NEWS CENSORING LITTLE CHANGED
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Latin Lands and Mid-East Still Among Restricting States in Free World, Survey Finds

In the last six months there has been little change in the news censorship picture around the world. This is the finding in the latest survey of internal and international censorship by The Associated Press.

Interference with the free flow of news persisted in some areas of Latin America. The Inter-American Press Association, at its tenth annual meeting, declared that a fifth of the people of Latin America lived under "perennial or periodic curtains of censorship and intimidation tantamount to censorship."

Some improvement was noted in the Middle East, but The Associated Press correspondent in Cairo observed: "It should be stressed that no Arab state has adopted freedom of the press as a principle, desirable in itself. Censorship is lifted or imposed as a matter of political expediency, not as a matter of principle."

This is the censorship situation as it affects various countries (there is no censorship of outgoing dispatches unless noted):

THE SOVIET AREA

An Associated Press correspondent, Richard Kasischke, in a dispatch passed by the censor in Moscow, says:

"Censorship of outgoing press material sometimes appears to be easing a bit in Moscow for the Western correspondent. But one can never draw a conclusion because tomorrow your dispatch may run afoul of the censor. So the fact remains: Moscow is still Moscow. Every dispatch by Western correspondents is still censored. What deletions will be made cannot be predicted.

"Most Western correspondents here believe censorship has lightened under the Malenkov Government. But, as long as it remains, censorship is still censorship."

There has been no change in the rest of the European countries behind the Iron Curtain—Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland or Albania. The door is generally closed to Western newsmen on normal assignment.

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

The traditional free press is maintained in Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India, Pakistan and Ceylon.

In New Zealand, a new law imposes restrictions on publication of indecent or "horror" literature, but its terms have not been established. In the Union of South Africa, laws against sedition and treason are stricter than in Britain. The Government has power to withdraw licenses if illegal material is published. Uganda and Kenya continue under states of emergency, under which the press is subject to controls.

In Hong Kong, news that could affect British-Chinese relations has been tightened at the source. The Hong Kong Government concealed for twenty-four hours the news that a commercial airliner had been shot down by Chinese Communist fighters, leading the world to believe it had been an accident. Singapore and Malaya are under a state of emergency and both Governments can close newspapers.

WESTERN EUROPE

In Spain information available to foreign correspondents is controlled, but there is no censorship on dispatches. All domestic publications continue to be strictly controlled. In Portugal the Government maintains strict control over domestic publications.

France, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Denmark, Belgium, Luxembourg and Sweden have no censorship. In the non-extremist Italian press there is a tendency toward self-censorship of news that might displease the Government.

Finland has no censorship, but newspapers are careful on Soviet political stories.

In West Germany, occupation press controls have lapsed. The Constitution forbids Government interference with the press. In East Germany, the press and radio are rigidly controlled by Communists. Austria has no censorship, but the occupation powers reserve the right to ban any publication carrying pro-Nazi material.

An editor and publisher were fined for criticizing the Greek Government's policy on the union of Cyprus with Greece. They were convicted under a new press law penalizing articles "liable to cause alarm."

Yugoslavia allows news dispatches to leave uncensored, but officials are sensitive to adverse criticism published abroad. The domestic press is strictly controlled.

AFRICA

The Governor General of the Belgian Congo controls publication of all periodicals.

In French Morocco and Tunisia, a number of nationalist publications have been closed. In times of stress dispatches of foreign correspondents may be subject to delay.

TURKEY AND MIDDLE EAST

Iran exercises close surveillance over the domestic press. Correspondents may be called to account for transmitting material deemed objectionable. Turkey's press laws make it a criminal offense to attack the honor or reputation of any citizen. Several editors have been jailed.

In Egypt, outgoing cables may be subject to delay and deletions on rare occasions. Domestic censorship remains strict.

Syria requires correspondents to file copies of outgoing cables. Lebanon will stop outgoing cables for perusal during periods of emergency. In case of emergencies in Jordan, cables are subjected to censorship. Copies of outgoing dispatches must be filed. The Iraqi Government has closed down a majority of newspapers during the past year. Few foreign correspondents get into Saudi Arabia.

In Israel, matters of military security remain under censorship.

THE FAR EAST

Communist China exercises complete internal control of news. A few non-American correspondents have been admitted, but have found spot news coverage impossible.

Nationalist China has no formal censorship, but "unfriendly" correspondents may find themselves handicapped. The domestic press is pro-Nationalist.

Japan has no Government censorship. The Republic of Korea military censorship of Korean reporters has ended.

Both the Government-operated All-India Radio and the main Indian news agency receive guidance at times from Government officials. There has been no general application of the 1951 press law giving the Government power to control news inciting to crime.

Pakistan's October Cabinet shake-up brought strict censorship. Aside from crisis periods, no direct censorship exists.

Censorship of outgoing dispatches in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos has been abolished. Tight censorship of the local press is exercised both in South Vietnam and the Communist north.

In Burma news critical of the Government receives close scrutiny.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Censorship ordered during the June-July revolution in Guatemala has been lifted, but the order remains on the books. The press and radio enjoy freedom, but the Government may apply restrictions for reasons of security.

In Honduras and Nicaragua the press appears relatively free. Opposition papers in Nicaragua criticize guardedly the regime of Gen. Anastasio Somoza.

In El Salvador Government agencies may ask papers to withhold certain news upon occasion.

SOUTH AMERICA

Communications companies controlled by Argentines are wary of transmitting political news and sometimes refuse dispatches. The domestic press never criticizes the Perón regime and rarely publishes news not approved by the Government. Two provincial judges who released an imprisoned editor were impeached.

In Colombia, censorship has been imposed on individual newspapers on occasion since the lifting of general controls a year ago. Correspondents have been fined or jailed for alleged infractions. Three months ago the Government issued regulations criticized as being a drastic restriction of the press. Bolivia's domestic press remains under censorship.

In Uruguay, the Supreme Court, reversing a libel conviction, reaffirmed freedom of information.

The Venezuelan press is told what not to print and often what to print. Cable company supervisors decide what outgoing dispatches must be sent to the Government for censorship.

Brazil has no censorship, and papers criticize at will.

Ecuador's domestic press enjoyed freedom in 1954. Newspaper men expressed concern, however, over a law adopted last month providing punishment for articles deemed "immoral, subversive, calumnious or injurious."

Chile has no internal or external censorship, but a Government decree Sept. 20 imposed a six-month state of siege that permits the Government to control movement. This has been applied against a reporter for the Communist paper El Siglo. El Siglo was closed for ten days in November on charges of printing "alarming" news. A board rations newsprint.

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