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Catholic Editors, 20 May 1965

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CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

432 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016



Phone: (212) MU 4-2550

June 17, 1965

Handwritten: 6/17/65

His Excellency, U Thant
Secretary-General
The United Nations
United Nations Plaza
New York, New York

Your Excellency:

On behalf of the officials and members of the International Union of the Catholic Press and our own Catholic Press of the United States and Canada, I want to thank you most sincerely for receiving and greeting the delegates to our recent 7th World Congress of the Catholic Press. This UN meeting was a major highlight of the Congress.

The many hundreds of the delegates who attended the May 20 meeting of the Congress at which you spoke were greatly honored and pleased at your coming, and most stimulated by your remarks.

Your words will have great and lasting influence on the work of these Catholic journalists as they resume their day-to-day editing and publishing work in the 30 countries from which they came, and we greatly appreciate your taking time from your busy schedule to give them this inspiring message.

Please be assured that this office will be honored to provide any information or assistance to your office whenever possible, and we hope you will call on us if we can be of aid.

I have the honor to be,

JAD:fb


James A. Doyle
Executive Director

PROFESSIONAL TRADE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND GENERAL PUBLISHERS

WELCOME ADDRESS BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
AT MEETING OF CATHOLIC EDITORS, UNITED NATIONS,
3.30 p.m., 20 May 1965.

I am glad to have the opportunity of welcoming you here at the Headquarters of the United Nations. I have frequently had occasion to emphasize the importance of the mass media in helping the people of the world to assess the vital controversies of our time, and to strengthen co-operation and understanding between countries and peoples of the world. Both your influence and your responsibilities in this complex and troubled world of ours can hardly be over-estimated, and I am, therefore, much pleased that you have chosen to pay this visit to the United Nations. I hope that it will give you a first-hand picture of the position of the Organization, its activities, its difficulties and its possibilities.

.../...

I am interested to see that you have singled out "The role of truth in the pursuit of liberty" as the theme of your deliberations. In doing so, you have gone, I believe, to the heart of the matter of news, and their influence on both national and international affairs. In a world where the media of information play a vastly important part in forming opinion and in setting the atmosphere of the relations between peoples and nations, you could have hardly picked a more relevant or vital subject. Our best hope for peace in the world is, in the long run, an enlightened and unprejudiced public opinion. That in turn depends to a large extent on an objective and free press which constantly lives up to its great responsibilities. And an objective and free press depends largely upon the courage and understanding of its editors and writers.

I hope that your visit here may contribute to your understanding of the United Nations and of what it is trying to do.

Welcome address by the Secretary-General
at meeting of Catholic Editors, United Nations,
3.30 p.m., 20 May 1965

*Dr. Alberto
Martin-Artajo
At the request of
Giovanni*

I am glad to have the opportunity of welcoming you here at the Headquarters of the United Nations. I have frequently had occasion to emphasize the importance of the mass media in helping the people of the world to assess the vital controversies of our time, and to strengthen co-operation and understanding between countries and peoples of the world. Both your influence and your responsibilities in this complex and troubled world of ours can hardly be over-estimated, and I am, therefore, much pleased that you have chosen to pay this visit to the United Nations. I hope that it will give you a first-hand picture of the position of the Organization, its activities, its difficulties and its possibilities.

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I hope that your visit here may contribute to your understanding of the United Nations and of what it is trying to do.

13 May 1965

Dear Mr. Von Feldt,

.....

Please find enclosed the text of the welcome address to be delivered by the Secretary-General at the meeting with the members of the World Congress of the International Catholic Press Union in the United Nations on 20 May 1965.

