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BERLIN WELCOMES THE I. P. I.

A MESSAGE FROM MAYOR WILLY BRANDT

PREPARATIONS for the Eighth Annual Assembly of the International Press Institute in Berlin on May 26, 27 and 28 are now well advanced. More registrations from participants have been received at this stage than for any previous Assembly.

It is already clear that the Assembly, coming at the moment when the European political limelight is focussed on the former German capital, has caught the imagination both of Berliners themselves and of the press as a whole. It has provided the world's free press with a unique opportunity to present itself in force on the threshold of a world where the press has lost its freedom and to learn at first hand something of the Berlin story.

Enquiries received at the IPI Secretariat in Zurich show that many newspapers and agencies are making special preparations to cover this year's IPI Assembly particularly fully.

In a special message to the IPI REPORT, the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Herr Willy Brandt, himself a former newspaperman, speaks for his colleagues of the Berlin Press. He writes:—

When the International Press Institute decided one year ago to hold its Eighth General Assembly at the end of May 1959 in Berlin, we welcomed this news with pleasure as a mark of the solidarity of the free press of the world with Berlin.

No one could have known a year ago that in May 1959 a new Berlin crisis would be deliberately created. The Berliners have good nerves and take little notice of dates and days of decision threateningly announced in advance. We have confidence in our just cause, in our fixed determination for freedom and in our friends in the world who stand at our side and who have time and again pledged themselves to us.

The Assembly of the International Press Institute from May 26-28 in Berlin is welcomed and appreciated by us as a support and as a sign of solidarity. We know how much Berlin owes to the free press in its struggle for freedom and existence. Without its cooperation and without its activity there would be no understanding of our problem in the world. Berlin is therefore happy and grateful that the Eighth General Assembly of the Institute is to take place here and is convinced that this meeting will result in

valuable stimulation and strengthening both for Berlin and for the press itself.

In my capacity of Governing Mayor of Berlin and as an active journalist for many years I therefore say to the International Press Institute, "Welcome to Berlin."

The provisional program for the Assembly has been issued by the IPI Secretariat in Zurich.

Arrangements for Tuesday, May 26, include an opening speech by Mayor Willy Brandt before the morning session, for which "Freedom of the Press" is the subject for discussion. Two officials who have had much to do with the press in their countries and two editors will debate the problem of maintaining the balance between liberty and order. There will be reports on the state of press freedom in various member countries and a general discussion of the part that IPI should play in defense of the press.

Television and the Press

"Television and the Press" is the subject for debate at the morning session on Wednesday, May 27, when editors and TV specialists will discuss the future of the daily newspaper in the face of TV competition. On the evening of the same day a dinner at the Kongresshalle will be offered to delegates by the Association of Berlin Journalists.

On Thursday, the final day of the Assembly, at a session concerned with "Newspapers and Youth," editors will describe what their newspapers are doing to attract younger readers and to cater for their needs. There will be an afternoon session on the business and policy of the Institute.

The Assembly itself will be followed by a tour of Western Germany organized by the German Committee of the Institute. According to present plans, the participants will leave Berlin by air for Hamburg in the afternoon of May 28. Items so far planned for the tour include a visit to the Volkswagen factory at Wolfsburg, a flight over the river Rhine from Essen, visits to Cologne, Bonn, Coblenz, and a boat trip on the Rhine. After a visit to Munich, the tour will end with an excursion to the Bavarian lakes and a farewell dinner in the Munich Hofbräuhaus.

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