

LA MARTINIÈRE
MODEL UNITED NATIONS, 2023



THE DECENNIAL EDITION

INTERNATIONAL PRESS

PROCEDURAL GUIDE

PRINTABLE FORMAT

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Letter from the Executive Board

Letter from the Executive Board of International Press

It is always a matter of adjusting glasses. There is no objective wrong, there is no objective right, only subjective interpretation. Such is the thinking a correspondent needs to reiterate while decoding facts. It is hard to strike a balance between fairness and clinging to biases. We are here to see you fight your way through it. In an age of rising conservatism, of both thought and action, there is certain self-censorship that afflicts us - ideas come, but before links can fully form, another part of us is already shutting them out. Questioning, the biggest challenge to power, institutionalized or otherwise, is nipped in the bud before it fully even takes root.

As a student of Law, I like seeing beyond what is visible in front of me. I like to question every action and try to find the flow of reasonability behind even the most casual decisions one takes. Analyzing situations and contemplating the different circumstances that eventually led to them is no less than an art. My expectation from the International Press correspondents is to recognize similar skills that they have locked within themselves and use them efficiently in this “warfield of diplomacy.” Leaving no stones unturned, the correspondents should strive toward finding the truth and expressing it in the best way possible, without fear or favour.

Maybe your motivations to be an International Press member are to better your understanding of MUNs, develop or get introduced to a skill set, get something quirky going on in your CV for other future ambitions, or simply because you're curious and would like to get a taste of it.



Whatever they may be, I look forward to getting to know your motivations and reading some bold journalistic literary pieces!

Prabhav Tripathi

Chairperson, International Press

LMUN 2023

(prabhavtr10@gmail.com)



Instructions for the Correspondents

“Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.” - Article 19, Universal Declaration of Human Rights

An important part of contemporary democracy is the press, which in today's sociopolitical climate has a vast range of perspectives. Worldwide, the press serves as the primary link between the United Nations and the global population, and as a part of the International Press, a correspondent shall be responsible for upholding this link. Like in reality, it will be essential that the people remain constantly informed about the actions of the committees.



Marking Scheme for Correspondents

1. Correspondents should be striving for honesty and objectivity.
2. The articles should reflect unbiased opinions (except in the case of Op-Ed articles).
3. Avoid anonymity and aim to attribute information provided to their sources to give legitimacy.
4. Tasks shall be primarily marked on the accuracy of submissions and quality of the articles i.e., grammar, cohesion, and lexical analysis (use of vocabulary).
5. Correspondents are expected to report and interpret honestly with disclosure of all essential facts without distorting interpretations.
6. Research the agendas of other committees and current political issues thoroughly before the conference.
7. Interviews are to be conducted with complete transparency and accountability and without any inclusion of self-curated assertions disguised as quoted statements.
8. Avoid unnecessary emphasis on personal characteristics including race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, age, sexual orientation, religious belief, or physical or intellectual disability.
9. All the correspondents shall religiously adhere to the submission format and instructions.
10. There should be active efforts to bring out a novel angle and perspective via literary pieces.



Format for the Correspondents

- Format: .doc or .docx
- Font: Times New Roman
- Font size: 14 (Heading) & 12 (By-line & Body)
- Word limit: The limit may vary depending upon the tasks
- Title alignment: Center (has to be in bold)
- A well-structured by-line has to be included after the 'Title' that gives a gist of the whole article (check samples below).
- By-line has to be in italic. It could be a creative phrase (minimum) or a couple of brief lines (maximum).
- Content alignment (except in Colour Article): Justified
- The name of the author should be mentioned after every article's conclusion as provided in the 'Interview' sample. The name has to be in bold. The portfolio has to be in bold and italic under the name.
- Name & assigned Committee alignment: Right (check samples below).
- Correspondents have to come up with a witty heading/title for each article.
- Line spacing: 1.15
- Proper division of paragraphs is expected.
- All submissions shall be made to the official LMUN IP mail address. Correspondents shall receive the mail address in the first committee session.



