

Paris, 21st 1971

Dear Comrades and friends,

The AGENCE DE PRESSE LIBERATION was born on the 18th June 1971 following the appeal by Jean Paul SARTRE and Maurice CLAVEL (we are enclosing the text) it was launched by a team of militants and journalists from bourgeois and revolutionary newspapers.

You know perhaps that following the Jaubert Affair (a journalist beaten up by the police on 29th May 1971), 500 journalists demonstrated in front of the offices of the Minister of the Interior and a strong democratic movement in the press made this collaboration between militants and journalists possible.

The bulletin of the Agence has been published daily since September 1st, 1971 and has resulted in a strengthening of the revolutionary press and a supply of news on strikes, police, brutalities, resistance in the army, and all popular struggles concerning young people, women, immigrants... Almost all the militant newspapers have made use of this bulletin.

It has also brought the struggle into the offices of the bourgeois newspapers which receive, through the APL, accounts of the struggles, and communiqués from revolutionary organisations. Censorship, if and when it occurs, provokes discussions among the editorial staffs, and a certain number of our dispatches have been taken up and used by Parisian or provincial newspapers.

At the present time, the government is attempting to silence us, which makes our task all the more difficult since almost all the news items are censored by the editorial boards. But we have no illusions; the struggle for freedom of expression for the people will be long and difficult.

We have also decided to wage the struggle on the international front, since, either through indifference or hostility, the French press distorts, more often than not, popular struggles abroad. For example, the pillaging and criminal acts of French imperialism are completely censored. The victories of national liberation movements (Indochina, Africa, Latin America e.g.) are for the most part ignored. So it is that the press affirms that the Palestinians have all been disarmed, the Tupamaros are modern Robin-Hoods etc.

This struggle for news is for us part of the anti-imperialist fight, and in its own way supports the struggle of the peoples of the world for their liberation.

Since October 1st, 1971 we have published an International Bulletin daily, which is sent to French newspapers, both bourgeois and revolutionary, to correspondants, subscribers and militant groups. In order that this bulletin might be of use on the news front, we have need of regular and active collaboration. We therefore propose the following methods of work with us.

We take up in this bulletin news on popular struggles (concerning young people, repression, immigrants, scandals of every day life etc.). Could you send us newspapers, tracts, leaflets, newspaper cuttings dealing with struggles, and any other related interesting documents. We remind you that we are a press agency and not a militant newspaper which reproduces communiqués from organisations, and political analyses.

In order that the news items have a chance of being taken up by the press they must be as recent as possible and very precise. (i.e. quote sources). The authenticity of all news is indispensable. We also need photographs for the Photo Department (Agence Photo) : negatives are necessary for reproduction and distribution. If the photograph is purchased by a newspaper we will send you 50% of the money received.

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The information and news which are not used at once may be used for "special issues" on the present situation in certain countries as we have already done for Ireland, Japan, and Iran.

We intend using the breaches opened by the bourgeois press so that the voice of the peoples of the world and their organisations might be heard.

We will keep you informed of the use made of your news items and of course you can use the APL for news and information about struggles in France.

The APL can thus become, under your control and with your help, an arm on the news front, and will help political campaigns on international struggles. With fraternal greetings.

L'equipe de l'A.P.L. (international)

