

# IPI REPORT

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## Czechoslovakians' place of honour

### IPI MESSAGE TO JOURNALISTS

THE COURAGE displayed by journalists in Czechoslovakia in making the truth known won the admiration of colleagues everywhere, said a message of solidarity sent by the Institute on August 23, before "normalization" brought the return of censorship.

"At great personal risk," said the message signed by Per Monsen, "journalists in Czechoslovakia have gone on giving their own people and the people of the world information on what is happening, despite brutal attempts by the occupying forces to silence the information media. These journalists have won for themselves a place of honour in the annals of world journalism. The International Press Institute assures them of the moral support of its members, who will go on ensuring that the truth is spread throughout the world."

### GIFTS IN TRIBUTE

THE FIRST concrete response came from *Stavanger Aftenblad*, a Norwegian local paper which marked its 75th anniversary by presenting \$ 1,500 to IPI to "help a Czechoslovak journalist exercise his profession in freedom and strengthen the world's free press."

During the war *Stavanger Aftenblad* (circulation 43,000) had two editors sentenced to death and others sent to concentration camps. Its editor, Per Thomsen, a long standing member of IPI, said the gift honoured the heroic journalists whose high sense of professionalism and duty had shown the world that a free press was a powerful weapon against tyranny.

IPI Director Per Monsen said the gift would be deeply appreciated by Czechoslovakian journalists as an expression of solidarity and of the admiration of journalists all over the world. IPI hoped to document the outstanding performance by Czechoslovakian journalists and the donation would launch the work. He hoped other papers would follow this initiative.

From Britain, the *Daily Mirror* has sent to IPI a cheque for £ 5 (\$ 12) from a reader to be used for "those who have won our admiration in their struggle for a free press."



BLANK COLUMN in "Mlada Fronta" marks the end of seven months' freedom



EDITOR Per Thomsen presenting the \$ 1,500 cheque to Per Monsen (right)