- Apart from the task of curating the aforementioned articles in regular proceedings, the International Press may introduce new activities and tasks for the team. This depends solely on the discretion of the Executive Board.
- Not adhering to the deadlines would result in a negative evaluation.
- Plagiarism shall not be tolerated. All the contents have to be original and comprehensible.
- The use of unwanted synonyms/words will not be appreciated. Correspondents are encouraged to write words that they know and understand, while striving for a decent standard of vocabulary and readability.
- Non-English words have to be mentioned in italic.



About an Agency with Bias:

News agencies can be left, centre, right and independent. News organizations with a right-leaning political leaning tend to have a more conservative stance. On the other hand, a left-leaning political stance tends to emphasize economic nationalization, progressivism, and a more flexible take on cultural significance, separation of religion and the state, and more privileges for minorities; in addition, —left||-leaning groups tend to be anti-free trade. Extreme left groups might push for communism and total redistribution of wealth. A center political leaning is one that is willing to compromise with either side, resulting in a center-right or center-left position depending on the degree of compromise they engage in with each side.

When thinking about how different news agencies approach international and domestic topics, it is also key to know whether or not the agency is state-controlled or privately owned.

The International Press simulated at LMUN 2023 shall consist of Correspondents holding Agency Portfolios, not freelance journalists.



Sample Articles-

A) Committee Report: In this type of report, IP correspondents shall observe the proceedings of the committee that they are allotted and provide a description of its happenings accordingly. It will be the responsibility of the correspondents to take notes of the important speeches, focus on internal controversies, and write down the diplomatic actions they witness during their work sessions. A complete summary of the same, while exercising literary proficiency and adhering to the word limit, has to be submitted to the Executive Board members.

Sample:-

“I am not a Boy King”

The Regent and Keeper of the Royal Seal of Sweden presented a letter from King Charles XII that was addressed to the Council. The King delegated his powers to his representatives and the ministry proceeded with the affairs.

The second session commenced with the introduction of the King's letter to the Council and its members. The royal majesty left the charge of the meeting to his Regent and Seal Keeper. He declared in the royal document that he is no longer a “Boy King” and is capable of handling all responsibilities of his State. When it came to discussing the backup and battle plan against the Russian army, the Council failed to show absolute support and trust towards its own army. Frequent “ifs and buts” in the speeches reflected the pessimistic feelings deeply ingrained in the Sweden-ally army.



Marshal General of the Sweden Army termed the Russian troops as inexperienced and puny, totally ignoring the fact that they stand four times larger in comparison. Governor-General of Livonia assured that they will provide the troops required for war and border security.

Adding to this, the Minister of Logical Affairs expressed how diplomacy cannot always work and why there is an urgent need to retaliate. Foreign Affairs Minister was warned by the EB when he tried to mistakenly present a private and confidential document in the meeting, and this turned the place into a house of laughter.

With repeated recess to discuss the shortcomings and strategies for the upcoming war, the committee started to turn dull and slow. However, the hope to witness some firm decisions and rational suggestions by the council members in the next session is still alive.

- Prabhav Tripathi
King Charles XII's Council



B) Feature Article: It will be a specialized article wherein the correspondents shall present an in-depth analysis of a specific genre. This type of article will focus less on factual data and more on critical evaluation of a particular theme with a tint of agency-based opinion in the literary piece. Humour and creativity would be highly appreciated in such works. Theme-based allocations shall be made when the task is announced during the course of the conference.

Sample:-

The Lit-erature!

Literature. A subject, commonly known as the language that only nerds speak about and ‘enjoy’ reading; a language that is usually simple to read yet critical to understand. The current talks relate to the notion of a literary “style of a time” with a strong trend toward increasingly contemporaneous stylistic influence. What does it teach us? Oh, the list is quite endless. From making use of words for brewing the most perfect and heart-touching stories to making us fall in love with a character that only exists in tales, mitochondria literature is a powerhouse of cell emotions.

Evolutions in writing styles have been quite diverse with changes in the thought process and general mentality of the readers and writers. When we compare William Shakespeare’s ‘Romeo and Juliet’ to ‘Fault in Our Stars’ by John Green, the difference is plainly observable (potential spoiler alert: let’s ignore the fact that both end on a tragic note).

Written works, or literature, serve as one of the great bodies of cultural artifacts.



