



rom page 3.

I agreed to act as chairman of that (trust) and we started publishing three papers in the three different languages of the country. They turned out to be a great success, particularly financially. They turned out to ticularly financially.

They are run on a very simple formula — publising all the news the government wants

So far they have managed to carry on, though I don't know how permanent this structure is. By its very nature it has an element of fragility about it. It is something in the nature of a guerrilla activity rather than anything more substantial. It has so far lasted a year.

In practice much of the legislation against freedom of expression has been negated. But we have to play the situation by ear.

PORTUGAL

Nuno Rocha, Diario de Lisboa, Lisbon.

THERE ARE definite signs that my country is reaching its democratic majority as far as the press is concerned and one ought to point out the recent appearance of two independent newspapers — a daily entitled Jornal Novo and a weekly, O Jornal. I am myself just a few days away from finally seeing the publication of my independent newspaper, Tempo. (See IPI Report April / May. Page 14).

Portuguese journalists still face many pressures and they struggle in the middle of varied political plots, which make the press a field of obscure activities and strange coups. Nevertheless the situation improves, thanks to the efforts of the government . . . where it

to the efforts of the government ...where it continues to be affirmed that the press must be free, independent and without control either from political power or from economic

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candidate

for Nobel Peace Prize in 1976

of newspapers and it guarantees the journalist the right to professional secrecy.

The press is free, having only to find the paths which will lead it to place itself above the political battles.

On the day the banks were Our "law of the press", which is being fully applied, is a security for all of us. There, is consecrated the freedom for the creation of newspapers. It incriminates those who, in any way, boycott the making or distribution

On the day the banks were nationalised, out of 10 daily newspapers only two were not the property of the banks. The Provisional Government assumed a complex task because, without wishing it, suddenly found itself controlling eight daily newspapers of large circulation.

There is worry among journalists because it is not known what the government will do about the newspapers in deficit and now directly under its control. According to the measures proposed it is thought that those papers might be handed to commissions of administration, in which journalists and other workers would participate, and in such a way as to guarantee the independence of each of them. (see "IPI in Action").

GREECE
Christos Philippidis, Acropolis, Athens.
Christos Philippidis outlined the effects of the new press freedom in Greece since the overthrow of the military dictatorship (see IPI Report February / March 1975, pages 2 and 3).

PHILIPPINES

L. G. (Juan) Quijano, Philippine lawyer, now living in San Francisco, U.S.
Referring to the rule of President Marcos as the "most ruthless type of its kind" Juan

Advertising

knowledge there are no less than 93 secret decrees issued by Mr. Marcos, each with a notation which reads: "not available for general circulation." (See also IPI Report December 1974 pages 2 and 3 which Juan Quijano refers to). PRESS CONTROL in the Philippines is more oppressive than in the other military dictatorships in South East Asia... To out less than 93

GERMANY

Brigitte Weyl, Sudkurier, Constance.
THE PRESS is suffering from the increase of important costs and a decrease in advertising revenue. Important rising costs are on postage, telex fees and newspape

postage.

To balance things, publishers would have had to reduce editorial activity and lay-off employees. They did not do so to sufficient extent. The result is that in the third quarter of 1974 more than half of the dailies had run into debt.

There have been newspaper shut-downs and mergers and partial co-operation moves have increased.

The newspaper companies had expected some support from the government, for example granting German newspapers the same tax privileges as in other countries exemption of sales from valued - added - tax. Both the German Association of Newspaper Publishers and the Federal Union of journalists expressed the idea of a solidarity fund to be fed by the amounts of the value - added - tax not paid as VAT.

But our government is in no hurry to help the press, and one cannot help etting the impression that the press is not one of its beloved children.

In the field of media politics a law for press statistics was recently passed, compelling publishing companies to disclose certain economic data each year. Still under consideration are others concerning the press One is a law controlling mergers. If passed mergers involving 80,000 copies will be supervised.

supervised.

The Bill most discussed is one stating they rights of the press. It has not yet been finally drafted, but it is in ended to regulate the internal relationship within publishing houses, in particular relationship between newsroom and management? The German Press Council (10 journalists and 10 editors) is going through a difficult phase. Firstly, for financial reasons; and secondly because its very existence has recently been questioned by the journalists union. However, the Press Council has been Continued page 11



as a messenger who tells his king the army has lost a great battle
—and is **Max Snijders**

The answer to that is this:
An established newspape;
both a position in society
relationship with its reader;
ceptable and traditional poli

"We are treated

The Daily Mirror, England. Lord Ardwick (John Beavan)

We had better all answer your referendum question (the panel title) with a "yes", otherwise we must abandon all hope.

only to our own journalism but to journalism in emerging countries.

