The Headquarters Agreement with the Swiss Confederation was signed in the office of the Secretary-General of the Union in the presence of the Co-ordination Committee at 1130 hours on 22 July.

This Agreement governs the status of the Union and its staff in Switzerland.

The Ambassador Jean Humbert, permanent observer for Switzerland at the Geneva Office of the United Nations and Permanent Representative to the other international organizations in Geneva, together with Mr. J. Babel, Councillor of State and Mrs. Lise Girardin, Administrative Councillor, represented the Confederation.

Since the establishment of the ITU Permanent Bureau in Berne in 1869 and up till 1947 this Bureau was placed under "the high supervision of the Government of the Swiss Confederation", so that no headquarters agreement was required.

When the ITU became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1947, relations between the Union and the Confederation were governed, with the consent of the two parties, by the Headquarters Agreement signed between Switzerland and the United Nations in Geneva.

At the Union’s Plenipotentiary Conference, held in Montreux in 1965, the Members of the ITU decided that this organization, like the other specialized agencies, should have its own Headquarters Agreement with the Confederation. Hence the signature of this Agreement on 22 July last.

The ITU-sponsored World Administrative Radio Conference for Space Telecommunications, which opened on 7 June, finished at 06.00 hours on 17 July with the signature of the Final Acts of more than 300 pages, after six weeks of intensive work.

The Conference, with Mr. Gunnar Pedersen (Denmark) as Chairman and Ambassador Robert Tyson (United States) and Mr. Ashot Badalov (Deputy Minister of Telecommunications, USSR) as Vice-Chairmen, was attended by 740 delegates from 101 countries and the representatives of some 27 different organizations.

The Conference was a sequel to one organized by the ITU in Geneva in 1963 to allocate exclusive or shared frequency bands to the various space services and to revise parts of the Radio Regulations, particularly with regard to the assignment, use, notification and registration of frequencies, the identification of stations and the technical terms and definitions.

A detailed analysis of the results of the Conference will appear in a subsequent issue of the Telecommunication Journal. However, the figures available already show the magnitude of the task accomplished by the Conference, the main purpose of which was the total revision of the Regulations governing space radio-communications.
For example, the relevant sections of Article 7 of the Radio Regulations (Special Rules Relating to Particular Services), which took up 5 pages, will now amount to 15 pages, while Article 9A (Notification and Recording in the Master International Frequency Register of Frequency Assignments to Stations in the Space and Radio Astronomy Services) will now amount to 27 pages instead of 15.

Among the new texts which have been added to the Radio Regulations, Appendix 28 (Procedure for Determination of the Co-ordination Area Around an Earth Station) runs to some 51 pages, and Appendix 29 (Method of Calculation to Evaluate the Degree of Interference Between Geostationary Satellite Networks) has 10 pages.

After the tragic death of the three Soviet cosmonauts

The World Administrative Radio Conference for Space Telecommunications, held an extraordinary plenary meeting on 30 June when the tragic fate of the three Soviet cosmonauts of "Soyuz-11" was announced.

After observing one minute's silence, the delegates sent the following telegram to Mr. Kossygin, President of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union:

"The World Administrative Radio Conference for Space Telecommunications in extraordinary plenary meeting deeply shocked by the tragic accident causing the death of the three cosmonauts of Soyuz-11, Dobrovolsky, Volkov and Patsaev after accomplishing a remarkable mission for science and human progress, conveys its deepest sympathy to your Government and to the families of the deceased. Gunnar Pedersen, Chairman of the Conference."

Mr. M. Mili, Secretary-General of the Union, sent the following message to Mr. N. V. Psurtsev, Minister of Telecommunications of the USSR:

"Deeply moved by tragic end of the three Soviet cosmonauts, wish to offer on behalf of the International Telecommunication Union most heartfelt sympathy."

Mr. S. R.V. Paramor


Meeting of Joint Sub-Group of Working Parties RTG and II/3 of the CCITT

At the meetings of Study Groups I and II of the CCITT in Montreal during June-July 1970 it was agreed that a small Joint Sub-Group of representatives from Working Parties RTG and II/3 (Revision of the Telegraph and Telephone Regulations) should meet to consider the wording and disposition of provisions which are common to both the draft revised Telegraph and Telephone Regulations.

The Joint Sub-Group met in Geneva during 14-16 April 1971 under the chairmanship of Mr. S. R. V. Paramor (United Kingdom Post Office) with Mr. D. Warner (American Telephone and Telegraph Company — AT&T) as Vice-Chairman.

It was noted that the Vth Plenary Assembly of the CCITT at Mar del Plata in 1968 had approved the proposals for the revised Telephone Regulations and issued them as Recommendation E. 114. Thus more progress had been made with simplifying the Telephone Regulations and it would be difficult to reconsider basic points of the draft text solely to bring them into line with the draft Telegraph Regulations.

There are many similarities between the international telephone and telex services but there are basic differences between them and the international public telegram service. Although it was impracticable to foresee complete alignment of the texts it was agreed that where the subject matter in both texts was similar it would be advisable to align the texts if possible.

The Joint Sub-Group considered a list of items comparing the approach made by Working Parties RTG and II/3 to subjects of common interest and examined the reasons for any differences of approach and wording. In some cases proposals were made for similar wording to be adopted in both sets of Regulations e.g. for Article I "Purpose of the Regulations" and the references to CCITT recommendations. It was apparent that the difference of approach in other cases stemmed either from the method adopted by Working Party II/3 of retaining only basic principles in the revised Telephone Regulations and transferring any provisions dealing with detailed operational or accounting matters to recommendations, or because the regulatory aspects of particular provisions required different treatment. In these cases the Joint Sub-Group made proposals for further consideration by Study Groups I (Telegraph operation and tariffs—including Telex) and II (Telephone operation and tariffs).

Meeting of Working Party RTG

Working Party RTG (Revision of the Telegraph Regulations) which had reported the results of its meeting in July 1969 to the Study Group I meeting at Montreal in June-July 1970 was asked to continue its work with the object of presenting final proposals for revising the Telegraph Regulations and preparing draft CCITT recommendations to the Vth Plenary Assembly. Working Party RTG held its second meeting of the 1968-1972 period in Geneva during 19-29 April 1971 under the chairmanship of Mr. S. R. V. Paramor.

Mr. S. R.V. Paramor