The analysis of literature typically involves the aggregation of information on several levels, ranging from words to sentences and even larger scale properties of temporal narratives such as structure, plot, and the use of irony and metaphor.

Young writers follow a pattern of keeping the dialogues more humorous and sarcastic and find it comfortable to ignore the classic relations and comparisons that were prominent till the late 19th century. Focus on conversations between the characters has become more important than the long sensory descriptions of writing works (Charles Dickens wants to know your location). The so-called “anxiety of influence” whereby authors are understood in terms of their response to canonical precursors, is becoming an “anxiety of impotence,” in which the past exerts a diminishing stylistic influence on the present. There has been a noticeable reduction in rates of lexical substitution of rarely used words over thousands of years (Shashi Tharoor stands as a sole exception), though this practice is still present in this generation’s oral communications. For example, ostentatious people nowadays overuse the word “aesthetic.” Ouch?

Ultimately, I would say that the early authors were better than the crowd of somewhat overestimated “modern” authors whose every single book becomes the #1 New York Times bestsellers (seriously, why?).

- Prabhav Tripathi



C) Op-Ed Article: Having the backronym “Opinions and Editorials page”, it is a reflective article that is usually not associated with the agency’s views. In such pieces, authors shed light on important issues from their individual perspectives, and present facts in consonance with their opinions. Critical analysis of a situation with personal political inclination is made that forces the readers to think more.

Sample:-

Political Polarization in Global Press

The public’s trust in the global media houses has been downgrading since it started protecting and painting the lies of high-authority officials and presenting them as golden words of gospels. If we dig a little deeper into the not-so-recent past, we find US President Eisenhower’s lies about the U-2 spy plane, President Johnson’s lies about the war in Vietnam, and President Nixon’s lies about Watergate as some very firm instances to support this point. Moreover, these shreds of evidence were extracted by scratching just the superficial level of the pit that stores the darkest secrets of history about the wrongful manipulation of media by using means of fear and favour.

Political polarization is on the rise. The strategy used by a country’s government to fund or threaten them well has been serving as a helpful tool for inclining the press and turning it into their mere puppet. Humanity is crushing under their vicious acts of spreading propaganda and half-truths. They’re blindfolding the innocents and forcing them to wander in a city filled with hatred, oppression, ethnocentrism, and extreme prejudice.



The long-simmering humanitarian crisis suffered by these lost souls will soon reach a boiling point and result in protests where, ironically, their peaceful actions will be questioned.

The importance of a free and independent media is to be realized not only by the journalists but also by the people who run a democratic state which is captured in the cobweb of sectarian interests. Correspondents who try to counter the traditional practices of business are pressurized, terrorized, and are pressed on their soft emotional spot until they finally break. The politics of “fear or favour” used by tyrants, who hide behind the façade of one of the most successful world leaders, has led to the creation of a population where more than half are brainwashed, and the rest are silenced to such an extent that even their screams cannot be heard.

The whole notion of journalism has been forcefully altered by the power-hungry forces that are converting it into a toy for the mere purpose of distraction, diversion, and entertainment. This is unacceptable. It is time for the augmentation of trust in the media sector. It is time to clear all the allegations. It is time to stop the dignity of journalism from being questioned on the pedestal of truth. It is time to raise a voice before the truth is stifled, once again.

When all organs fail, the fourth organ of the State rises. There are still many press correspondents and organizations that fight for the truth and make the certitude heard. The freedom of the press is of cardinal significance, especially when there is still a ray of hope that the power of media’s transparency and expression shall let no fear or favour put a scratch on its reputation. The only question is: Is the world ready to stop the blind acceptance?

- Prabhav Tripathi



D) Buffer Article: To observe a tense situation and pick humorous instances out of it is an apparent art in itself. In this type of article, the IP correspondents shall be required to spectate their assigned committee and submit an article that depicts the lighter side of that particular committee. Correspondents shall use their wit to showcase and capture humor, light satire, situations of diplomatic chaos, and political comedy in their submission.

Sample:-

Crisis Parliament or Comedy Show?

The second committee session started with an expectancy of heated arguments and tough stands but it failed to provide the high sparks. Although the debates were not impactful enough yet mirth found its way to the committee proceedings and made them bearable.

