

INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE  
Scheme for Investigation of Russian News Coverage

I. The Problem of Collecting the News from Behind the Iron Curtain

- (a) The Censorship: how it operates; the trends in the last five years; the task of the correspondent in the light of the censorship.
- (b) The process of concealment: difficulties of travel in Russia; what the correspondent sees and what he does not see.
- (c) The Communist view of the press function: the belief that it is an integral part of the political machine; the nature of the Communist press; analysis of past domestic press campaigns and present peace drives.

II. The Nature of the News Collected and Its Value

- (a) The material direct from Russia, from correspondents, how trustworthy is it? Is it worth while maintaining correspondents in Moscow?
- (b) The material printed in the Russian papers and monitored from Russian broadcasts: what it reveals; what it does not reveal; how useful is it?
- (c) The reports of refugees and escapees: how informative and how trustworthy are they?

III. The Problem of Presentation

- (a) The propaganda problem: is the reader aware of it, of the censorship and the nature of the Communist press? Is it a real danger?
- (b) How do you present the news from Russia? Do you label it with italic precede; do you answer it, in effect, in shirttails? How do editors in general handle the problem?

IV. The Larger Picture

- (a) Are we doing the job we should, first, in covering and in interpreting Russia; second, in meeting the propaganda problem presented to us? If not, how can we improve it?

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Russian News Coverage Questionnaire


1. Based on your experience, how accurate are reports the outside world gets of what goes on in Russia from resident correspondents?
2. What was your personal experience with censorship and its operations, commenting at the same time on your freedom of movement?
3. How valuable is the contribution made by experts who analyse the Russian press, radio and other sources to interpret what is going on in Russia?

Should experts be used more widely than they are at present?

4. On the basis of your experience, and in the light of present circumstances, how valuable do you think it is to have a correspondent in Moscow?
5. How would you proceed to give better coverage of Russia and the satellites, recognizing all the difficulties that lie in the way?
  - (a) eg- Do you feel that correspondents working in Stockholm, Vienna, Berlin and Belgrade could improve our coverage because of their strategic location?

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ex-correspondents 

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News From Russia Questionnaire

1. How much news do you get from Russia?
2. What are the sources of that news?
3. How trustworthy, in your opinion, is that news?
4. Are you concerned about the propaganda aspects of the news from Russia? If so, how do you guard against this danger?
5. What suggestions do you have for improving the coverage and presentation of news from Russia?

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*Foreign Editor*

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News From Russia Questionnaire

1. In what respects do you think present coverage of Russia is most defective?
  
2. What in your opinion is the comparative value of the three main sources of news about Russia:
  - (a) Material direct from correspondents;
  - (b) Material from Russian papers and broadcasts;
  - (c) The reports of emigres and escapees.
  
3. How do you mix these sources in interpreting the news from Russia?
  
4. In your opinion is the treatment of Russian news adequately handled in newspapers and by news agencies?  
  
If not, what suggestions would you make for improving coverage and interpretation?
  
5. Are you concerned about the propaganda aspects of the news from Russia?  
  
If so, how could you guard against this danger?

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