN Secretary-General informing him of the "formal inauguration" of the Association, and enclosing a copy of the Statutes and a list of members of the Executive Committee.

In the next few days, similar letters were sent to other leading officials of the UN and the Specialized Agencies, to the Swiss Federal Political Department, and to bodies including the UN Correspondents Association at Lake Success and the APES. All the replies expressed satisfaction at the foundation of the Association.

The letter to the President of the Association at Lake Success, dated February 25, 1949, recalled the Assembly's resolution concerning the proposed negotiations for cooperation arrangements. However, in view of the preliminary organizational work in hand, the Committee considered that it would be advisable to wait until this was completed before beginning discussions. Meanwhile, it said, it would appreciate any suggestions as to the form which cooperation might take.

Replying on March 16, 1949, the UN Correspondents Association expressed the pleasure of its President, John G. Rogers (New York Herald Tribune), and

of the Executive Committee, at the formation of the Geneva Association. It agreed to wait before opening discussions about relations. But, it added, it had already begun to discuss "a tentative protocol to cover the two organizations" which would be submitted to the Geneva Association "for your guidance and criticism."

Although the two Associations did in fact cooperate on several occasions in later years, the protocol was never submitted and the question of formal relations was never taken any further.

The letter to the President of the APES, also dated February 25, 1949, recalled the Assembly's resolution concerning the proposed discussions to establish collaboration. The Committee apologized that organizational work had so far prevented it from examining the matter. But meanwhile, it said, it would be happy to receive suggestions from the APES with a view to reaching rapid agreement on a common formula.

Replying on March 3, 1949, the President of the APES, Reginald Langford (Reuter, Zürich) said he was sure that "practical collaboration" would prove to be a matter of course. "We, on our part, wish you every success in the attainment of your aims and will help in every way we can," he added. Langford said the Committee of the APES would meet to discuss the whole matter and it was hoped to put forward "a number of proposals" for consideration by the Geneva Association.

There were in fact several instances of cooperation over the years, but the APES never put forward proposals and formal discussions were never pursued.

The Association held its first luncheon on March 10, 1949, in honour of the UN Secretary-General, Trygve Lie, who was on a visit to Geneva. The Secretary-General congratulated the Association on its formation.

Written confirmation of this recognition of the Association came on April 1, 1949, in a letter from the Director of the Department of Public Information, Tor Gjesdal.

By that time, the Committee had already been making itself felt among officials of the UN and the Specialized Agencies in many matters which have become a continuing concern of the Association. Arrangements for issuing UN press communiqués, which were then generally unsatisfactory to Geneva correspondents, were a special point at issue.

On April 29, 1949, the Association was called upon for the first time to come to the support of a member whose professional interests were threatened.

The Committee held an emergency meeting when it learned that the French Government had refused to grant a visa to Antonin Hasek (Czechoslovak Telegraph Agency) to allow him to cover a conference of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in Annecy. It came strongly to the aid of Hasek in letters to the UN authorities in Geneva and New York. The UN Legal Department discussed the case with the French Delegation, which consulted the French Foreign Ministry, but Hasek was soon afterwards transferred to another post.

The Committee had a luncheon with Gjesdal on July 8, 1949. Lusinchi gave him a memorandum which made clear that Geneva correspondents wished to be treated as "members of the UN family" on the same basis as their colleagues in Lake Success. The full text was as follows:

"Following your suggestion, I should like to summarize briefly for you the viewpoint of the Geneva Association of United Nations Correspondents on relations between correspondents and the United Nations.

"Mr. Trygve Lie has frequently stated that correspondents working regularly with the United Nations were considered as members of the UN family. We believe this is the correct relationship and indeed the only one that can ensure good relations. This has not, however, been the relationship at Geneva. We believe that the reason has nothing to do with UN policy but is simply that the Director of the Geneva Office has never been instructed or advised so to regard correspondents. The Department of Public Information at Geneva has always been helpful informally to correspondents but has of course been bound by the policy of the Director of the Geneva Office.

"Our problem of living and working in what for nearly all of us is a foreign country (for some of us two foreign countries are involved) would be immeasurably less complicated if we could rely on the UN to make it clear to the Swiss authorities in general and in specific cases that the official attitude of the UN towards regular correspondents is that enunciated by Mr. Lie and by yourself today in conversation. We fully realize that the UN retains the right to determine whom it shall regard as 'regular' correspondents. Our problems in working within the UN would be easier if the same were made clear to the secretariat, particularly to the administrative personnel, most of whom have no experience outside Geneva.

"We wish to make it clear that we are not asking to be incorporated legally into the guarantees of privileges and immunities granted by the Swiss to tne UN and its employees. What we would request is that the Geneva Office abandon its practice of excluding correspondents as a matter of principle from

the area of its concern. We would request that we be treated like correspondents are treated at Lake Success. We would further request that the UN accept to intervene with the Swiss authorities on our behalf in appropriate cases. We believe there will be little disagreement about what cases are appropriate once it is agreed that the well being of regular UN correspondents and their ability to carry out their work effectively are matters of interest and concern to the UN. We have specific reason to believe that the Swiss authorities would welcome such an attitude on the part of the UN."

On July 14, 1949, the Committee decided that the 33 correspondents admitted up to that date were considered to be the Founder Members of the Association. The list was:

Pierre Allemand (Agence Télégraphique Suisse) Robert Allen (Daily Telegraph) Bernard Béguin (Journal de Genève) Patrick Crosse (Reuter) H. G. Daniels (The Times) Hans Fraenkel (Süddeutsche Zeitung) Yves Franck (Dernière Heure) René Gerard (Libre Belgique) Michael Goldsmith (Associated Press) Eugene Gonda (International News Service) Dudley Harmon (United Press) Antonin Hasek (Czechoslovak Telegraph Agency) Lynn Heinzerling (Associated Press) Michael Hoffman (New York Times) E. Ibbetson James (Manchester Guardian) Victor Koutzine (Al Ahram) François Laya (Agence France-Presse) Carl Loosli (Neue Zürcher Zeitung) Victor Lusinchi (Exchange Telegraph) René Mossu (France-Soir) John Myers (Reuter) Claude Naef (Radio Genève) Robert Noderer (Chicago Tribune) Joseph Olanié (Agence France-Presse) Venceslas Oryng (Presse-Etude) Julius Pentman (News Chronicle) Rodolphe Singer (Le Soir)

Edouard Sommer (France-Soir)
Jean Terrizzano (Agenzia Informazione)
Guido Tonella (Corriere della Sera)
Leng-Tsiao Wang (Central China News Agency)
Olwen Williams (Christian Science Monitor)
Berthold Wyler (Daily Herald)

On the initiative of the Committee, the UN European Office agreed to issue a "special press card" to members of the Association as from the beginning of 1950. This card, still unchanged, is signed by the Director of the Office as representative of the UN Secretary-General. It attests that the bearer is an accredited correspondent, and adds: "All Governments and other Authorities are hereby requested to extend to the bearer of this card all facilities of which he/she may stand in need in order effectively to carry out his/her duties connected with the United Nations."

The first dinner given by the Association was held on March 1, 1950, at the Hôtel des Bergues, in honour of the heads of all the UN organs and Specialized Agencies in Geneva. It did much to establish the prestige of the Association.

Among the many questions discussed by the Committee in this first year was that of beginning a history of the Association. Such a history was in fact never begun until the Committee of 1965-66 authorized the present chronicle for completion by the 20th anniversary of the Association in 1969.

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The first annual General Assembly was held on March 31, 1950, in Room H-3, with 19 members attending out of a total membership of 32. There had been four departures (Crosse, Hasek, Noderer and Olanié) and three admissions since the list of Founder Members was issued. The new members were Ernest Ascheri (Daily Express), Vittorio Lombardi (Il Tempo) and John Talbot (Reuter).

Before the elections, the Assembly decided unanimously to suspend the last sentence of Article 3.1 of the Statutes, stating that: "The President shall not be eligible for immediate re-election." The results of the elections figure at the head of the next Chapter.

The admission fee was maintained at Frs. 20. -- and the annual subscription at Frs. 20. --.

Main events:

Red Cross Diplomatic Conference (adopted the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949).

President: Victor Lusinchi (Exchange Telegraph)

Vice-President: François Laya (Agence France-Presse)

Secretary: Bernard Béguin (Journal de Genève)

Treasurer: Michael Goldsmith (Associated Press)

Members: Michael Hoffman (New York Times),

Vittorio Lombardi (Il Tempo),

John Talbot (Reuter).

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This was mainly a year of consolidation of policy positions adopted in the first year of operation. The Executive Committee maintained steady pressure on responsible officials to improve information services and working conditions, which were then very poor.

Gunnar Myrdal, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Europe, gave the Committee valuable support, both publicly and privately.

An excerpt from a letter to Jerzy Szapiro, Director of the UN Information Centre in Geneva, written by Lusinchi on May 24, 1950, gives some idea of the Press Room at that time. After regretting the UN Administration's "inability to find funds" for needed improvements, he said:

"The situation today is that the Press Room and its two adjoining telephones are used by everyone - UN officials, delegates and their staffs, NGO's, official and non-official observers, the general public and the restaurant staff. Until this situation is remedied, the working conditions for correspondents assigned to the United Nations in Geneva will never be satisfactory".

Modest satisfaction was obtained six months later. Unauthorized users of the Press Room were discouraged by warning notices. The Administration agreed to construct four individual cubicles for correspondents. Reuter and Associated Press already had offices, obtained by their own efforts before the Association came into being. A system of earphones for listening to conference sessions from the Press Room was installed in July.

In August 1950, the Committee began to give serious consideration to the question of the sizeable funds which had belonged to the old Association of Journalists Accredited to the League of Nations. It was hoped to inherit these funds, as the old Association had shown no signs of revival.

The practice of organizing "working lunches" with leading delegates, UN officials and other personalities began to take firm root during the year.

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The annual General Assembly was held on April 10, 1951, with 17 of the 31 members attending. After electing the Executive Committee which figures at the head of the next Chapter, the Assembly voted by 14 in favour, two against and one abstention to amend the Statutes so that the Presidential term of office would no longer be limited to one year. Admission and annual subscription fees were maintained at Frs. 20.-- each.

The Assembly instructed the Committee to study questions concerning the situation of the old Association, the funds being primarily in mind. Thus began a long series of negotiations, finally successful.

The origins of these funds and the negotiations concerning them are described in the following Chapters, while the ultimate agreements figure as Annexes to this chronicle.

THE "GOLD BAR" FUND

Nicolae Titulescu, of Rumania, President of the 11th Assembly of the League of Nations, spoke on September 16, 1930, at a luncheon given in his honour by the International Association of Journalists Accredited to the League of Nations. He put forward the idea of an "International Press Club-House" which should be established by the States-members of the League. A number of delegations subsequently expressed readiness to help.

On September 29, 1930, Titulescu wrote a circular letter to all Principal Delegates of member-nations of the League, suggesting that all States which agreed should contribute 5,000 Swiss Francs. He began his letter: "The importance of the part played by the Press in world affairs is steadily increasing. Its cooperation is indispensable for the establishment of international relations based on a better mutual understanding among the peoples. Nowhere is its influence more clearly seen than at Geneva. Some hundred representatives of agencies and newspapers from all continents are permanently resident here in Geneva, and on the occasion of the Assembly or an important conference they may number three or four hundred".

Fourteen States responded by contributing Frs. 5,000.-- each. They were: Canada, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Rumania, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom, Venezuela and Yugoslavia. This sum of Frs. 70,000.--, together with Frs. 5,000.-- contributed by the Association, was deposited with the Secretariat of the League as custodian. It became known as the International Press House Fund.

The Secretariat eventually invested the money in two bars of gold, totalling 726.804 ounces, which were first deposited in a Geneva Bank and then transferred to London during the 1939-45 war.

The investment remained unchanged, but the increased value of gold caused the Fund to be valued at Frs. 108, 291.10 in the 4th interim report of the liquidators of the League on May 1, 1947. There was also a sum of Frs. 1,173.-- in a current account in Geneva, presumably a balance from the original purchase of gold, making a total of Frs. 109, 464.10.

This amount, following a decision by the final Assembly of the League of Nations on April 18, 1946, was transferred from the custody of the League to that of the United Nations. The Protocol of transfer was signed on April 11, 1947, by Sean Lester, Secretary-General of the League, and Wlodzimierz Moderow, Director of the European Office of the United Nations. It was specified that the Secretary-General of the United Nations should act as custodian of the Fund on behalf of the President of the International Association of Journalists Accredited to the League of Nations, on the same terms as the Secretary-General of the League had done.

Challinor James, last President of the old Association, said in a letter to Lester on April 23, 1947, thanking him for a copy of the Protocol: "I should like to point out that the conditions on which the different governments contributed to this fund were withdrawn when it was found that the erection and maintenance of a Press House in Geneva would be too costly, and that in consequence the Association was authorized to employ the money as they thought best in the interests of the Association. These authorizations were duly placed in the archives of the Association, which unfortunately were dispersed during the war".