The leader of the Indian National Congress, Ms. Indira Gandhi, gave excellent justifications in regard to the agenda and was frequently appreciated by her party members throughout the speech. Considering the fact that she took such a big step to protect her seat as the Prime Minister, the excuses were quite impressive.

Mr. Vidya Charan Shukla of the INC used the word “drastic” uncountable times in his speech. He had an emotional outbreak at the end which—ironically—reflected the condition of the Indians who were being oppressed during the National Emergency.

Right to reply was asked by a prominent INC politician even when his name was not mentioned by the J.P. Narain side and the Executive Board had to step in between his “sentimental despair.”



Congress took a powerful stand when it came to replying to the POIs introduced by the opposition party in the Parliament. They were so eager to answer and give justifications that they did not even let the Parliament member conclude his question. A party should be as confident as Congress when answering questions, especially when one has committed such a strong and strategic breach of the Constitution.

A delegate of INC made a U-turn with regard to the party's policy on the agenda which stunned the committee, with the Executive Board gasping in disbelief, and having to step outside of the committee in order to properly process this new information.

- Prabhav Tripathi
Historic All India Political Parties Meet (Emergency Era)



E) Interview: The IP correspondents will be required to conduct an interview during the course of the conference. This will help to present and publish the stance of delegates on the agenda they are deliberating upon. Substantial questions of universal importance that were, otherwise, being dodged by the portfolios could be asked here. Quality of questions, style of questioning, the flow of the interview, and relevance of extracted information would form the basis of evaluation in this activity. Other instructions regarding the conduct and procedure shall be announced in the orientation session.

Sample:-

An Interview with the Controversial Prime Minister

The Prime Minister of India and President of INC, Ms. Indira Gandhi, provided an interview with an intriguing insight into the happenings of the committee.

Reporter: Ms. Gandhi, after whatever consequences one can certainly imagine to be taking place during the Emergency, can you imagine any circumstances in which you might once again become the Prime Minister of India?

Ms. Gandhi: I can certainly imagine that, but it depends on the people of India. If due to the consequences which might take place during the Emergency and predominantly because of the J.P. Movement, and the voters do not show confidence in electing my government to power, I would not become the Prime Minister again.

Reporter: In the letter which you addressed to President Fakhruddin Ahmed, the sources indicate that you mentioned the imminent dangers to the security of India. What was the precise nature of the dangers?



Ms. Gandhi: To release the entire nature of the threats would be against my oath of secrecy and the Constitutional laws but I can certainly say that there have been elements of threats to the unity and integrity to our nation focusing mainly on the secularism of India. The opposition party is using Mr. J.N. Prakash as a tool for their political mileage in order to gain significance before the upcoming elections.

Reporter: Do you think the committee has headed in the right direction till now?

Ms. Gandhi: I feel, yes. We have discussed the reasons and impacts of the Emergency which has been declared. INC has also presented the policies which it will be executing from now on.

Reporter: How does your party desire this committee to conclude?

Ms. Gandhi: The main reason to call for this All-Parties Meet is to bring in the knowledge of the political people and provide justifications regarding what were the circumstances in which the President had to declare it. Though I cannot express the reasons in the public domain, I can assure you that there were threats to the security of the nation and might have brought more chaos or internal disturbances in the country.

Reporter: What has been the overall nature of the committee?

Ms. Gandhi: It has been quite positive for our party. We have been providing justifications to the opposition regarding the declaration of a National Emergency. It was not a threat to my authority as the Prime Minister but had genuine threats to Indian security and peace.

- Prabhav Tripathi
Correspondent, Al Jazeera



F) Colour Article: For this, the IP correspondents shall be assigned a committee and will be required to submit a piece of creative writing that revolves around the agenda of the allotted committee. The piece of work in question can be a short story, poem, journal entry that shall be based on the allotted committee's agenda as the theme. The political bias of the correspondents' news agency portfolio will not be relevant here and they would be allowed to shape the piece in their own way. No sample is needed for this one.

Aim to fight ignorance, and your voice will be heard!



The 7th RCEP Ministerial Meeting
8 September 2019, Bangkok, Thailand



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