The alternation was experate the countries of the countr MOST of the national reports (special reports pages 1, 2, 3, 8) fell into two categories, with tales of political repression or financial anxiety. Unbearable financial osses may lead to concentration, to mon-poly, or in a desire to live to desperate sensationalism which does great harm not

govern-

aspects:
The atomization of information has brought with it the phenomenon of concen-

press enterprises are facing are not any different from the financial difficulties any other kind of corporation has to face.

However, there are specific conditioning areas:

But are there fates worse than government subsidies? Has any government anywhere found means of subsidising which rules out any possibility of reciprocal favours being exacted?

The situation in Britain has its profoundly sad aspects. The real conflict is not a healthy, natural one between government

healthy, natural one between government and press. It's a kind of civil war with editors in the one side and their journalistic colleagues — not so much as brothers of our craft but as trade unionists — on the other. The conflict is between editors as bosses and journalists as trade unionists and not between journalists in their natural function

of producing newspapers.
But the debate on the inner freedom of newspapers has not really begun in Britain.
Nor has the debate on participation.
The danger is . . . that led by extremists, the ordinary non-political journalist could say: "Well, I don't see why we shouldn't all have a determining voice in the policy of the papers. Surely it is not democratic to leave it to one man."

Max Snijders (Netherlands)
Jose Mario Armero (Spain)
Esmond Wickremesinghe,
(Sri Lanka)

tor of such a paper is not exercising any kind of egotistical power. He is appointed by management as a custodian of these attitudes and these policies. spaper has achieved ciety and a special eaders. It has an acal policy and the edi-

WHEN freedom of the press is equated with the freedom of expression of the citizen the press then wins the support of the majority of the people in seeking to defend this freedom of expression of the citizen against further assaults. A sort of wall of public support for a free press is quite often created.

SURVIVAL of a free pro Theoretically, nothing pre-existence of an information capital economy. The difficult

press is possible. prevents the free on enterprise in a culties some of the

José Mario Armero, Spain.

Europa Press,

ration for two reasons.

Firstly: the strengthening of the power to inform by limiting it to a few sources which, even when private, means a curtailment of freedom, obstructing such institutions as the Press Council.

Secondly: The real reason of financial difficulties in small enterprises that can only be overcome when they are taken over by larger corporations.

Concentration through the second is preferable to State control. Concentration through the first must be avoided.

Another pretext raised against the existence of free communication media is the high cost of some of them and which calls for the setting up of only one such installation. But this argument has only been valid for television and has weighty objections. For example: seeking to impose press control often creates havens. As in taxation, so in press control.

There is a limit to what legislation can do. There is a limit to what legislation can do. Generally, vast loopholes result.

Of course, this is not the classical liberal freedom of the press. In the context of the Third World today such a concept, however desirable, does not seem practical. But given these limitations there is the possibility for a press to give free discussion, to criticise power, and to enable an expression of

William

example:
Official ownership of basic elements is compatible to private management.
The installation costs of the film industry were also high, but in spite of this the industry has been run by private enterprises. WE ought to go out more from the desk and appear before organisations and show that freedom of the press is not for pub-

Continued overleaf

P ha es! inswer d better

The reasons behind the control of television by the State were political rather than fin ancial. Think of what would happen in Spain if private television companies were allowed to operate.

The advent of new audiovisual techniques

free press in

the world?

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Total panel attend

fance 140

demand decentralisation.

If in its latest achievements technical progress does not favour monopolies, it does not seem likely that the current favourable trend for a free press will be interrupted. If such freedom is jeopardised it will be done by artificial means in an attempt to make acts of pressure more palatable.

Economic News, Colombo Esmond Wickremesinghe, Cesmos

"The Third World must show itself to be free to the utmost and leave the future to fate . . ." And speaking in particular about press freedom in the Third World Esmond Wickremesinghe brought out several

In many Asian countries pretty much of what one wants to publish can still be published. In fact one can publish much of what a government wants to hide — subject to national security. Much of the legislation seeking to impose press control often

But it needs courage, responsibility and professionalism on the part of a Third World press to enable even this fundamental element of a free press to exist.

Gazette, U.S. Block, Pittsburgh Post

Members of the Swedish parliament have proposed that the Nobel Peace Prize for 1976 be given to IPI in recognition of this organisa-tion's work for 24 years for understanding and peace among nations. It is a great honour to have this candidacy.—Per Monsen, Norway. (Below and left, IPI Zurich Assembly delegates hear the announcement).