Other monies belonging to the old Association, amounting to some Frs. 10,000.-- were not administered by the League and not transferred to the United Nations.

1951 - 1952

President: Michael Hoffman (New York Times)

Vice-President: François Laya (Agence France-Presse)

Secretary: Pierre Allemand (Agence Télégraphique Suisse)

Treasurer: Michael Goldsmith (Associated Press)

Members: Victor Lusinchi (Exchange Telegraph),

John Talbot (Reuter),

Vittorio Lombardi (Il Tempo).

The Executive Committee set to work on the formidable task of trying to straighten out the problem of the Association of Journalists Accredited to the League of Nations. This was to prove a constant worry for four years to come.

On April 27, 1951, Hoffman wrote to Challinor James, the last President of the old Association, then living in Vevey in semi-retirement from the Daily Mail. He noted that a "substantial sum of money" held by the UN, acting in the capacity of trustee or depository, had been donated by certain Governments for the use of correspondents working at the League. He asked whether Challinor James intended to convene a meeting of the old Association to reestablish control over these funds. If not, Hoffman added, he would like to know the status and plans of the old Association.

There is no record of any reply to this letter. Later in the year, the new Association engaged a Geneva lawyer, Mastre Albert Dupont-Willemin. The Committee realized that legal advice was essential if anything was to be achieved.

Me. Dupont-Willemin, writing on October 20, 1951, sent the Committee a draft circular which it was proposed to address to members of the old Association. The aim was to convene an Extraordinary General Assembly, for which the support of one-fifth of the members was required. The last list of members, printed in 1938, comprised 168 names. But 27 were known to have died and six to have ceased to be journalists, leaving a maximum possible membership of 135. It was therefore considered that 27, or one-fifth of 135, would constitute a quorum to convene an Extraordinary Assembly.

A circular was issued on February 1, 1952, addressed to some 45 members of the old Association whose whereabouts could be discovered in various parts of the world. This document was signed by four members of the old Association, who were also members of the new one, as those mainly responsible for past negotiations and for those to come. They were Laya, Loosli, Lusinchi and Sommer.

On June 22, 1951, the Association held a first dinner-dance in the Hôtel des Bergues, with a cabaret and lottery for prizes offered by commercial firms and hotels. Some 200 people bought tickets and distinguished representatives of the Geneva and UN Authorities were invited.

The gala was a tremendous social success. But the Association finished the year with only Frs. 57.-- in the Bank and had to curtail its programme of working lunches. The organizational work was a very heavy burden borne largely by Goldsmith, Allemand and Henri Meyer de Stadelhofen (Radio Genève), as in successive years. Eventually, with the weight of professional work increasing in Geneva, the extra burden became too heavy for anyone to bear.

It was in this year that the Committee began a practice of revising the Association's list of members, an annual check which later became a Statutory obligation. The aim, then as now, was to make sure that all members continued to be actively engaged in covering UN affairs. Several members were challenged.

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The annual General Assembly was held on March 2, 1952, in the Press Room of the Palais des Nations, with 18 of the 30 members attending. The results of the elections figure at the head of the next Chapter. The annual subscription was increased from Frs. 20.-- to Frs. 25.--.

It was proposed that the Committee should examine the possibility of admitting certain officials of the UN and Specialized Agencies, notably information officers, as associate members. After Laya and Lusinchi had stressed the importance of keeping the Association strictly professional, the proposal was rejected by 11 votes against, one in favour and two abstentions. In later years, other moves to admit associate members also foundered on arguments that the Association's strength lay primarily in its strict professionalism.

1952 - 1953

President: Michael Hoffman (New York Times)

Vice-President: François Laya (Agence France-Presse)

Secretary: Pierre Allemand (Agence Télégraphique Suisse)

Treasurer: Michael Goldsmith (Associated Press)

Members: Victor Lusinchi (Exchange Telegraph),

René Mossu (France-Soir),

Carl Loosli (Neue Zürcher Zeitung),

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Although 34 favourable replies were received to the circular proposing an extraordinary General Assembly of the old Association, there was no further advance during the year. This seemed mostly due to the continued opposition of Challinor James, but partly to the Committee's realization that it must first adapt the Association's Statutes to the Swiss Civil Code if it wished to inherit funds.

A huge amount of time and energy was expended on organizing a second and even bigger dinner-dance, held on June 20, 1952, in the Hôtel des Bergues, on the same lines as the gala of the year before. This time, the evening was successful financially as well as socially.

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The annual General Assembly was held on March 23, 1953, in the Press Room of the Palais des Nations, with 19 of the 36 members attending. The results of the elections figure at the head of the next Chapter. The annual subscription was maintained at Frs. 25. --.

Owing to the illness of Laya and to Lusinchi's departure from Geneva, the Assembly entrusted Loosli and Sommer with special responsibility for the problem of the old Association. A group was set up to study the question of bringing the Statutes into line with the Swiss Civil Code.

President: François Laya (Agence France-Presse)

Vice-President: Carl Loosli (Neue Zürcher Zeitung)

Secretary: Pierre Allemand (Agence Télégraphique Suisse)

Treasurer: Leonard Probst (United Press)

Members: René Mossu (France - Soir).

Michael Goldsmith (Associated Press),

Robert Allen (Daily Telegraph).

Allen acted as Treasurer when Probst left Geneva.

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Increasingly heavy pressure was put on Challinor James to make some move to convene an Assembly of the old Association. This was applied through Me. Dupont-Willemin, acting in frequent consultation with Loosli and Sommer, who in turn consulted the Executive Committee. Challinor James refused to comply, for reasons which were never fully clear but which appeared to derive at least partly from personal bitterness and spite. He used various delaying tactics, including contestations of the quorum required and suggestions that the Assembly be held in New York or Paris instead of Geneva. He threatened libel action for alleged insults concerning his good faith and professional standing.

Challinor James, however, must have realized that he could not maintain his opposition for much longer, especially when faced with the prospect of an Assembly being convened to call him to account as President. He finally announced that he had resigned as President of the Association on July 8, 1953. This was the beginning of the end of the affair. The remaining members of the old Association's Committee were either unable or unwilling to carry on the struggle.

On December 8, 1953, a decisive step was taken in the form of a request to the Chambre des Tutelles of Geneva that the old Association be placed under the Trusteeship of a Curator. The document of that date which Me. Dupont-Willemin addressed to the Chamber contains an extensive history of the events which led up to the request. It includes two suggestions which eventually became basic elements of the final settlement - that the old Asso-

ciation be dissolved and that its funds be divided between the new Geneva Association and the UN Correspondents Association in New York.

The Chambre des Tutelles acted fast. On December 29, 1953, it appointed Mastre Paul Carry as Curator of the old Association. It instructed him to administer the funds, enquire into the whole situation, open talks with the UN Authorities, and make proposals to the Chamber.

Me. Carry duly informed Dag Hammarskjoeld, UN Secretary-General, that he had taken the place of the President of the old Association, in whose name funds had been deposited with the UN in New York. He began preliminary enquiries and consultations on the involved juridical problems.

A third dinner-dance was held on June 19, 1953, in the Hôtel des Bergues. This time, it was combined with the election of a Swiss candidate for the Miss Cinémonde beauty contest. The arrangement had its disadvantages, notably financial ones, but the gala was again a success.

* * * *

The annual General Assembly was held on March 15, 1954, in the Press Room of the Palais des Nations, with 30 of the 45 members attending. Loosli presided in the absence of Laya, who had been in ill health for some time and had made known that he would not stand for re-election.

Laya was elected Honorary President (a title which no longer exists, as the new Statutes adopted in 1958 provide only for Honorary Members.) The results of the routine elections figure at the head of the next Chapter. The annual subscription was maintained at Frs. 25.--.

On the Committee's proposal, the Assembly adopted an essential amendment to the Statutes. This brought the Association juridically into conformity with the Swiss Civil Code, giving it the right to possess assets and to receive gifts and legacies. The Association thus prepared itself to inherit funds from the old Association.

The Assembly also approved an amendment whose effect was to provide implicitly that press photographers could become members of the Association. An explicit provision was included in the new Statutes adopted in 1958.

President:

Carl Loosli (Neue Zürcher Zeitung)

Vice-President: Michael Goldsmith (Associated Press)

Secretary:

Pierre Allemand (Agence Télégraphique Suisse)

Treasurer:

Robert Allen (Daily Telegraph)

Members:

René Mossu (France-Soir),

Jean Terrizzano (Il Globo),

Oswald Zienau (Deutsche Presse-Agentur).

Allemand acted as Treasurer when Allen fell ill.

* * * *

Laya, convalescing at Gryon, wrote to Loosli on March 17, 1954, in a moving letter of appreciation for his election as Honorary President. One passage should be of lasting inspiration for all who guide the affairs of the Association:

"You will have a hard job in the coming year, my dear President", Laya wrote. "But permit me to say that you will have no difficulty if you stand firmly on the only ground which matters - that of the strictest professionalism: and also if, after thorough reflection, you assume your responsibilities boldly. When one seeks only the common good, one cannot go wrong. One must simply act with decision, with energy."

On May 6, 1954, in conjunction with the APES, the Association organized a big luncheon at the Grand Casino for correspondents attending the Asiatic Conference (Indochina and Korea) and for Press Attachés of Delegations.

On July 19, a fourth dinner-dance was submerged in a general Press Ball promoted by the Intérêts de Genève in the context of the Semaine de la Rose. No one in the Association could spare the time to organize an independent event. The evening was anyway unsuccessful because many correspondents were prevented from going to the Ball by important activity at the Conference during the evening.

Meanwhile, the matter of the old Association and its funds was beginning to come to a head. On May 17, 1954, Me. Carry had an informal meeting with members of the old Association in the course of his work to obtain inform-

ation on the situation. The majority opinion appeared to be that he should ask the UN in New York to transfer the funds to him as Curator, but Me. Carry did not act in this way.

Me. Carry was also in contact with the Swiss Federal authorities in Berne, several Departments being involved. The legal opinion began to form that this was a question which the Federal Council itself must settle, as it alone was competent to dispose of funds belonging to an association registered in Switzerland which had ceased to function.

Me. Dupont-Willemin wrote to Loosli on July 22, 1954, with somewhat alarming news. He had heard from Jerzy Szapiro, Director of the UN Information Service in Geneva, that the Association in New York had intervened at UN Headquarters to claim the funds. While Szapiro said that he personally believed the funds should go wholly to the Geneva Association, he thought the two Associations should seek an agreement between themselves. Me. Dupont-Willemin also advocated contact between the two Associations, and Me. Carry concurred.

On December 17, 1954, Loosli wrote to the President of the United Nations Correspondents Association in New York, Max Beer (Neue Zürcher Zeitung). This was the beginning of a substantial correspondence between the two Presidents, a happy coincidence being that they worked for the same newspaper.

Each began by stating their rival cases for inheritance of the entire funds. Beer, however, in his reply of January 8, 1955, suggested in a personal capacity - and he stressed this - that the two old colleagues might promote an understanding that the funds belonged to the two Associations in common. Loosli, writing on February 17, agreed; he further suggested a 50-50 division of the funds. Beer gave his approval on February 25, and sent the draft of a "provisional agreement" between the two Presidents for ratification by their respective Executive Committees. In the meantime, it had become clear that the Federal Council and the UN authorities would look favourably on such a solution.

The two Presidents signed their provisional agreement on March 19 (Loosli) and March 22 (Beer). It figures in Annex II of this chronicle as part of the ultimate agreement between the UN and the two Associations.

* * * *

The annual General Assembly was held on March 30, 1955, in the Press Room of the Palais des Nations, with 23 of the 49 members attending. The results of the elections figure at the head of the next Chapter. The annual subscription was maintained at Frs. 25. --.

Sommer presented a detailed report on the question of the old Association and its funds. The Assembly approved the provisional agreement between the two Presidents. This Agreement was then made definitive by means of a Declaration signed on March 30 (Loosli) and April 4 (Beer). Julius Pentman, Treasurer of the old Association, made reservations, maintaining that a definitive solution must have the approval of the old Association. Loosli replied that the legal position was that an association which no longer met, and could not function, no longer existed in fact.

Main events:

Asiatic Conference (Indochina and Korea), April 26 to July 21, 1954.

1955 - 1956

President: Lynn Heinzerling (Associated Press)

Vice-President: Carl Loosli (Neue Zürcher Zeitung)

Secretary: Pierre Allemand (Agence Télégraphique Suisse)

Treasurer: Karel Norsky (Manchester Guardian)

Members: Michael Goldsmith (Associated Press),

Chapter.

Ejaz Husain (Dawn),

Jean Terrizzano (Il Globo).

The Spring and Summer of 1955 saw the successful conclusion of the long negotiations between the Associations in Geneva and New York, the United Nations and the Swiss authorities. Details are given in the latter part of this

The Executive Committee had intensive discussions with the UN authorities about improving conditions of work. It obtained promises of two more offices, making four in all, and a partitioning of the Press Room so as to arrange several cubicles and two enclosed areas at the Lake-end of the room giving privacy to five correspondents.