Yours sincerely,

José Rolz-Bennett
Under-Secretary for
Special Political Affairs

Mr. Elmer Von Feldt
News Editor
N.C.W.C. News Service
1512 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20005

cc: Mr. Narasimhan/
Mr. Lemieux ✓
Registry

The Secretary-General

12 May 1965

Mr. J. Holz-Bennett
Acting Chief of Cabinet

Pierre de Meuleneester
Chief of Protocol

World Congress of the International Catholic Press Union

1. Monsignor Alberto Giovannetti, Permanent Observer of the Holy See, called on me this afternoon accompanied by Father Morley, Secretary of the International Catholic Press Union, concerning the visit of approximately 700 catholic newspapers correspondents at Headquarters on 20 May 1965.
2. Monsignor Giovannetti and Father Morley wanted to straighten out a misunderstanding they think slipped into the interpretation of Monsignor Giovannetti's conversation with Mr. Narasimhan some time ago when he was asked whether you would address the group of correspondents. Apparently, you would have written that you would only be able to attend part of the meeting when the correspondents visit Headquarters on 20 May and that you would not be able to listen to the address given by señor Don Martin-Artajo, the main speaker.
3. This is where there appears to be some misunderstanding.

I have been asked to submit the following for your consideration and approval:

- a) The members of the "World Congress of the International Catholic Press Union" will meet for luncheon at the Waldorf Astoria on Thursday May 20.
- b) After the luncheon, the members of the Congress will come to the United Nations Headquarters in ten buses leaving the Waldorf at 3 o'clock to convene at Headquarters in Conference Room No. 4 at 3:30 promptly.
- c) At 3:35 Monsignor Giovannetti would greet you at the door of Conference Room No. 4 and introduce to you Mr. Martin-Artajo and the Representative of the Holy See to this Congress.

/...

d) Together you would enter the Conference Room where the 700 members of the Congress are gathered and take place at the Conference Room bureau.

e) The proceeding would immediately start off by señor Martin-Artajo, speaking on behalf of the participants, addressing himself to you as per the attached text (7 to 10 minutes). ?

.....

f) You would acknowledge Mr. Martin-Artajo's remarks. (Monsignor Giovannetti would appreciate receiving two copies of the text of your address).

g) The proceeding would end immediately after your statement. It is estimated that it would be approximately 4:15 p.m.

4. Monsignor Giovannetti told me that the practical aspects of the convening of the members of the Congress were being taken care of by Mr. Charles Hogan from N.C.O. Section but that he had not been brought into the arrangements concerning your participation in the procedure.

5. May I have your approval of the above-outlined programme with the amendments you might choose to make to it so that I may inform Monsignor Giovannetti and Father Morley.

Seen by C.V.N.

20

CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

1965 Convention / World Congress Committee:

MARYKNOLL, Maryknoll P.O., New York



Phone: (914) WI 1-7590

April 14, 1965

2/15/65



His Excellency, U Thant
Secretary-General
The United Nations
United Nations Plaza
New York, New York

Your Excellency:

I'm just back after a long trip to Latin America and I'm trying to conclude all the preparations for the World Congress of the Catholic Press.

This letter is merely a reminder that you are scheduled to give the Welcome Address at the meeting at the United Nations on Thursday, May 20th, at 3:30 p.m.

We look forward to your participation in this program.

Every best wish, Your Excellency,

Albert J. Nevins

Father Albert J. Nevins
Chairman / World Congress of
the Catholic Press

conf. room
1

PROFESSIONAL TRADE ASSOCIATION OF CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND GENERAL PUBLISHERS

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CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

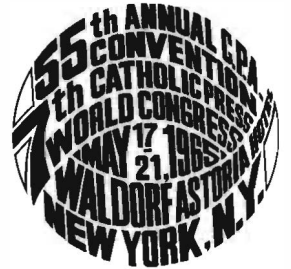
Office of the President:

THE REGISTER, 409 N. Monroe Avenue, Peoria 3, Ill.



Phone: (309) 673-3603

March 29, 1965



82/313

His Excellency
Secretary-General U Thant
United Nations
New York, New York

Your Excellency:

I was delighted to hear that you will be able to speak briefly to the delegates of our World Congress of the Catholic Press when they visit the United Nations on Thursday, May 20, at 3 p.m.

