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Reports on freedom of information, for the period
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HUNGARY

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I. INTRUDOCTION: General policies and significant developments during the period from 1 July 1970 to 30 June 1975 with regard to freedom of information

The continuous realization and development of freedom of information and access to information in the Hungarian People's Republic give expression to the conviction of the Hungarian Government that peaceful co-existence, rapprochement and friendship between the peoples presuppose and at the same time make possible fruitful co-operation among States in the fields of science, culture and information.

In the awareness that Hungarian society embraces all genuine values of human culture, the Hungarian Government is in favour of developing human contacts and international tourism, enabling people to travel and go to see the world.

The Hungarian People's Republic demonstrates in practice that it supports co-operation in the fields of culture, information, personal contacts, and any reasonable steps to promote better mutual knowledge of peoples and countries. In this spirit it took an active part also in the work of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe; the Hungarian Government has signed and is implementing the Final Act of the Conference. At present the Hungarian public making

use of a broad spectrum mass media has access to comprehensive information both about its own country and the wide world. +

1. The Hungarian press

Today's Hungarian press considers it as its main objective to further the socialist advancement of the Hungarian people, to make their life richer and more cultured, and to promote friendship among the peoples and the maintenance of peace.

The dailies review the most important international events and carry commentaries and reviews on foreign affairs. The papers write much and regularly about the struggle for the extensive practical implementation of the principle of peaceful co-existence, for détente, for the thwarting of attempts against peace. They are very much concerned with events of the international labour movement and the problems of the developing countries.

The newspapers deal regularly with economic questions, problems of industrial and agricultural production. Daily and weekly papers in Hungary are, as they have always

+ The Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe was published in 100,000 copies in Hungarian by the Kossuth Publishing House in Budapest on 30 September 1975.

been in the past, the most widely used media for the best poets and writers to publish their poems and other writings. They regularly publish reviews of plays motion pictures and books, articles on social and cultural problems, and scientific discussions. They cover sporting events, publish writings for women and children, as well as court reports.

Advertisements are also published in the dailies and weeklies. An increasing number of advertisements come from foreign firms. A very popular feature is provided by the classified ads published every day, a considerable part of which offer employment to workers of various trades and occupations, others deal with the buying and selling of real estate and various goods, with apartment exchanges, holiday facilities and the expansion of personal contacts.

a./ Newspapers and periodicals

At present about 907 printed periodical publications appear regularly in Hungary. / "Periodical" means any printed matter published at least four times a year. / Among them there are five political, economico-political dailies of national circulation, 2 other daily papers, 21 county dailies, 1 sports newspaper, altogether 29 daily papers..

The combined daily circulation per issue of the 21 county daily newspapers is 883,000 on the average. The average circulation per issue of all the dailies in Hungary is 2,550,000. / See Appendix /1/. /

b./ Newspaper distribution by the Hungarian Post Office

The distribution of newspapers in Hungary is a function of the Post Office, which delivers the papers to the homes of subscribers and employs news vendors to sell papers at news stands and kiosks. About 80 per cent of the circulation of the morning political dailies is taken up by subscribers. The distribution service supplies the readers with various newspapers and periodicals in more than 1,140,000 million copies a year. The papers reach every one of the 3,200 communities of Hungary. On the national average annually around 300 copies reach every family.

The prices and subscription rates of newspapers and periodicals are low. + The papers with a large circulation are profitable, and this together with state subsidies enable the publishing organizations to cover the deficit of newspapers and periodicals which, having interest for only a narrow circle of readers, have a smaller circulation.

+ Daily papers sell at 0.80 Ft to 1.20 Ft a copy.

The State spends large sums on the publishing of technical, pedagogical, medical and other specialised journals, as well as of the papers of religious denominations and those published in the languages of the nationalities living in Hungary.

c./ The Hungarian News Agency /MTI/ +

MTI consists of several editorial offices and departments. The home editor's office has four departments : cultural and internal policy, economics, agriculture, and sport. There is a smaller editorial office at each county seat. The foreign editor's office writes up the news received from foreign press agencies and those sent in by its own correspondents from abroad.

On the basis of bilateral agreements MTI regularly receives by radio and cable the press material of 20 news agencies, among them AFP, AP, Reuter, TASS and UPI. In addition it has arrangements with 15 news agencies for occasional news exchanges. MTI has permanent correspondents in many parts of the world. Special correspondents are sent out to report on all major political or sporting events abroad.

+ Having been founded in 1880, it is one of the oldest press agencies of the world.

The foreign **press service** of MTI makes use of the bulletins of about 40 foreign news agencies and organizations, as well as about 150 papers of the world press, on the basis of which it issues a news bulletin two or three times a week.

The pressservice supplies foreign partners with information on political, economic, and cultural events in Hungary, and with articles of an informative character. It transmits news material through radio-teletype and cable three times a day in French, once in English, and once in German. There are two transmissions a day in Russian, and one in Spanish for South America. The editorial office publishes bulletins in English, French, German and Russian once a week.

Interphoto MTI maintains regular connections with more than 50 photographic services and newspapers in all corners of the world. It sends many thousands pictures abroad every month and receives as many in return by tele-photography and radio-photography. Pictures of major political and sporting events are transmitted abroad by the same means.

d./ State and social organs of the press

The information Office of the Council of Ministers is a State organ of national authority with ministerial jurisdiction over the domain of the press.

Its primary task is to make sure that regular and extensive information is provided to the people of the country by means of the press, the Hungarian News Agency /MTI/, by radio and television. In the exercise of its functions the Information Office makes available to the press the official communiqués about acts of Parliament, law-decrees and decisions issued by the Presidential Council of the People's Republic, decrees and decisions of the Government. It organizes and co-ordinates the regular supply of information to the press by various State authorities; and it ensures that press correspondents are able to be present and work at important events of national interest.

With respect to periodical publications the Information Office has administrative functions in questions concerning the publication and distribution of newspapers and the supply of newsprint to newspapers and periodicals. It exercises supervision over the implementation of State regulations concerning the press and the field of information in general.

In each ministry and each organ of national authority there is a press department or a public relations officer. The Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs accredits foreign correspondents,

keeps them informed of the foreign policy and domestic affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic , and sends Hungarian correspondents abroad.

The National Association of Hungarian Journalists perform tasks under its own statute regarding press policy, organization, professional matters, advanced training, protection of interests, and foreing relations.

The Association publishes a monthly journal entitled Magyar Sajtó / Hungarian Press / .

At the headquarters of the Association foreign correspondents accredited in Budapest, foreign journalists, radio and television reporters visiting Hungary can regularly meet one another, their Hungarian colleagues, and Hungarian public figures.

The Association of Hungarian Journalists is an active member of the International Organization of Journalists as well as of a few other international bodies. It entertains relations with about 60 foreign organizations of newspapermen, and has already concluded agreements with about twenty of them. In September 1972 the International Organization of Journalists held an extended meeting of its presidium in Hungary.

The social appreciation of the press and jour-

nalists is manifested by the nation-wide celebration of Hungarian Press Day on 7 December every year.

A prize named after Ferenc Rózsa, the first editor of Szabad Nép / The Free People / is awarded, on the occasion of the anniversary of Hungary's liberation, to journalists whose activities have most effectively contributed to the solution of the tasks ahead of the mass-media.

2. The Hungarian Radio

On 31 December 1973 the Hungarian Radio had 2,533,000 subscribers. The slower increase observed in recent years is indicative of forthcoming saturation. / The total number of several radio sets owned by households is not officially registered. / Radio subscribers pay 10 Ft a month irrespective of the number of sets they keep in their homes.

The main factor in this rapid development has been the favourable effect of the political and economic transformation following liberation as a result of which the desire for learning and the demand for cultural and political information of the masses increased to an extraordinary extent. / See Appendix /2./

At present the Hungarian Radio tries to provide programmes corresponding to demands by operating two

parallel medium-wave major broadcasting programmes / Kossuth Radio and Petőfi Radio / and an ultra-short-wave /FM/ third programme. Regular experimental stereo broadcasting started in 18 March 1969.

Four large domestic departments / Department of Political Information, Music Department, Literary and Dramatic Department, and the Children's and Youth's Department / endeavour to co-ordinate the listeners' often contradictory concepts and wishes, the subjective programme demands of the public. / See Appendix /3/. /

The Hungarian Radio is a socially committed institution which supplies information, spreads culture, improves public taste, and provides entertainment, and which functions on the principles of socialist programme and art policy. In line with the variety of the listeners' demands the Hungarian Radio disseminates the intellectual food of information, culture and entertainment through diverse means.