Two Extraordinary General Assemblies were held. One on June 14, 1955, was concerned with working conditions and allocation of cubicles and offices. Allocations were made on principles which have proved satisfactory ever since: applications were considered by the Committee, primarily on the basis of most regular presence in the Press Room, and then recommended to the UN sometimes after informal settlement of rival requests through sharing or other solutions. The Committe was unable to obtain the suppression of a charge of Frs. 5. -- a day for cleaning, lightning and heating of offices, although no charge was made in New York. Owing to the different situation of Geneva correspondents also covering Switzerland as a whole, it could not be guaranteed that their offices would be used, as in New York, exclusively for work on UN activities. However, no charge was made for cubicles in the Press Room.

The second Extraordinary General Assembly was held on December 7, 1955, to discuss what to do with the considerable funds which had then become available. The Committee was instructed to study the possibility of creating a

Press Club - a question which has recurred over the years, but always inconclusively. Apart from the fact that the funds were clearly too small for the Association to create something on its own, there has never been any assurance that a club in Geneva would be sufficiently frequented.

The Association in New York used its share of the funds to furnish a small television-lounge in an area put at its disposal by the UN. In Geneva, the Association kept its capital intact and has since used the interest for a variety of professional and social purposes.

Nevertheless, the Committee of 1955-1956 took a number of soundings. The Committee of the Association de la Presse Genevoise considered that a Press Club would be little used by its members, and declined to join in sending out a questionnaire. The Committee therefore sent one only to members of the Geneva Association of United Nations Correspondents. Less than half the members returned it, but 24 of the 28 replies were in favour of creating a Press Club of one sort or another.

All that actually transpired was an arrangement whereby Albert Picot, President of the Cercle de la Presse et des Amitiés Etrangères - not a professional body - agreed to regard Association members as members of the Cercle. Association members were entitled to use the premises which the Cercle then possessed at 3, Cour St. Pierre. As practically no members took advantage of this arrangement after its inauguration, and the Cercle no longer has the premises, the scheme withered away.

Also at the Extraordinary General Assembly of December 7, Loosli and Sommer submitted their final report in the matter of the funds which had been divided equally between the Geneva and New York Associations. They subsequently received a unanimous vote of thanks and gratitude, recorded in a written Address presented to each of them. As they said, the situation had "often seemed inextricable" over the years, and it had required "much patience and tenacity" to get out of the imbroglio.

In the final stages, however, events had moved relatively fast. In March and April 1955, the Associations in Geneva and New York advanced through the necessary procedures to finalize the agreements between themselves and with the UN for division of the funds. In May and June, Me. Carry, helped by Me. Dupont-Willemin, was completing the groundwork for approval by the Swiss authorities.

Max Petitpierre, President of the Confederation and Head of the Federal Political Department, took a direct interest in the matter. Georges Borel, Judge

in the Geneva Chambre des Tutelles, gave active support. In New York, Constantin Stavropoulos and Oscar Schachter, of the UN Legal Division, were extremely cooperative. In Geneva, Adrian Pelt, Director of the UN European Office, was also helpful.

On July 1, 1955, the Federal Council adopted a Decision to the effect that the funds of the Association of Journalists Accredited to the League of Nations had devolved to the Confederation under Article 57 of the Swiss Civil Code. It ratified the agreement between the New York and Geneva Associations for an equal sharing of the funds between them. This Decision is reproduced in Annex I of this chronicle.

On August 23, the Chambre des Tutelles in Geneva authorized the payment to the Confederation of Frs. 4,980.65 - which was what remained of the old Association's deposits in Geneva after payment of lawyers' fees and sundry expenses. The Federal Political Department subsequently instructed Me. Carry to divide this equally between the two new Associations.

On August 25, 1955, the agreement with the UN was signed in New York by Dag Hammarskjoeld, Secretary-General, and Max Beer, officially acting on behalf of both Associations. It figures in Annex II of this chronicle.

Writing to Loosli afterwards, Beer made clear that his signature was "de facto" on behalf of his own Association in the first place, as he had insisted that the Geneva Association should also sign the agreement. There were three copies in English and three in French. Beer said Hammarskjoeld organized a signing ceremony which was "at once solemn and charming" just as for an international treaty. There was an exchange of compliments to all concerned.

On September 16, 1955, Lynn Heinzerling signed the agreement in the Palais des Nations on behalf of the Geneva Association.

The way was now open for the sale of the two gold bars in the safe-keeping of Lloyds Bank (Foreign) Ltd., City Office, London. On October 6, Lloyds informed the UN in New York that the two bars, totalling 726.804 fine ounces, had been sold for \$25,409.06. After division of the sum and deduction of commission and custody charges, the Geneva Association received Frs. 54,265.25 and placed it in a Special Account with Lloyds in Geneva.

On December 5, after discussions in the Committee and other consultations, Heinzerling wrote to the UN authorities to inform them that the Association had invested Frs. 54,000. -- in $3\frac{1}{2}$ percent bonds of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. "We will, of course, seek the prior

approval of the Secretary-General before taking any action involving the principal of this fund," he said. After purchase of the (1955-75) bonds. a balance of Frs. 254, 75 was left in the Special Account and remained there until it was transferred to the Association's current account in 1966. Interest from the bonds has always been paid into the current account.

The annual General Assembly was held on March 6, 1956, in Room VIII of the Palais des Nations, with 36 of the 59 members attending. The results of the elections figure at the head of the next Chapter. The annual subscription was maintained at Frs. 25. --.

Two amendments to the Statutes were adopted. One enlarged the Executive Committee from seven members to nine. The other added to an existing provision, namely that voting bulletins for the elections should not include more than two correspondents from the same country, an extra provision that they should not include more than one correspondent representing the same news agency or newspaper.

Main events:

Conference of the "Big Four" Heads of Government, July 18-23, 1955. Conference of the "Big Four" Foreign Ministers, October 27 to November 16, 1955.

1st UN Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, 1955.

1956 - 1957

President:

John Talbot (Reuter)

Vice-President: Vero Roberti (Corriere della Sera)

Secretary:

Pierre Allemand (Agence Télégraphique Suisse)

Treasurer:

Karel Norsky (Manchester Guardian)

Members:

Michael Hoffman (New York Times),

Robert Kroon (Netherlands Radio).

René Mossu (France-Soir),

Boris Novikov (Tass).

Jean Terrizzano (Il Globo).

Kroon became Vice-President on Roberti's departure and Ejaz Husain (Dawn) became a Committee member. Giuseppe Finzi (Il Tempo) became a member on Hoffman's departure.

A fundamental revision of the Statutes was set in motion, because doubts about their adequacy had been expressed from time to time. There was no question of changing basic principles, simply of expressing them in legally better and more detailed form.

Me. Dupont-Willemin, who was briefed by the Executive Committee to give an Opinion, submitted a preliminary draft of new Statutes on December 28, 1956. This was compiled after study of the statutes of 13 other associations of various kinds. It served as a basis for discussion and eventual adoption of new Statutes in 1958 - the same Statutes which are still in force, with a number of subsequent amendments.

An Extraordinary General Assembly had been called on August 3 to discuss the question of the Statutes and to handle other matters, notably the elections needed to effect the changes in the Committee noted at the head of this Chapter.

A resolution, adopted unanimously, rejected earlier suggestions that absent members should be able to vote by post or by proxy in elections to choose the Committee. It was decided that only those members who were present were entitled to vote.

Around the end of 1956, the Committee was concerned with what Talbot described as "a most unpleasant affair" in his annual report as President. This concerned a member of the Association who had become involved in espionnage, and who subsequently published a newspaper story on the subject which mentioned some other correspondents. He was heard by the Committee on January 4, 1957. He claimed that he had thought it would all make a good story, that he had never actually given any intelligence information, and that he was never really a spy. He regretted the prejudice caused to the profession of journalism and to the good name of the Association.

The Committee administered a "most severe reprimand" for circulation to all members and for Press publication. It reserved the right to reopen the question if new facts came to its knowledge. There the matter rested.

The annual General Assembly was held on March 4, 1957, in Room H-3 in the Palais des Nations, with 42 of the 71 members attending. The results of the elections figure at the head of the next Chapter. The annual subscription was maintained at Frs. 25. --.

A proposal to admit Press Officers of the UN and the Specialized Agencies as associate members was discarded without a vote.

Hoffman was made an Honorary Member on his departure from the New York Times to join the staff of the World Bank.

1957 - 1958

President:

John Talbot (Reuter)

Vice-President: Dante Benedetti (Ansa)

Secretary:

Pierre Allemand (Agence Télégraphique Suisse)

Treasurer:

Helen Fisher (United Press)

Members:

René Mossu (France-Soir),

Michael Goldsmith (Associated Press),

Karel Norsky (Manchester Guardian),

Giuseppe Finzi (Il Tempo),

Robert Kroon (Netherlands Radio).

The Executive Committee, in conjunction with the APES, sent a strong protest to the Swiss Federal authorities on April 27, 1957, following the arrest of Goldsmith for refusing to divulge the sources of an Associated Press report which he wrote on the Dubois-Ulrich espionnage affair. Goldsmith was kept in prison in Berne for 24 hours. The Committee termed this "a grave attack on the principle of freedom of information" and "a dangerous precedent for journalists exercising their profession in Switzerland". It intervened again on September 27, this time with a communiqué for Press publication, to repeat its earlier protest and to express regret that a fine had been imposed on Goldsmith in addition to his period of arrest.

On February 14, 1958, Swissair accepted a request by the Committee that Association members should be granted a 50 per cent reduction on fares for flights within Switzerland.

Drafting work on the new Statutes went on intensively throughout the year. On February 8, 1958, the Committee sent all members a copy of the draft which it had approved, asking for any proposed amendments; several draft amendments were sent in.

The annual General Assembly was held on March 22, 1958, in Room H-3 at the Palais des Nations, with 29 of the 74 members attending. The results of the elections figure at the head of the next Chapter. The annual subscription was maintained at Frs. 25.--.

After an article-by-article examination, and consideration of draft amendments, the new Statutes were adopted by a vote of 28 in favour and one against. The Statutes, including subsequent amendments, are reproduced in Annex III of this chronicle.

A renewed proposal to admit Press Officers as associate members was not voted upon, but was retained for discussion by the Committee.

1958 - 1959 - TENTH ANNIVERSARY

President: Paul Cremona (Christian Science Monitor)

Vice-President: John Freeman (The Times)

Secretary: Pierre Allemand (Agence Télégraphique Suisse)

Treasurer: Helen Fisher (United Press)

Members: René Mossu (France-Soir),

Günter Weber (Deutsche Presse-Agentur),

John Myers (Reuter), Jean Terrizzano (Il Globo),

Roger du Pasquier (Tribune de Genève).

. . . .

With a President and Vice-President who were both elderly men, having no previous experience as members of the Executive Committee and therefore little knowledge of its traditional modes of operation, affairs began to drift in a somewhat disconcerting fashion. Too often, they acted without prior consultation with the Committee. Too often, it appeared, they mistook compliments and bland assurances by the UN authorities for real willingness to cooperate in improving the working conditions for correspondents. Both were highly respected and well-liked men, imbued with the best intentions and an admirable sense of journalistic integrity. But neither, unfortunately, was capable of exerting the kind of steady authority - based on the Statutes and on customary procedures - needed to maintain the Association effective and cohesive.

The seeds of the crisis which erupted the following year, when the Association might easily have disintegrated, were already taking root during this period of uncertain leadership.

At one point, the UN authorities began to talk in terms of depriving Agency correspondents of their hard-won offices and installing them in the Press Room. This intolerable suggestion was promptly rejected, but it was perhaps symptomatic of the state of the Association that it could ever have been made. On the other hand, it was perhaps equally symptomatic of the basically uncooperative attitude of the UN authorities at that particular time.

The Committee had heated discussions on the proposal to admit associate members to the Association. As unanimity was out of the question, it eventu-

ally decided by seven votes to two (Myers and Terrizzano) to propose that the next annual Assembly adopt a new draft article for the Statutes. This draft provided that the Committee might admit as associate members persons who, although not fulfilling the conditions for active membership, had regular professional relations with accredited correspondents; associate members could participate in the various activities of the Association, apart from meetings of its organs. The Assembly rejected it.

Differences were happily forgotten, however, at a Tenth Anniversary dinner held on January 31, 1959, at the Vieux-Bois restaurant, after the annual Assembly. As guests, the Association invited representatives of the UN and Swiss authorities, and of the Swiss, Genevese and Foreign Press Associations. The heads of UN Specialized Agencies and other UN organs in Geneva, represented by their Press Officers, sent congratulatory messages.

