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RESULTS OF THE PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE

118 countries sign Final Acts

“After a rather slow start, complicated by a good deal of time spent in debating political questions, the Plenipotentiary Conference ended its deliberations in Montreux with considerable success, and in an atmosphere truly reflecting the dignity of the supreme organ of the Union.” This was the comment of the Secretary-General, Mr. Gerald C. Gross, on the recent Plenipotentiary Conference which ended on Friday 12 November, with the signing of the new International Telecommunication Convention of Montreux by the delegates of 118 Member countries.

The main task of the conference was the revision of the previous Convention drawn up by the preceding Plenipotentiary Conference in Geneva in 1959. The new Convention will enter into force on 1 January 1967.

In one of its major decisions, the conference agreed in principle on a Constitutional Charter to replace the Convention, and instructed the Administrative Council to set up a study group to prepare the draft of such a Charter in sufficient time for it to be distributed to the Member countries at least one year before the next Plenipotentiary Conference which is scheduled to be held in Geneva in 1971.

The conference approved the Union's accounts for the years 1959-1964 and fixed the limits of expenditure for the period 1966-1971, providing for slight annual increases in this expenditure. It also approved the purchase of the new headquarters building by 31 December 1965.

Resolutions

In a series of resolutions, the conference called for methods of improving technical co-operation, the improvement of Union facilities for providing information and advice to new or developing countries, the application of telecommunication science and technology in the interests of such countries and the continuance and increase of seminars. Another resolution, concerning telecommunications and the peaceful uses of

outer space, stated that it was highly desirable that all countries should have equal opportunity to use space radio-communication facilities. The con-

ferentive Conference for Latin America. The Secretary-General was also authorized to establish the terms of co-operation between the Union and the Regional Telecommunication Group for Latin America (GRETAL).

The conference made certain changes in the structure of the organization, notably by increasing the number of Members of the Administrative Council from 25 to 29 and reducing the number



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At the oath-taking ceremony. From left to right: Dr. M. B. Sarwate, Secretary-General elect; Mr. Gustav-Adolf Wettstein, Chairman of the Conference; Mr. Mohamed Mili, Deputy Secretary-General elect.

ference also stated its opinion that centres for the study of space communications should be established as soon as possible in the different regions of the world.

The convening of certain special conferences was agreed on, notably a World Administrative Radio Conference for the Maritime Mobile Service in the second quarter of 1967 and a Regional Adminis-

trative Conference for Latin America. It elected the present Deputy Secretary-General, Dr. Manohar Balaji Sarwate of India as the new Secretary-General to succeed Mr. Gerald C. Gross who is retiring at the end of the year. It also elected Mr. Mohamed Mili of Tunisia as Deputy Secretary-General.

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The new Members of the Administrative Council, listed under the five ITU Regions, are:

(for the Americas): Argentine Republic; United States of America; Canada; Mexico; Republic of Venezuela; and Brazil.

(for Western Europe): France; Italy; Switzerland (Confederation of); Federal Republic of Germany; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and Ireland.

(for Eastern Europe and Northern Asia): Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia; and People's Republic of Poland.



Brazil signs the Final Acts.

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(for Africa): Kingdom of Morocco; Republic of Dahomey; Federal Republic of Nigeria; Algerian Democratic and Popular Republic; Ethiopia; Malagasy Republic; and Uganda.

(for Asia and Australasia): Japan; Commonwealth of Australia; Republic of India; Pakistan; Lebanon; Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and China.

The new members of the IFRB who were also elected by Regions and who will enter into office on 1 January 1967, are Mr. Fioravanti Dellamula of the Argentine Republic; Mr. René Petit of France; Mr. Ivan Petrov of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; Mr. Abderrazak Berrada of the Kingdom of Morocco; and Mr. Taro Nishizaki of Japan.

Final banquet

The night before the final signing ceremony, the Swiss Government, which had throughout distinguished itself by its great hospitality, held an official closing banquet for some 700 guests.

