

George: For your personal info. The Ambassa-

Closing speech by Professor Kaarle Nordenstreng
as President elected in the VIII Congress of the
International Organization of Journalists,
Helsinki, September 23, 1976

*dar might
not be too
delighted to see
this in journal!
Kaarle*

At the closure of our Congress there is little to be added to everything that has been said over the past three days. Let me just single out two overall perspectives which have been significant to this Congress - as they indeed are typical characteristics of today's international arena in general.

Firstly, the struggle against colonialism and other forms of unjust and unequal social order - in economic as well as cultural-informational spheres. In this respect I should like to mention the movement of the non-aligned countries as an ever more significant force contributing to a new and more democratic world order - democratic not only in the theory of classic liberalism but in actual practice and for the benefit of the majority of the people.

Secondly, the development in international political relations called reduction of tension or détente which is paving the way to putting the arms race under control. As far as our particular field of journalism and mass communication is concerned, this tendency will greatly contribute to increased contacts and mutual understanding between the so-called East and West, that is peaceful coexistence between countries of different socio-economic systems. Naturally this will not mean compromising basic ideological positions of the conflicting groups but it does mean a dialogue and cooperation for the benefit of those vital objectives subscribed to by all forces of the world, regardless of their particular positions, which are sincerely striving for peace and social progress.

Under these circumstances the IOJ is facing a new and promising era. Despite the widespread reactionary oppression and the painstaking struggle of progressive forces still occurring in today's world, the long-term perspectives seem to be very

favourable to our tasks and objectives. The world has changed over these 30 years much in harmony with the tasks of IOJ. Presently we are faced with a universal challenge for further democratic change as a consequence of the shift of power relations in the overall world system for the benefit of socialism, national liberation and in general democratic and progressive forces. Historical development is on our side - the initiative in the world arena is in our hands.

Friends, you have decided to put much of this historical challenge in my personal hands. Let me sincerely thank you for this great honour. I consider it not merely a choice of a person but above all a choice of a strategic line. And on behalf of Finland, your host country and its journalist organizations, I hereby want to express our collective appreciation of your choice. I promise that we shall try to do our best putting ourselves in the service of the IOJ - for the years to come until the next Congress, just as we have done during the days of this Congress.

Let us all together work for an ever more influential and significant IOJ and for all it stands. The fundamental tendencies of the time are on our side.