Dag Hammarskjoeld, UN Secretary General, sent the following message from New York: "Mr. President,

"It gives me great pleasure to address a message of good wishes to the United Nations Correspondents Association in Geneva on the occasion of its tenth anniversary. The importance of the scope of the work done by this corps increases with every year that passes. Recent months have seen Geneva as the site of so many important world gatherings where discussions and decisions could affect the very future of men's lives. The alert reporting and interpreting of these events by those who represent the various organs of information in Geneva are making a vital contribution to the better understanding by people everywhere of the problems facing our world. I wish you well on this anniversary and for the years of the future."

* * * :

The Annual General Assembly was held on January 31, 1959, in Room F-3 at the Palais des Nations, with 31 of the 79 members attending. The results of the elections figure at the head of the next Chapter. The annual subscription was maintained at Frs. 25. --.

The basis of the Association's reference library was laid by a decision to buy an atlas and an encyclopedia in French and English.

Long and often impassioned debate followed on the Committee's 7-2 proposal to admit associate members. Du Pasquier (who had just been named as Information Officer for the International Committee of the Red Cross) put

the views of the majority of the Committee. Myers and Terrizzano put the views of the minority, with support mainly from Lusinchi, who had now returned to Geneva and was also speaking on behalf of ex-Presidents Loosli and Talbot. A particularly telling intervention was made by Jerzy Szapiro (who had retired as Director of the UN Information Service in Geneva and entered the Association as a correspondent for Polish newspapers); he urged the Association "to remain an élite of professional journalists, and not to become a social club." The draft amendment was rejected by 14 votes to 10, with two abstentions, even though many of its most active opponents - notably among the Agency correspondents - were unable to attend the Assembly because of inescapable work commitments.

The Committee was further instructed to "purge" the list of members of the Association, which then contained a considerable number of people with doubtful qualifications.

Carl Loosli, who had retired from the Neue Zürcher Zeitung, was acclaimed an Honorary Member.

Main events:

1st UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, 1958.
2nd UN Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, 1958.
Three-Power Nuclear Test Ban Conference, began on October 31, 1958, and continued intermittently until March 1962, when it merged into the 18-Nation Disarmament Conference.

1959 - 1960 - CRISIS YEAR

President: Paul Cremona (Christian Science Monitor)

Vice-President: John Freeman (The Times)

Secretary: Pierre Allemand (Agence Télégraphique Suisse)

Treasurer: Helen Fisher (Free-Lance)

Members: René Mossu (France-Soir),

Günter Weber (Deutsche Presse Agentur),

John Myers (Daily Telegraph),

Alex Desfontaines (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation),

Jean-Georges Danes (Neuer Kurier).

Freeman became Acting President when Cremona resigned. Jean Terrizzano (Il Globo) became a Committee member when Myers resigned, but resigned in turn and was succeeded by Mamdouh Saleh (Akhbar el Yom). Desfontaines acted as Secretary during Allemand's illness.

* * * *

Despite a prolonged and acrimonious crisis which shook the Association to its foundations, the Executive Committee set in motion the delicate work of revising the list of members. This task has continued on a yearly basis ever since, having been made mandatory by a subsequent amendment to the Statutes. A good many people who were no longer qualified to belong to the Association were removed from the list during the year.

The Committee intervened with the Swiss authorities on behalf of Frieda Kantorowicz (Allgemeiner Deutscher Nachrichtendienst). She had been informed that her Permis de séjour would not be renewed, apparently as a reprisal for treatment of certain Swiss nationals in East Germany. Eventually, her appeal against this decision was upheld; but, after being assigned to cover the UN General Assembly in New York, she was re-posted to her head office in Berlin.

The crisis broke in April 1959. As on previous big occasions, the Association was invited to join an Inter-Press Committee set up by the Swiss authorities to advise in management of a Press Centre for the 1959 Conference of Foreign Ministers. Cremona, without consulting anyone, delegated a member of the Committee to represent the Association. This member,

however, had recently caused the displeasure of the Geneva authorities, so that they and the UN authorities privately expressed their surprise at the choice.

The correspondents of the four biggest news agencies - Associated Press, United Press International, Agence France-Presse and Reuter, later joined by Tass - therefore decided to set up an AdHoc Liaison Committee to make known their requirements for offices and communication facilities in the Press Centre.

Cremona, absent on an assignment in Basle, was telephoned by Freeman, who feared "the beginning of a revolt" by members who might operate outside the framework of the Association. Giving Freeman authority to name a liaison committee (in place of his original delegate), Cremona was conscious of urgency in that the Inter-Press Committee was soon to begin an important series of meetings.

Freeman chose to base his action on the "rebel" Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, which agreed to enlarge itself to include The Times (Freeman) and the New York Times. This group, however, refused Freeman's proposal to add Cremona as an ex-officio member, and angered him by bringing in Tass without consulting him. Freeman nevertheless obtained agreement that the group was now working "within the framework of the Association and under the orders of the Committee" - though there was really total confusion, and the whole Association was in turmoil.

An emergency meeting of the Executive Committee, which was mostly in the dark as to what had been happening, was held on April 16, 1959. This was six days after the agency correspondents had set up their group and Cremona had delegated authority to Freeman. Freeman offered his resignation in face of widespread discontent with the state of affairs, but withdrew it at Cremona's request. Cremona admitted that he had acted beyond his mandate as President in sanctioning the creation of a group outside the elected membership of the Executive Committee; he pleaded the urgency of the situation and the risk of a split in the Association.

The Committee finally accepted a proposal to call an Extraordinary General Assembly for its own dissolution (resignation en bloc), to be followed by fresh elections. It was also agreed to ask Goldsmith (Associated Press) to cede his place to Freeman as spokesman for the Liaison Committee, which he did. Fortunately, therefore, there were no further difficulties in practice about the Association's representation in the Inter-Press Committee.

Meanwhile, a member of the Association had seized on the formation of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee to write an article in his newspaper accusing the Anglo-American news agencies of wanting to monopolize facilities for the Foreign Ministers' Conference. This member also managed to take the Acting Secretary's records of an Executive Committee meeting which had considered his case, and had them photo-copied. In the course of an involved controversy, he offered his resignation from the Association, which was accepted by the Committee; his request for re-admission a few months later was refused, and he was not re-admitted for several years.

The Extraordinary General Assembly was held on April 27, 1959, with 37 members attending. It was stormy and chaotic. Some demanded that the Committee should resign, other that it should remain in office with a vote of confidence. After a short suspension of the debate, to permit consultations, the Committee decided to put a motion of confidence; if this were rejected it would consider itself dissolved and another Extraordinary Assembly would be called in 15 days for fresh elections. The Assembly, however, declined to proceed in this fashion. Instead, it approved by 32 votes in favour, three against and two abstentions, a motion to take no action and to close the meeting.

Cremona resigned as President in a letter to Freeman written on the same day as this inconclusive Assembly, but this did not become generally known until later. He said that "increasing volume of work" prevented him from devoting the necessary time to his functions. He added that his resignation was "in no way, directly or indirectly, connected with the latest unfortunate events." Myers resigned from the Committee on the same day, saying in a letter to Cremona that he considered that "the Committee as a whole is no longer capable of a rational and effective management of the affairs of the Association." Terrizzano succeeded automatically, but resigned in solidarity with Myers' position, and the vacant place was taken by Saleh.

Freeman assumed the position of Acting President until the next General Assembly. A Committee meeting on August 17 officially took note of these developments. Two members of the Association subsequently resigned in general dissatisfaction with the state of affairs, but rejoined a year or two later.

Relations with the UN authorities reached one of their lowest ebbs, notably in the matter of parking facilities at the Palais des Nations, which were hopelessly inadequate and a constant cause of friction over the years.

The annual General Assembly was held on February 22, 1960, in Room III at the Palais des Nations, with 36 members attending. The results of the elections figure at the head of the next Chapter. The annual subscription was reduced from Frs. 25. -- to Frs. 15. --, while the admission fee remained at Frs. 20. --, as it had always been.

Freeman, as Acting President, submitted a very long report on the events of this "tempestuous, agitated and belligerent" year. He concluded by stressing the need for the Association to be "strong and united, and above all to be imbued with an esprit de corps and a discipline worthy of the honourable craft and high calling to which we are dedicated."

The Assembly passed on to the new Committee, as a recommendation, a draft resolution proposed by the outgoing Committee on criteria to be applied in revising the list of members "so that membership should be held by professional journalists only."

Two amendments to the Statutes, both aiming at stricter application of this principle, were adopted. The first (approved by 24 votes in favour, one against and one abstention) obliged the Committee to check the list of members each year, notably to see if the situation of each member still corresponded to the conditions for membership. The second (approved by 16 votes in favour, 11 against and four abstentions) added as a new condition that members must exercise a substantial part of their journalistic activity within the framework of the UN in Geneva.

René Gerard, who had retired from La Libre Belgique, was acclaimed an Honorary Member. He was a former President of the International Association of Journalists Accredited to the League of Nations.

Main events:

Conference of Foreign Ministers (Germany and Berlin), May 11 to June 21 and July 13 to August 5, 1959.

Three-Power Nuclear Test Ban Conference.

President: John Talbot (Reuter)

Vice-President: Pierre Allemand (Agence Télégraphique Suisse)

Secretary: Jacques Marcuse (Agence France-Presse)

Treasurer: Karel Norsky (Manchester Guardian)

Members: Jon Randal (United Press International).

Ejaz Husain (Dawn),

Mamdouh Saleh (Akhbar el Yom), Victor Lusinchi (New York Times),

Gerhard Leo (Allgemeiner Deutscher Nachrichtendienst).

A member who was elected Secretary by the Assembly, in his absence, afterwards declined to accept the post; Marcuse was elected to take his place at an Extraordinary General Assembly on March 14. Jerzy Szapiro (Polish newspapers) became a Committee member on Randal's departure.

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Elected in his absence by the annual General Assembly, the member chosen as Secretary afterwards made known that he did not wish to belong to a Committee which included a member whose designation as a journalist seemed to him improper on political grounds. From this time on, it became unwritten law that no one should be elected to the Executive Committee in his absence. The incident contributed to the submission of a draft amendment to the Statutes, adopted at the 1962 Assembly, stating that the Association is apolitical and forbids itself any political, racial or religious discrimination.

An Extraordinary General Assembly was held on March 14, 1960, with 33 members attending, to elect a new Secretary. Marcuse was chosen.

Under the moderating influence of Talbot, the passions of the previous year cooled down, and the Association gradually recovered its unity.

The Executive Committee decided to hire a television set, the predecessor of one which was bought a few years later. The set was installed in a small room neighbouring the Press Room, formerly reserved for Non-Governmental Organizations, which the UN authorities had ceded to correspondents.

The Committee instructed Allemand to approach the Geneva authorities with a request that Association members might benefit from a tax reduction similar to those accorded to other professional organizations. The authorities agreed that members could deduct Frs. 800.-- a year for professional expenses, to be entered in the "Autres dépenses" section of the tax form. This was subsequently increased to Frs. 1,000.-- a year, again thanks to an intervention by Allemand,

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The annual General Assembly was held on February 17, 1961, in Room VII at the Palais des Nations, with 28 of the 75 members attending. The results of the elections figure at the head of the next Chapter. The annual subscription was maintained at Frs. 15. --.

Following suggestions by the UN authorities to close the Press Room and install correspondents in an apparently less suitable location, the Committee was instructed to obtain clarifications and to negotiate for better working conditions. The Press Room in fact remained in its present location.

Main events:

Ten-Nation Disarmament Conference, March 15 to April 19 and June 7-27, 1960.

Three-Power Nuclear Test Ban Conference.
2nd UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, 1960.

President: Pierre Allemand (Agence Télégraphique Suisse)

Vice-President: Victor Lusinchi (New York Times)

Secretary: Jacques Marcuse (Agence France-Presse)

Treasurer: Nicolas Daniloff (United Press International)

Members: John Myers (Daily Telegraph),

Hans Henle (Dimitag),

Jean-Georges Danes (Oesterreichischer Rundfunk),

Mamdouh Saleh (Akhbar el Yom),

Günter Weber (Deutsche Presse-Agentur).

Allemand acted as Treasurer after Daniloff's departure, and Gerhard Leo (Allgemeiner Deutscher Nachrichtendienst) became a Committee member.

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The revision of the list of members was pursued with vigour. It became established practice that this often difficult work was carried out by the Executive Committee as a whole, not primarily by a sub-group as had sometimes been the case in the past. There could thus be no suggestion that an "Inquisition group" was operating.

The Committee refused a suggestion by the UN authorities that the Association should exchange the present Press Room for the former Cafeteria. It proposed instead that it should keep the Press Room and also have half the former Cafeteria, as the available working space for correspondents was obviously inadequate.

An informal understanding that this would be arranged was shattered in January 1962, when the UN authorities, without consulting the Committee, acted overnight to transform the former Cafeteria into a room for UN Archives which later became the offices of the UN Registry (Diplomatic Pouch). Relations with the UN authorities became extremely strained as a result of this incident; but it served, in partial compensation, to strengthen the Committee's demands that the Press Room itself should be greatly improved by the construction of more cubicles.

