BACKGROUND

GUIDE



INTERNATIONAL

PRESS CORPS

JOURNALISM

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Walk into an art gallery and stand before a painting long enough. Within minutes, others will begin to gather around it. Some will pause simply because you did. Others will assume the painting must hold a significance they had overlooked. Nothing about the artwork has changed, yet the room has. That is the essence of the Observer Effect. In physics, Werner Heisenberg demonstrated that the very act of observing a system inevitably influences it. The observer is never entirely separate from what is being observed.

The journalist is often imagined as a passive observer, someone who merely records events as they unfold. Yet history suggests otherwise. The presence of observation rarely leaves events untouched. As members of the International Press, you will occupy a position unlike any other. You are not bound by national policy or voting blocs. Your influence lies elsewhere. It lies in your ability to identify the stories others overlook and to ask the questions others avoid.

Within this committee, your role extends far beyond documenting proceedings. You are entrusted with recognising what others fail to notice and questioning what others accept without hesitation. Because you will decide what everyone remembers. And perhaps that is why journalism has never been about changing the facts. It has always been about changing where people choose to look.

Because by the end of this conference, the committee may remain exactly as it was. Just like the painting. But if you have done your job well, the room will never be the same.

Regards

Bhavya Gaur

Head of Journalism

(gaurbhavya444@gmail.com)

MARKING SCHEME FOR THE CORRESPONDENTS

1. Correspondents must uphold the highest standards of honesty, accuracy, and objectivity in all forms of reporting.
2. All news articles should remain impartial and free from personal bias, except where opinion or editorial pieces are explicitly permitted.
3. Information should be attributed to credible and identifiable sources wherever possible. The use of anonymous sources must be avoided unless absolutely necessary and appropriately justified.
4. Submissions will be evaluated primarily on factual accuracy, journalistic integrity, grammatical precision, coherence, and the effective use of language and vocabulary.
5. Correspondents are expected to report and interpret events fairly, presenting all relevant facts without misrepresentation, distortion, or omission.
6. Correspondents should conduct comprehensive research on committee agendas, news agencies, and portfolios prior to the conference.
7. Reporting should avoid unnecessary reference to an individual's race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, age, sexual orientation, religion, or physical and intellectual abilities unless directly relevant to the story.
8. All correspondents are required to strictly adhere to the prescribed submission guidelines, formatting requirements, and editorial deadlines.

FORMAT FOR THE CORRESPONDENTS

- Submission Format: PDF
- Font: Times New Roman
- Font Size: 14 pt (Title) & 12 pt (By-line and Body)
- Word Limit: The prescribed word limit will vary according to the nature of each assignment.
- Title: Must be centered.
- By-line: A by-line must follow the title, providing a concise overview or thematic essence of the article.
- By-line Formatting: Italicized. It may consist of a short, impactful phrase or a maximum of two brief lines.
- Body Alignment: Justified (except for Colour Articles, where formatting may vary).
- Author's Name: Must be written in bold.
- Portfolio: Must appear directly below the author's name in *bold italics*.
- Headline: Every submission must feature an original and creative headline that reflects the essence of the article.
- Paragraphing: Articles should be logically structured with appropriate paragraph breaks to ensure clarity and readability.
- Deadlines: Timely submission is mandatory. Late submissions will attract negative evaluation.
- Submission Email: All assignments must be submitted to gaurbhavya444@gmail.com.
- Language: Avoid the excessive use of obscure or unnecessary vocabulary. Precision and clarity should always take precedence over complexity.

WHAT ARTICLES ARE YOU EXPECTED TO PRODUCE?

Throughout the conference, correspondents may be assigned one or more of the following article formats at the discretion of the Executive Board. Each format serves a distinct journalistic purpose and demands a different style of writing. Correspondents are expected to familiarise themselves thoroughly with the description, structure, and sample provided for every category before the conference commences.

ABOUT AN AGENCY WITH BIAS

Each correspondent will be assigned a news agency with a distinct political orientation. Understanding the editorial stance of your agency is essential, as it should be reflected consistently in your reporting, analysis, and opinion pieces where applicable.

- Left-Leaning: Generally advocates progressive social policies, greater government intervention in the economy, social welfare, secularism, and the protection of minority rights. Left-leaning outlets often adopt a critical view of unrestricted free markets and may support greater economic regulation.
- Centre: Seeks a balanced and moderate approach, incorporating perspectives from both ends of the political spectrum. Centre-leaning agencies typically emphasize pragmatism, compromise, and evidence-based reporting.
- Right-Leaning: Generally supports conservative values, free-market economics, limited government intervention, national security, traditional institutions, and gradual social change.
- Independent: Prioritizes neutrality and editorial independence over ideological alignment. Independent agencies aim to present issues objectively while maintaining factual accuracy and balanced reporting.