We fully appreciate the necessities of your schedule that make it impossible for you to stay with our group to hear the address given by Dr. Artajo or to participate in the Congress banquet that same night at the Waldorf Astoria. Because of your busy schedule we doubly appreciate your taking the time to welcome our delegates.

Sincerely yours,

Rt. Rev. Msgr. R. G. Peters
President

RGP:sh

cc Mr. C. V. Macomber

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Rt. Rev. Msgr. Terrence P. McMahon, *Treasurer*
John A. O'Connor, *Secretary*

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY: James A. Doyle

COUNSEL: Thomas A. Brennan

23 March 1965

Dear Monsignor Peters,

I was pleased to receive your letter of 16 March concerning the meeting in New York, from 16 to 22 May, of the 7th World Congress of the Catholic Press and your plans to visit United Nations Headquarters during your stay.

I should be very happy to say a few words of greeting to participants in the Congress at the beginning of the special assembly which you are holding in this connexion at the United Nations, on Thursday 20 May, at 3 p.m. Unfortunately, however, as my schedule for that afternoon will not permit me to remain with you too long, I regret that I shall not be able to stay to hear the principal address, to be delivered by Dr. Artajo.

It was also very kind of you to have invited me to attend the main Congress banquet, to be held that evening at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel, and it is with much regret that I find that a previous commitment will not permit me to join your distinguished gathering.

I look forward to meeting you at the United Nations on 20 May. Meanwhile, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

U Thant

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Robert G. Peters
President, Catholic Press Association
432 Park Avenue South
New York, N.Y. 10016

cc: R. Norad
Mr. Hogan

CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

432 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N. Y. 10016



Phone: (212) MU 4-2550

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

March 16, 1965



His Excellency, U Thant
Secretary-General
The United Nations
United Nations Plaza
New York, New York

Your Excellency:

This May, in New York, the 7th World Congress of the Catholic Press -- the first such Congress ever held outside Europe -- will be conducted by our Association in cooperation with the sponsoring organization, the International Union of the Catholic Press, whose main offices are in Paris.

More than 700 Catholic newspaper and magazine editors and publishers from all over the world are expected. They will come from Europe, Latin America, Africa, the Far East, Near East, and of course, the United States and Canada -- to attend Congress sessions here during the week of May 16-22, 1965, in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

The International Union of the Catholic Press, whose president is Raimondo Manzini, editor-in-chief of L'Osservatore Romano, Vatican City daily newspaper, is accredited to the United Nations as a non-governmental organization. For this reason, and because of the obvious keen interest among Catholic publishers the world over in the United Nations and in international affairs generally, we have arranged a special visit and meeting for our delegates at the United Nations Thursday afternoon, May 20, from 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. We are making arrangements for this special assembly with Mr. Charles Hogan, chief of the Non-Governmental Organization Section.

The principal address at this meeting, during our visit to the United Nations, will be made by Dr. Martin Artajo, former foreign minister of Spain, and editor of the newspaper YA, of Madrid. He will speak for the members of the International Union in expressing our appreciation of the opportunity to visit the United Nations.

We are pleased to invite you, Mr. Secretary-General, to welcome the delegates to this World Congress during this visit to the United Nations on May 20, and, if possible, to respond briefly to the remarks of Senor Artajo.

We also wish to invite you most cordially to attend our main Congress banquet -- Thursday evening, May 20, in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Cardinal Spellman and Mayor Wagner have both indicated they will be with us at this banquet, and we are expecting President Johnson will address this affair, although his coming has not yet been finally confirmed.

His Excellency, Mr. U Thant

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March 16, 1965

The theme of this World Congress is "Truth in the Pursuit of Liberty", and our main Congress sessions will all be related to this concept and theme in some way. So that you may see some of the variety of subjects and speakers so far arranged, we are enclosing a folder describing the Congress itself.

We look forward to hearing that you will be able to be with us on May 20 and we hope we may be able shortly to inform Catholic Press members around the world that you will be able to greet them. Thank you very much for your attention.