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The Annual General Assembly was held on March 9, 1962, in Room F-3 at the Palais des Nations, with 27 of the 68 members attending. The results of the elections figure at the head of the next Chapter. The annual subscription was maintained at Frs. 15. --.

The Statutes were amended (by 15 votes in favour, 6 against and 2 abstentions) to provide that "The Association is apolitical, and forbids itself any political, racial or religious discrimination."

Main events:

Conference on Laos, began May 16, 1961, and ended July 23, 1962. Three-Power Nuclear Test Ban Conference.

President:

Pierre Allemand (Agence Télégraphique Suisse)

Vice-President: John Myers (Daily Telegraph)

Secretary:

Ejaz Husain (Dawn)

Treasurer:

Stanislaw Patkowski (Business International)

Members:

René Passet (Agence France-Presse),

Ivan Maximowski (Tass),

Victor Lusinchi (New York Times), Günter Weber (Deutsche Presse-Agentur),

Alex Desfontaines (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation).

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The appointment of Hernando Samper as Director of the UN Information Service in Geneva opened a new era in relations between the Association and the UN authorities. For the first time, the Executive Committee could talk to an official who was at once sympathetic to its requests and prepared to support them in Geneva and New York at the highest level, thus circumventing the prevarication of intermediate officials. In what seemed an incredibly short time, plans for a complete modernization of the Press Room were drawn up, approved and carried out. Shortly before Christmas 1962, correspondents moved to a temporary Press Room on the floor below the Assembly Hall while the work was being done.

On January 11, 1963, the new Press Room, as it is at the time of writing, was inaugurated in the presence of Pier Pasquale Spinelli, Director of the UN European Office, and all those who had cooperated in the scheme. Nineteen cubicles, adequately furnished and equipped with telephones, were allocated to correspondents as well as a dozen desks in the centre of the room. In addition, a disused telephone exchange next to the Press Room was transformed into the present Briefing Room. The Television Room, also used for the Association's reference library, was redecorated.

On the initiative of Passet, an agreement was reached whereby correspondents could become members of the Groupement de Prévoyance et d'Assurance des Fonctionnaires Internationaux. This was primarily in response to financially impracticable suggestions that the Association might have its own

health or accident insurance scheme. However, few members took advantage of the arrangement with the UN insurance group.

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The Annual General Assembly was held on March 5, 1963, in Room F-3 at the Palais des Nations, with 34 of the 77 members attending. The results of the elections figure at the head of the next Chapter. The annual subscription was maintained at Frs. 15.--.

Following the generally welcomed modernization of the Press Room, the new Committee was instructed to approach the UN authorities with a view to improving facilities for radio correspondents.

Main events:

18-Nation Disarmament Conference, began March 14, 1962, and continues at the time of writing (1968-69). Conference on Laos, 1961-62.

President:

Pierre Allemand (Agence Télégraphique Suisse)

Vice-President: John Myers (Daily Telegraph)

Secretary:

René Passet (Agence France-Presse)

Treasurer:

Stanislaw Patkowski (Business International)

Members:

Robert Kroon (Time-Life),

Günter Weber (Deutsche Presse-Agentur),

Ivan Maximowski (Tass),

Alex Desfontaines (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation),

Kazuo Koda (Japanese Radio and Television NHK).

Lionel Walsh (Reuter) and Suzanne Engelson (Synthèses) became Committee members on the departure of Koda and Maximowski.

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As the result of approaches made to the PTT by the Executive Committee, great improvements were achieved in telephone and telex facilities. The installation of an automatic dialling machine in the PTT office next to the Press Room saved invaluable time for many correspondents, who previously had to wait for the operator to obtain calls through the Geneva central telephone exchange. A public telex machine, primarily for use by correspondents, was also installed.

Charles Schenk and Walter Wenk, respectively Directors of the Geneva Telephone and Telegraph District, cooperated personally in bringing about these valuable additions to communication facilities for correspondents.

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The annual General Assembly was held on March 16, 1964, in Room F-3 at the Palais des Nations, with 42 of the 84 members attending. The results of the elections figure at the head of the next Chapter. The annual subscription was maintained at Frs. 15. --.

Following expressions of widespread discontent, the Committee was instructed to approach the GATT with a view to improving its information policy.

Main events:

UN Conference on Science and Technology for the benefit of less developed areas, 1963.

18-Nation Disarmament Conference.

President:

John Myers (Daily Telegraph)

Vice-President: Jean-Georges Danes (Oesterreichischer Rundfunk)

Secretary:

Alex Desfontaines (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation)

Treasurer:

Stanislaw Patkowski (Business International)

Members:

Michel Leleu (Agence France-Presse),

Pierre Allemand (Agence Télégraphique Suisse),

Alan McGregor (The Times).

Shawki Mostafa (Middle East News Agency),

Katsusuke Nagano (Japanese Radio and Television NHK),

McGregor acted as Treasurer after Patkowski's departure and Günter Weber (Deutsche Presse-Agentur) became a Committee member.

The Executive Committee set itself two main aims: to enlarge the Press Area in the Palais des Nations and to establish regular contacts between correspondents and the UN Secretary-General on his periodic visits to Geneva.

Tentative plans were drawn up with the UN authorities to obtain more working space for correspondents as soon as the World Health Organization should leave the Palais for its new headquarters building.

Hernane Tavares de Sa. UN Under-Secretary for Public Information, wrote to Myers on October 24, 1964, on behalf of U Thant. This letter concluded: "The Secretary-General intends to maintain (this) close and fruitful contact with the accredited correspondents in Geneva on the occasion of each one of his visits and will endeavour, whenever feasible, to hold a press conference while in Geneva. However, he could not commit himself in advance to do so on every single occasion since whether significant developments have taken place since his latest press conference at Headquarters has to be taken into account, as well as practical circumstances pertaining to each visit. Within these considerations I can assure you that the Secretary-General will always give the most serious and sympathetic consideration to the request of the Geneva correspondents through the President of their Association, which he welcomes as an expression of the interest of the world press and other news media in the activities of the United Nations."

An important precedent was established on March 25, 1964, when, after an intervention by the Committee, a UN Secretary-General for the first time issued a major communiqué in Geneva instead of waiting until his return to New York. This concerned U Thant's appointment of Sakari Tuomioja as UN Mediator for Cyprus.

In April 1964, four new radio studios were completed and inaugurated in the Assembly bloc as a result of earlier representations by the Committee.

The Committee had a meeting with Eric Wyndham White, Executive Secretary of GATT, on June 4, and pressed hard for an improvement in GATT information policy. The Executive Secretary accepted most of the suggestions put to him, and there was subsequently a marked improvement in the amount of information made available to correspondents.

After long negotiations with the UN authorities, the Committee obtained consent to the stationing of a Huissier in the Press Room. He began work in January 1965. He and his successors have since rendered invaluable services to correspondents.

The Committee established contact with the APES so as to lay a foundation for any cooperative action which might be needed in the interests of foreign journalists threatened with expulsion by the Swiss authorities. Several journalists were so threatened at this time, when the Swiss authorities were trying to reduce the number of foreigners in the country, but no measures were taken against any member of the Association.

Professional entertainment reached a record level, with the Committee organizing eight working lunches and three receptions.

The annual General Assembly was held on March 15, 1965, in Room H-3 at the Palais des Nations, with 54 of the 98 members attending (membership passed the 100 mark a few days later). The results of the elections figure at the head of the next Chapter. The annual subscription was raised to Frs. 20 .-as a safeguard against generally rising costs, and the admission fee remained at Frs. 20. -- as always.

Relations with the UN authorities having greatly improved, the Association held a lunch in their honour immediately after the Assembly. Pier Pasquale Spinelli. Director of the UN European Office, and Georges Palthey,

Deputy Director, were the principal guests with other high officials and members of the Information Service. The Committee hoped that this lunch might become a traditional event after each annual Assembly, and it was thereafter repeated regularly.

Main events:

1st UN Conference on Trade and Development, 1964.
3rd UN Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy, 1964.
GATT - Kennedy Round, began May 4, 1964, ended June 30, 1967.
18-Nation Disarmament Conference.

1965 - 1966

President:

John Myers (Daily Telegraph)

Vice-President:

Jean-Georges Danes (Oesterreichischer Rundfunk)

Secretary:

Alex Desfontaines (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation)

Treasurer:

Victor Friedmann (Gazette de Lausanne)

Members:

Gueorgui Dragounov (Tass),

Laurent Mossu (Figaro),

Pierre Allemand (Agence Télégraphique Suisse),

Dorian Falk (Associated Press),

Yves Franck (Le Soir).

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Relations between the Executive Committee and the UN authorities continued to develop on the favourable basis of the last three years when Jan-Gunnar Lindstrom succeeded Samper as Director of the Information Service in May 1965.

U Thant gave a formal Press Conference in the Palais des Nations on July 7, 1965. Myers made a statement on behalf of the Association in which he said: ".... Our Association was founded 16 years ago and it now numbers well over a hundred members, starting from a membership of 30. This in turn, I think, reflects the growing interest and importance of the work being done by the international organizations in Geneva. It is sometimes said, Sir, that officials at United Nations Headquarters in New York regard their colleagues in Geneva rather as poor relations. This is perhaps less true today than it was a few years ago. But I would like to say that correspondents in Geneva do not in any way regard themselves as poor relations in regard to their colleagues in New York. We regard ourselves as members of the same family with fully equal rights, entitled to equal treatment in all respects, with due regard to several special factors prevailing in Geneva and not to be found in New York. It is now, Sir, more than two years since you gave a formal press conference in Geneva, and I would, with great respect, express the hope of our Association that the interval between this press conference and the next one will not be so long ...".

U Thant replied: "Well, Mr. Myers, first of all, I must say that I am in entire agreement with your observations of the need for more frequent contacts between me and the Press here. I shall certainly see to it that our meetings will be more frequent than in the past." Both statements were recorded by the UN Information Service in a Note to Correspondents (Note No. 12) issued the same day.

At a Press Conference on March 26, 1965, the Geneva Cantonal authorities agreed to call the Association and the APES into consultation with the FIPOI (a planning and financing body set up in conjunction with the Federal authorities) concerning a project for a new Conference and Press Centre to be completed by 1970 at the earliest. A consultation was held on October 7. Members of the Committee expressed their views, and a written summary of these was afterwards sent to the FIPOI.

On October 27, the constantly troublesome question of parking facilities for correspondents working at the Palais des Nations came to a sudden head. Press photographers and television cameramen were refused entry into the Inner Courtyard when they arrived with heavy equipment to film a ceremony organized by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The Committee made a series of strong démarches to the UN authorities, at the highest level, to impress upon them that something must be done to avoid serious trouble.

The result was a decision to create a special Press car park with 44 places outside Door 23. This was opened at the beginning of 1966, together with a specially constructed corridor of access through the Registry, which became part of the enlarged Press Area later in the year.

A formal assurance that the Registry would be made available was received from the UN authorities on January 20, 1966, following intermittent negotiations over a long period. The Committee promptly made known its basic requirements for equipment as outlined in earlier plans, also the need for more offices. A circular was sent to members of the Association, asking them to express their preferences as to places of work when the enlarged area became available.

The Committee decided on February 21, 1966 that it would be appropriate for the Association to offer a souvenir-present to members leaving after at least three years, or to anyone who had rendered eminent services to the Association. A stock of 50 paper-knives, bearing the title of the Association engraved on the handle in English and French, was bought for this purpose.

It was again a record year for professionnal entertainment, with the organization of nine working lunches and two receptions.

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The annual General Assembly was held on February 28, 1966 in Room H-3 at the Palais des Nations, with 60 of the 111 members attending. The results of the elections figure at the head of the next Chapter. The annual subscription was maintained at Frs. 20.--

The Assembly approved a motion that the Treasurer's report should be circulated to members at least 15 days before the annual Assembly. The report this year, as in previous years, was circulated only at the opening of the Assembly. In addition, the Committee and the Auditor had not had adequate time to examine it beforehand.

Main events: 18-Nation Disarmament Conference. GATT - Kennedy Round.

President: Jean-Georges Danes (Oesterreichischer Rundfunk)

Vice-President: Laurent Mossu (Figaro)

Secretary: Alex Desfontaines (Canadian Broadcasting

Corporation)

Treasurer: Victor Friedmann (Gazette de Lausanne)

Members: Gueorgui Dragounov (Tass),

Robert Kroon (Time-Life), Dorian Falk (Associated Press),

José Berrueta (Keystone),

Shawki Mostafa (Middle East News Agency).

Yves Franck (Le Soir) and Günter Weber (Deutsche Presse-Agentur) became Committee members on the departure of Mostafa and Berrueta.

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The Executive Committee successfully finalized arrangements for the enlarged Press Area which became available. The former Registry, already traversed by the corridor to the new Press car park outside Door 23, was divided in two main parts. The larger part became Press Room No. 2 (the original one being No. 1) and the rest, next to the Press Wireless office, a new office for Associated Press. In addition, a smaller remaining area with no windows became Press Room No. 3, providing reserve space for visiting correspondents or other temporary use. Reuter and United Press International, which, with Associated Press, had occupied three offices opposite the Post Office, moved into a new row of Press offices. The New York Times also gave up an office to move into this row, while other newspapers and agencies retained their old offices.

