

Background Guide: IPC

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Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

The IPC offers a distinctive experience within the conference. While most committees focus on diplomacy through speeches, negotiations, and resolutions, the role of the press is to observe, analyze, and document these developments. As members of the International Press Corps, you will take on the responsibility of reporting on committee proceedings, capturing the essence of debates, and presenting the perspectives that shape discussions throughout the conference.

Journalism today exists in an environment that is both dynamic and challenging. Over the past few years, global events and conflicts have demonstrated how critical responsible reporting is in shaping public understanding. Journalists are often required to navigate complex political contexts while ensuring that information presented to the public remains accurate, balanced, and well-contextualized.

Another significant transformation in modern journalism is the influence of digital and social media platforms. While these platforms have expanded the accessibility of information and enabled diverse voices to participate in global conversations, they have also introduced new challenges, including the rapid spread of misinformation and competing narratives. In such an environment, the responsibility of journalists to verify facts, evaluate sources, and present credible reporting becomes even more essential.

Within the IPC, you will have the opportunity to engage creatively with the conference by producing articles, conducting interviews, and crafting narratives that reflect both the substance and the spirit of debate. Your work will contribute to shaping how the conference is understood and remembered.

We encourage you to approach this committee with curiosity, professionalism, and a strong sense of journalistic integrity. The freedom to explore ideas, question perspectives, and communicate stories is one of the most valuable aspects of the International Press Corps.

We look forward to your insightful reporting and thoughtful engagement throughout the conference.

Warm regards,

Executive Board

International Press Corps (IPC)

MCGS Model United Nations 2026

I. Abstract

The objective of this paper is to introduce the proceedings of MCGSMUN's International Press Committee (IPC) to individuals who applied to be journalists at our United Nations simulations. The readers will be informed of the journalism's sphere of action at an international event such as a United Nations conference, as well as the types of publications that will circulate at our event and the means accessible to generate them. They will also be exposed to the guidelines of the world's leading news outlets to understand how to convey information from many perspectives. As our Model United Nations aims to replicate a real UN meeting, the journalistic body should maintain a dignified posture while performing its reporting duties.