The Hungarian Radio has extensive international relations, exchanging musical programmes with more than 100 radio centres in the world. Hungarian musical compositions are broadcast by 200 to 220 stations all over the world annually. The Hungarian Radio regularly

relays programmes from concert halls abroad, such as the Salzburg Festival, the Bergen Festival, the Vienna Festive Weeks, the Prague Spring, the Zagreb Musical Biennial, the Brussels Modern Music Festival, the Edinburgh Festival, the United Nations concert organized on 24 October every year, etc.

3. The Hungarian Television

On 31 December 1973 the Hungarian Television had 2,199,000 subscribers. The subscription fee is 50 Ft a month, irrespective of the number of TV sets owned by the subscriber.

In August 1971 an experimental station /Channel 2/ started broadcasting partly in black-and-white, partly in colour.

Studio IV, an independent programme-making unit, supplied with the most up-to-date equipment and fit to make programmes both in black-and-white and in colour, was inaugurated on 7 November 1972. / See Appendix /4/. /

Autonomous programme-editing units in the Hungarian Television are the departments of political affairs, general culture, literary and dramatic performances, youth and educational programmes, films and co-productions, entertainment and musical broadcasts, etc.

The Hungarian Television organizes round-table conferences with the participation of foreign politicians and newspapermen in order to make the Hungarian viewers familiar with different positions regarding such important questions of foreign politics as détente or disarmament. Such a function was, for example, the round-table discussion in the summer of 1976 with the participation of journalists from the Soviet Union, the United States, the Federal Republic of Germany, the German Democratic Republic and Hungary.

The realization of the programme of about 80 to 85 hours a week /broadcast on two channels/ requires considerable technical, intellectual and material expenditure. The demands of the masses of TV viewers are ever growing, thus the programmes are created under a heavy pressure of the possibilities and the expectations or wishes. A good example for this is the TV Forum, in the course of which viewers can ask by phone any question of foreign political interest. The questions are answered by prominent journalists, experts in foreign affairs.

The Hungarian Television regularly transmits performances of theatres in Budapest and in the provinces. In a dialogue between advocates of confronting and contradictory views in March 1975 the

Hungarian Association of Dramatic Artists found that the programmes of the Hungarian Television boosted the frequentation of theatres by drawing attention to the plays shown on stage.

Television audio-visual language lessons stimulate young TV viewers to learn Russian, German, English and French.

The Hungarian Radio and The Hungarian Television maintain steadily expanding relations with foreign broadcasting centres: they are members of OIRT, the international organization of radio and television networks of the socialist countries. Hungarian TV plays and films are shown at every major television festival, from Monte Carlo to as far as Alexandria. Hungarian television reporters and shooting teams make frequent trips to various nearby and distant countries. Agreements with foreign televisions promote the exchange of TV plays, films, youth and children's programmes, documentary films sportcasts etc. The past fifteen-odd years have witnessed an intensification of international professional and personal contacts in respect of TV films, with new opportunities for the exchange of experiences.

As of 31 July 1974, by virtue of a Council of Ministers' decision, the activities of the Hungarian Radio and Television are co-ordinated by a State Committee of Radio and Television.

4. Film production

In this respect a detailed description of Hungarian film art can be omitted, so it will suffice to refer to the essential points of contact between the cinema, the distribution of films, the film press and the public in view of access to information.

After the liberation the presentation of foreign films has become an established principle of programme policy. Two-thirds of the foreign films shown in the movies come from socialist countries, one-third is made up of productions from capitalist countries. The influx of films of commercial and inferior quality had gradually ceased, and the supply of motion pictures has become balanced. With the view of the better solution of educational tasks, the Ministry of Culture has established a second exhibition network for art cinema and movie-fan clubs of a kind which give a comprehensive review of the international history of the cinema and a cross-section of current international film production.

Some film critics of the international press and several foreign film distributors take an increasing interest in the new Hungarian films. The interest of the foreign public in Hungarian motion pictures has grown.

The new productions of the Hungarian film industry can be regarded as an open , frank testimonial of the socialist world, as a message about a particular path of film art.

Research on film theory developed further during the past five years. The number of periodicals and books devoted to the cinema grew /e.g., more film books were published in 1967 alone than in the preceding 23 years altogether/.

In Hungary film shows are held and stimulating prizes are awarded both for feature film and short films /Feature Film Show at Pécs, Documentary Film Festival at Miskolc, Youth Film Days at Kőszeg, Synchronization Show at Debrecen/. Such reviews are sources of continual information to film artists, to the domestic and the foreign public alike.

As a development of the best traditions of journalism, film publicism has become a regular practice in the Hungarian cinema and has grown very popular in the country.

New films and documentaries, a form of art related to journalism, are also very popular. Two-thirds of the 350-metre-long weekly newsreels consist of the coverage of actual events, and one-third present quasi-snapshot reports on the major events at home and in

the world. Newsreels on world events and sports newsreels are also shown at regular intervals. The Hungarian Newsreel Company maintains regular exchanges with 28 countries of the world. The appearance of TV news has caused also the newsreels to change and assume a magazine character which evokes a more permanent interest.

Research on film theory and film history is promoted by the Hungarian Scientific Institute of Cinema and Film Archives, which is a member of the International Federation of Film Archives. The film museum under its management presents more valuable productions of universal film history and show, by art-kino right, new and pioneering productions of international film art. The Institute is regularly engaged in publishing activities: it edits the periodicals Filmkultura / Film Culture / and Nemzetközi Filmtájékoztató / International Film Bulletin /, and the biweekly Filmvilág / Film World /.

5. Book publishing and distribution

In the domestic flow of information an outstanding role is played by the publishing and distribution of books which have wide-spread international contacts.

a./ Publishing

In 1974 sixteen State publishing houses were operating, twelve from among them under the direct supervision of the Publishers' Board and four under that of other scientific or mass organizations.

/ See Appendix /5/ /

Once a publishing house has decided to bring out a work, it concludes a contract with the author or the translator in accordance with the existing copyright laws, and regulations concerning author's fees.

While 5,536 books appeared in 53,449,900 copies in 1971, the 6,894 works published in 1973 were printed in 63,931,000 copies.

b./ Printing

In 1972 printing houses and paper mills functioning in Hungary numbered 93. Since 1972 the distribution of books is handled by three enterprises. The State Book Distribution Enterprise has competence in Budapest, and the " Művelt Nép " / Cultured People / Book Distributors in the provinces.

In 1974 in Hungary there were 378 bookshops, of which 122 in Budapest and 256 in the provinces.

c./ Trade in books

While the volume of trade in books by the distributing enterprises in 1957 amounted to altogether 310 million forints /21.6 million copies/, in 1972 the corresponding figure was 1,218 million forints /62.8 million copies/. In that year the sum spent on books was 94 Ft per person.

d./ International relations of

Hungarian publishers

Hungarian publishers endeavour to inform the reader of all values, past and present, in the arts and sciences abroad. This is evidenced by the number of translations:

From 1945 to 1973 Hungarian publishers issued more than 40,000 foreign works in nearly 250 million copies. / See Appendix /6/. /

The extensive work of translation carried on in Hungary makes it necessary for Hungarian publishers to be well informed about works produced abroad and to set up a good documentation system. In this respect publishers receive valuable aid from the Copyright Office, which deals with copyright matters of Hungarian and foreign authors and also provides information in this field. Hungary is a member of the Berne Union and a party to the copyright convention concluded under the auspices of UNESCO.

The majority of the Hungarian books issued in foreign languages appear as joint editions of Hungarian publishers and foreign firms. In this respect good relations have recently been established with numerous publishers of the Soviet Union, the German Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, France and Switzerland.

Jointly published large dictionaries have appeared, edited by the Hungarian and Polish, Hungarian and Czechoslovakian, Hungarian and Roumanien Academies of Sciences.

Hungarian publishers put out books in foreign languages also independently of foreign firms, at their own risk. Some books are translated and brought out by foreign publishing houses. Quarterly book reviews in foreign languages provide detailed information on Hungarian books to the foreign public.