The final result was the installation of three Press Rooms instead of one, and of 11 Press offices instead of seven. In Press Rooms Nos. 1 and 2 and in the offices, some 65 correspondents had their own desk, telephone, typewriter and other equipment installed at the expense of the United Nations. With a minimum of friction, the Committee completed the delicate task of allocating offices and desks to general satisfaction, and also the heavy work of looking after the almost innumerable minor requirements of individual correspondents.

In April 1966, the Committee began talks with the World Health Organization, on the same lines as those conducted earlier with the GATT, with a view to obtaining improvements in its information policy. This action culminated in September at a meeting with Dr. Marcolino Candau, WHO Director General, who accepted all the Committee's requests. There was subsequently a marked improvement in the quantity of information made available to correspondents.

Despite earlier assurances, there were still difficulties in obtaining adequate contact between correspondents and the UN Secretary-General on his periodic visits to Geneva. Danes and Mossu had an interview with U Thant on July 6, 1966. This resulted in a Memorandum of "common agreement" dated July 13, 1966. The decisions were:

- "1) The UN Secretary-General will make a statement to the Press at the airport on the occasion of each of his arrivals in Geneva.
- 2) An official Press Conference will be held at least once a year in Geneva by the Secretary-General.
- 3) When an official Press Conference is scheduled during a visit by the Secretary-General, no exchange of questions and answers at the airport will be provided for.
- 4) The UN Secretary-General will make a statement to the Press at the airport on the occasion of each of his departures from Geneva.

The Information Service of the European Office of the United Nations in Geneva is charged with the organization and preparation of these various contacts between the UN Secretary-General and the Press, both at the airport and at the Palais des Nations."

During this year, the UN Information Service began its practice of holding a weekly briefing on Friday mornings, attended also by Press officers of the UN Specialized Agencies and other related organs. These briefings have been useful in providing a preview of forthcoming events and a forum for questions on a wide variety of subjects.

After two years of complex negotiations conducted by Danes, the International Air Transport Association refused a request that its member-airlines should grant reduced fares to correspondents belonging to the Associations in Geneva and New York when travelling to cover UN activities, Only two airlines were opposed, but the request was refused because IATA decisions require unanimity. By agreement, the Geneva Association had negotiated also on behalf of the one in New York.

On February 9,1967, a special communication approved by eight members of the Committee informed the Association that the Committee had been unable to obtain annual accounts from the Treasurer for circulation 15 days in advance of the General Assembly. A circular from the Auditor, Erich Reyhl (National-Zeitung), informed members that there was "confusion" in the accounts because the figures did not tally with those presented at the 1966 Assembly. Receipts and expenditure were in order, but it was not possible to establish a definite balance-sheet. At no time was the Treasurer's honesty questioned.

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The annual General Assembly was held on February 27, 1967, in Room III at the Palais des Nations, with 63 of the 116 members attending. The results of the elections figure at the head of the next Chapter. The annual subscription was maintained at Frs. 20.--.

Failing a written report from the Treasurer, and owing to lack of clarity in his verbal explanations, the rest of the Committee and the Auditor tabled a report of their own on the financial situation. This said they had established "with certainty" that the Association's capital, not counting petty cash, amounted to Frs. 17,880.01. It indicated that an error by the Bank, now corrected, had been reflected in the accounts for 1965-1966. Regarding petty cash, however, unclear book-keeping made it impossible to establish either the Treasurer's claim that the Association owed him Frs. 202.40 or the Committee's calculation that there should be Frs. 324.76 in hand. The Committee therefore considered that "it would be reasonable to liquidate this affair by drawing a line under the old accounts" and by beginning the 1967-1968 accounts on the basis of a capital of Frs. 17.880.01 The Assembly agreed, with two abstentions.

Five amendments to the Statutes were approved unanimously, with the following effect. Veteran members whose professional activities are reduced, for reasons of age or health, were given the full right to remain in the Association. The Committee was given the possibility to grant a suspension of membership, for a maximum of six months, in case of temporary change in a member's professional situation. Annual subscriptions must be paid before the annual General Assembly, and a member in arrears would lose the right to vote.

The Committee was empowered, in case a member of the Bureau resigns or is temporarily unable to carry out his functions, to appoint one of its members to fill the post on an interim basis until the next annual Assembly; the Committee could convene an Extraordinary General Assembly if it deemed this necessary.

Main events: 18-Nation Disarmament Conference, GATT - Kennedy Round.

President:

Jean-Georges Danes (Oesterreichischer Rundfunk)

Vice-President: Laurent Mossu (Figaro)

Secretary:

Alex Desfontaines (Canadian Broadcasting

Corporation)

Treasurer:

Dorian Falk (Associated Press)

Members:

Gueorgui Dragounov (Tass),

Jean-François Gaulis (Agence France-Presse),

Yves Franck (Le Soir), Max Vaterlaus (Keystone), Robert Kroon (Time-Life).

Janos Lengyel (Correio da Manha) became a Committee member on the departure of Gaulis.

The Executive Committee's principal achievement during the year was to impress upon the International Committee of the Red Cross that its information policy should be greatly improved, both in its own interests and in those of correspondents. At a meeting on February 5, 1968, the Committee expounded its views in detail to Roger Gallopin, ICRC Executive Director. Gallopin concluded that the Committee's requests for more and faster information, distributed on a basis of equality for all correspondents, were well founded. He undertook to do the maximum possible to rectify matters. It was also agreed that the ICRC would hold a general press conference every month, and the first one took place on February 26, 1968.

Talks were also held with the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), resulting in agreement to improve information on subjects of general and political interest, as distinct from scientific and technical information of primary interest to highly specialized correspondents.

U Thant was guest of honour at a luncheon given by the Association on April 5, 1967. Although several receptions had been given over the years, this was the first time that a UN Secretary-General had been a luncheon guest of the Association since Trygve Lie on March 10, 1949 - the very first luncheon organized.

Replying to introductory remarks by Danes, U Thant said: "As you have rightly pointed out, Mr. President, it is very necessary to establish a close relationship between the Press Corps and the United Nations Office, wherever it may be situated... You have also rightly pointed out that I should establish a tradition of giving a formal Press conference in Geneva at least once a year... I am not saying you should give me a luncheon every time I come here but I shall be glad to have more contacts with you, as I believe very strongly that closer contacts between the United Nations Secretariat and the Correspondents' Association will make for better understanding, because I am a believer in greater contacts, greater exposure and greater communication. This applies equally to international relations." These remarks were reproduced by the UN Information Service in Geneva in Press Release SG/SM/47 on April 5, 1967.

On January 26, 1968, the Committee learned that U Thant did not intend to meet with the Geneva UN correspondents during a planned stop-over in Geneva on February 3-4 on his way to the UNCTAD II Conference in New Delhi. It authorized a letter to Jan-Gunnar Lindstrom, Director of the UN Information Service in Geneva, in which Danes wrote: "We must consider this decision as a breach of our agreement with the Secretary-General of 13 July, 1966. I would be most grateful if you would inform the Secretary-General of our deep disappointment. We cannot insist on a statement by the Secretary-General if it is not his intention to make one. We can insist, however, that the Secretary-General should meet with the Geneva correspondents at least briefly at the airport on his arrival in Geneva, in accordance with our standing agreement."

It was not known if this communication ever reached U Thant, as his journey was almost simultaneously postponed until February 7-8, but the Information Service in Geneva certainly made known in New York the strong views of the Association on the principle of regular meetings with the Secretary-General. Danes and Mossu went to the airport and tried in vain to persuade him to change his mind about meeting the Geneva correspondents. They and other correspondents who had gone to meet the Secretary-General were subsequently escorted off the tarmac by the airport police, but U Thant was in no way responsible for this unpleasant incident. The same day, February 7, Danes gave a letter to the Secretary-General in almost exactly the same terms as the one sent to Lindstrom on January 26.

U Thant did not reply. After his departure, Danes and Mossu expressed the Association's disappointment verbally to Pier Pasquale Spinelli, Director of the UN Office at Geneva, and Robert Kenney, deputizing for Lindstrom. They repeated very firmly, as so many officers of the Committee had done over the years, that the Geneva Association must be put on the same footing as the Association in New York. They also requested that the Secretary-General should respect the principles in the Memorandum of July 13, 1966, to which he had declared his agreement.

Danes said later in his annual report - unanimously approved - at the Assembly: "We were, and we remain, convinced of having acted in the common interest of all our members." Nothing more was heard of this incident. But, on the occasion of his next visit to Geneva on April 5-7, 1968, U Thant met correspondents at the airport on his arrival and departure and made important statements about the Vietnam situation. He gave a formal Press Conference on July 10, and it appeared that mutual understanding had been restored.

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The annual General Assembly was held on March 4, 1968, in Room IX at the Palais des Nations, with 69 of the 120 members attending. The results of the elections figure at the head of the next Chapter. The annual subscription was maintained at Frs. 20.--

In order to formalize the practice of many years, although it had never been challenged, the Committee asked the Assembly to authorize it to act in individual cases to help members temporarily in financial difficulties. This authority was accorded without dissent.

The Assembly agreed that the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Association should be marked in 1969. After a long discussion, notably between those for and against holding a ball, the Assembly approved the following amended version of a proposal submitted by the Committee:

"On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the General Assembly decides that a gala dinner, possibly followed by a ball, will be organized on or about Friday, February 7, 1969, to mark the 20th anniversary of the Association. The Association will invite as guests of honour representatives of the United Nations, of the Specialized Agencies and of the Swiss and Genevese authorities, as well as other personalities who have rendered eminent services to the Association. To this end, the Assembly decides to entrust the preparations to a working group composed of former Presidents of the Association and other members designated by the Executive Committee, to which it will report in view of an Extraordinary General Assembly to approve the definite programme. The Assembly further decides that Victor Lusinchi, Founder

President of the Association, will preside over the gala dinner with, at his side, the President in office."

Pierre Allemand, who had retired from the Agence Télégraphique Suisse, was acclaimed an Honorary Member.

Main events:

18-Nation Disarmament Conference.

GATT - Kennedy Round, ended June 30, 1967.

President: Laurent Mossu (Figaro)

Vice-President: Gueorgui Dragounov (Tass)

Secretary: Alex Desfontaines (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation)

Treasurer: Janos Lengyel (Correio da Manha)

Members: Serge Smirnoff (Agence Télégraphique Suisse),

Max Vaterlaus (Keystone), Shinichi Shimoda (Kyodo),

Leonard Kirschen (AP-Dow Jones),

Yves Franck (Le Soir)

The United Nations Secretary-General, U Thant, sent the following message for the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Association.

"It is indeed a pleasure for me to send a word of greeting on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Geneva Association of United Nations Correspondents. From a modest beginning, your Association during these two decades has grown both in membership and importance. This reflects the parallel growth of international and intergovernmental organizations in Switzerland and in their choice of Geneva as a meeting place for the consideration of an ever-increasing range of problems, many of which are of vital concern for mankind as a whole.

"As professional journalists representing the various media, your interpretation and reporting of these events provides the link for an informed public opinion so important for their success. It is in this context that I congratulate you as members of the Association for your past endeavours, and pledge the continued goodwill and support of the United Nations for your future work."

U Thant also made known, in response to approaches by the Executive Committee, that he would be pleased to attend the 20th anniversary gala dinner if it were postponed from February until May 1, when he would come specially to Geneva during a planned visit to Europe.

The report of the working group set up to make preparations for the anniversary celebrations, duly approved by the Committee, was submitted to an Extraordinary General Assembly held on January 15, 1969, and adopted in its broad lines.

It was agreed that the dinner, to be followed by a ball, would be held on May 1 at the Restaurant du Parc des Eaux-Vives. The dinner would be preceded, on April 25, by a reception for all those whom the Association was financially unable to invite to the dinner. The working group was confirmed in its functions to continue its heavy task of completing the arrangements in detail.

An account of the 20th anniversary celebrations themselves, and of other events in the life of the Association during 1968-1969, must await the time when this chronicle is continued. By decision of the Executive Committee, this volume was completed in time for publication by the anniversary date - February 9, 1969.

ANNEXE I

SEANCE DU CONSEIL FEDERAL SUISSE

Extrait du Procès-Verbal

Vendredi 1er juillet 1955

Association internationale des Journalistes accrédités auprès de la Société des Nations

Département de justice et police. Proposition du 26 avril 1955 (Annexe).

Département politique. Rapport joint du 27 juin 1955 (Remarques et adhésion).

Département des finances et des douanes. Rapport joint du 3 mai 1955 (adhésion).

