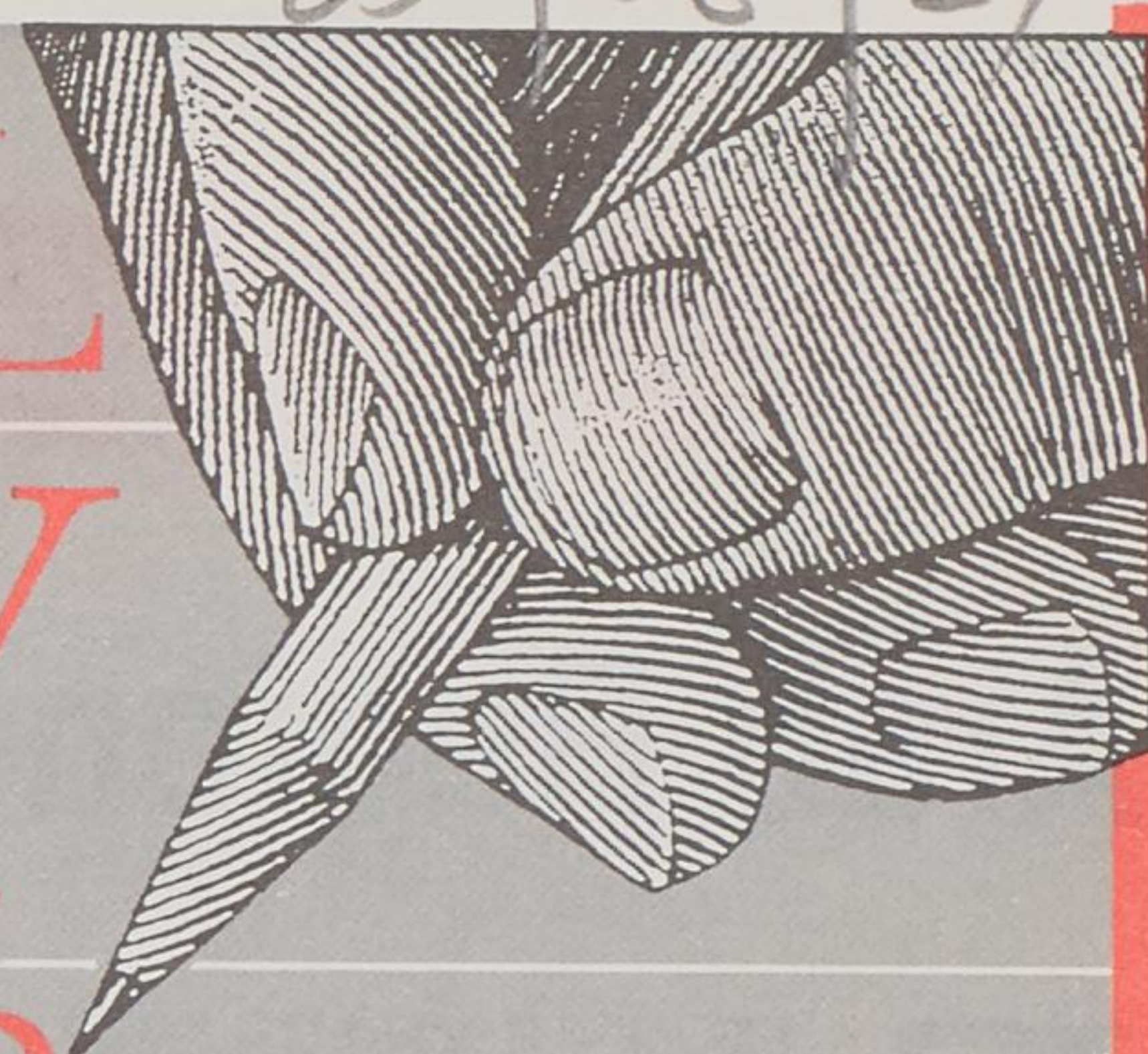


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1990

INTERNATIONAL LITERACY YEAR



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL TASK FORCE ON LITERACY

Number 5, August, 1989

BIG PUSH NEEDED FOR SEPTEMBER 8

September 8 is International Literacy Day. Members of the International Task Force on Literacy call on literacy groups, newspapers, media, government departments, voluntary and non-governmental groups everywhere to promote literacy by lending visibility to learners and literacy on September 8.