An advanced form of international co-operation is the publishing of books in Hungarian jointly with publishing houses of neighbouring countries / Czechoslovakia, Rumania, the Soviet Union, and Yugoslavia/. Under this joint programme Hungarian publishing houses take over works in Hungarian from these countries and supply the foreign publishing companies with books printed in Hungary. Publications are often edited in collaboration.

Hungarian publishers and booksellers regularly

take part in international fairs and exhibitions abroad.

6. Libraries

An extensive and effective guarantee of access to information in Hungary is the functioning of libraries.

In 1973 public libraries in Hungary numbered 8,637 with about 29 million books. They had 2,297,000 readers and borrowed out 56.5 million books. / See Appendix /7/. /

There has been an abrupt increase in the number, funds, personnel, and frequentation of scientific and technical libraries. There are today 1935 such libraries with a stock of about 28.5 million books.

During the period under review the libraries introduced the international decimal system, compiled the national central catalogues, established uniform rules and standards for every type of library work; documentation was adapted to library work, the national current bibliography was regularly published, and a subject index to periodicals was issued. Libraries make increasingly extensive use of microfilms and xerox as well as of other up-to-date means with the aid of well equipped laboratories.

7. Archives

The present archives system promote the central handling and storing of information materials.

The centralization of archives in 1950 has brought results. A few years have made up for the deficiencies of decades. The collection, registration and scientific classification of documents outside the archives have been organized. The National Archives, by publishing a series of reference books useful even by European standards, have facilitated the scientific elaboration of the documents in their files.

In the period under review the activity which had started on the basis of Law-Decree No. 27 of 1969 giving an overall regulation of Hungarian archives in conformity with the economic and political transformations of the past two decades continued. According to this decree documents significant from different aspects and of historical value must be considered archives material and protected.

The law-decree declares photographs and recordings of significant historical value made by whatever process also to be archives material.

The archives of the Catholic Church are also rated as specialized archives / Primatial Archives at Esztergom, Benedictine Archives at Pannonhalma, etc./.

The Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party has its own network of specialized archives.

8. Dissemination of general knowledge

Access to information in Hungary is promoted by a large network of diffusion of knowledge. /General-knowledge academies, university extension courses, summer universities, language schools, study circles, lecture series, experimental exhibition studios, country tours, thematic and professional clubs, etc./ The Association for the Popularization of Science counting 18,000 members pursues the aim of disseminating a variety of professional and practical knowledge of scientific value. / See Appendix /9/. /

Twelve summer universities give courses which are attended by a large number of foreigners. The Danube Bend summer course on arts gives lectures on Hungarian music, the Sopron course discusses questions of forestry and the timber industry, the Borsod County summer course at Miskolc deals with the industries of Northern Hungary, the Lake Balaton summer course at Veszprém gives lectures on the natural history of the Lake and on the literary and artistic monuments of its region. At Szeged the pedagogical sciences are in the limelight, at Debrecen cultural questions are studied, while the Friendship of Peoples summer course at Pécs lectures on the history and ethnography of the town and the county, and the Georgikon summer course

atKeszthely deals with subjects related to agriculture. Recently established summer universities are those of Eger /protection of historic monuments/, Budapest /professional questions of foreign tourism/, Gyula /the practising of Esperanto/, and Szombathely / Savaria Summer University, past and present of the region/.

A broad network of language schools are sponsored by the Association for the Popularization of Science. Language courses are organized also by houses of culture and other cultural institutions, and more and more frequently by enterprises and establishments in which the command of foreign languages is necessary. The various language courses provide an opportunity to learn 18 to 20 languages, including languages of world-wide use and even Oriental languages /Turkish, Arabic, Japanese, Chinese, etc./. Attendance at language schools is growing at a rapid rate. The use of audio-visual teaching aids is also spreading.

General knowledge of Hungary and the world: In this field there is great activity due to initiatives of the Patriotic People's Front, numerous organizations and institutions. At many establishments there are Travellers' Clubs in which tourists exchange their travel experiences.

Educational literature: In 1973 Hungarian publishing houses brought out 990 educational books in 15 million copies. Names of the best known scientists and other specialists from Hungary and the whole world are more and more often encountered among the authors. "Gondolat" /Thought/ Publishing House is specialized for the publication of educational works, but other publishers also put out books of this category.

9. The role of statistics in the flow of information

An effective guarantee of access to information is the activity in the field of statistics which is performed by the Central Statistical Office. As a result of the open, principled policy of the Hungarian People's Republic statistical data concerning the everyday life and activity of the country are free and accessible for all.

One of the primary conditions of the daily functioning of democratic socialist public life is for citizens to be able to participate in production, in the distribution of the material and spiritual goods produced, being continuously informed of the internal and external position of the country and to be in a position to follow with attention what is, by international comparison, the content, the quality and standard of the way of living and working they experience as an everyday reality in their own country.

By making those data public the Central Statistical Office enables the common citizen to make use of the possibilities of acquiring and extending the available information. In the period under review the Statistical Publishing House, working on the basis of the data collected and processed by the Central Statistical Office, provided very extensive information to the general public. / See Appendix /9/./

The Statistical Publishing House every year issues a catalogue listing the publications and periodicals available to Hungarian citizens and foreigners alike.

II : Influence of the United Nations on constitutional and legislative measures adopted for the recognition, enjoyment, and protection of freedom of information

Regarding the period under review, on 17 January 1974, the Hungarian People's Republic deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations the instrument of ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted under the auspices of the United Nations, and then, following their entry into force, promulgated them through law-decrees, thus making it

part of the body of its effective laws. /As it is well known, Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides for freedom of expression in print./

III. Legislative and other measures

a./ The development of the mass media

The enforcement of freedom of information and freedom of the press is made possible in practice by the fact that paper mills, printing presses and publishing houses are not owned by private persons or interest groups but are public property; furthermore that action against authors, producers and distributors of printed matter can be instituted only in the case of violations of the law and only by authorities legally qualified to take action; and a printed matter, even if the circumstances precisely defined by law exist, can be confiscated only on the basis of a court decision.

Freedom of the press in Hungary is guaranteed by law, and the appropriate State authorities' activity regulated by statute ensures that freedom of the press benefitting the whole people prevails in practice. / See in more detail in paragraph b./ below./

b./ Legislation and legal proceedings

Article 54 /1/ of Act I of 1972 on the amendment of the Constitution of the Hungarian People's Republic reads:

"The Hungarian People's Republic respects Human rights."

Article 64 of the same act even contains a more explicit provision:

"The Hungarian People's Republic guarantees freedom of expression, freedom of the press and freedom of assembly in accordance with the interests of socialism, of the people."

For the protection of human rights the Hungarian People's Republic has evolved two main systems of guarantees which compliment each other:

/A/ Guarantees derived from the socio-economic base are also guarantees of freedom of information, because the planned development of the information media is relying on this fund. Article 27 of Act II of 1970 on the fourth five-year plan of the country states: "...the mass communication media shall be developed significantly".

/Cf. the relevant parts in Chapter I above; this development was carried out during the period under review./

/B/ Legal and institutional guarantees ensure freedom of information within the framework of the protection of civil rights. Relevant measures adopted during the period under review:

- Law-Decree No. 28 of 1971 amending and complementing the Criminal Code, in speaking of crimes against human freedom and dignity, provides for the punishment of the abuses of information as qualified within the above scope /cf. in more detail in Chapter IV, paragraph a./ below/;
- Act I of 1973 on criminal procedure enforces, in the course of criminal proceedings, the guarantees of respect for civil rights, including freedom of the press;
- Chapter XXXI of Law-Decree No 26 of 1972 on the modification of civil procedure, which is dealt with in detail below, provides for corrections to be published in the press.

The procedure of correction in the press, as a legal guarantee together with the above provisions, is an effective contribution to ensuring that the press and the general public receive true information. Accordingly, as is stated in Article 342 /1/ of the last mentioned law-decree:

"An organ /organization/ regarding which, or a person regarding whom, a daily paper, a periodical, the radio, the television or the newsreel /hereinafter collectively: the press/ published or spread an untrue statement, or presented true facts in a false light, may, in thirty days from the date of publication or broadcasting of the statement, demand in writing the publication of a correction from the daily paper, the periodical, the Hungarian Radio and Television, the newsreel editor, or the Hungarian News Agency. If the untrue statement violates the public interest, the publication of the correction may be demanded also by the competent minister /leader of an organ of national authority/."