Le Conseil

décide:

La fortune de l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès de la Société des Nations est dévolue à la Confédération en application de l'art. 57 CCS. Est ratifié l'accord entre l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à New York et l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à Genève concernant le partage par moitié de la fortune de l'Association internationale des Journalistes accrédités auprès de la Société des Nations.

A Me. Paul Carry, à Genève, par extrait du procès-verbal.

Extrait du procès-verbal à la Chambre des tutelles de Genève et au Département de justice et police (division de justice, 2 expl.), au Département politique et au Département des finances et des douanes.

Pour extrait conforme:

Le Secrétaire,

(signé)

T. Weber

ANNEXE II

Memorandum of Agreement made this 25th day of August 1955 (note: signature in Geneva followed on 16th day of September) between the SECRETARY-GENERAL of the United Nations, and the UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION in New York and the GENEVA ASSOCIATION OF UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENTS.

WHEREAS at the initiative of the President of the eleventh Assembly of the League of Nations, an International Press House Fund for the purposes of creating a social center for accredited correspondents was established by contributions deposited with the treasurer of the League of Nations for the account of the Association internationale des Journalistes accrédités auprès de la Société des Nations:

WHEREAS by Protocol dated 11 April 1947 between Mr. Sean Lester, the Secretary-General of the League of Nations, and Mr. Wlodzimierz Moderow, Director of the European Office of the United Nations representing the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the custody of the funds comprising the International Press House Fund (hereinafter referred to as "the Fund") was transferred from the Secretary-General of the League of Nations to the Secretary-General of the United Nations;

WHEREAS the Association internationale des Journalistes accrédités auprès de la Société des Nations has ceased to function and the Curator appointed by the competent Swiss authorities to represent the interests of this association has proposed that the assets of the Association be divided, in equal parts, between the United Nations Correspondents Association in New York and the Geneva Association of United Nations Correspondents, in accordance with an agreement reached between the two last-mentioned associations (Annex I to the present Agreement);

WHEREAS the Swiss Federal Council on 1 July 1955 approved the disposal of the assets of the Association internationale des Journalistes accrédités auprès de la Société des Nations in accordance with the proposal of the Curator of that Association and with the terms set forth in the annexed Agreement; and

WHEREAS the United Nations Correspondents Association in New York and the Geneva Association of United Nations Correspondents together represent all the correspondents accredited to the United Nations, and are therefore the appropriate institutions for carrying out the purposes for which the Fund was

established taking into account the changes in circumstances which intervened since the establishment of the Fund;

The parties hereby agree as follows:

- 1. Description of the Fund. The fund consists of 726.804 fine ounces of gold carried at a book value of \$25,340.12, held in safe custody at Lloyds & National Provincial Foreign Bank Ltd., 10 Moorgate, London, E.C. 2 and \$23.42 in cash which is being held by the Secretary-General.
- 2. Transfer of the Fund. The Secretary-General shall transfer the Fund, upon receipt of written instruction signed jointly by the Presidents of the United Nations Correspondents Association in New York and the Geneva Association of United Nations Correspondents, to an account or accounts in the name of the respective Associations with the bank or banks designated by them, provided that the Associations first reimburse the Secretary-General for any amount that may have accrued by way of safe custody charges of the Fund up to the date of actual transfer. All expenses connected with the transfer shall be paid by the United Nations Correspondents Association in New York and the Geneva Association of United Nations Correspondents, both being jointly and severally responsible for the payment of such expenses.
- 3. Title to the Fund. As a first charge against the Fund there shall be paid out of it all the expenses connected with the safe custody of the Fund and its transfer, as well as the proportionate share of expenses which the Curator was authorized to charge against the assets of the defunct Association internationale des Journalistes accrédités auprès de la Société des Nations. All ownership rights in 50% of the remaining amount of the Fund shall, subject to the provisions of the present Agreement, be vested in the United Nations Correspondents Association in New York, and all ownership rights in the other 50% shall, subject to the provisions of the present Agreement, be vested in the Geneva Association of United Nations Correspondents.
- 4. Method of expending the Fund. The Fund shall be used only for purposes corresponding to the intentions of the donors, such as the creation and upkeep of clubs or social centers for accredited correspondents, or the improvement of existing facilities serving such a purpose. In accordance with the Agreement between the two Associations annexed hereto the Secretary-General will be consulted by either of the associations for guidance in case of doubt on whether a proposed expenditure falls within these purposes. The

United Nations Correspondents Association in New York and the Geneva Association of United Nations Correspondents shall maintain proper records of all transactions relating to the Fund and shall transmit to the Secretary-General, upon his request, complete information relating to such transactions.

(signed) DAG HAMMARSKJOELD

The Secretary-General of the United Nations

(signed) MAX BEER

President of the United Nations Correspondents Association in New York

(signed) LYNN HEINZERLING

President of the Geneva Association of United Nations Correspondents

Translated from French

ANNEXE

PROVISIONAL AGREEMENT

between

Mr. Max BEER, President of the United Nations Correspondents Association in New York,

and

Mr. C. E. LOOSLI, President of the Geneva Association of United Nations Correspondents.

. . . .

- 1. The United Nations Correspondents Association, representing correspondents working at United Nations Headquarters, New York, and the Geneva Association of United Nations Correspondents, representing correspondents working at the European Office of the United Nations, together represent all the correspondents accredited to the United Nations. Together they form the successor body to the former Association internationale des Journalistes accrédités auprès de la Société des Nations. Together they are entitled to the funds deposited by the former Association with the treasurer of the League of Nations and transferred by him to the treasurer of the United Nations.
- 2. The two Associations undertake to use these funds in accordance with the intentions of the donors, namely for the purpose of creating press clubs and social centres or improving those already in existence.

Each Association shall be entitled to one-half of the funds.

- 3. The social centres or clubs of each Association shall be available for the use of members of the other Association.
- 4. The two Associations undertake to accept the supervision of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and of his representative at Geneva over the use of the funds.
- 5. The President of the New York Association shall be responsible for making all necessary representations on behalf of both Associations to the

United Nations Secretariat, and the President of the Geneva Association shall make all necessary representations on behalf of both Associations to the Swiss authorities and to the Curator of the former Association.

6. The agreement shall be signed and executed on behalf of both Associations by both Presidents, who shall act jointly in all questions relating to this matter.

The two Presidents or members appointed by them shall remain in close contact in the future with a view to achieving the best possible co-operation between the two Associations.

(signed) MAX BEER

New York, 22 March 1955

(signed) C. E. LOOSLI

Geneva, 19 March 1955

DECLARATION

Whereas

The Executive Committee of the United Nations Correspondents Association in New York.

and

The Executive Committee and the General Assembly of 30 March 1955 of the Geneva Association of United Nations Correspondents

have approved the provisional agreement signed by the two Presidents on 19 and 22 March 1955,

this AGREEMENT shall henceforth constitute a FINAL AGREEMENT between the two Associations.

Geneva, 30 March 1955

(signed) C. E. LOOSLI

President of the Geneva Association of United Nations Correspondents

New York, 4 April 1955

(signed) MAX BEER

President of the United Nations Correspondents Association in New York Memorandum d'accord établi le 25 août 1955 (note: signature ultérieure à Genève le 16 septembre) entre le SECRETAIRE GENERAL des Nations Unies, d'une part, et l'ASSOCIATION DES JOURNALISTES ACCREDITES AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES à New York et l'ASSOCIATION DES JOURNALISTES ACCREDITES AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES à Genève, d'autre part.

ATTENDU QUE, sur l'initiative du Président de la Onzième Assemblée de la Société des Nations, un Fonds de la Maison internationale de la Presse, destiné à permettre la création d'un foyer pour les journalistes accrédités, a été constitué par des contributions déposées entre les mains du Trésorier de la Société des Nations pour le compte de l'Association internationale des Journalistes accrédités auprès de la Société des Nations;

ATTENDU QUE, en vertu du Protocole signé le 11 avril 1947 par M. Sean Lester, Secrétaire général de la Société des Nations, et M. Wlodzimierz Moderow, Directeur du Bureau des Nations Unies à Genève représentant le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies, la garde des avoirs constituant le Fonds de la Maison internationale de la Presse (appelé ci-après "le Fonds") a été transférée des mains du Secrétaire général de la Société des Nations à celles du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies;

ATTENDU QUE l'Association internationale des Journalistes accrédités auprès de la Société des Nations a cessé ses activités et que le Curateur désigné par les autorités suisses compétentes pour gérer les biens de cette Association a proposé que la fortune de l'Association soit partagée par moitié entre l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à New York et l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à Genève, conformément à un accord conclu entre ces deux dernières Associations (Annexe I du présent Accord);

ATTENDU QUE le Conseil fédéral suisse a, le 1er juillet 1955, approuvé que la fortune de l'Association internationale des Journalistes accrédités auprès de la Société des Nations soit dévolue conformément à la proposition du Curateur de cette Association et aux dispositions de l'Accord joint en annexe; et

ATTENDU QUE l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à New York et l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à Genève constituent ensemble la représentation totale des correspondants accrédités auprès des Nations Unies et sont donc les institutions aptes à réaliser les fins pour lesquelles le Fonds a été créé, compte tenu de l'évolution de la situation depuis la création du Fonds.

Les Parties sont convenues de ce qui suit:

- 1. Description du Fonds. Le Fonds se compose de 726,804 onces d'or fin, d'une valeur comptable de 25.340,12 dollars des Etats-Unis, qui se trouvent en dépôt à la Lloyds and National Provincial Foreign Bank, Ltd., 10 Moorgate, London, E.C. 2, et de 23,42 dollars des Etats Unis en espèces qui se trouvent entre les mains du Secrétaire général.
- 2. Transfert du Fonds. Le Secrétaire général, à réception d'instructions écrites signées par le Président de l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à New York et par le Président de l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à Genève, transférera le montant du Fonds à un compte ouvert au nom des Associations, ou à des comptes ouverts à leurs noms respectifs, à la banque ou aux banques qu'elles désigneront, sous réserve que les Associations remboursent d'abord au Secrétaire général les frais de garde dûs à la date du transfert effectif. Tous les frais de transfert seront à la charge de l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à New York et de l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à Genève, les deux Associations étant conjointement et solidairement responsables.
- 3. Propriété du Fonds. Il sera prélevé sur les avoirs du Fonds, à titre de créance privilégiée, la somme nécessaire au règlement de tous les frais de garde et de transfert, ainsi que les montants proportionnels des dépenses que le Curateur a été autorisé à imputer sur l'actif de l'ancienne Association internationale des Journalistes accrédités auprès de la Société des Nations. La propriété pleine et entière de 50 pour 100 des avoirs restants du Fonds sera, sous réserve des dispositions du présent Accord, dévolue à l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à New York et la propriété pleine et entière des autres 50 pour 100 sera, sous réserve des dispositions du présent Accord, dévolue à l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à Genève.
- 4. Modalités d'utilisation du Fonds. Les avoirs du Fonds ne seront utilisés qu'à des fins correspondant aux intentions des donateurs, telles que la création et l'entretien de clubs ou de foyers pour les journalistes accrédités, ou l'amélioration des installations existantes qui servent à cette fin. Conformément à l'accord passé entre les deux Associations et reproduit en annexe, l'une ou l'autre des Associations consultera le Secrétaire général, en cas de doute, pour savoir si telle ou telle dépense envisagée répond aux fins indiquées ci-dessus.

L'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à New York et l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à Genève tiendront dûment régistre de toutes les transactions relatives au Fonds et communiqueront au Secrétaire général, sur sa demande, des renseignements complets touchant ces transactions.

(signé) DAG HAMMARSKJOELD Secrétaire général des Nations Unies

(signé) MAX BEER

Président de l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à New York

(signé) LYNN HEINZERLING

Président de l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à Genève

ANNEXE

ACCORD PROVISOIRE

entre

Monsieur Max BEER, Président de l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à New York,

e

Monsieur C. E. LOOSLI, Président de l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à Genève.

* * * *

- I.- L'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies, représentant les journalistes travaillant au siège des Nations Unies à New York, et l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à Genève, représentant les journalistes travaillant à l'Office Européen des Nations Unies, constituent ensemble la représentation totale des correspondants accrédités auprès des Nations Unies. Ensemble ils sont le successeur de l'ancienne Association internationale des Journalistes accrédités auprès de la SDN. Ensemble ils ont droit à la somme déposée par l'ancienne Association entre les mains du trésorier de la SDN et transférée par celui-ci au trésorier des Nations Unies.
- II. Les deux Associations s'engagent à employer cette somme dans l'esprit des donateurs, c'est-à-dire pour faciliter la création de clubs ou de foyers de presse ou pour améliorer ceux existant déjà.

Chacune des deux Associations aura droit à la moitié de la somme.

- III. Les foyers ou clubs de chaque Association seront accessibles aux membres de l'autre Association.
- IV. Les deux Associations s'engagent à accepter, en ce qui concerne l'emploi des fonds, un contrôle à exercer par le Secrétaire général des Nations Unies et par son représentant à Genève.
- V.- Le Président de l'Association de New York est chargé de faire, au nom des deux Associations, toutes les démarches nécessaires auprès du Secrétariat des Nations Unies, et le Président de l'Association de Genève fera au nom des deux Associations toutes les démarches nécessaires auprès des autorités suisses et du Curateur de l'ancienne Association.