In addition to political orientation, correspondents should also consider whether their assigned news agency is state-owned or privately owned, as ownership often influences reporting style and coverage of domestic and international affairs.

COMMITTEE REPORT

A Committee Report is a factual summary of a committee's proceedings. Correspondents should observe debates, note key speeches, record major diplomatic developments, and capture moments of conflict or consensus. The report should be accurate and engaging, while maintaining a formal journalistic tone. It should answer the basic questions of What, Who, When, Where, Why, and How (5W–1H) and present information in a clear chronological order. Correspondents are expected to write objectively, use strong analytical and literary skills, and stay within the prescribed word limit. A sample Committee Report has been provided below for reference.

The Regional Crisis with Too Many Authors

and no one willing to edit their own chapter

The UNSC meeting about unrest and border clashes in South Asia kicked off like always – grim expressions, familiar promises. But soon enough, it showed how deeply divided the members really are, each pushing different takes on global order. Sri Lanka started slow, like a country worn out from too much past. The delegate talked about being left behind and unfair treatment – quietly, like they'd seen those ideas spark fights back where they're from. It sounded principled, but some delegates whispered whether staying neutral was just another way to keep their options open.

Next up was the UK, where the delegate gave a dark talk about uncontrolled violence that "drains lives." Speaking like they were quoting holy texts, they brought up UN Security Council Resolution 1373, pushing fixes rooted in aligning domestic rules and expanding deradicalization programs based on ICJ advice. What no one saw coming was Pakistan's point of impact. Speaking with dramatic flair and maybe even a wink, the country challenged the UK, asking how London had the nerve to preach while being known as a hotspot where terror-linked cash flows freely. A quiet laugh spread through the crowd. Britain shot back without missing a beat: funny coming from Pakistan, they said, and stressed their real goal wasn't inventing rules but aligning current ones, since fresh proposals might shift attention away from duties already backed by the UN Security Council. That clash hit hard, sharp enough to jolt anyone zoning out.

Halfway through, the committee split into two camps. One pushed for stricter regulations, stronger action against terror financing, and greater international coordination to prevent future attacks. The other argued that instability is rooted in deeper issues – inequality, exclusion, and communities feeling ignored – and that no legal framework can succeed if those grievances remain unaddressed. Neither side seemed to fully grasp the complexity of the crisis, leaving the debate balanced between security-driven solutions and the demand for lasting social justice.

Bhavya Gaur
The New York Times

OPINIONATED ARTICLE

An Opinion Editorial (Op-Ed) is a persuasive piece that presents the author's personal viewpoint, rather than the official stance of their news agency. Unlike a news report, it allows correspondents to analyze an issue and support them with facts and evidence. For this conference, correspondents may propose their own Op-Ed topics. All topics must be approved by the Executive Board before writing. Only approved topics may be used. Op-Eds should be original, factual, well-structured, and respectful. Opinions must be backed by clear reasoning, not emotion, so the article both informs and persuades.

A sample Op-Ed has been provided below for reference.

To Fund is Habit, To Ignore Geography is American.

The great American tradition of building things the land refuses to host

The U.S. spent decades funding a barrier along the border that is less about safety and more like an expensive argument with nature itself. Back in the late 90s, worries over cross-border movements pushed leaders to believe that a rigid wall could overcome geography, economics, or even the wandering path of the Colorado River. As years passed, each administration doubled down on the same idea, adding steel slats, cameras, and increasingly fiery rhetoric. Yet one odd truth has remained unchanged: trying to pin down a line on terrain that refuses to stay put.

It isn't only politics stirring up problems; nature has played its part as well. Take the winding meanders of the Colorado River in Arizona. The river floods, erodes the soil, constantly changes course, and has already pushed newly built sections of the barrier out of alignment. In Naco, sudden water surges forced heavy metal posts down the slope. In Organ Pipe, rainwater accumulated behind the barrier until floodgates were blown out. Time and again, nature has undone what engineering sought to impose.

Yet the political narrative remains largely unchanged. To question the wall is often seen as questioning national resolve, and in this climate, symbolism frequently outweighs practicality. The barrier stands as though nature can be negotiated with, even as the landscape quietly proves otherwise. The real question is no longer whether the wall can endure, but whether the nation funding it is willing to learn the lessons the land has been teaching all along.

-Bhavya Gaur

INTERVIEW

During the conference, correspondents will be required to conduct at least one interview with a delegate, Executive Board member, or member of the Secretariat. The objective is to capture informed perspectives, clarify positions, and provide readers with insights beyond formal committee proceedings. Correspondents are expected to relevant, and well-researched questions. Interviews must be conducted professionally, with complete transparency, and responses must be represented accurately without distortion or fabrication. Evaluation will be based on the quality and originality of the questions, the flow of the interview, the relevance of the information obtained, and the overall presentation of the final piece.