If the editors fail to publish the correction as demanded, the plaintiff may apply to the court which shall clarify the facts in summary proceedings; if the court decides that the plaintiff is right, it shall obligate the managing editor to publish the correction as formulated by the court.

The rules of law provide for the punishment of the editor in case

"he fails to fulfil his obligation to publish a correction, or if he fails to do so in the manner specified by the court or before the set deadline."

On the other hand, the same law-decree provides

for the punishment of the plaintiff who, in his request for correction addressed to the editor, or in his complaint presented to court, made a false statement regarding an essential circumstance of the case, provided that his statement was published in the correction.

At the same time there can be no question of the correction of value judgements, i.e. the citizen subjected to criticism, whoever he or she may be, is not permitted to ask for modification of the unfavourable criticism.

The terms of responsibility in respect of the press laws are settled by legal regulations in such a way that responsibility for any offence committed through the press can fall only on the person who is really responsible for the commission of the offence. Thus first of all the author of an article and, as co-author, the managing editor who gave instructions for the writing or publication of the article.

c./ Journalists, the public and
control of the media

In Hungary no authority is entitled to exercise, either directly or indirectly, censorship of the press. The journalist and the editor decide themselves, in conformity with their conviction, what and in what way to write. / See Appendix /10/. /

Socialist political thinking requires the newspapers to criticize negative phenomena in any field of life, to make and discuss proposals thought to be fit to eliminate the deficiencies with a view to directing the attention of public opinion to the earliest possible solution of social, economic, cultural and other problems. This expressly presupposes that newspapers, by publishing articles from journalists and letters to the editor, make public the mistakes and shortcomings which cause damage to the community and impede the creation of a better life for the people.

Consideration of the criticisms and proposals published in newspapers is prescribed by a provision of law. A government decision lays down that the appropriate State authority shall, within thirty days, send a substantive answer to any proposal and criticism which is made public in the press and to which the editor requests an answer. In their answer the authorities shall inform the editor of the measures taken on the basis of their consideration of the proposal or criticism. The government decision provides for the necessary sanctions against civil servants who fail in their obligation to reply.

According to Article 210 of the Criminal Code:

"Whoever demands, asks or accepts as consideration an advantage for himself or for another for not publishing or publishing something in the press, shall be punished with loss of liberty for up to three years."

The Criminal Code provides for heavier punishment than usual in case the offence has been committed through the press /incitement, rumour-mongering, slander and libel, insult/. The punishment of libel committed through the press may be loss of liberty for up to one year instead of six months as provided, and in case of insult the court shall impose a fine, but the Code provides for the penalty of loss of liberty for up to six months if the insult was committed through the press. / See also in Chapter IV, paragraph a./ below./

Laws and regulations not only guarantee freedom of information but also ensure that no one can abuse this right to the detriment of other citizens.

An ever strengthening feature of the Hungarian press during the period under review was the increasingly close and direct connection, in a variety of forms, between newspaper and reader. Many editors periodically enclose a questionnaire with the newspaper asking for the reader's opinion on the work of the paper. Journalists and readers often meet at conferences

to discuss the newspaper's performance and the readers's wishes . Some newspapers receive several thousand letters a month. The letter writers inform the editor of their everyday work, events in their lives, ask for help in the investigation of private complaints, denounces some abuses, mistakes or omissions hurting the readers' sence of justice. The editor's replies to the readers are either published in the newspaper or sent by separate mail. The communication or complaint conveyed by letter is examined and often discussed in articles, or the letter itself is published. / See in more detail in paragraph e./ below in respect of the Code of Ethics. /

d./ Professional training

In the period under review the training of journalists made further progress. As of 1958 the State entrusted the training of information personnel to the National Association of Hungarian Journalists and gives it every necessary assistance in this field. At present the newspaperman's career can be entered upon only by a person who has graduated from a university faculty. If such a person takes a liking for journalism, he may apply to an editorial office for a post which is related to his university qualification. But the edi-

torial office may employ him or her only on a temporary basis. The person in question has to apply for admission to the School of Journalism. There he or she shall attend a year-long course on the essentials of journalism, while working two weeks with the newspaper and attending school in the third week. After a year the candidate has to pass a qualifying examination. Only after having passed the examination and obtained a diploma can the applicant be confirmed in his or her post and become a full member of the Association of Journalists.

The Association of Journalists deals also with the extension training of newspapermen. With the view of more effective special training and orientation, members of the Association are assigned to 15 departments, 6 clubs and 3 sections, each with its own elected management. The various departments are specialized, among others, for foreign affairs, home affairs, industry, agriculture, cultural affairs, sports, and include press photographers, trade-union correspondents, etc.

In 1964 the International Organization of Journalists setup, under the management of the Association of Hungarian Journalists, a Training Centre which provides professional extension training to

foreign journalist apprentices to be specialized for the press, for photoreports, and for the radio. The 15 to 20 scholarships offered annually are granted first of all to journalists of the developing countries. In the course of ten years /up to 1974 inclusive/ 96 journalists from seven Asian countries, 64 from fourteen African countries, 12 from six Latin American countries, and 44 from seven Arab countries graduated at the Training Centre.

e./ Code of Ethics

The rules of conduct for journalists are laid down in a Code of Ethics, which defines the rules governing the conduct of journalists in the exercise of their profession, in society, in public and in private life.

The fundamental principle of the Code:
Journalists shall, in the spirit of freedom of the press as defined in the Constitution of the Hungarian People's Republic, inform public opinion to the best of their knowledge, with socialist commitment and in conformity with the facts. Their activities shall serve the realization of the aspirations of the whole people, the triumph of the noblest ideas of universal progress.

The Code of Ethics makes provision for cases of

the violation of the rules of conduct. The related proceedings are conducted by the Ethics Committee of the Association of Hungarian Journalists. Appeal from such decisions can be lodged with the Board of the Association.

The suggestions and positions formulated by the Ethics Committee and the Press Law Committee of the Association with respect to the procedure of corrections in the press are sent annually to the Information Office of the Council of Ministers and to the President of the Supreme Court.

These communications make it possible for the observations made above to be taken into consideration in drawing up new regulations concerning the press or the modification procedures.

IV. : Limitations upon the exercise of
 freedom of information

The protection of human rights, freedom of the press among them, is promoted also by the inclusion in the Criminal Code of those criminal offences which constitute a special danger for the enforcement of human rights.

a./ For the protection of the rights and
 freedom of others

Law-Decree No. 23 of 1972 amending and comple-

menting the Criminal Code, in speaking of offences against human freedom and dignity, provides punishment of the following offences:

- duress /Art. 261/,
- violation of personal freedom /Art. 262/,
- violation of domestic privacy /Art. 263/,
- violation of private secret /Art. 264/,
- breach of secrecy of the post and communications /Art. 265/,
- libel and slander /Art. 266/,
- insult /Art. 267/.

Articles of the aforesaid law-decree directly or indirectly protect the citizens and their institutions against abuses of information acquired in an unlawful manner.

Article 4 of Act I of 1973 on criminal procedure provides that

"in a criminal procedure personal freedom and other civil rights shall be respected and can be limited only in the cases and in the manner defined by the law.... In the course of proceedings the authorities shall ensure the legality of the limitations upon civil rights."

b./ With regard to the protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or

public morality, including suspension of freedom of information in situations of emergency it should be noted that in the Hungarian People's Republic the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights has entered into force and has therefore become an organic part of national legislation.. Such limitations are permitted under Article 4 of the Covenant, and no other limitations are known in Hungarian law.

c./ Advocacy of and propaganda for national, racial or religious hatred or racial and religious discrimination are inadmissible in Hungary.

Article 138 of Law-Decree No. 28 of 1971 amending and complementing the Criminal Code, introduced during the period under review, provides:

"Whoever causes grave bodily or spiritual injury to a member of any national, ethnic, racial or religious group for his belonging to that group shall be punished with loss of liberty ranging from two years to eight years."

Article 127 of the Criminal Code provides for the duration of loss of liberty to be imposed on a person for incitement, through the press or by other means of reproduction, against a people, nationality, religion or race. Today's Hungarian press categorically stands up against any effort to distinguish peo-

ple according to race, religion, the colour of their skin, or their origin.

d./ Propaganda for war is prohibited by law in Hungary. Article 135 of the 1971 amendment of the Criminal Code provides:

"1. Whoever instigates to war or otherwise carries on war propaganda shall be punished with loss of liberty ranging from two years to eight years.