VI. - L'accord sera signé et exécuté au nom des deux Associations par les deux Présidents agissant conjointement dans toutes les questions concernant cette affaire.

Les deux Présidents ou des membres nommés par eux resteront en contact étroit dans l'avenir, afin d'assurer la meilleure collaboration possible entre les deux Associations.

New York, le 22 mars 1955

(signé) MAX BEER

Genève, le 19 mars 1955

(signé) C. E. LOOSLI

GENEVA ASSOCIATION OF UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION DES CORRESPONDANTS AUPRES DES NATIONS UNIES A GENEVE

DECLARATION

Le Comité exécutif de l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à New York

et

Le Comité exécutif ainsi que l'Assemblée générale du 30 mars 1955 de l'Association des Correspondants accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à Genève

l'accord provisoire signé par les deux Présidents, les 19 et 22 mars 1955

cet ACCORD constitue désormais un ACCORD DEFINITIF entre les deux Associations.

Genève, le 30 mars 1955

(signé) C. E. LOOSLI

Président de l'Association des Correspondants accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à Genève

New York, le 4 avril 1955

(signé) MAX BEER

Président de l'Association des Journalistes accrédités auprès des Nations Unies à New York

* * * *

ANNEXE III

STATUTS

TITRE PREMIER

GENERALITES

ARTICLE 1.

L'Association des correspondants auprès des Nations Unies à Genève est une association sans but lucratif, régie par les articles 60 et suivants du Code civil suisse, jouissant pleinement de la personnalité juridique.

ARTICLE 2.

L'Association a son siège à Genève. Elle est constituée pour un temps indéterminé. Ses organes sont l'Assemblée générale et le Comité exécutif.

ARTICLE 3.

L'Association a pour but de défendre les intérêts professionnels de ses membres et d'entreprendre toutes les démarches utiles à l'activité de ses membres auprès des Nations Unies.

L'Association est apolitique et s'interdit toute discrimination politique, raciale ou religieuse.

ARTICLE 4.

L'Association tire ses ressources des cotisations et des taxes d'admission payées par ses membres, de tous dons, legs ou subventions qui pourraient lui échoir ainsi que des intérêts et des revenus de tous ses avoirs.

Les biens qui lui seraient confiés à titre fiduciaire doivent être gérés conformément à l'acte de donation ou à tout autre acte analogue à l'origine de la dévolution fiduciaire.

TITRE DEUXIEME

MEMBRES

ARTICLE 5.

L'Association se compose de membres actifs et de membres d'honneur.

ARTICLE 6.

Peuvent être admises comme membres actifs seules des personnes physiques ayant la qualité de correspondant ou de photographe accrédité auprès des Nations Unies à Genève par une agence d'information, un journal, un périodique ou une organisation de radio ou de télévision et qui tirent de l'exercice de leur activité journalistique la majeure partie de leurs revenus.

En outre, les membres actifs doivent exercer une partie substantielle de leur activité journalistique dans le cadre des Nations Unies à Genève. Les membres dont l'ordre d'ancienneté est reconnu et dont l'activité professionnelle est réduite en raison de leur âge ou de leur état de santé, ont la faculté de demeurer, de plein droit au sein de l'Association. Chaque année, le Comité doit procéder à la vérification de la liste des sociétaires. Il doit notamment examiner si la situation de chaque membre correspond toujours aux conditions prévues ci-dessus.

ARTICLE 7.

Le titre de membre d'honneur peut être décerné par l'Assemblée à des personnalités ayant rendu d'éminents services à l'Association.

ARTICLE 8.

Le candidat demande son admission à l'Association par une requête écrite adressée au secrétaire, qui vérifie les titres professionnels du candidat et fait rapport au Comité.

Le Comité communiquera par circulaire à tous les membres, le nom de chaque candidat qu'il aura retenu. S'il n'y a pas d'opposition dans les quinze jours, le candidat sera admis automatiquement.

Tout membre de l'Association peut s'opposer à l'admission d'un candidat par une lettre motivée adressée dans les quinze jours au Comité. Après examen des motifs qui ont inspiré l'opposition, le Comité a la faculté soit d'accepter soit de refuser la candidature.

Le candidat peut recourir auprès de l'Assemblée générale ordinaire contre une décision du Comité refusant son admission. Ce recours doit être fait sous la forme d'une lettre adressée au Comité dans les quinze jours suivant la réception de la décision du Comité.

Les membres de l'Association peuvent recourir auprès de l'Assemblée générale ordinaire contre une décision du Comité concernant l'admission du candidat, sous la forme d'une lettre adressée dans le même délai au Comité et signée au moins par cinq membres.

ARTICLE 9.

- 1) Un membre qui cesse d'être accrédité auprès des Nations Unies à Genève perd automatiquement sa qualité de membre de l'Association, sauf décision contraire du Comité.
- 2) Un membre peut démissionner de l'Association par simple lettre adressée au Secrétaire. Le Comité peut accorder aux membres qui en font la demande expresse une suspension de 6 mois au maximum lors de changements temporaires intervenant dans leur situation professionnelle.
- 3) Le Comité peut prononcer l'exclusion de tout membre qui:
 - a) ne serait pas en règle avec la trésorerie;
 - b) ne tire plus de son activité journalistique la majeure partie de ses revenus;
 - c) se serait rendu coupable d'une activité incompatible avec l'honneur de la profession; ou
 - d) n'exercerait plus une partie substantielle de son activité journalistique dans le cadre des Nations Unies à Genève.
- 4) L'expulsion peut intervenir sur simple décision du Comité ou à la suite d'une demande présentée par cinq membres au moins, si les motifs invoqués paraissent justifiés au Comité.
- 5) Le membre expulsé ou les cinq membres qui ont requis une expulsion peuvent recourir à l'Assemblée générale contre la décision du Comité par une lettre adressée à celui-ci dans les quinze jours qui suivent la réception de la décision.
- 6) Le membre visé aura le droit de se défendre devant le Comité et devant l'Assemblée.

ARTICLE 10.

Tout nouveau membre actif, sauf celui qui succède à son collègue du même organe d'information, est soumis au paiement d'une taxe d'admission. Les membres actifs sont soumis au paiement d'une cotisation annuelle à verser avant l'Assemblée générale ordinaire.

Tout nouveau membre admis dans les trois derniers mois de l'année ne paie la cotisation qu'à partir de l'année suivante.

Les montants de la taxe d'admission et de la cotisation annuelle sont fixés par l'Assemblée générale ordinaire pour l'année suivante.

Un membre d'honneur n'encourt aucune obligation financière.

TITRE TROISIEME

ORGANES DE L'ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE 11.

L'Assemblée générale est le pouvoir suprême de l'Association. Elle est composée de tous les membres actifs de l'Association.

ARTICLE 12.

L'Assemblée générale ne peut en aucun cas déléguer à un autre organe de l'Association les compétences suivantes, qui lui sont exclusivement réservées:

- a) élection du Comité et du vérificateur des comptes;
- b) contrôle de la gestion du Comité et décharge à celui-ci
- c) décisions sur recours, prévus par les statuts, contre une décision du Comité;
- d) contrôle des comptes de l'Association et décharge au trésorier et au vérificateur;
- e) fixation de la taxe d'admission et de la cotisation annuelle;
- f) amendement ou interprétation des statuts;
- g) dissolution volontaire de l'Association.

ARTICLE 13.

Le Comité convoque une Assemblée générale ordinaire au cours des trois premiers mois de chaque année et en fixe l'ordre du jour. Les membres sont convoqués personnellement par circulaire, au moins quinze jours à l'avance. Leurs propositions écrites doivent parvenir au Comité au plus tard dix jours avant l'Assemblée.

ARTICLE 14.

Toute proposition d'amendement ou de modification des statuts doit être communiquée aux membres par circulaire au moins sept jours avant une Assemblée.

ARTICLE 15.

Une Assemblée générale extraordinaire peut être convoquée chaque fois que le Comité le jugera nécessaire, ou à la demande écrite d'un cinquième des membres actifs.

Toutefois, pour les questions affectant la structure, les avoirs ou l'existence de l'Association, un délai minimum de quinze jours est nécessaire après la convocation.

ARTICLE 16.

Pour délibérer valablement, l'Assemblée générale ordinaire ou extraordinaire doit réunir au moins un tiers des membres. Si ce quorum n'est pas atteint, le Comité peut fixer, le même jour ou à une autre date, une nouvelle Assemblée qui pourra délibérer valablement sur le même ordre du jour quel que soit le nombre des membres présents.

Toutefois, dans les cas prévus à l'article 15, 2ème paragraphe, un nouveau délai de quinze jours est requis.

ARTICLE 17.

En principe, l'Assemblée vote à main levée; si le quart des membres présents en fait la demande, l'Assemblée vote au scrutin secret. Les élections se font au scrutin secret.

Un membre en retard dans le paiement de sa cotisation perd le droit de vote.

Les décisions de l'Assemblée sont prises à la majorité simple des membres présents et votants, sauf dans le cas prévu à l'article 22.

ARTICLE 18.

Les affaires courantes de l'Association sont expédiées par un Comité exécutif de neuf membres, comprenant un président, un vice-président, un secrétaire, un trésorier (formant le Bureau de l'Association) et cinq autres membres.

Pour délibérer valablement, le Comité doit réunir au moins cinq de ses membres.

ARTICLE 19.

Les membres du Comité sont élus pour une année par l'Assemblée générale ordinaire et sont rééligibles.

Les quatre membres du Bureau sont élus successivement et les cinq autres sur un seul bulletin de vote. En cas d'égalité de voix, l'Assemblée procède à un nouveau scrutin.

Il ne peutêtre désigné pour le Comité plus de deux correspondants représentant des organes d'information d'un même pays, ni plus d'un correspondant par journal ou agence. Les bulletins ne remplissant pas ces conditions seront annulés.

A chaque démission d'un membre du Comité, en cours d'exercice, le candidat ayant obtenu le plus de voix parmi les viennent-ensuite devient automatiquement membre du Comité jusqu'à l'Assemblée générale suivante.

En cas de démission ou d'empêchement temporaire d'un membre du Bureau, le Comité charge un de ses membres d'assurer l'intérim jusqu'à la prochaine assemblée et, s'il le juge nécessaire, convoque une assemblée générale extraordinaire.

ARTICLE 20.

Sur la recommandation du Comité exécutif, l'Assemblée élit chaque année un vérificateur des comptes.

ARTICLE 21.

L'Association est valablement représentée et engagée par la signature collective du président ou, en son absence, du vice-président et d'un autre membre du Bureau.

ARTICLE 22.

La dissolution de l'Association ne pourra être prononcée que par une Assemblée générale convoquée spécialement à cet effet et à laquelle toute décision ayant trait à la dissolution de l'Association et à la disposition de ses biens doit être prise à la majorité des deux tiers des membres présents et votants.

ARTICLE FINAL.

Les présents statuts ont été adoptés par l'Assemblée générale du 22 mars 1958, remplaçant les statuts du 9 février 1949, qui ont été modifiés par les Assemblées générales des 15 mars 1954 et 6 mars 1956. Les statuts ont été modifiés ensuite par les Assemblées générales des 22 février 1960, 9 mars 1962 et 27 février 1967.

ANNEXE IV

LISTE DES MEMBRES

Janvier 1969

MEMBRES D'HONNEUR

Michael HOFFMAN (1957)

Washington D.C.

Carl LOOSLI (1959) René GERARD (1960) Genève Liège

Pierre ALLEMAND (1968)

Genève

MEMBRES ACTIFS

AHOOJA-PATEL Krishna Mme

India Press Agency; Economic Times,

Bombay: National Herald.

ALDAG Eric

Photos-Interpresse, Genève.

ANTHAL Jussi

Expressen, Stockholm.

ANTON Klaus ARRIGONI Philippe-Claude A. D. N.: Neues Deutschland. Photopress: Associated Press.

ATKINS Geoffrey

Associated Press, New York.

BEGUIN Bernard

Journal de Genève.

BERING Klaus

Deutsche Presse-Agentur.

BERTRAND Freddy

Editions Nuits et Jours, Paris: France-Soir;

Hemmets Veckotidning, Malmo; Tribune

de Genève.

BLONDEL Gilbert

Actualités Suisses (A.S.L.); Europanews,

Genève.

BONADA Marie Delphine Mlle

L'Unità, Milan-Rome.

BOROWIEC Andrew

The Washington Star.

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KUPERMAN Hector KURANDA Hugo LELEU Michel LENGYEL Janos

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MASSELOT Thierry McGREGOR Alan MORINAGA Kyoichi MOSSU Laurent

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NAEF André

KAYSER Peter KELLER Paul KIRSCHEN Leonard KORJEV Eugueni KROON Robert L.

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