II. Purpose

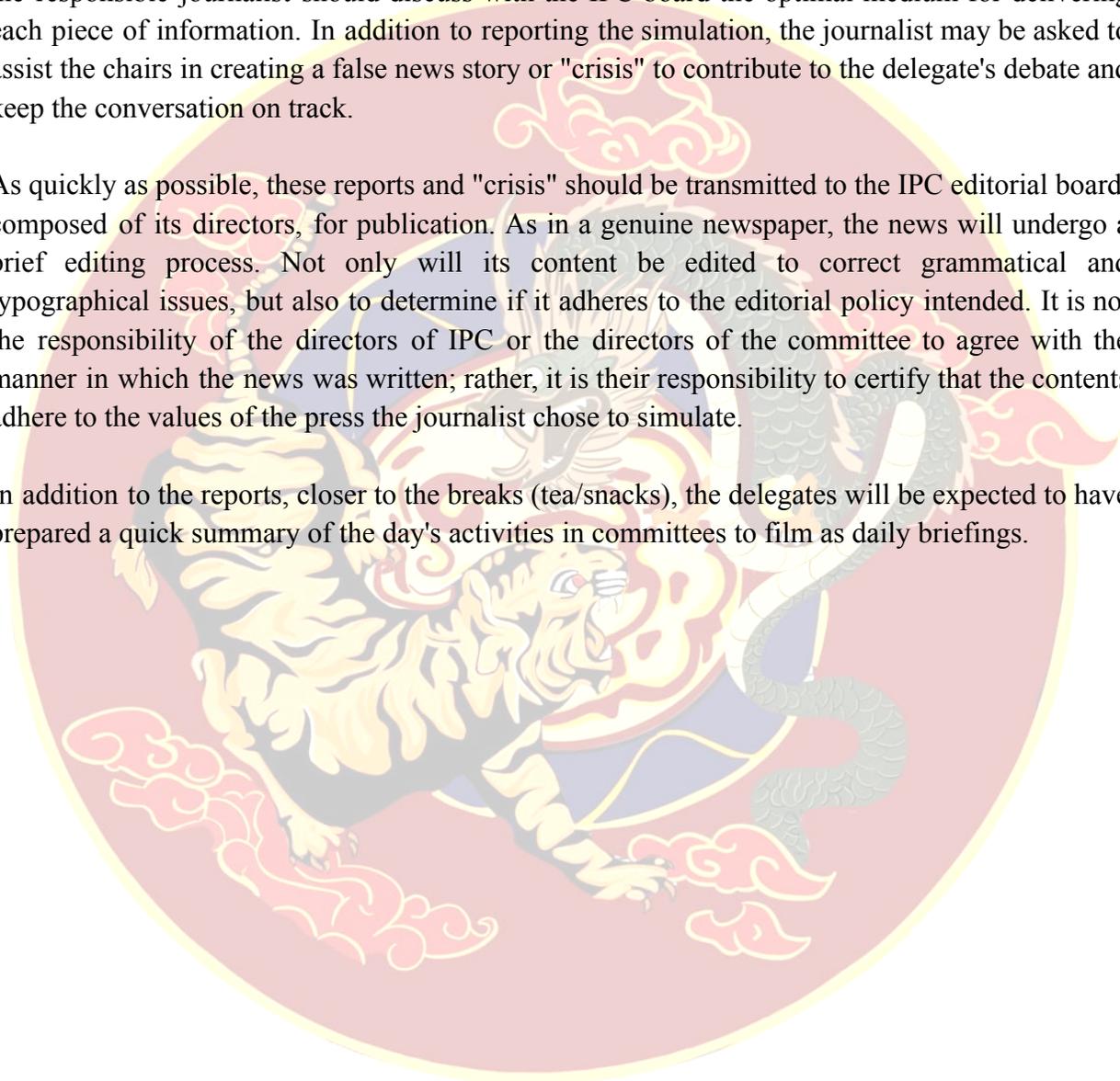
Information is crucial to the democratic growth of society. The primary purpose of the media is to inform the audience about an occurrence to depict the scenario. Typically, the only method to mediate in conferences as important as the United Nations is through the news and reporting provided by the press. This journalistic organization does not belong to the United Nations: it is composed of journalists from all over the world from numerous press agencies who are present to cover the debates by gathering and sharing information. Therefore, the press is not subject to any other committee or their will and cannot be censored by any nation or the United Nations itself. It is challenging for media outlets to report with complete objectivity. The reporter's beliefs, political stance, agency policies, or a country's attitude are always intertwined with their coverage of a scenario, which explains why there are so many varied interpretations of the same event. It is implausible to believe that the publications, opinions, and actions of journalists during such events have no effect on the broader public. This is why the IPC has many distinct vehicles: to convey as many diverse perspectives on a truth as feasible.

Recognizing this, MCGSMUN established its own International Press Committee (IPC), whose primary purpose is to provide real-world experience about the effects of the press at such significant global conferences. Those who choose to join this committee will be directly involved with journalism and should adhere to the principle of providing the public with clear information, taking into account the simulations' historical context and attempting to fit the content into the approach that each editorial policy mandates. At the same time, the other delegates, participating in different committees, will be required to deal with the repercussions of their decisions being reported by the event media. Correspondingly, what is disclosed to a journalist cannot be kept secret unless previously agreed upon (what the international media refers to as "on the record"). The committees are accountable for what they communicate to the media, while the Press Committee is accountable for the authenticity of what is transmitted.

During the conference, IPC delegates will utilize several methods to make the experience as authentic as possible, including interviewing the other delegates, taking photographs, and utilizing social media. Each delegate will be allocated to one of the eight other committees to report on the debate and any additional facts that may influence the conference. When presenting these findings, they should select one or two editorial policies that better reflect the situation of the country they are discussing. The reports can be created using text, photography, or video, and the responsible journalist should discuss with the IPC board the optimal medium for delivering each piece of information. In addition to reporting the simulation, the journalist may be asked to assist the chairs in creating a false news story or "crisis" to contribute to the delegate's debate and keep the conversation on track.