Announcements of plans for International Literacy Year

September 8 is an ideal time to publicize plans which your organization has for International Literacy Year. The press will be looking for materials. What better time to let others know about the ideas and work which you feel is important.

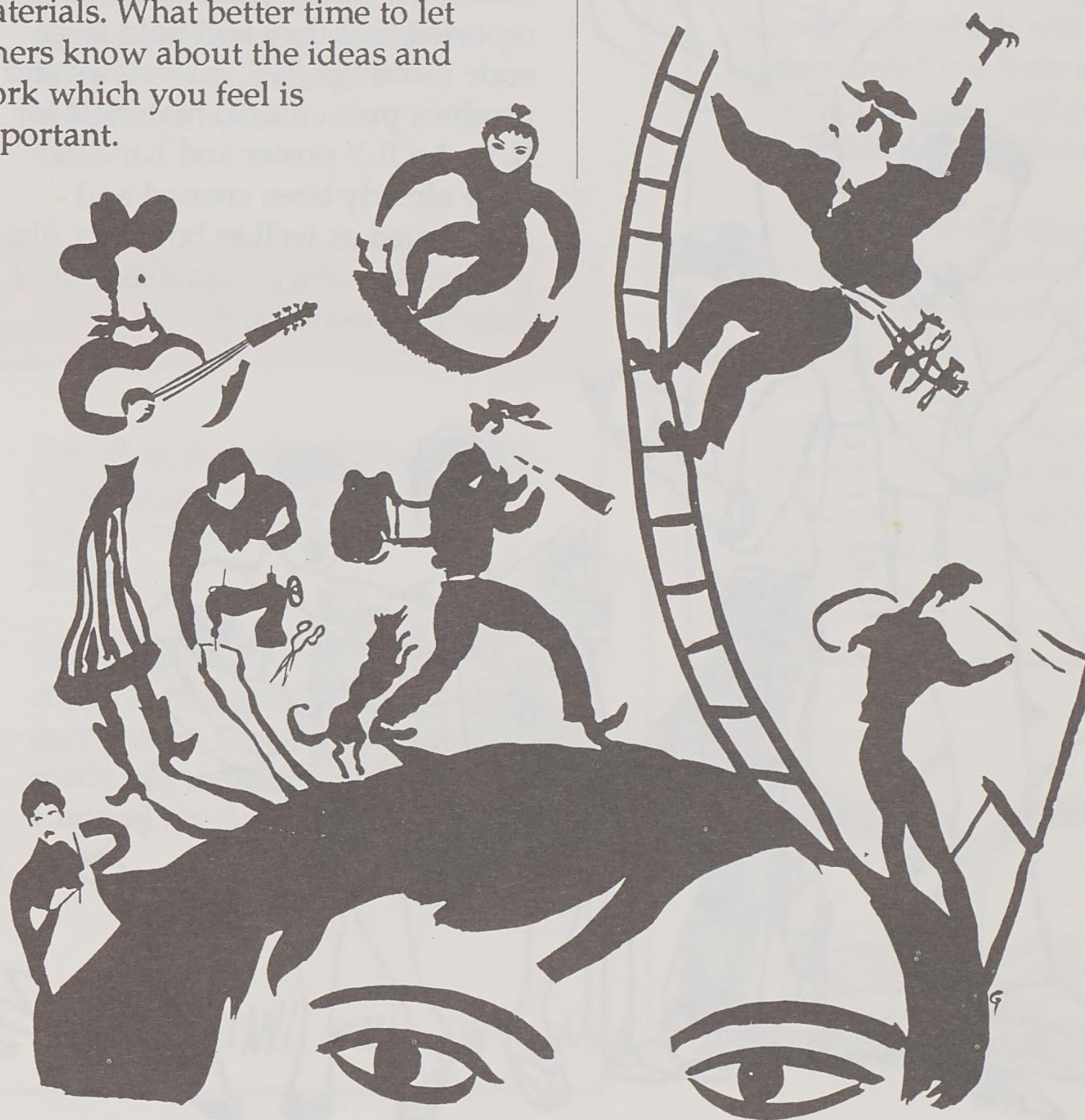
A celebration for the literacy movement

Some groups are using September 8 as a day of celebration for the literacy movement in local and other levels.