The Chairman of the conference, Mr. Gustav-Adolf Wettstein, in a speech honouring the retiring Secretary-General, said:

"Dear Mr. Gross, the time is approaching when you will leave the ITU scene. Others will henceforth work for the realization of your ideas, your hopes, desires and your aspirations. But is this a time for swan songs? Personally, after nine weeks of eloquence, I find myself a little hoarse and somewhat in a daze from having heard too much.

"I shall therefore confine myself to a few words of appreciation of a man who, twenty years ago, dedicated himself to the

ever closer and more rational co-operation among men.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this faith, this confidence, without always being immediately apparent, has also consistently characterized ITU activities as a whole. No agreement is possible without understanding in the area of technology. Agreement is in every circumstance the essential prerequisite for the harmonious progress of humanity. Gerald Gross is imbued with this ideal. This evening I should like, quite simply and without oratory, to thank him.

"We all wish Mr. Gross that the future will bring you and your family long years of health and happiness." *(applause)*.

Mr. Gross replied briefly with an expression of thanks for the gold medal and the other gifts presented to him by the conference and continued with a reference to the Chairman of the conference:

"Having had occasion to attend a considerable number of international conferences, I may safely say that never in that time have I had the pleasure of working closely with a more dedicated man, a man of greater integrity, or a leader with such a single-minded purpose to do a job for the Union."

Ambassador Holmes

Ambassador Julius C. Holmes, leader of the United States delegation, then spoke. He said:

"I wish to thank the Chairman and all of you for the honour you have just done my fellow-countryman. I should like especially to thank the Chairman for the high praise he offered to Mr. Gross yesterday in the Plenary, giving him credit for the great qualities of mind and heart which we all know he possesses.

"I thank him especially for the warmth of his remarks to-night on this occasion of leave-taking; this is the official ceremonial leave-taking. And these gifts have been presented as farewell gifts. It is right, fitting and proper that the Chairman and you, my fellow-delegates, should say farewell on this occasion; but not I. I speak for the United States. I say no farewell, I utter no goodbyes. I say 'Welcome home, Gerald Gross', and a hearty 'well done'."

Mr. Wolverson

Finally, Mr. William A. Wolverson, head of the United Kingdom delegation, spoke on behalf of all the delegates. Among other things, he referred to the task accomplished by the Chairman of the conference:

service of the Union. This man, as Secretary-General, has guided the destinies of our organization for the past six years. There have been four Plenipotentiary Conferences since he has been in the service of the Union: Atlantic City in 1947, Buenos Aires in 1952, Geneva in 1959 and Montreux in 1965. Each of these cities recalls a slogan, each of these years evokes a programme. They are milestones on the road travelled by the family of the ITU, now one hundred years old.

"One might be tempted to become sentimental, but that is not in my character any more than it is in the character of Gerald Gross. We are both of us no more than servants of a great cause.

"I am therefore in a position to understand his aspirations and his ideal, and to tell you briefly about them. His ideal, quite simply, is action, action without high-flown language. It is activity based on confidence in the future of mankind. It is also the conviction that technique in all its aspects contributes to

“Switzerland has for many years been the home of international organizations and is, of course, the seat of our Union. It has played a long, leading and distinguished part in fostering the growth and development of a truly international society and has contributed greatly to the maintenance and extension of international co-operation which is one of the basic purposes of each of the specialized agencies of the United Nations and, in particular, of our own Union.

“I feel, ladies and gentlemen, that there can be no doubt in the minds of any of us that Mr. Wettstein and his country are devoted to the high purposes I have just mentioned, and the fact that the representatives of nearly 120 coun-

tries have met in this beautiful town and reached agreement on so many matters, is, in itself, both a tribute to our Chairman and his country, and a practical example of how the ideals to which we all subscribe can be given practical expression.

“Yesterday, Mr. Wettstein, you described your task as guiding the conference safely to harbour. Your task has been an arduous one. There have been difficult moments, but to these, Mr. Chairman, as to other parts of the conference, you have brought the qualities which by now we all associate with your country. Unfailing courtesy, good humour, patience, a rugged tenacity of purpose, a desire to do a job well, and above all, to be fair and impartial to everybody.”