As quickly as possible, these reports and "crisis" should be transmitted to the IPC editorial board, composed of its directors, for publication. As in a genuine newspaper, the news will undergo a brief editing process. Not only will its content be edited to correct grammatical and typographical issues, but also to determine if it adheres to the editorial policy intended. It is not the responsibility of the directors of IPC or the directors of the committee to agree with the manner in which the news was written; rather, it is their responsibility to certify that the contents adhere to the values of the press the journalist chose to simulate.

In addition to the reports, closer to the breaks (tea/snacks), the delegates will be expected to have prepared a quick summary of the day's activities in committees to film as daily briefings.



III. Resources

Reports

News reports are the primary work instrument of any journalist. They are the most frequent format for conveying information and should provide the general audience with the most updated details. The IPC will work with reports whose primary audience should be the delegates of the committee the journalists are covering; however, this is not a requirement. To maintain a continual flow of information, these reports will be published as soon as they have been written and edited by the editorial board. The editors of IPC should add a header on each piece of news they receive, so readers will know in which newspaper the news will be published based on the editorial decisions made when writing the report. In order to accomplish this, each journalist must prepare their news based on a single editorial policy, which may vary over the course of the sessions and must be indicated in the report provided to the editorial board.

Press Release

Press releases are pieces distributed by institutions or organizations to supply the media with information. In MCGSMUN, the information provided to journalists by committee chairs will be considered press releases. As stated previously, chairmen typically manufacture "crisis" to participate in the discussion. The journalists should accept this "crisis" as a press release and rewrite its content to a press vehicle with a journalistic purpose. The report, which will be based on the publication, must be approved not only by the IPC's editorial board but also by the committee chairs, who are responsible for its publication.

Photographs

While photojournalism will not be the primary genre for MCGSMUN press coverage, it is highly unlikely that such events will not be covered using photographs. Journalists who are not professionals may use their own equipment (smartphones, tablets, iPods, compact cameras, DSLR cameras, disposable cameras) to track the simulations. Internet-connected devices will have the ability to share content via Instagram and Twitter. It is essential to understand what to photograph.

There should not be more than one or two photographs of the entire room per day, barring extraordinary circumstances. A picture could be taken of an excellent delegate, a delegate who hears news concerning their country, or a particularly heated debate. On social media websites such as Twitter and Instagram, we typically focus on lighter topics, such as something amusing a delegate did or someone who is not paying close attention to the conversations. Simplify things;

you should not use any letters or frames, but you should always provide a caption with the photograph. If the photograph depicts an extremely significant fact, it should be referred to the editorial board for inclusion in a report. Alternatively, if the image is merely an update to a previously printed news story or merely covers common data, it should be distributed exclusively on Twitter.

Interviews

Interviews are one method of investigation among many others. We strongly urge the IPC media to conduct numerous interviews with the delegates before submitting their stories. However, these interviews should not interfere with simulation dialogues and discussions. Journalists are invited participants in these dialogues and should refrain from interrupting. Thus, interviews must be conducted outside of the conference rooms, at the conclusion or beginning of a session, or even in the hallways. A delegate may occasionally ask journalists to conduct an interview. This is a typical practice in all spheres of politics and is a means of establishing vital ties with delegates. However, journalists should be cognizant of the purpose of the material they receive. There may be press conferences to which all IPC journalists are invited. At a press conference, a journalist must not only pay attention to who is speaking but also gather historical information to ask delegates intelligent, sophisticated questions. Depending on the editorial philosophy the journalist has decided to represent, their questions may lead to one or another conclusion. Therefore, before conducting an interview, the journalist must select which publication they will write for.

Remember that many United Nations sessions are closed to the public and even journalists. IPC delegates seeking information might wait for the session to begin or for someone to leave. If another delegate gives you a declaration in the halls or if you are merely talking facts with a colleague, you may use this information to create a report while respecting the source's anonymity wishes.