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A special role for learners

How can learners themselves be involved in organizing events for September 8? How can those of us in the literacy movement make more space for learners to speak directly to the public or in forums with each other and literacy workers? Can learners speak directly to the newspapers, radio or television?

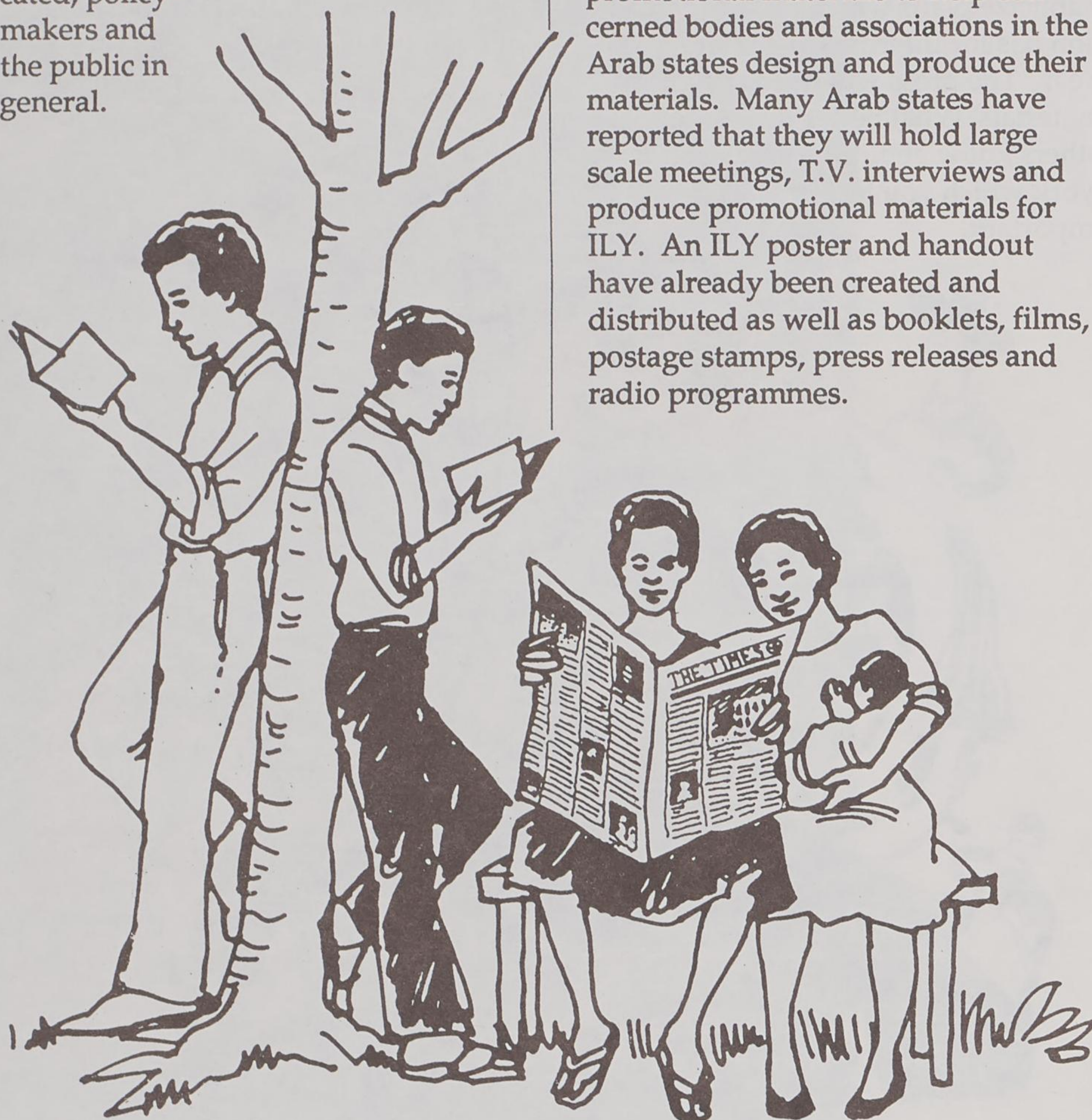


Arab Region Prepares for ILY

FOR THE YEARS 1989 and 1990, the Arab Regional Literacy Organization (ARLO) has provided concerned bodies in Arab States with a practical guide on planning informational and promotional work in the field of Literacy and Adult Education. By the end of the year 1989 a complete series of the Pan-Arab T.V. Literacy Programme: "An el -Awan" ("It is high time") will be produced and distributed to all Arab states. ARLO has also produced a pilot series of a T.V. programme for neo-literate women. These series are directed at literacy learners, the educated, policy-makers and the public in general.

