business to ensure that the voices of the many people living through this critical period in Middle East history are heard. If that proves difficult because mainstream American publishers are not forthcoming and responsive to this issue, then we must turn to alternative presses and periodicals. Contact Arab-American organizations and solicit their help in locating materials that provide a better understanding of the issues and concerns that are at the root of the ongoing problems in the Middle East.

Such library practice could become critical to the issue of war and peace. While the Gulf War may be over, the problems that existed in that region for decades have only become more dangerous and critical. It would be a tragedy if, as a result of this crisis, the West once again were to miss the signals coming out of the Arab World. To respond rationally, we should try to unravel the many individual historical and political strains that have been woven together to generate the forces that drove this crisis.

If we are to avoid major upheavals and catastrophe in the region, a reassessment of outdated and inaccurate information and stereotypes is urgently required. As librarians, we can help the cause of peace by educating ourselves first, and then by keeping a truly global perspective on the issue. Above all, we must protect the library's integrity as a vital source of information and channel to the marketplace of ideas. Let me leave you with a quote from President Kennedy on the issue of intellectual freedom:

We are not afraid to entrust the American people with unpleasant facts, foreign ideas, alien philosophies, and competitive values. For a nation that is afraid to let its people judge the truth and falsehood in a open market, is a nation that is afraid of its people.

The above is the text of a presentation given on November 30, 1991 at the Midwest Federation of Library Associations' Conference held in Minneapolis.
toms. These libraries should give people the social, ecological, and technical understanding necessary to involve them in creative group action.

BIS supports the lines of action established by the Swedish Public Library Investigation of 1984:

1. "To Fight for the Book and Reading."

Despite the growing dependency on the electronic media, linguistic understanding is the basis of knowledge and culture. For the foreseeable future we will depend upon the written word. The ability to read and to express oneself in speech and writing is vital to the participation of these individuals and groups in the life of society.

Library collection building should support lifelong learning with quality book, journal and audiovisual collections. The role of the public library is to bridge the gaps in information and knowledge due to social, cultural, economic, educational, and class differences.

Every public library needs to select quality literature for both children and adults in order to enrich their lives and stimulate the joy of reading. This must be done in competition with other media that seek to control human creativity and imagination.

2. "To Give Everybody Free and Equal Access to Information."

Library service can be enriched through access to electronically transmitted and stored information. BIS considers it vital that libraries use these possibilities in a way that provides information to all citizens, not merely to already information-rich groups and individuals. New sources of funding must be found for this extension of library activity.

AN EQUAL LIBRARY STANDARD FOR ALL

BIS considers public libraries an unbeatable source of culture, knowledge, and information. BIS demands legislation wherein the state guarantees an equal library standard throughout the country. Groups that currently do not use libraries should be involved in the policy-making and planning process. This means creating libraries in workplaces, schools, sparsely populated areas, and small towns as well as providing outreach activities. The newer colleges throughout Sweden must get more library resources.

A well-functioning library requires that thinking in terms of "guild and territory" must be resisted, inside as well as outside the library. Thus BIS supports the democratization and integration which lies behind the introduction of district boards in some Swedish municipalities. Growth in bureaucracy must be fought however.

SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION

BIS is opposed to individually set wage rates. This way of looking at the public sector borrows inappropriate concepts from the private sector such as "competition" and "profitability." Such a system of wages replaces solidarity and cooperation in the workplace with competition and the building of private careers. BIS considers it the task of trade unions not only to diminish wage differentials but also to urge a higher estimation of library work and a higher general salary level. BIS demands increased access to education at the entry level and continuing education for all employees in the library.

It is the objective of the trade unions to actively support the public sector and the cultural policy established by the state. It is also their objective to insist on working conditions without unreasonable working hours, stressful understaffing, or restriction to monotonous assignments.

FIGHT CULTURAL IMPERIALISM

Scandinavian culture has become more and more influenced by Anglo-American language and thinking. BIS thinks that cultural imperialism is best countered by increased interaction with cultural and linguistic regions other than the dominating Anglo-American. Cultural exchange with the rest of Europe and with all those other parts of the world represented by immigrants to Scandinavia should be radically and purposefully increased.

BIS supports the struggle against imperialism and racial oppression by supporting solidarity organizations and other progressive forces in their work to inform public opinion.
BIS supports developing libraries in progressive countries lacking the needed resources.

BIS opposes any official contacts with libraries used in the service of oppression.

BIS thinks that UNESCO's manifesto on public libraries should be the self-evident foundation for the public libraries of the world.

**BIS — THE ASSOCIATION**

The association BIS shall through its journal "BIS" and in other connections participate in the cultural and social debate working for the extension and realization of its program. The association BIS shall through its internal bulletin and meetings constantly develop and deepen intellectual and ideological work on library issues. Members of BIS shall support one another in solidarity in the struggle for equal and democratic libraries.

Translation from the Swedish original was jointly made by Lennart Wettmark and Ebba I. Johnson.

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**RESOLUTION ON LOYALTY OATHS**

by University of Illinois, Student ALA Chapter

WHEREAS, A democracy must preserve freedom of thought and expression if it is to serve its people; and

WHEREAS, Loyalty investigations of library employees contribute to an atmosphere of suspicion and fear and place constraints on intellectual freedom by rendering it hazardous to hold or express other than popular views; and

WHEREAS, Librarians have a special responsibility to provide information on all sides of controversial issues, but cannot do so if intellectual conformity becomes a factor affecting their employment or tenure; and

WHEREAS, The American Library Association has received evidence that loyalty tests may easily lead to the violation of the constitutional rights of library employees, and in the last half century have historically done so; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that we, the Council of the of the American Library Association, strongly protest loyalty programs which inquire into a library employee's thoughts, reading matter, associates, or membership in organizations. We disapprove of the compulsory affirmation of allegiance to the government or to the Constitution. We assert that loyalty oaths are inappropriate prerequisites for employment in any library, and we censure any library that openly or silently condones oaths as conditions of employment.

Endorsed by the University of Illinois Student Chapter of the American Library Association, March 1992.

Forwarded to the Council of the American Library Association for action, June 1992.