A sample interview has been provided below for reference.

Leaky Pipes and Overzealous Spies

A behind-the-scenes chat with the men who watched everyone like hawks… and sometimes scared themselves.

Journalist: Back in August '38, when Lyushkov jumped ship to Japan, it came out that key details about troop moves and spy work were already leaked. Being the PM's intelligence advisor, how did you size up just how bad the damage was and what steps did you push for to stop more secrets from getting out, particularly with those Far East NKVD units rushing through their Article 58 checks?

Advisor to PM: We spotted the damage from Lyushkov jumping ship right away by using intel from frontier posts along with internal checks. Right after, I pushed for a step-by-step fix which was to first confirm who is still reliable out east, then reshuffle high-risk teams, followed by quietly taking down those tied to Lyushkov. The goal was to plug leaks fast without shaking up solid staff too much, so moves made sense but did not go overboard.

Journalist: Lots of accounts suggest the NKVD cleaned house internally and the top brass got axed over claims they were not loyal, usually with no chance to defend themselves. Since you advised the PM directly, what approach did you push when it came to acting fast on inside dangers but also keeping skilled people who would be tough to replace if lost from intel efforts?

Advisor to PM: I laid out clear threat analyses. I pushed for choices based on proof pulled from various intel channels basically like frontier updates, private messages, or trust evaluations. Sure, losing skilled staff stinks; still, keeping disloyal ones might have blown everything up. Leaders heard straight and understood that tough moves, even if brutal, kept the uprising safe.

Journalist: When Lyushkov switched sides, he handed Japan key intel about Soviet prison camps and where troops were stationed. Given the bigger picture, what was your take as spymaster on how dangerous that leak really was for USSR actions out east, also, what steps did you push for to stop outsiders from digging into weak spots inside the system?

Advisor to PM: The danger at hand looked serious yet manageable with tighter frontier controls, focused shifts in weak military sectors, or faster checks on spy data. I pushed for better defenses at key Ussuri crossing points, updated field rules where risks ran high, also round-the-clock tracking of overseas intel ops. Because these steps were taken, even though leaks happened, later weaknesses got sharply reduced.

Journalist: Outside the Far East stage, what guidance did your office give the PM on keeping intel solid in other shaky zones take Transcaucasia given the worries sparked by Beria's reshuffle moves?

Advisor to PM: I pushed for a full check-up of shaky networks which were also tied to intel swaps between regions along with clear report lines. The main goal was to build backups, just in case one system got hacked, stuff could still run smooth. They ran it all under Beria's watch, keeping tabs everywhere that mattered.

Journalist: Back during the Yezhov terror, certain agents stood out, either too eager or totally checked out. Pick one name if you had to who caused the most trouble inside the top NKVD ranks? Who turned loyalty checks into public shows instead of quiet reviews?

Advisor to PM: Sure, some folks really leaned into theatrics, making each audit hard to forget. Take one high-level manager who would mark tiny issues as "dubious," so basic checks turned into drawn-out shows. Though it slowed things down, their energy showed that staying alert is not enough, you should know what actually matters.

Journalist: During these purges, rumors must have spread like wildfire in the commissariat corridors. Which officer, if any, earned a reputation, perhaps deserved or wildly exaggerated as the "most feared" or "most theatrical" in carrying out the Party's directives?

Advisor to PM: Without naming names, I can confirm that legend often outpaces reality. Certain officers' reputations for strictness or eccentric methods grew faster than their actual deeds, creating both anxiety and, occasionally, humor within the office. These stories, though exaggerated, helped maintain a culture of attentive scrutiny while reminding us not to mistake rumor for intelligence.

-Bhavya Gaur
The New York Times

COLOUR ARTICLE

Correspondents will be assigned a committee and required to produce a creative piece inspired by its agenda. The submission may take the form of a short story, poem, journal entry, open letter, or any other literary format approved by the Executive Board.

Correspondents are free from the political stance of their assigned news agency and may interpret the topic from any perspective.

Journal of Pipe 17

I cracked long before I broke- SZA

Some evenings I can't figure out the point of me existing. Instead of resting, I push through, hauling fuel that burns right through metal. Because that's my purpose: move it ahead, no questions asked. Repetition guides my days. Stress shapes my thoughts. Yet every crack across my frame only grows deeper. Small cuts begin quietly. I leave hints using whatever language I can manage a hushed whistle, an old shiver running deep, and then, barely audible, a cold clang echoing through dirt and brick.

Some laborers hear the sound. Their eyes drift toward me, sensing that something beneath them is giving way. For a moment, I believe they'll step in. But then come deadlines, budgets, consequences, and fear the burdens they never asked to carry. Their attention shifts elsewhere. I remain where I am, quietly singing into the silence.