Cordially,



Rt. Rev. Msgr. Robert G. Peters
President

JAD:mc
Enc.

*in reality the text of the address
greeting the A.C. - to which
the A.C. would be expected to reply.*

WORLD CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC PRESS UNION

*This Reading
is wrong - it is*

May 1965

TEXT OF ~~REPLY~~ TO THE GREETINGS OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE
UNITED NATIONS, MR. U THANT, AT THE RECEPTION IN THE SEAT OF
THE ORGANIZATION, NEW YORK, MAY 20.

(Spoken on behalf of the participants by Don Alberto
Martín-Artajo)

Honorable Secretary-General:

This is the first time that the International Catholic Press Union has held its World Congress on the American Continent, and accordingly the first time it has been present, physically, in this Headquarters of the United Nations. Morally, however, our Union has always been present in this international Areopagus, because we are united by one and the same noble enterprise: to work for peace between all peoples. That is the undertaking of the U.N.O., and it is also a part of the mission of the Catholic Press, though this has also duties of another order.

This common objective - the quest for peace - is one that the United Nations and the Catholic Press seek to serve in the same way, namely with the spirit of truth and in an environment of freedom. It is moreover the motto of our Congress, which proposes to examine how the truth is the basis and starting-point for attaining freedom. And upon this subject and in this place, before a very large audience, admirable words were spoken three months ago by eminent personalities who were paying homage to the Encyclical Letter of the late-lamented Pope John, "Pacem in terris".

Allow me, Mr Secretary-General, after congratulating this Organization on having taken that initiative, and thanking it on behalf of our International Catholic Press Union, to take a few words from that document as the basis of my brief remarks, since the participants have honoured me with the pleasant task of responding to your kind welcome with our cordial and grateful greetings.

"Human society," His Holiness wrote, "is progressively developing towards freedom." These wise words consecrate the principle of responsible liberty of the person, as the basic and irreplaceable

element of human life in common at all levels and in all its spheres. They are moreover timely words, when that freedom is threatened in so many parts of the world.

You have all observed this. Formerly, when men exalted liberty to such a pitch that they made it fall into licence, the Catholic Church came out in support of the principle of authority; today, when authority is exalted until it crosses the border of despotism, the Catholic Church recalls the fundamental value of human freedom. Freedom, within its proper bounds, is an indispensable condition for the healthy development of any established political community.

The irrepressible energy of human nature links freedom and truth together in close connexion; to such a degree that it can be affirmed - and history, both ancient and recent is there to prove it - that when the criterion of truth perishes or flags, the exercise of human freedom perishes or flags also.

The drama of contemporary humanity is composed of two acts. The first is centred upon the crisis of truth. The second, which results from the first, displays the deep crisis of freedom today. The dénouement of this drama, which concerns us all, depends upon what solution is given for the problem that arises concerning the objective truth. We are bound to recognize that if freedom is threatened today, the reason is that the truth was previously darkened and maltreated.

The advance of the natural sciences in modern times has been demonstrating, with amazing regularity, the incurable relativity of human knowledge - a gnoseological principle plainly stated by the "philosophia perennis". But modern philosophical thought has attached an erroneous meaning to that legitimate relativity of human knowledge in the scientific order, by raising it to a fundamental and definitive category of philosophical knowledge.

As a result, step by step, many consciences have been falling over a precipice into the abyss below, and there today lie the norms and supreme criteria of truth, destroyed by the most absolute philosophical relativism. It is at this level - the metaphysical level - that we must today seek the explanation of the contemporary crisis of truth, a crisis from which have sprung political and social consequences that all men of good will rightly deplore.

Accordingly, if genuine human freedom is to be regained and consolidated, it is absolutely necessary, first to restore truth, and then to consolidate it in the total fulness of its objective dimensions.

This is the profound sense, the living actuality of the theme which has convoked the World Congress of the Catholic Press and the annual Meeting of the American Association of the Catholic Press.