Daily Briefings

At political conferences lasting more than a day, it is customary for the press to provide daily updates on the status of the negotiations. In light of this, IPC journalists should be prepared to deliver information about the day's most significant events until the time of our core break. These briefings will be videotaped as "stand-ups" in which each journalist explains to the general public the most significant events of the previous day's and night's sessions. Realizing that each journalist will be responsible for covering one committee, they should produce a brief text on the simulations they will be covering and be ready to shoot beginning two hours before the core break.

IV. Guidelines

It is a field of “production and circulation of senses” (Benetti 2008, 107). When producing news, journalism affects reality since it reproduces a past event using one of many available points of view. Thus, it is not impartial or just a mirror of reality, since it takes part in changing the way an event is told to people. Telling a story using certain kinds of words or focusing on certain details instead of others is a choice that demonstrates reality comprehension. With that said, we will analyze how news is made, its characteristics, and particularities.

News Values

News values are criteria used by journalists to list what should be reported and what should not. They operate a selection and construction of what is selected (Bourdieu apud Traquina 2002, 186). In other words, they demonstrate and interfere in a given event. They are fundamental to understanding news production and the choices editors and other journalists face when deciding which piece of information is news while another is not. They are the basis from which the journalist will select the occurrences, which should be transformed into the news. On the other hand, construction news values operate “backstage,” suggesting “what should be stressed, what should be omitted, what should be a priority in this construction” (Traquina 2002, 186-187). The news’ values, according to Traquina (2002) are:

- Prominence: meaning that occurrences featuring well-known individuals or institutions are more newsworthy than occurrences with someone else;
- Proximity: considering that a news vehicle is geographic-based, the occurrences closer to their readers will be news, while if the same fact occurs in another country, it may not;
- Impact: the number of people whose lives will be influenced must be taken into consideration;
- Novelty: the journalistic world is interested in what is rare or what happens for the first time;
- Timeliness: as with proximity, the more recent events are more newsworthy. Sometimes, a recent discovery of something that happened a long time ago is considered news too;
- Notability: the quality of being visible is a value that guides journalists. What can be best pictured for the public is notable and is a news value;
- The Bizarre: more than rare, the unusual, unorthodox, or unexpected attracts attention;

- Conflict: controversy and open clashes are newsworthy, inviting attention on their own, almost regardless of what the conflict is over;
- Death: according to Traquina (2002), death is a key-news value since it breaks normality. And, a priori, where there is rupture, there is news.

News Lead

In journalism, the term "lead" refers to the first paragraph of a story. It is written with the understanding that not every reader will be able to read the complete report, so it should highlight the most essential facts. Typically, it is composed of answering simple questions such as "what?" "Who?", "where?", "how?", and "why?" Occasionally, not every component is crucial to the content and should be left for the text to explain. In subsequent paragraphs, it is possible to provide additional context, such as background information on a subject or the potential ramifications of a decision. When writing the lead, you must assume that a reader with limited knowledge of the topic will be able to understand what occurred after reading the first paragraph of your work. If they do so, they may find the rest of the report interesting and continue reading

Structure

When discussing written news, several newspapers employ writers' guides to maintain consistency. At MCGSMUN, we will not require you to put your content into preconceived boxes, but we do hope to provide a simple structure upon which you might base your writing if you are not accustomed to doing so. As previously discussed, the most significant component of a news story is typically delivered towards the beginning of the text, but should also be highlighted in the title. The title is a crucial element that should be distinct from the text, which means that it should not be the first line. Misleading titles interrupt the flow of information and are frequently employed to distort the news. When vital information is omitted from the title, the reader experiences confusion and doubt. You should also keep in mind that a title is a potent tool for presenting the viewpoint of a news source. There are no news stories without a title and a lead, and only after that should you address the specifics. At the MCGSMUN, we anticipate concise yet substantive reports. In longer reports, such as those published in magazines, it is permissible to make parallels, provide historical context, and discuss similar circumstances. However, the writing you generate for our model should be more than half a page and should still include brief context.