// The main objective in creating public awareness is to develop an atmosphere of positive attitudes towards the problem of illiteracy as a cultural problem and the need to tackle and combat it. The target audiences are decision makers, the educated, the public at large as well as the learners themselves. //

In addition, ARLO plans to produce prototype visual informational and promotional materials to help concerned bodies and associations in the Arab states design and produce their materials. Many Arab states have reported that they will hold large scale meetings, T.V. interviews and produce promotional materials for ILY. An ILY poster and handout have already been created and distributed as well as booklets, films, postage stamps, press releases and radio programmes.



Illiteracy among Seniors

ONE VOICE, Seniors Network (Canada) has published two reports on the problem of illiteracy among seniors.

- **Illiteracy and Older Canadians: An Unrecognized Problem — Literature Review**
- **Illiteracy and Older Canadians: An Unrecognized Problem — Summary Report**

For more information:

ONE VOICE,
Seniors Network (Canada)
350 Sparks, Suite 901
Ottawa, Ont.
Canada K1R 7S8
(613) 238-7624

STRENGTHENING STRUCTURES

Call for Press Briefings on Literacy

Members of the Media who met in Paris in May 1989 at Unesco headquarters called for the creation of a system for regular press briefings on the global literacy situation. A sort of "Literacy Watch" has been proposed which would function in the same way that environmental briefings now work. The Panos Institute, which organizes similar briefings for their work on the environment and Aids issues, was cited as a model.

For further information contact:

Peter Calamai
Southam News
986 National Press Building
Washington D.C.
20045-2199 USA



Soviet Union - United States "Space-bridge on literacy"

A proposal for a learner-to-learner live television hook-up via satellite was heard at the Media Colloquium which met in Paris in May, 1989.

Plans were made to investigate the possibility of satellite linkage between literacy groups in parts of

the United States with learners in the USSR in much the same way as peace groups have been doing for several years. Prof. Yegorov of the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting and James Duffy, President of Capital Cities ABC Television are leading the study.

NATIONAL CONVENTION ON WOMEN AND LITERACY

The "All India Committee for the Eradication of Female Illiteracy" is holding a National Convention on Women and Literacy on August 10-11, 1989 in New Delhi in collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resource Development. The theme of the convention will be "Women, Literacy and Empowerment". The objectives are to evolve a concrete action programme in the field of women and literacy. It is hoped that this convention will strengthen the literacy structures for women in India.

"...We made the mistake, we still make the mistake, of confusing illiteracy with ignorance. We dealt with you as wise parents with foolish children. I think that was wrong."

Peter Abrahams, *The View from Coyaba*, 1985

THE ONGOING DEBATE....

THE GREAT DEBATE about literacy in the Arab Region began in the early seventies. It resulted in an Arab

concept of literacy and is based on the belief that: "the real illiteracy is the illiteracy of society as a whole. Illiteracy is the result and cause of social development." The issues at hand are the Arab concepts on illiteracy as well as the adopted approaches. ILY will be an opportunity for promoting a debate about literacy at the national level.

Beginning in 1989 through 1991 the Arab Regional Literacy Organization (ARLO) plans to stimulate debate on "Cultural Literacy" through:

- a symposium on the role of popular arts in the comprehensive confrontation of illiteracy
- a panel of experts on the state of NGOs active in adult education
- a seminar on the concepts of literacy and adult education
- a workshop for educationally concerned media people on the mobilization of public opinion as a means of solving the illiteracy problem

"It is more important to teach people better agriculture and village hygiene than to take time teaching them to read. When they are better fed and in better health, then literacy campaigns can be started."



Hashim Abu Zied Elsafi, ARLO, Iraq, Indira Koithara, India ITFL Office, a Literacy Learner with her child at a literacy centre in Mombasa Kenya (4th ITFL meeting)

"Some of the consequences of literacy may be negative and even unavoidable; but when not deliberately abused, literacy is positive and potent, literacy can not wait."

- a field study to evaluate the practice of the comprehensive literacy campaigns

ARLO will guarantee an opportunity

for active participation in these events to any interested Arab literacy and adult education departments and NGOs.