"2. Punishment shall be loss of liberty ranging from ten years to fifteen years if the crime has been committed in the press or by reproduction or otherwise before a considerable public.

"3. Whoever carries out a preparatory act for instigation to war shall be punished with loss of liberty not exceeding three years."

e./ Press coverage of court proceedings

The press and other information media regularly report on the conduct of court proceedings. /Cf. Chapter I above. /

f./ No observation.

V.: Freedom of and access to information without discrimination

Freedom of information and access to information are enjoyed by all Hungarian citizens without dis-

inction as to race, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, birth or other status.

See also Chapter IV, paragraph c./ with the following addition:

1. Church newspapers and their contributors

The editors-in-chief and the contributors of the church papers regularly receive information, together with other newspapermen, from the National Association of Hungarian Journalists and the departmental secretariats, about topical questions /foreign and home affairs, economic and cultural events, etc./. These briefings always give occasion for lively and mutually instructive exchanges of views between the information officer and the journalists of the church press who regularly attend such sessions arranged by the Association.

The church papers are: Új Ember /The New Man/, Vigilia, Új Élet /The New Life/, Unitárius Élet /Unitarian Life/, Békehírnök /Peace Herald/, Egyházi Krónika /Church Chronicle/, Evangelikus Élet /Evangelical Life/, Katolikus Szó The Catholic Word/, Magyar Kurir /Hungarian Courier/, Református Egyház /Calvinist Church/, Reformátusok Lapja /The Calvinist Paper/, Teológia /Theology/, Teológiai Szemle /Theological Review/, Hungarian Church Press /published in English/.

2. National newspapers

The editors and contributors of these newspapers also graduate from the School of Journalism, regularly participate in the life of the Association, under the auspices of which they receive information and extension training together with other journalists.

The nationality newspapers are: Neue Zeitung /German/, Foia Noastra /Rumanian/, Laikos Agonas /Greek/, Ludové Noviny /Slovak/, Narodne Novine /South Slav/.

VI. : Difficulties experienced in ensuring the enjoyment of freedom of and access to information

The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic is of the opinion that the fuller enjoyment of freedom of information, both on the international scene and within any particular country, could be attained if, in this important matter of concern to all States members of the United Nations, the interested Governments acted in the spirit of the relevant principles laid down in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, whereby they would also promote the enforcement of the provision of Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Hungarian People's Republic guarantees freedom of information to a large extent on the basis of its own national legislation as described in the present report.

As follows from the principles quoted above, it would be possible to eliminate still existing difficulties which can lead to disproportions or to lack of reciprocity in the practice of co-operation between particular States /for example: according to the practice of the issuance of visas a foreign journalist can obtain his entry visa to Hungary without delay; but this is not always the case with Hungarian journalists who wish to go to Western countries; taken on a comparative basis, foreign works are published in Hungary in a larger number than Hungarian books are issued by publishers in Western Europe; the good reputation of the Hungarian People's Republic is harmed by the fact that some radio stations in the West broadcast information about life in Hungary which is not corresponding to facts or is distorted./

The Hungarian Government looks forward with hope to the joint efforts of States Members of the United Nations to create the international conditions of freedom of information and will on its part be ready also in the future to promote and support such efforts.

Budapest, 11 November 1976.

APPENDIX

/1/

Among the daily papers Népszabadság /People's Freedom: 745,000 circulation/ is the central organ of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party. With its influence, great circulation and high standard, it is the leading organ of the Hungarian Press. Népszava /The People's Voice: 281,000 circulation/ is the paper of the National Council of Trade Unions. It is very much concerned with the protection of workers' interests. The paper's news column is a lively feature. Magyar Nemzet /Hungarian Nation: 117,000 circulation/ is the organ of the Patriotic People's Front. Its articles, its foreign news reports and the comments from readers satisfy primarily the demands of the intelligentsia. Magyar Hirlap /Hungarian Newspaper: 49,000 circulation/ which, with its copious information material and objective tone, has become a favourite both with civil servants and with other strata of the population. Esti Hirlap /Evening News: 275,000 circulation/, which appears early in the afternoon, has developed into a socialist type of sensation-newspaper. The bilingual Daily News - Neueste Nachrichten /3,000 circulation/ provides fresh information to English- and German-speaking tourists visiting Hungary.

Világgazdaság /World Economy: 4,000 circulation/, the paper of the National Business and Market Research Institute and of the Hungarian Chamber of Commerce, covers the economic situation abroad. Népsport /People's Sports: 188,000 circulation/ is the paper of the National Office of Physical Education and Sports, a favourite with sports fans.

The other dailies are published at county seats. The nineteen county daily papers and the two town dailies /Szeged and Miskolc/, which deal especially with topics of local interest, are sold as a rule in the territory of the respective county.

A comparison of data indicates a great development: in 1949 the aggregate daily circulation per issue of all daily newspapers was 936.000. In the first half of 1956 this figure was 1,246.000, and in 1973 the circulation per issue of the central dailies alone was approximately 1,667.000 copies.

The weekly papers having a larger circulation are the following: Nők Lapja /Women's Paper/, the magazine of the National Council of Hungarian Women, appears in about 653,000 copies; Ország-Világ /Country and World/, the illustrated paper of the Hungarian-Soviet Friendship Society, in 166,000 copies;

Ludas Matyi /Mattie the Gooseboy/, a satirical political paper with cartoons, in 655,000 copies; Képes Ujság /Picture News/, the illustrated paper of the Patriotic People's Front for the rural population, in 412,000 copies; Film-Színház-Muzsika /Film, Theatre, Music/, an illustrated paper, in 139,000 copies; Élet és Tudomány /Life and Science/, the illustrated paper of the Association for the Popularization of Science, in 151,000 copies; Magyarország /Hungary/, a political and social weekly, in 134,000 copies; Magyar Ifjúság /Hungarian Youth/, the political weekly of the Young Communist League, in 245,000 copies; Hétfői Hírek /Monday News/ a political weekly published in three editions /Sunday afternoon, Sunday evening, and Monday morning/, in 218,000 copies; Füles /Long Ear/, an illustrated paper with strip cartoons and puzzles, in 363,000 copies; Rádió és Televízió Ujság /Radio and TV Guide/ with illustrations and the week's programme, in 931,000 copies; Figyelő, an economic weekly, in 31,000 copies.

There are hundreds of technical journals and periodicals to satisfy the special interests of the population.

Nine literary reviews are published in Hungary /five in Budapest, four in the provinces/. The month-

ly Kortárs /Contemporary/ is the organ of the Union of Hungarian Writers; Uj Irás /New Writing/ is the monthly of young writers and poets; Nagyvilág /Wide World/, a monthly review, introduces the new pieces of world literature to the Hungarian public; Élet és Irodalom /Life and Literature/ is a high-standard literary and political weekly. The combined circulation of the five literary periodicals published in Budapest amounts to 69,000. The total circulation of the four provincial literary papers /Jelenkor, Tiszatáj, Alföld and Napjaink/ is 11,000 copies. The only digest-type literary review in Hungary is the monthly Látóhatár /Horizon/.

The papers of trade unions appear once or twice a month for the workers of the various trades and occupations. The 26 trade-union newspapers are published in a total of 465,000 copies. In addition, large enterprises publish printed papers of their own. These papers deal mainly with questions of production in the respective enterprises, but they publish poems and short stories, too, chiefly from the pen of their own workpeople. The total circulation of the 223 Budapest and provincial factory newspapers is 806,300 copies.

In Hungary there are 14 church newspapers, of

which two are for the clergy, the rest speak directly to the believers. They have a total circulation of 147.000.

Among the nationality newspapers those published in German, Serbian and Slovak appear every week, that published in Rumanian appears once in every two weeks. Magyar Hirek /Hungarian News/ is the illustrated weekly of the World Federation of Hungarians.

Several Hungarian papers published in foreign languages are sold mainly abroad. The English-language monthly Hungarian Review is an illustrated weekly published also in a few other foreign languages. The New Hungarian Quarterly and the Budapester Rundschau deal with cultural, social and political developments in Hungary. The quarterlies Hungarian Foreign Trade and Hungarian Heavy Industries and the monthly Hungarian Exporter are specialized for questions of foreign trade. Some of these papers are published in a couple of other languages, too. The combined circulation of the foreign-language periodicals is nearly 286,000 copies.

