

better news reporting and new methods of disseminating news. They consider it is the publishers that should be provided with incentive to develop that system. In their view, the journalists themselves are already fully rewarded. Those journalists who have special skills and expertise (and therefore, might expect to have their works copied more frequently) are receiving very considerable rewards in recognition of their talent. The situation is entirely different from those authors who are not usually paid until they have achieved success and whose endeavours are entirely their own. This is the category of the freelance journalist who can negotiate with the publisher to decide on what basis he or she will sell their product. The freelance is not usually paid for time spent, but is paid for the product he or she produces and negotiates how that product may be used.

It is the publishers' contention that the Act, in section 35(6), generally recognises the philosophical concept of an employer ownership. There is no basis upon which employers of journalists should be treated differently. In saying this the publishers have made it clear that if a journalist uses his or her materials in publication of a book they would in recognition of past practice not expect ownership for that purpose.

Technology outpacing law

The other major contention of the publishers is that this is yet another area where the law has not kept pace with technological change. The law when framed and later revised in reality, only resulted in the journalist being able to use his or her works for publishing in book form. Indeed when broadcasting was introduced, the Act was amended to ensure that the rights of the publishers were extended to allow them to use works prepared by employees for the purpose of broadcasting those works either by themselves or third parties. However, since 1968, photocopying and computer technology have opened new horizons and opportunities. The publishers claim they are being denied the right to exploit those opportunities, while at the same time having to compete against the new technology. This new technology in reality allows publication of newspapers in a different form, but the substance remains the same.

The publishers contend that the time has come for them to be treated like other employers in the United Kingdom and the United States and, indeed, all other employers in Australia. There is no ground for continuing the discriminatory provisions which are contained in section 35(4) of the Act.

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World Review

A survey of some recent international developments

Japan is to launch commercial TV satellites in the new year; the Japanese Government announced last month. A basic program for a satellite television service is to be drawn up by an advisory panel of the Posts and Telecommunications Ministry. Six channels will be provided for satellite broadcasting at first. About ten firms are reported to be interested in applying for a licence.

Hungary's Muzertechnika (MT), the national monopoly carrier signed an agreement recently with Orbital Communications (OrbComm), a US based satellite corporation, to become the exclusive provider of OrbComm services in Hungary. MT will own and operate the OrbComm network and the service will commence fully in 1995, complementing MT's plans to vastly expand the scope of telecommunications services offered in Hungary.

Korean company Samsung has also been enlisted by OrbComm as its sole service provider in Korea, as well as sole supplier of OrbComm personal communicators.

Lithuania has finally been connected up to the world telephone network in a move which reinforces the state's independence from Moscow. The state now has access to a satellite link from Kaunas to Copenhagen, providing direct links to the global network. Beforehand, all calls were routed through Moscow or St. Petersburg.

China made what is believed to have been its largest single order for fibre optic cable. Pirelli Cables won the \$10 million contract to supply over 2,300 kilometres of cable to the Hunan Post and Telecommunications Bureau.

Greece and **Korea** have both awarded mobile telephone network licences to consortia including Arena GSM consortium member Vodaphone, the group bidding for Australia's third telecom licence.

Finland has announced moves to open up its long distance telecommunications links to competition from 1994. Local telephone companies have apparently been waiting for twenty years for deregulation to occur, and are now pushing for deregulation in Finland's domestic market.

Europe: British Telecom has won a three year contract to provide a fully managed network for the European offices of BP Chemicals. The contract means the first combination of Syncordia, BT's global outsourcing subsidiary and Global Network Services, its present international managed data networking service.

FLAG (Fibre Optic Link Around the Globe), has entered into its final planning stages. Nine telecommunication carriers in Malaysia, Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, India, Egypt, Gibraltar, Italy and the UK all signed an agreement to land the cable, while the Japanese are presently at the negotiating table. The cable will link Japan and the UK via the Indian Ocean. To be operational by the end of 1996, FLAG will cost its backers in excess of \$1.4 billion, becoming the world's longest undersea fibre optic cable, 25,000 kilometres in length.

Sri Lanka's Telecom has chosen OTC Australia, the international arm of AOTC, as its partner to provide a cellular mobile telephone service in Sri Lanka.

This edition of World Review was prepared by Richard Phillips, itinerant traveller and undergraduate at Caius College, Cambridge.