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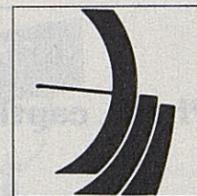
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(ITU) للاتصالات الدولي الاتحاد في والمحفوظات المكتبة قسم أجراه الضوئي بالمسح تصوير نتاج (PDF) الإلكترونية النسخة هذه والمحفوظات المكتبة قسم في المتوفرة الوثائق ضمن أصلية ورقية وثيقة من نقلاً.

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17 May 1978



10th World Telecommunication Day

Radiocommunications

To tell the full story of the beginning of what we today call "radio" would involve the writing of several large volumes. The story would begin in the late 1700s and early 1800s when some of the eminent scientists of that day noticed the existence of a "field" around incandescent metal objects. Increased availability of sensitive electrical instruments would play a part and experimenting with incandescent electric lamps would bring us to the threshold of our subject—radiocommunications.

In 1865 J. C. Maxwell, through theoretical work, made the prediction that visible light consists of electromagnetic waves in the ether. The importance of Maxwell's prediction was for a long time unrecognized because it was founded entirely on mathematical reasoning and data. In 1887, however, Heinrich Hertz gave proof of the data provided by Maxwell by certain experiments. Hertz showed that electric waves could be transmitted through the ether and also how these waves might be sent and received.

Branly, Marconi, Popov, Poulson, De Forest, Alexanderson and Goldschmidt, Armstrong, Arco, Slaby, Braun and Stone were the men who had a hand in the development of radio. They are called the "Father of Radio" in their respective countries. At the beginning of their experiments, they dreamed how Hertzian waves might carry messages and broadcasts from city to city, from continent to continent and from ship to shore without the use of wires. In 1901, with Marconi's successful transmission of radio signals from Poldhu, England, to the coast of Newfoundland, transatlantic communication without the aid of wires was a fact. The very nature of radio made it international right from the beginning.

The attention of the entire world was first focused on the art of radio in the year 1909 when the steamship "Republic" of the White Star Line collided with the Italian ship "Florida" off Nantucket. The crash came in the middle of the night and the first call for help, flashed from the ocean by a wireless operator, thrilled the entire world. It resulted in saving the lives of 1500 human beings from a sinking ship.

It was this disaster that crystallized to the world the great value of radio in the commercial field, namely wireless equipment on board ships. Today, more than 80 000 sea-going vessels carry radio installations.

The physical existence of radio equipment aboard ships and land stations was obviously not enough to ensure an efficient international service. Throughout the history of radio it has always been the aim to choose and assign appropriate frequencies by international agreement.

In order to illustrate the theme "Radiocommunications" chosen for the 10th World Telecommunication Day, 17 May 1978, the ITU Public Relations Division has selected 23 photographs which may be used for articles in the press and which are distributed free of charge upon request.¹ You merely have to order from us at your earliest convenience, and not later than 30 April 1978, by letter, telex, telephone, or by means of the form printed overleaf, quoting the number, and the number of copies, of the photograph or photographs required. You will receive the original of the photographs shown on the photoscope in the standard dimensions 13×18 cm. Should you require more than 10 copies of one photograph, we would send you the negative immediately in order that you may make as many prints as you wish. We should appreciate receiving clippings of articles and photographs published on the occasion of the 10th World Telecommunication Day.

Your interest and co-operation in the Union's public relations and information are much appreciated.

¹ Credit should be given to the respective sources.