A great number of scientific journals, also in various languages, are published by the Academy Publishing House and the universities.

Ninety-four technical journals appear in Hungary with a combined circulation of 544,000.

The papers dealing with agriculture and livestock breeding number 36 with a combined circulation of 250,000.

There are 27 different medical journals. Besides Orvosi Hetilap /Medical Weekly/, founded 100 years ago, practically every branch of medicine has a paper of its own. Their aggregate circulation is 456,000.

Special technical papers are published for photographers, librarians, musicians and artists, automobile drivers, pigeon breeders, needlework enthusiasts, etc. Their combined circulation is 200,000.

Printed periodicals owned by a number of societies, associations and business organizations appear in Hungary. Journals are thus published by the Hungarian Red Cross, the associations of hunters, anglers, artisans, philatelists, etc.

/2/

The number of radio subscribers rose from 178.000 in 1945 to 539,000 in 1949 and to 2,5 million in 1968.

On 1 May 1945 the Hungarian Radio started broadcasting through six street megaphones; the initial "broadcasting station" of 0,5 kW has since been replaced by two 150 kW and two 135 kW transmitters.

All this makes it possible for the Hungarian Radio to address the world every day, not only in Hungarian, but also in German, English, Russian, Italian, Spanish, Turkish, Arabic, Greek and other languages. It has a special broadcast programme for Hungarians living in Western Europe and on the American continent.

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The Hungarian Radio's newscasting is edited by the Department of Political Information, which provides an elaborate and many-sided programme to acquaint the public with events in Hungary and the wide world. This endeavour is given expression also in the frequent newscasts from early dawn to late in the night.

The programmes of the Music Department take up 60 per cent of the total broadcasting time, including music ranging from Alban Berg to the Hungarian folk song, on a wide range of music-making and singing.

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The Symphonic Orchestra of the Hungarian Radio and Television gives performances /in addition to its/ regular programmes from the studio/ in concert halls at home and abroad, with the participation of outstanding Hungarian and foreign conductors and soloists. The Choir, the Children's Choir and the Dance-Music Orchestra of the Hungarian Radio and Television scored great success on

their tours abroad. The broadcasting principle is concentrated on two points all over the world: diffusion of the information received and of the existing /inherited/ cultural and entertainment material /this is the busiest sector/ and the independent artistic functions /this is the narrowest band of the wide spectrum of radio programmes/.

The programme of the Literary and Dramatic Department enrich literary education in the first place, it shapes taste, world conception and has only as its secondary function to cultivate the independent genre of radio plays.

The Children's and Youth's Department gives special programmes for the young listeners.

/5/

The introduction of television in Hungary was decided towards the end of 1952, and experimental broadcasts began through a domestically produced 100 W transmitter on 19 December 1953. The creation of an up-to-date technical basis met with great difficulties: the construction of TV studios and regular transmission through the 1 kW station began as late as the summer of 1956.

The 30/10 kW high-power transmitter, which began working early in February 1957 and, on Széchenyi Hill,

in 1958, was at the time one of the most imposing TV stations in Europe /94 m. high/. That same year the first small TV studio was put into operation, followed by a large studio in November. This studio of an area of 440 square metres, which is still the largest in Hungary today, was inaugurated in 1963 and was equipped with the most up-to-date technical facilities. Experimental transmission in colour started in March 1969.

The domestic manufacture of TV receivers was started in 1955 at the Orion Works, where production soon went also for export. This factory has since got a match: the Videoton Works of Székesfehérvár.

The Hungarian Television had already 1,100,000 subscribers by 1 May 1967 and 1,282,667 in August 1968.

/6/

a/ The Hungarian publishing houses are specialized as follows:

Akadémiai Kiadó /Academy Publishing House/ publishes, on behalf of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, scientific books and periodicals in Hungarian and foreign languages, as well as encyclopedias and dictionaries;

Corvina Press puts out political writings, fiction, juvenile literature, books on art, tourist guides and educational works in foreign languages;

Európa Könyvkiadó /Europa Publishing House/ publishes foreign belles-lettres /fiction/ in Hungarian; its department called Helikon issues bibliophile editions of Hungarian and foreign authors' books;

Gondolat Könyvkiadó /Thought Publishing House/ brings out books popularizing the social and natural sciences;

Kossuth Könyvkiadó /Kossuth Publishing House/, the publisher of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, issues fundamental works on Marxism-Leninism, books on the history and topical problems of the labour movement, political and sociological works, as well as fiction;

Közgazdasági és Jogi Könyvkiadó /Publishing House for Economics and Law/ puts out economic, financial, commercial, statistical works, and works on industrial and agrarian economics, economic planning, factory organization, business management, as well as technical and scientific publications dealing with law and state administration; under the imprint Minerva it publishes educational works, painting and picture books, folders, household and cookery books;

Magvető Könyvkiadó /seedsman Publishing House/ is the publisher of contemporary Hungarian literature, but it publishes also modern foreign fiction as well as works on art and literary theory and criticism;

Medicina Könyvkiadó /Medicina Publishers/ brings out medical works, textbooks on hygiene, and educational books; it is also the publisher, with the imprint Sport, of books on sports and, with the imprint Panoráma, of travel guides and publications on tourism;

Mezőgazdasági Könyvkiadó /Publishing House for Agricultural Literature/ is the publisher of works and textbooks on agriculture; with the imprint Natura, it brings out educational books on biology;

Móra Ferenc Ifjúsági Kiadó /Móra Ferenc Youth Publishers/ issues fiction, educational and political books for youth and children; under the imprint Kozmosz it publishes literature for youngsters over sixteen years of age;

Műszaki Könyvkiadó /Technical Publishing House/ brings out technical works and textbooks;

Szépirodalmi Könyvkiadó /Belles-Lettres Publishing House/, the publisher of classical and modern Hungarian belles-lettres /fiction/ issues volumes of essays and foreign fiction under the heading "Cheap Library" literary classics can be bought in Hungary for the price of one kg. of bread/;

Tankönyvkiadó Vállalat /Textbook Publishing Enterprise/ brings out textbooks and auxiliary material for primary, secondary and higher education;

Táncsics Szakszervezeti Könyv- és Folyóiratkiadó Vállalat /Táncsics Trade Union Enterprise for the publication of books and periodicals/ publishes primarily works dealing with trade-union problems, but it issues also popular technical literature and educational books;

Zeneműkiadó Vállalat /Editio Musica/ publishes music, educational books on musicology, on the art of music and dancing;

Zrinyi Katonai Kiadó /Zrinyi Military Publishers/ takes care of the publication of military technical books, educational works on national defence, and memoirs.

In Hungary churches are also engaged in publishing; the publishers are Ecclesia Publishing House, the St. Stephen Society, the Ecumenical Council of Hungarian Churches, and the press departments of the various religious denominations.

Books are published also by the Statistical Publishing House /pocket books, yearbooks, etc./ and the Publishing House of the Fine Arts Fund /publications dealing with the fine arts./

Scientific institutions, universities, libraries, museums, and council departments also engage in publishing activities. The related programmes are sponsored by publishing houses, which are responsible also for the contents of these publications.

Corvina Press and the Academy Publishing House bring out many Hungarian publications in English, French, German, Russian, and other languages. Corvina has started a belles-lettres series, "Hungarian Library" in English and "Auteurs Hongrois" in French, has published the guide-books of Budapest museums, archaeological studies, has launched a series on Hungarian applied and folk art, and has brought out many travel books and guides on Hungary, etc.

The Academy Publishing House has attained international success mainly with its books on medicine, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, technology, archeology, musicology, art history, literary theory, etc. It regularly issues thirty-three foreign-language Acta and Studia which, edited by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, divulge the Hungarian results attained in the particular branches of science.

b/ The total number of the titles and copies of books published in Hungary since 1945 is as follows.