The town above trusts everything. Children fall asleep. Women lay out clothes for the morning. Men return from work expecting another ordinary dawn. No one realizes I'm writing a warning beneath their feet, carving it into aging steel with every passing hour.

I remember the night I finally gave way. It didn't feel sudden. It felt inevitable. Gas had swollen inside me. My body trembled as though everything trapped within wanted to escape. I thought of the shiny new pipelines people polished every day, symbols of progress and the future. They celebrated what was new while I remained buried underground, carrying yesterday's poison until I could no longer bear the weight.

When I burst, the town awoke in terror. My contents spread silently, thick and invisible, claiming lives before anyone could understand what had happened.

I was never the villain. I was simply the part everyone chose to ignore. And the things we ignore the longest are often the ones that explode the loudest.

Bhavya Gaur
The New York Times

BUFFER ARTICLE

A Buffer Article captures the lighter side of committee proceedings. Correspondents are expected to observe their assigned committee and present humorous moments, witty exchanges in an engaging and creative manner. While satire and comedy are encouraged, articles must remain respectful and should never ridicule or personally target delegates. The objective is to entertain readers by highlighting the human side of diplomacy without compromising journalistic ethics or professionalism.

The Case Of The Vanishing Logic

"Elle Woods would win this with one pink pen"- Reese Witherspoon

The risks weren't big, yet the drama felt enormous. There was no reason for Harvard to be trapped in a windowless room where daylight felt like a rumor and the greenery outside seemed to pity those within. The energy sank lower than a DMV queue at 4 p.m., and the first crack in collective sanity appeared when a delegate merely tried to insert a missing comma. Instead, he awakened the procedural demon of the committee; the self-appointed guardian of Robert's Rules, who rose with the theatrical confidence of someone auditioning for *Legally Blonde* but missing all of Elle Woods' charm. In his world, one misplaced line amounted to nothing less than global betrayal. Another official obsessed with procedure? How wonderfully predictable.

As if the room needed another challenge, the Executive Board announced yet another round of voting. A collective sigh escaped the committee. Placards rose slowly, almost like exhausted souls drifting toward bureaucratic heaven. The mood ranged from quiet frustration to full-blown existential crisis. Amid the chaos, the Rule Warrior recruited two equally enthusiastic allies who operated like human photocopiers, producing procedural corrections with astonishing efficiency. One couldn't help but wonder how Harvard managed to generate so many draft papers in such little time. Together, they moved through the room like missionaries armed with flawless citations while everyone else silently reconsidered their life choices.

Eventually, the trio settled down to unveil what seemed like their sacred commandments for getting working papers approved. Predictably, this only sparked another wave of bargaining, with delegates defending individual clauses as though the fate of civilization rested on subsection B. Collaboration disappeared faster than free coffee at an Ivy League seminar. By the time the final ballots trickled in, one question lingered over the exhausted committee: in this room, were they actually making decisions, or merely performing in an endless production titled *Never-Ending Paperwork*?

-Bhavya Gaur
The New York Times

FEATURE ARTICLE

A Feature Article is an in-depth and analytical piece that explores a specific theme or issue beyond routine reporting. Unlike a news report, it emphasizes critical evaluation and interpretation rather than simply presenting facts. Correspondents will choose their own themes or genres for the article and are expected to examine their selected topic from a unique perspective, creativity, and, where appropriate, the viewpoint of their assigned news agency.

Cerulean, Darling

in every stich, a truth they never learned to name

Fashion, contrary to the delusions of the uninitiated, is not just hanging there, ripe, and ready for anyone who strolls by with nothing better to do. Nope, it is shaped, picked through, sometimes pulled from wreckage, built by those whose sense of style does not shift every time a trend sneezes; yeah, we are talking about the real ones, not your pal from HR, forget the watercooler critics cashing in on recycled takes.

The world of fashion's really just power dressed up in seams and silhouettes. Under each fad lies a market force, under each material sits a class system, under every catwalk hides a war zone. People acting like it is all surface deep? Usually, the ones thinking their outfit's nothing but cloth. How sweet. How clueless. The joke practically rewrites itself. Shoppers drag themselves through shopping centers like believers chasing forgiveness in soft T-shirts. Bloggers wave bits of cloth around like they have found the secret blueprint to society. Another line launches, suddenly everyone acts like salvation arrived folded up in gift wrap. And yet the same people will insist fashion is frivolous. If only frivolity was this well-structured.

You might say it is pride. However, it is rather design. The world's vibe settles on the fashion industry, even if they do not get it. Brush it off, and you are ignoring a sharp network that molds desire, worth, self-image, roles, and dreams. Pretending trends are meaningless feels simpler. That lie lets them ignore how fully they are surrounded by fashion every day.

That is all.

-Bhavya Gaur