Here's the merged version with the original editorial policies updated to reflect any relevant changes as of 2025:

Editorial Policies

To participate in the MCGSMUN International Press Committee, you will be required to publish your articles with one or more of the world's largest communications firms. Each of these publications has its own editorial norms and interests and will be more or less inclined to cover certain United Nations

committee-related topics. We have chosen various periodicals, stations, and agencies that you might simulate. The greater your knowledge of these vehicles, the easier it will be to choose which report will best suit their needs. Here, we describe briefly how the content you will provide should be edited, depending on the social rules offered by these companies as well as the typical reader or viewer profile.

The New York Times

The New York Times (NYT), also referred to as the "Gray Lady," is a daily newspaper based in New York City with a global readership. As of 2022, it reported 740,000 paid print subscribers and 8.6 million paid digital subscribers. It is widely recognized for its podcasts, such as The Daily, and boasts a long history, having won 132 Pulitzer Prizes—the most of any newspaper. Published by The New York Times Company, the paper remains one of the most influential news outlets in the U.S. and globally. The NYT is committed to journalistic integrity, aiming to cover fact-based news and comprehensive analysis. It typically prioritizes investigative reporting and in-depth coverage of international relations, politics, business, and global crises.

The Washington Post

The Washington Post (WaPo) is a major American daily newspaper headquartered in Washington, D.C., with significant influence over U.S. politics and policy. It has won 65 Pulitzer Prizes as of 2020, with notable historical contributions such as breaking the Watergate scandal in 1972. Following its 2013 acquisition by Jeff Bezos, the paper has expanded its global reach, continuing to emphasize investigative journalism and political analysis. Its coverage often focuses on political news, government affairs, and issues pertaining to the Washington metropolitan area. However, with its increased online presence, it has broadened its focus to cover global affairs, particularly those impacting American interests.

The Wall Street Journal

The Wall Street Journal (WSJ) is a business-focused international newspaper based in New York, with global editions in Chinese and Japanese. As of 2019, the WSJ had a circulation of 10, approximately 2.8 million worldwide. It is known for its authoritative financial news and has won 38 Pulitzer Prizes. The WSJ's editorial stance is typically conservative, especially in its business and opinion pages. While the paper is globally respected for financial and economic reporting, its editorial pages are politically conservative, advocating for free-market principles.

The Hindu

The Hindu, one of India's leading English-language daily newspapers, remains influential in national discourse. Founded in 1878, it has been known for its robust editorial stance on social issues and policy debates. While originally a liberal paper, it is now perceived as left-leaning in India's political landscape. As of 2025, the Hindu continues to emphasize balanced political coverage while remaining a significant voice in India's journalistic community.

Reuters

Reuters, founded in 1851 and owned by Thomson Reuters, remains one of the largest and most influential news agencies globally. Known for its impartial, fact-based reporting, Reuters is a trusted source for real-time news in over 200 countries. With 33 million monthly readers, Reuters maintains a reputation for neutrality and is regarded as one of the most reliable global news agencies. Its commitment to unbiased journalism remains unchanged, even in a rapidly evolving media landscape

BBC The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC),

BBC, established in 1922, continues to be one of the world's largest and most trusted news broadcasters. It remains publicly funded and maintains its political impartiality, with a primary mission to inform, educate, and entertain. As of 2025, the BBC still provides comprehensive news coverage in over 40 languages, emphasizing a global perspective. The BBC's reputation for impartiality has remained intact despite criticism from various political groups.

The Guardian

The Guardian, founded in 1821, has long been recognized for its commitment to liberal values and journalistic freedom. Its editorial stance remains progressive, often advocating for social justice issues, including gender equality, environmentalism, and human rights. The Guardian's wide readership, particularly among individuals aged 25 to 44, continues to rely on its investigative journalism and international news coverage. Its editorial position remains one of center-left, with a strong emphasis on progressive issues.

Al Jazeera

Al Jazeera, founded in 1996 by the Qatari royal family, has expanded its influence globally. Known for its comprehensive coverage of the Arab world and its critical stance toward Western political power, the network is one of the most prominent Arab media outlets. While it has faced criticism for its perceived political bias toward Qatari interests, Al Jazeera remains a key player in Middle Eastern and global journalism. It emphasizes presenting multiple viewpoints, reflecting the diverse political and cultural landscape of the Arab world.