Year	Number of titles	Copies /in thousands/
1945	644	3,162.5
1948	1,684	10,676.7
1951	2,237	18,187.5
1954	2,750	19,832.6
1957	2,407	23,437.9
1960	2,972	34,692.7
1965	3,953	44,824.3
1968	4,588	47,970.9
1971	5,536	53,449.9
1973	6,894	63,931.0

/7/

/a/ Breakdown of translations by nationality of author

/1945-1973/

Author's nationality	Number of titles	In %	Number of copies /in thousands/	In %
African	65	0.2	295.5	0.1
Albanian	10	0.0	36.6	0.0
American /USA/	2,320	5.8	19,698.5	8.0
Arab /modern/	142	0.4	56.4	0.0
Arab /medieval/	54	0.1	1,304.6	0.5
Australian	77	0.2	890.7	0.4
Austrian	1,000	2.5	2,923.8	1.2
Belgian	172	0.4	227.7	0.1
Bulgarian	349	0.9	1,049.5	0.4
Canadian	141	0.3	234.3	0.1
Chinese	168	0.4	1,463.1	0.6

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/ctd./

Korean	45	0.1	248.0	0.1
Cuban	44	0.1	184.2	0.1
Czechoslovak	1,876	4.6	7,442.1	3.1
Danish	147	0.4	1,201.6	0.5
Dutch	259	0.6	504.6	0.2
English	2,289	5.7	24,235.3	9.8
Finnish	119	0.3	867.2	0.4
French	2,860	7.1	35,516.1	14.3
German	5,347	13.3	26,040.5	10.5
Greek /modern/	79	0.2	622.0	0.3
Greek /ancient/	136	0.3	1,345.2	0.5
Indian	468	1.2	423.8	0.2
Iranian	30	0.1	241.4	0.1
Israeli	99	0.2	466.0	0.2
Italian	1,291	3.2	5,439.2	2.2
Japanese	305	0.8	253.3	0.1
Latin	150	0.4	940.4	0.4
Polish	1,182	2.9	5,321.9	2.1
Norwegian	95	0.2	686.0	0.3
Portuguese	24	0.0	271.6	0.1
Rumanian	1,205	3.0	2,871.0	1.1
Russian and Soviet	12,079	30.0	75,799.4	30.6
South and Central American	127	0.3	1,055.5	0.4
Spanish	148	0.4	858.8	0.3
Swedish	239	0.6	929.4	0.4
Swiss	192	0.5	1,021.0	0.4
Turkish	34	0.1	74.1	0.0
Vietnamese	60	0.1	219.2	0.1
Yugoslav	381	0.9	1,468.2	0.6
Multilingual and miscellaneous	4,499	11.2	22,878.9	9.2
<hr/>				
T o t a l:	40,307.	100.0	247,606.6	100.0

b/ The export and import of books are handled by "Kultura" Trading Company for Books and Newspapers, functioning under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture. In 1972. it exported 3.2 million books in Hungarian and other languages and entertained relations with about 80 countries. In 1973 its exports to socialist countries amounted to 66 million exchange rate forints, its imports from there made up 37 million; in relation with capitalist countries the turnover of exports was 25 million, that of imports 11 million exchange rate forints.

/It should be noted here that in spite of the well-known efforts made by Hungarian publishing enterprises, the publishers in English, French, Spanish and Italian language territories bring out only a fraction of what is published in Hungary in translation from those languages./

/8/

The most important Hungarian libraries taking part in the international exchange network are the following:

The National Széchenyi Library, the largest library in Hungary, which has a central catalogue and a service of international exchange of books and publications, publishes the national bibliography, etc., and maintains exchange relations with scientific institutes of nearly all countries of the world.

University libraries:

Eötvös Lóránd University in Budapest; Kossuth Lajos University at Debrecen; Budapest Technical University; József Attila University at Szeged; Pécs University; Technical University of Heavy Industries at Miskolc; Semmelweis University of Medical Sciences in Budapest; University of Chemical Industries at Veszprém; Teachers' Training College at Eger; Karl Marx University of Economics in Budapest; University of Agricultural Sciences at Gödöllő; University of Veterinary Sciences in Budapest; University of Horticulture in Budapest; University of Silviculture and Timber Industry at Sopron.

Public scientific specialized libraries in Budapest:

Parliamentary Library and Museum /it collects mainly works on legal and political sciences, and has a file of all UN publications/; National Library of Pedagogics; Central Statistical Office Library and Documentation Service; Information Service of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food; National Technical Library and Documentation Centre; National Medical Library and Documentation Centre; National Library of Medical History, etc.

Outstanding among the public libraries is the

Szabó Ervin Municipal Library, a high-standard public library with specialized collections of scientific works on sociology, urbanism, modern history, etc. Its network has 61 district libraries and 53 branch libraries.

The major church libraries are the Library of the Benedictine Abbey at Pannonhalma; the Archdiocesan Library at Esztergom; the Archdiocesan Library at Kalocsa; the Episcopal Libraries at Győr, Szombathely, Székesfehérvár and Veszprém; the Library of the Roman Catholic Central Theological Academy in Budapest; the Library of the Calvinist College at Debrecen; the Great Library of the Cis-Tisza Calvinist Diocese at Sárospatak; the Ráday Library in Budapest; the Evangelical Church Library in Budapest; the Library of the Greek Orthodox Diocesan Authority at Szentendre.

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In 1973 the Association for the Popularization of Science organized 114,754 lectures for an aggregate attendance of 4,813.000 persons. The number of lectures given under the auspices of the general-knowledge academies was 34,999 attended by 1,199,545 persons.

/10/

Statistical publications in 1975:

/a/ Anniversary publications

Statistics on the situation of women.

Thirty years of socio-economic development in Hungary.

The work of the Councils 1950-1974.

The population and society of Szolnok /published on the 900th anniversary of the foundation of the city/.

Hungary Today /published in Hungarian, English, Russian and German/

The national economies of the member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance /published for the 25th anniversary of the establishment of CMEA/.

/b/ Compilations

Building materials industry documentation 1950-1973.

General agricultural inventory: Management of State farms and agricultural co-operatives in 1972.

By decision 3401/70 of the Council of Ministers the Hungarian People's Republic joined the FAO world census by carrying out a general survey.

/c/ Yearbooks

Statistical Yearbook 1974 /in Hungarian/

Statistical Yearbook 1973 /English-Russian bilingual edition/

Foreign Trade Statistical Yearbook 1974.

Home Trade Yearbook 1974.

Transport and Telecommunication Yearbook 1974.

Computer Technology Yearbook 1974.

Budapest Statistical Yearbook 1975.

Regional Statistical Yearbook 1975.

Demographic Yearbook 1973.

County Yearbook Series

Hungarian Statistical Pocket Book /series/ 1975,
published in Hungarian, Russian, German, English and French
languages.

/d/ Pocket books

Statistics on the situation of women

Industrial Pocket Book 1975

Agricultural Statistical Pocket Book 1975

Budapest Statistical Pocket Book 1975

/e/ Periodical communications

Collection of data on education

Employment and wage ratios in 1973

Historical trends of social mobility

Scientific research in 1973

Statistics of Foreign Tourism for 1974

/This publication may be of interest also to specialist in
questions of the flow of information because, as it is known,
one of the means of access to information is foreign tourism.

This book gives account of Hungary's domestic and foreign tourism and contains the data characteristic of the routes, destinations, etc. of foreigners visiting Hungary and Hungarian citizens going abroad individually and under the programmes of tourist agencies. The reader can find in it detailed regional and international data as well as the latest results of market research on foreign tourism/

Household statistics 1974.

The population's incomes and consumption, 1960-1973.

Principal data on the child-care allowance, 1967-1974.

Standards and distribution of family incomes in 1972.

Changes in consumer's prices among the principal strata of the population.

/f/ Economics, demography

International comparison of labour productivity.

Class structure and stratification of society.

Introduction to the theory of stable population.

In addition to the above titles the Statistical Publishing House issued reference books /e.g. Supplement to the 1973 Topographical Dictionary of the Hungarian People's Republic/, publications on computer science /Computer as a means of processing information/ and the following periodicals:

/g/ Statisztikai Havi Közlemények /Monthly Statistical Communications/; Statisztikai Szemle /Statistical Review/; Területi Statisztika /Regional Statistics/;

Demográfia /Demography/; Információ Elektronika /Information Electronics/; Számítástechnika /Computer Technology/

The titles and data enumerated above are only samples of the wide variety of statistical publications, of which it is impossible to give a complete list.

/11/

The social movements and mass organizations through their everyday actions take an active part in the flow of information. Freedom of information, guaranteed by legislative measures, is vital for the trade unions, women's and youth movements and organizations. Here are a few examples:

Persons attending functions of the various local and regional clubs of the Patriotic People's Front can put any questions, in public and without limitation, to statesmen and other public figures visiting those sessions, about home and foreign politics or the economic, cultural, etc. affairs of the country.