Objective truth is not a thing that man can shape at choice; it is something which stands erect before man. And in the presence of that objective truth, if man seeks to be consistent, he must submit to it, because behind, or rather within, that very objectivity of truth, lies the real and final instance of that which is transcendent and supreme: of the self-existent Being.

Important as this conclusion is in the purely personal order, it is no less valid in the social and political domain.

In conclusion, allow me to suggest an idea about what is involved in the projection of the truth as the path to freedom, in the sphere of international relations.

The world is moving with inexorable steps towards unification. The interdependence of States is today an ineluctable fact in the social, economic and political orders. National structures, hitherto valid, are now displaying visible inadequacy as the basis of the world order. It was Pope John XXIII who, in the Encyclical already mentioned, "Pacem in terris", clearly and incisively affirmed the peremptory need for a world authority that would assure the joint welfare of all peoples the thing which is called the universal common weal. Here we have an irreversible tendency and a demand that requires speedy and general satisfaction. However, only the general, loyal and sincere recognition of a common fund of objective truths, only the recognition - also general, loyal and sincere - of a common patrimony of mankind, can make it possible to erect, on this international plane, the base necessary for that mutual confidence which, within the truth, will allow all peoples to enjoy an honorable freedom.

The great obstacle in international relations, whose rhythm and intensity, in spite of all, display an increasing and positive sign, is the mutual distrust aroused by the radical disparity of the ideological systems that claim to give a controlled and utilitarian version of the unbriably objective criteria of human truth. We who form part of this Congress, and of the institutions represented in it, are working and will continue to work with tireless perseverance to erect that bridge of objective truth, of authentic freedom, which will allow the already existing international solidarity to develop and to pass freely and unrestrictedly among all the countries of the world.

Pope Paul VI has just reminded us of this great duty, in his allocution to journalists three weeks ago. Here are his words: "Today more than ever it is necessary not to degrade information into propaganda... and not to lead groups of readers against other groups of fellow-citizens or foreigners by systematically directed campaigns.. It is a strict duty to work for mutual understanding and for the calm incorporation of all, within the natural communities of which they are members, into the great family of mankind."

There is the noble, attractive, unrenounceable task to which all men of good will are called. And, in particular, the men who regularly meet in this house, representing the governments of the whole world, and we men of the Catholic Press who are your guests today. If we fulfil that task, to us will be applied the words of the Gospel, which are really a compendium of all that has been said: "The truth shall make you free."

Thank you, Honcrable Secretary-General, for your kindness in receiving us.

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International Catholic Press Union - 20 May 1965

(Conference Room 1)

The Catholic Press Association, in cooperation with its sponsoring organization, the International Catholic Press Union which is in category B consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, is holding its 7th World Congress in New York from 18 - 21 May 1965.

Some 600 well-known newspaper and magazine editors and publishers from Africa, Europe, the Near and Far East, Latin America and the United States will meet at the United Nations today to hear the Secretary-General U Thant.

The speaker from this organization will be Dr. Martin Artajo, former Foreign Minister of Spain and Director of "YA", Madrid. Mr. Raimondo Manzini, Director "Osservatore Romano" and President of the International Catholic Press Union will be among those present as well as the Right Reverend Monsignor Alberto Giovanetti, Permanent Observer of the Holy See at the United Nations.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, Friday, 21 May 1965

**Thant, Addressing Newsmen,
Says Press Is Key to Peace**

The United Nations Secretary General, N Thant, said yesterday that the best hope for world peace lay in "enlightened and unprejudiced public opinion."

"That, in turn, depends to a large extent on an objective and free press which constantly lives up to its great responsibilities."

Mr. Thant said at the seventh world congress of the Roman Catholic press.

About 500 editors and writers for Catholic newspapers and periodicals throughout the world are meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Mr. Thant said he hoped a visit to the

United Nations would give them "a first-hand picture of the organization, its activities, its difficulties and its possibilities."