The Times of India

The Times of India (TOI) remains one of India's leading newspapers and the largest-selling English-language daily globally. Founded in 1838, TOI has continued to provide comprehensive coverage of national and international news. As of 2025, TOI continues to be a prominent voice in Indian media, often influencing public opinion and maintaining a broad readership base. It remains committed to impartial reporting and up-to-date coverage of political and cultural developments.

Cable News Network

Cable News Network, founded in 1980, is a global leader in 24-hour news broadcasting. It provides continuous coverage of major events and is one of the most widely distributed news networks globally. CNN's editorial stance is generally left-leaning, with a focus on international relations, social issues, and U.S. domestic politics. Despite criticism of its political bias, CNN continues to hold a significant place in global news.

XINHUA

Xinhua, China's state news agency, continues to provide coverage that rejects the Chinese government's social positions on international and domestic issues. Established in 1997, Xinhua plays a significant role in shaping China's global image. In 2025, Xinhua will remain a key voice in global news, offering state-sponsored perspectives and reporting on Chinese politics, economic policies, and foreign relations.

Al Arabiya

Al Arabiya is a leading Middle Eastern news network headquartered in Dubai. Established in 2003, it provides extensive coverage of political, economic, and security developments across the Arab world and internationally. The outlet is known for its focus on regional geopolitics, Gulf affairs, and Middle Eastern diplomacy. In international discussions, Al Arabiya often highlights perspectives from Arab governments and regional policy priorities.

Fox News

Fox News is a prominent American news network founded in 1996. It is widely known for its strong opinion-based programming and conservative-leaning political commentary. The network covers domestic and international political developments, national security issues, and global diplomacy. Fox News often reflects perspectives aligned with conservative policy viewpoints in the United States.

France 24

France 24 is an international news channel funded by the French government and headquartered in Paris. Established in 2006, it broadcasts in multiple languages including English, French, Arabic, and Spanish. The channel focuses on global diplomacy, European politics, and international cultural affairs. France 24 often highlights the European Union's role in global governance and multilateral diplomacy.

South China Morning Post

The South China Morning Post is a leading English-language newspaper based in Hong Kong. Founded in 1903, it provides in-depth coverage of China, East Asia, and regional geopolitical developments. The publication is widely regarded for its analysis of Chinese domestic policies and international relations. It offers a critical window into developments shaping Asia's political and economic landscape.