Similarly participants in juvenile /young workers', students', pioneers', etc./ parliaments interpellate in public about various questions of public interest which are then answered by the departmental ministers present.

The Hungarian press, radio and television give detailed on-the-spot accounts of the legislative sessions of the National Assembly.

A popular weekly feature of the Hungarian Radio is called "168 hours"; it provides opportunity for radio listeners to put questions by phone which are then answered by competent leading authorities.

LIST OF SOURCES

Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, Final Act.
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Museums	p. 557
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House, Budapest 1956.

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Vengersky Statistichesky Spravotchnyk 1974.

[Original: English]
[9 November 1976]

NEW ZEALAND

I. Concise introductory description of general policies and significant developments during the period from 1 July 1970 to 30 June 1975 with regard to the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers

The most significant change in general policy on the media during the period under review was the Broadcasting Act 1973, which abolished the New Zealand Broadcasting Corporation and restructured the broadcasting network in New Zealand. Under this Act, the two television channels and radio were reconstituted as three independent public corporations under the overall control of a new central body, the Broadcasting Council. The guiding principles in the restructured network were those of decentralization, independence and the introduction of competitive enterprise within publicly-owned broadcasting services.

The main functions of the Broadcasting Council are to develop the efficient operation of broadcasting services by the corporations, to transmit programmes, gather news and make it available to the television corporations, to ensure that as far as possible there is no overlapping of like programmes, and to receive and distribute the proceeds of licence fees among the corporations. The Council also prescribes the standards of advertising and programmes that may be broadcast, and promulgates rules in respect of the control of locally produced items.

The Act provided that no new licences be granted in respect of private broadcasting stations. Existing stations set up under the Broadcasting Authority Act 1968 were to continue operating subject to a condition that they did not form a network of broadcasting stations linked for the purpose of simultaneous broadcasting. The Council had power to amend or revoke the condition of the warrant. There is a right of appeal to the Supreme Court if after inquiry a warrant has been revoked or suspended.

It should be noted that, following a change of government at the end of the reporting period, this legislation is now under review.

The News Media Ownership Act 1965 was repealed in 1975. The purpose of this Act was to compel the retention by persons or companies domiciled in New Zealand of at least 80 per cent of the ownership of any New Zealand newspaper or private broadcasting station, and to prohibit the establishment of private broadcasting stations or newspapers in New Zealand by a company incorporated outside New Zealand.

III. Legislative and other measures adopted during the period under review

The New Zealand Press Council voluntarily constituted in 1972 with representatives of the Newspaper Publishers' Association, the Journalists' Union, and the public, was established to preserve the freedom of the press, to deal with and adjudicate on complaints concerning the conduct of the press, or the conduct of persons towards the press, and to review developments likely to restrict the supply of information of public interest. A retired President of the Court of Appeal is chairman.

As an ethical body, the Press Council does not seek to supplement or supersede legal remedies; nor as a voluntary organization has it any power to do so. It exercises jurisdiction only in respect of newspapers, and a complaint once heard is dealt with by a published account of the facts and the Council's decision. There is no recourse to litigation following a referral of a complaint to the Council.

IV. Limitations upon the exercise of freedom of information

The Race Relations Act 1971, designed to affirm and promote racial equality in New Zealand (and to give effect to the United Nations Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination) provides in s.25 that an offence is committed by every person who publishes, distributes or broadcasts threatening abusive or insulting material with the intention of exciting hostility, or bringing into contempt or ridicule any group of persons in New Zealand on the ground of colour, race, ethnic or national origin.

The Indecent Publications Amendment Act 1972 was introduced to counter deficiencies in the practical operation of the Indecent Publications Act 1963. Section 3 provides for interim restriction in certain circumstances of books that have been referred to the Indecent Publications Tribunal. A restriction order, which remains in force for one month, precludes the sale of any book or recording submitted to the Tribunal where the Tribunal has yet to announce its decision.

Where, under s.5 the Tribunal has found three issues of a periodical indecent within a 12 month period, it may issue an order effective for up to two years applying to every issue published while the order is in force whereby those issues of the periodical are deemed to be prima facie indecent documents or restricted publications. Such an order may be revoked or varied by the Tribunal on the application of any person.

The Criminal Justice Amendment Act 1975 contained a controversial provision prohibiting the publication of names of persons accused of offences until guilt is established and a conviction entered. The person accused of an offence may apply for an order permitting publication, as may the prosecutor or any member of the public who reasonably believes he may be personally prejudiced by non-publication of the accused's name. The Court may also permit publication in the interests of the general public, having regard to certain fixed criteria. The National Government, elected in November 1975, announced its intention to repeal this provision in 1976, and legislation has been introduced for the purpose.

While not strictly fitting into any of the categories listed, ss. 19 and 20 of the Ombudsmen Act 1975 relate to the availability of information where a decision or recommendation of any government department, local authority or public body is investigated by an Ombudsman following a complaint, or of his own motion.

Any officer employee or member of any department or organization may be required to give information, to produce documents and be examined on oath in relation to the matter under investigation. Every such person shall have the same privileges as a witness in court proceedings. Information that might prejudice the national interest, the investigation or detection of offences, or the disclosure

of Cabinet proceedings shall not be disclosed. The rule as to withholding information on the ground that it would be injurious to the public interest does not apply to investigations by an Ombudsman unless the disclosure relates to Cabinet matters of a secret or confidential nature.

There have been a number of cases dealing with privileged information.

Re Golightly [1974] 2 NZLR 297 concerned a solicitor who had been directed by his client to make a statement to the police. Charges were later laid against the client and the solicitor received a witness summons to attend court as a Crown witness in proceedings against his client. The application to set aside the witness summons on the grounds of privilege was dismissed by the court as the communications made to the solicitor by the client were in furtherance of a crime or fraud. Legal professional privilege did not attach to such a communication.

In Bonner v. Karamea Shipping Co. Ltd. [1973] 2 NZLR 374 it was held that s.13(1) of the Labour Department Act 1954 forbidding the communication of information obtained by the Department under the Act to any person except for the purposes of the Act, does not extend to the giving of evidence by an official of the Department in a personal injuries case.

In the Court of Appeal decisions in Konia v. Morley, and Cullen v. Attorney-General [1976] 1 NZLR 455 discovery of certain documents had been refused by the Attorney-General on the grounds of legal professional privilege and Crown privilege. The appeals arose out of civil claims made by each appellant against police officers based on alleged abuses of police powers. In allowing the appeal by Konia the Court rules that it was not bound by a ministerial objection to discovery and may overrule such objection. In regard to a claim of privilege the Court noted that it must hold the balance between the public interest as expressed by a minister and the public interest in ensuring the proper administration of justice.

McDougall v. Henderson [1976] 1 NZLR 59 concerned medical privilege. The applicant, a psychiatrist, was served with a subpoena to give evidence in a case involving his patient. The Court ordered the doctor to obey the subpoena and answer questions until the occasion arose when he was asked to divulge any communication made to him in his professional capacity by the patient.

There have been two relevant decisions on indecent publications.

In Police v. Rose Publishing Co. Ltd. [1974] 1 NZLR 745, a mail order catalogue was posted to a person at his request. The contents of the catalogue included alleged indecent photographs reproduced from publications which had previously been classified indecent for persons under 18 years. The Court held that the photographs were not indecent because the catalogue was only sent to adults who requested it. The Court further held that in a prosecution under the Post Office Act 1959 for posting an article containing indecent photographs, the question of indecency must be assessed by reference to matters set out in s.11 of the Indecent Publications Act 1963 such as the age of the addressee and whether that person is likely to be corrupted by the catalogue.

In Police v. News Media Ownership Ltd. [1975] 1 NZLR 610 the Court of Appeal in a majority decision upheld the conviction of a weekly newspaper on charges under the Indecent Publications Act 1963 of inserting an indecent picture and publishing an indecent document, namely the same issue. The Court considered that the definition of the word "indecent" in the Act was not restricted solely to the matters contained in the definition, and established a flexible test. Notwithstanding the obligation to consider matters specified in s.11 such as whether any person is likely to be corrupted by the document, and a finding of lack of proof of likelihood of corruption, the Court may still find the document indecent in light of other considerations. The guiding principle in determining indecency is that there must be discernible injury to the public good.