

5/2/98

Washington DC Trip (10/98)

GMS

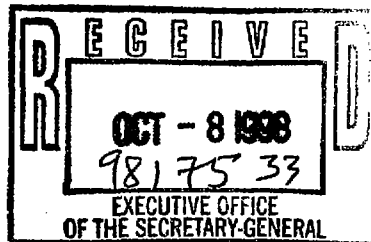
WORLD PRESS FREEDOM COMMITTEE

A Coordination Group of National and International News Media Organizations



October 6, 1998

His Excellency Kofi A. Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations
Room 3800, United Nations Headquarters
New York, NY 10017



Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

We are looking forward with great anticipation to your Andersen Lecture here in Washington next week. Your topic -- 'Regardless of Frontiers: Article 19 in a World of Sovereign States' -- is certainly most appropriate in this 50th anniversary year of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We anticipate a packed house at the Madison Hotel, and I know that you will be pleased with the reception you find there.

Enclosed please find a list of those individuals who have indicated they will be with us for the luncheon and lecture. Responses continue to come in, so the list could change somewhat. To give you an idea of the schedule for this event, here is a general outline:

We have invited guests for 12:30 p.m., to leave time for settling down and for a glass of wine. We can begin the program at 1 p.m. or once you've had a chance to enjoy your lunch and become comfortable.

Jim Ottaway, Jr., our chairman, will introduce you briefly and will acknowledge the presence of at least four press freedom heroes -- Doan Viet Hoat of Vietnam; Christine Anyanwu of Nigeria; Kenneth Best of Liberia and Gambia; and Yndimiro Restano of Cuba.

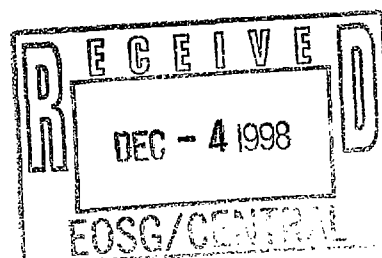
Following your address, if you are willing, we will entertain questions from the audience. And at some time during the program, if you agree, it would be wonderful if you would give your endorsement to the Charter for a Free Press, which we like to call an implement for putting Article 19 into practice.

We would also appreciate the opportunity to make photographs with Jim and other key people present, and this time can be kept brief. If you have any questions or suggestions, I hope you will feel free to be in touch with us. We want this to be a rewarding experience for all involved, and we welcome your thoughts.

Once again, we thank you for accepting our invitation to deliver this important address. I know it will reach key policymakers in not only Washington, but around the world, and we deeply appreciate the opportunity to host this event.

Sincerely,

Marilyn J. Greene
Marilyn J. Greene
Executive Director



982804

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Press Foundation of Asia
Radio-Television News Directors
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Reporters Committee for Freedom
of the Press
Sociedad Dominicana de Diarios
Society of Professional Journalists

**1998 Harold W. Andersen Lecture
and Luncheon**

Acceptances to 10/5/98

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Sherry Abel

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Adnan Alkatib
VAE Broadcasting System

David Anable
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Harold W. Andersen
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Former chairman, Omaha World-Herald
Co.;

Marian Andersen

Kofi Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations

Christine Anyanwu
Founder, The Sunday Magazine, Lagos,
Nigeria; Winner, 1998 UNESCO press
freedom prize

Ambassador Michael Arnevad
Embassy of Trinidad & Tobago

Ambassador Le Van Bang
Embassy of Vietnam

Todd Bensman
Dallas Morning News
Pew Fellow

Kenneth Best
Exiled owner, The Daily Observer,

Banjul, Gambia

Craig Branson
American Society of Newspaper Editors

Del Brinkman
Journalism Program Officer
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Bob Brinkmann
Vice President, Postal & Regulatory Affairs
Newspaper Association of America

Herbert Brubaker
The Television News Center

Andrew Buchman
Institute for Democracy in Eastern Europe

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Senior Adviser
WPFC

Joyce Bullen

Frank Calzon
Center for a Free Cuba

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Freelance reporter;
Pew Fellow in International Journalism

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Taipei Economic & Cultural Office

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National Endowment for Democracy

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Corporation for Public Broadcasting

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Davidson & Associates

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U.S. State Department.

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U.N. Association of the USA

Joseph Duffey
Director, USIA

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Spokesman for the Secretary-General,
United Nations

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Embassy of Sweden

Steven Erlanger
Reporter, The New York Times

Nasim Firdaus
Embassy of Bangladesh

Joel Fischman

USIA

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WPFC Executive Committee
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Former editor, Washington Star

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Senior International Advisor
Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld, L.L.P.
Former assistant secretary of state

Georgie Anne Geyer
Columnist
Universal Press Syndicate

Ronald Godard
Deputy Permanent Representative
U.S. Mission to the OAS

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Exiled founder,
The Freedom Forum magazine, Vietnam

Mrs. Doan Viet Hoat (Tran Thi Thuc)

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About the Charter . . .

This Charter for a Free Press represents provisions approved by journalists from 34 countries at the Voices of Freedom world conference on censorship problems in London, Jan. 16-18, 1987.

The conference was held by the World Press Freedom Committee, with the cooperation of the World Association of Newspapers, International Press Institute, Inter American Press Association, North American National Broadcasters Association and the International Federation of the Periodical Press.

The provisions embody a wide consensus on principles necessary to ensure free, independent news media. The Charter has been cited approvingly at OSCE and other meetings, formally endorsed by both the U.N. Secretary-General and UNESCO's Director-General and supported by a number of journalistic organizations around the world.

We hope the Charter will be useful wherever principles for freedom and a free press are needed.

Charter for a Free Press



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WORLD PRESS FREEDOM COMMITTEE

Charter for a Free Press

A free press means a free people. To this end, the following principles, basic to an unfettered flow of news and information both within and across national borders, deserve the support of all those pledged to advance and protect democratic institutions.

1. Censorship, direct or indirect, is unacceptable; thus laws and practices restricting the right of the news media freely to gather and distribute information must be abolished, and government authorities, national or local, must not interfere with the content of print or broadcast news, or restrict access to any news source.
2. Independent news media, both print and broadcast, must be allowed to emerge and operate freely in all countries.
3. There must be no discrimination by governments in their treatment, economic or otherwise, of the news media within a country. In those countries where government media also exist, the independent media must have the same free access as the official media have to all material and facilities necessary to their publishing or broadcasting operations.
4. States must not restrict access to newsprint, printing facilities and distribution systems, operation of news agencies, and availability of broadcast frequencies and facilities.

5. Legal, technical and tariff practices by communications authorities which inhibit the distribution of news and restrict the flow of information are condemned.

6. Government media must enjoy editorial independence and be open to a diversity of viewpoints. This should be affirmed in both law and practice.

7. There should be unrestricted access by the print and broadcast media within a country to outside news and information services, and the public should enjoy similar freedom to receive foreign publications and foreign broadcasts without interference.

8. National frontiers must be open to foreign journalists. Quotas must not apply, and applications for visas, press credentials and other documentation requisite for their work should be approved promptly. Foreign journalists should be allowed to travel freely within a country and have access to both official and unofficial news sources, and be allowed to import and export freely all necessary professional materials and equipment.

9. Restrictions on the free entry to the field of journalism or over its practice, through licensing or other certification procedures, must be eliminated.

10. Journalists, like all citizens, must be secure in their persons and be given full protection of law. Journalists working in war zones are recognized as civilians enjoying all rights and immunities accorded to other civilians.