SpaceNews

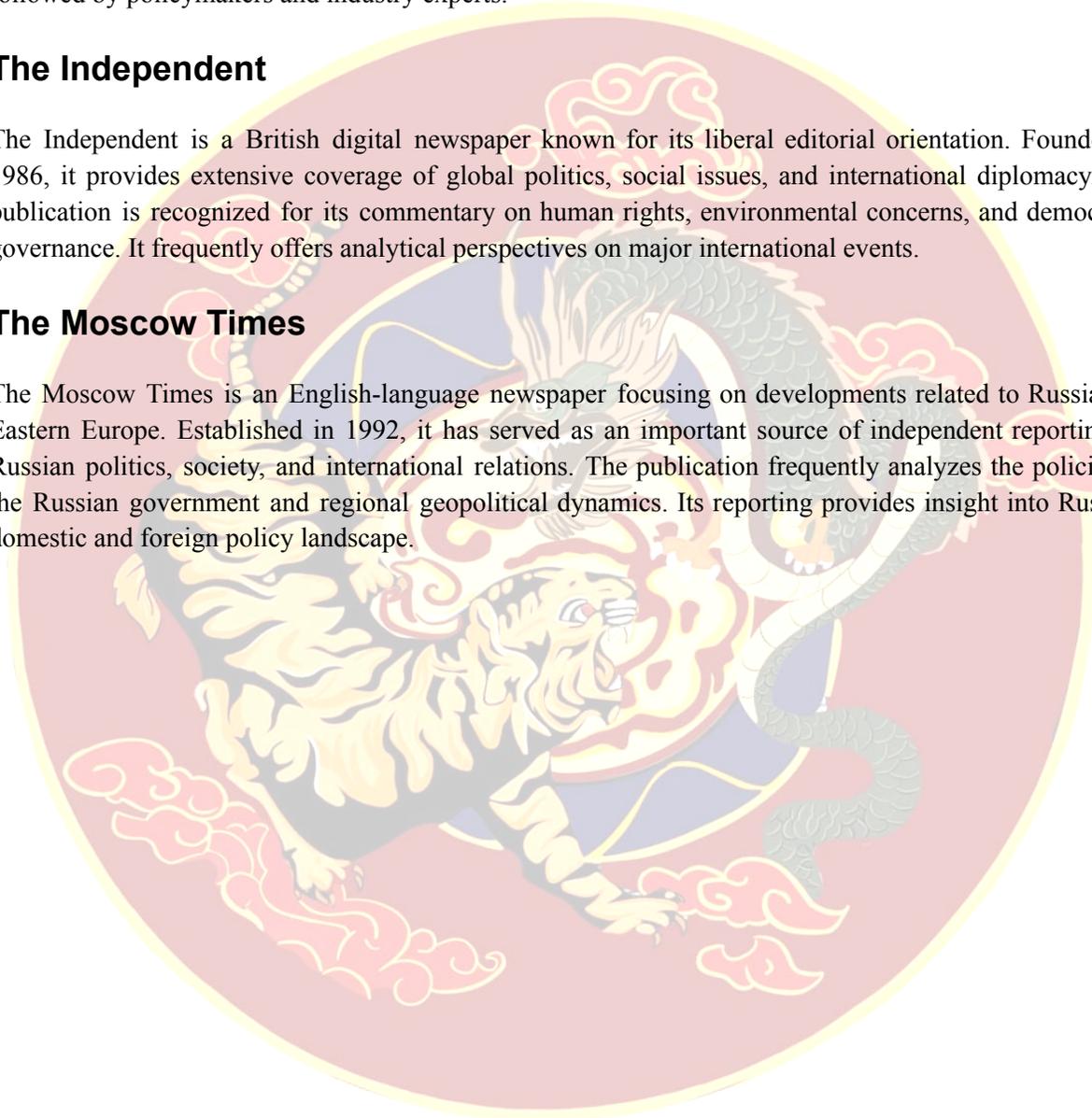
SpaceNews is a specialized international publication dedicated to space policy, aerospace technology, and global space governance. It covers developments related to government space agencies, commercial space companies, and international space law. The outlet provides analysis on issues such as satellite technology, defense space programs, and international cooperation in outer space. Its reporting is widely followed by policymakers and industry experts.

The Independent

The Independent is a British digital newspaper known for its liberal editorial orientation. Founded in 1986, it provides extensive coverage of global politics, social issues, and international diplomacy. The publication is recognized for its commentary on human rights, environmental concerns, and democratic governance. It frequently offers analytical perspectives on major international events.

The Moscow Times

The Moscow Times is an English-language newspaper focusing on developments related to Russia and Eastern Europe. Established in 1992, it has served as an important source of independent reporting on Russian politics, society, and international relations. The publication frequently analyzes the policies of the Russian government and regional geopolitical dynamics. Its reporting provides insight into Russia's domestic and foreign policy landscape.



V. Endnote

The International Press Corps is a committee that can profoundly shift one's perspective, and reporting on such events with sophistication and caution is one of the most vital yet delicate duties of the International Press. As the only body capable of comprehensively monitoring global activities, IPC delegates must be vigilant in noting the developments and setbacks encountered while striving to find solutions to the world's most pressing issues. This responsibility allows them the freedom to either support or critique the actions of any agenda under discussion. In today's increasingly murky world, where truth is often obscured by disinformation and rising authoritarianism, the role of the International Press has never been more crucial. It is essential that we, as delegates, uphold the integrity of honest, fact-based reporting, ensuring that the light of truth prevails against the encroaching darkness of populism and fascism. Only through unwavering commitment to truth can we truly hope to guide the global discourse toward peace, justice, and accountability. I look forward to contributing to this noble pursuit, striving toward consensus and fostering an inform

