



**Journal Title:** Telecommunication Journal

**Journal Issue:** vol. 49, no 2 (1982)

**Article Title:** Twenty-five Countries Sign Regional Agreement for the Medium Frequency Broadcasting Service in Region 2

**Page number(s):** p. 64

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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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# Union Activities

## Twenty-five countries sign Regional Agreement for the medium frequency broadcasting service in Region 2

The Regional Administrative MF Broadcasting Conference (Region 2—the Americas) concluded its work on 19 December with the signing of an Agreement by the representatives of 25 countries. The Agreement is subject to approval by the competent authorities of those countries. It is open to accession by all other countries in the Region, which comprises countries of North and Central America and Latin America and the Caribbean areas.

A full report of the Conference will be published in a forthcoming number of the *Telecommunication Journal*.

The Conference was convened in two formal sessions:

*First Session at Buenos Aires* (March 1980), to prepare the technical criteria used for the planning of the medium wave band concerned (535-1605 kHz) of the radio frequency spectrum and to establish the related technical parameters (see *Telecommunication Journal*, Vol. 47, No. VII, pages 434-435, July 1980).

*Second Session at Rio de Janeiro* (9 November—19 December 1981) to establish an Agreement, Frequency Assignment Plan and the associated provisions for the future planning and operation of the medium wave broadcasting stations throughout the whole of the Region.

The Conference was chaired by Mr. Romulo Furtado, Secretary General of Communications at the Ministry of Communications, Brazil.

Speaking at the closing ceremony, Mr. Furtado emphasized the importance of the results of the Conference as a hallmark in the history of medium frequency broadcasting throughout the Region. For the first time, he said, there was an internationally agreed legal basis for the planning and operation of medium wave broadcasting services in the Region. Procedural provisions have also been adopted to enable the future development of services, consistent with individual countries' needs.

The Agreement and Plan are to be reviewed, no later than 1988, at a regional administrative conference when the planning of services in the band 1605-1705

kHz is to proceed. This additional band was allocated for broadcasting on a phased basis by the World Administrative Radio Conference in 1979.

Between the First and Second Sessions studies were carried out by the IFRB with the assistance of a Panel of Experts established by the First Session on the service requirements submitted by all countries.

In addition, the IFRB was responsible for the development and adaptation of computer programs to serve the Conference needs, which included direct access to the ITU computer facilities in Geneva, as well as substantial computer support by the *Empresa Brasileira de Telecomunicações SA* (EMBRATEL) and various mini-computers at the Conference.

Twenty-six countries took part in the Conference, the Cuban Delegation on instructions from its Government withdrawing during the early part of the sixth week. The Plan includes the requirements submitted by all countries of the Region, including 12 which did not participate in the Conference. They have been encouraged to observe the Plan and associated provisions, and it is expected that future bilateral discussions will be initiated during 1982 on any incompatibilities.

## Visit of the Secretary-General of ITU to Chile

In response to an official government invitation, Mr. M. Mili, Secretary-General of ITU, visited Chile from 4 to 7 November 1981 and entered into discussions with several governmental authorities. During the visit the Minister of Transport and Telecommunications, Air Force General Caupolicán Boisset Mújica, and Mr. Mili signed an administrative

arrangement concerning a technical co-operation programme to be carried out by the ITU.

This programme covers, in particular, activities such as radio frequency management, the maritime mobile service, network planning, expansion of the telephone service in rural areas, satellite communications and training.



*The signing of the technical co-operation agreement between the ITU and the Government of Chile: (left) Mr. M. Mili, Secretary-General of ITU, (right) Air Force General Caupolicán Boisset Mújica, Minister of Transport and Telecommunications. Standing behind Mr. Mili is Mr. P. Bronzini, Head of the Americas Division, ITU's Technical Co-operation Department*