RESEARCH

Major Research Conference Planned for 1990

The Literacy Research Center of the University of Pennsylvania has announced plans to hold an international conference called "World Literacy in the Year 2000: Research and Policy Dimensions" October 4 - 7, 1990 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

The conference, which is by invitation only, is focused on narrowing the gap between literacy researchers and policy makers. Some 50 - 60 literacy researchers and policy makers will be invited and the proceedings will be published as a special issue of the *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.

The themes are:

Global literacy for the year 2000: myths and realities

Information gaps between policy and research

Where and how to target literacy efforts

Linkages, collaboration and communication

Imagining literacy in the year 2000

For further information:

Daniel A. Wagner
Literacy Research Centre
Graduate School of Education
3700 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104 - 6216
USA

Big Push Needed for September 8

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We all need time to relax and congratulate each other for the work which has been done so far.

What are you doing?

- In Montreal, Canada learners are meeting at the City Hall to sign the official Visitor's Book. Montreal is also launching the Book Voyage Project in Quebec.
- In Japan the Unesco Learning Centres are holding a world conference which will allow representatives from the Centres to meet and produce an action plan for future work.
- In Leicestershire, England an exhibition of world-wide literacy materials is planned for September 8.
- In Toronto, Canada, a gala play on the subject of literacy is being launched as a fundraising event for a local literacy organization.

ITFL PUBLICATIONS

The reports from the first two meetings of the ITFL: International Literacy Year: Beginning to Act and the International Literacy Year 1990: Building the Momentum, are out of print.

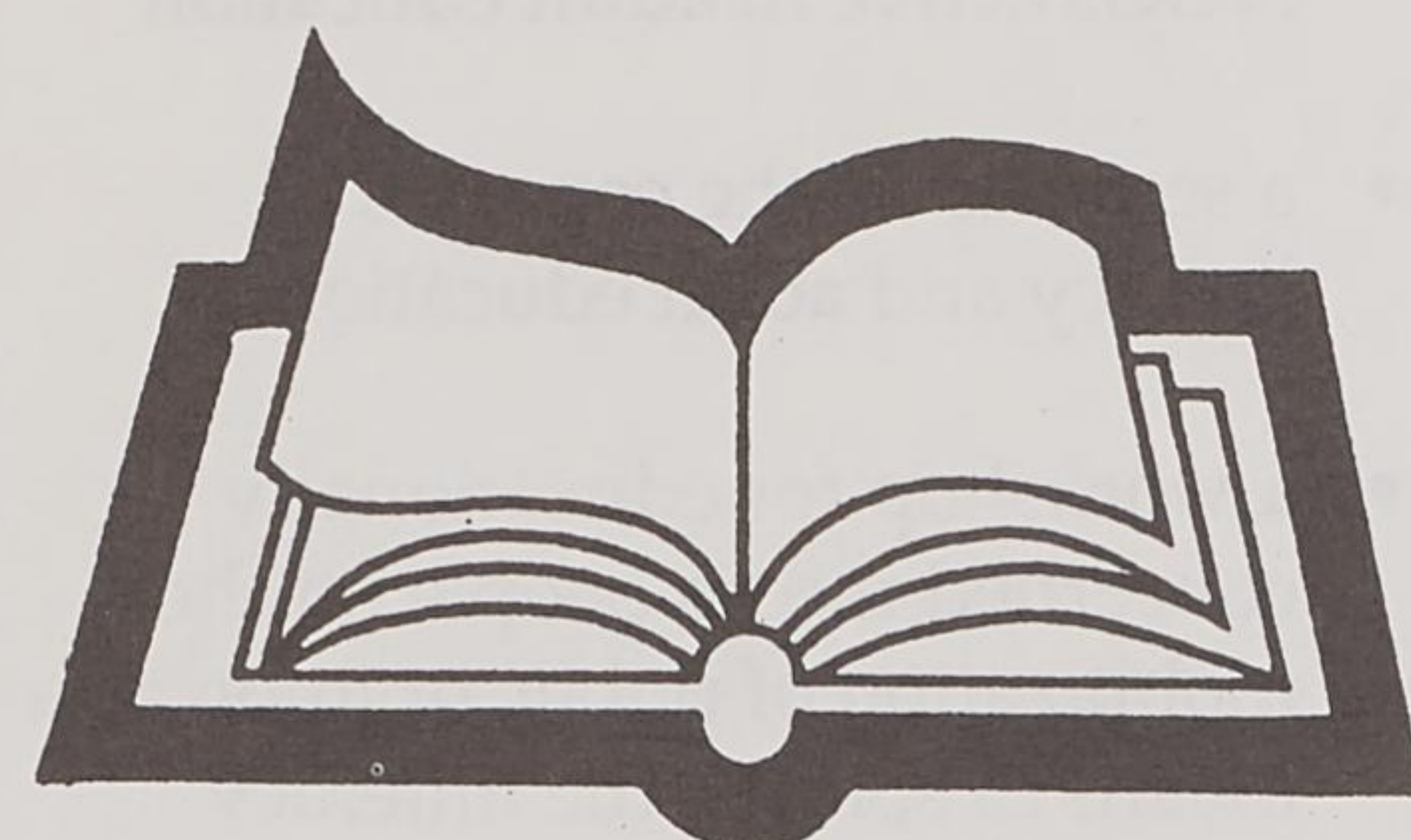
Available Reports:

Minutes: The Third Meeting of the ITFL, Paris, France, December, 1988 (English & French)

Report of the Fourth Meeting of the ITFL, Mombasa, Kenya, April, 1989 (English)

Report of the International Media Colloquium on Literacy, Paris, France, May 1989 (English & French)

There is a charge of \$5.00 U.S. per copy for postage and handling for each report. Cheques should be made payable to the **International Council for Adult Education**.



ITFL ACTIVITIES



The International Task Force of Literacy (ITFL) is a coalition of regional and world-wide international non-governmental organizations to mobilize and stimulate activities of non-governmental organizations prior to, during and after the International Literacy Year 1990 (ILY).

TORONTO OFFICE

- The illiteracy problem's profile is being raised and general public awareness is growing rapidly. Many people are showing an interest in International Literacy Year and the Task Force. Last month the Toronto ITFL coordinating office received about 150 letters and more than 100 phone calls. We are getting not just general information requests but more and more specific inquiries/requests from a variety of organizations and individuals, such as requests for speakers/panels/support for conferences/workshops on literacy, inquiries on specific projects/activities in different parts of the world, inquiries on employment and volunteer opportunities and requests for ILY/ITFL publications.

• A welcome to new ITFL members:

International Community Education Association
Headquarters: Coventry, England

International Publishers Association
Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts
Headquarters: London, England

World Federation of Trade Unions
Headquarters: Prague, Czechoslovakia

For more information on the activities of the Toronto office please contact:

International Task Force on Literacy
Coordinating Office
c/o ICAE
720 Bathurst Street, Ste. 500
Toronto, Ontario Canada M5S 2R4
Telephone: (416) 588-1211
Fax: (416) 588-5725
Telex: 06-986766 TOR

S.A./INDIA OFFICE

- Plans are underway for the 5th ITFL meeting to be held October 2-7 in New Delhi. The two main objectives are: to finalize review of plans for 1990 and to highlight activities and plans in South Asia region. The Indian Prime Minister, H. E. Rajiv Gandhi, is expected to open the ITFL meeting.
- The most famous singer in India, Ms. Lata Mangeshkar, will do a charity concert for the literacy cause on October 2, 1989, in New Delhi.
- ILY was one of the issues of the Wardha Conference on "Making Literacy a People's Movement". Indira and Lalita were able to talk to some 60 NGO representatives on this occasion.
- In New Delhi a two-day workshop is being planned to bring together NGOs interested in the Book Voyage Project. The objective is to develop a common approach for encouraging learners in sharing of their thoughts and views. Letters have already been sent to a large number of NGOs across the country explaining the concept and requesting cooperation, participation and suggestions.
- The India office has been working with the media organizations in India to develop public awareness programmes. The "All India Radio" has broadcast three programmes on Literacy at the national level since April 1989. A TV report on literacy is now ready and it is hoped that the TV Broadcasting Authority, Doordarshan, will carry it as a regular insert.

For more information on the activities of the S.A./India office please contact:

International Task Force on Literacy
South Asian/India Office
c/o Indian Adult Education Association
17-B Indraprastha Marg
New Delhi - 1100002 India
Tel: 331-9282
Cable: ADEO ASSO NEW DELHI