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union activities

The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Malaga-Torremolinos, 1973)

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the Union ended on 25 October 1973 with the signing of the new International Telecommunication Convention (Malaga-Torremolinos, 1973) by the representatives of 132 countries Members of the Union.

The closing meeting was honoured by the presence of the representative of the Spanish Government, the Rt. Hon. Don Fernando Liñán y Zofió, Minister of Information and Tourism and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs. The following are extracts from his speech:

“The Conference has devoted its time to considering the world of telecommunications. I am pleased to be able to point in this connection to the marked concern shown for intensification of technical co-operation with a view to enabling all peoples to benefit from the scientific knowledge and technical experience of the more developed countries.

“The problems with which the complex world of telecommunications now has to contend are particularly influenced by the process of “speeding up of history” which we are witnessing today. The heightened pace of social change is the key phenomenon of our time. It is our lot to live in a world in which change has itself become a way of life. This fact, on which it is no longer necessary to dwell, constitutes the major challenge to contemporary man, and is, I feel, the basic point of departure for the development of co-ordinated and effective action for the greater well-being of mankind.

“Our society should take as its basis the nobility and dignity of the human individual; this should be the focal point of all our anxieties and concerns. Consideration for human dignity is the cornerstone of the system of values on which our social and technological planning must be founded.

“Mutual respect, based on the peculiarities and rights of each human being and each people and the awareness of solidarity should be fostered by the strengthening of the relations among the various members of the community and the different nations.”

The main decisions adopted by the Conference are summarized below.

The Conference keeps the Convention

The Conference again decided to retain a Convention as the basic instrument of the Union but divided it into two parts:

- the Basic Provisions containing articles of a permanent nature; and
- the General Regulations, containing the rules governing the functioning of the various organs of the Union.

The Convention will come into force on 1 January 1975.

Administrative and staff questions

The Conference approved the Union's accounts for the period 1965-1972 and fixed expenditure ceilings for the period 1975-1979. It also defined the Union's staff policy.

Technical co-operation

In a series of resolutions, the Conference:

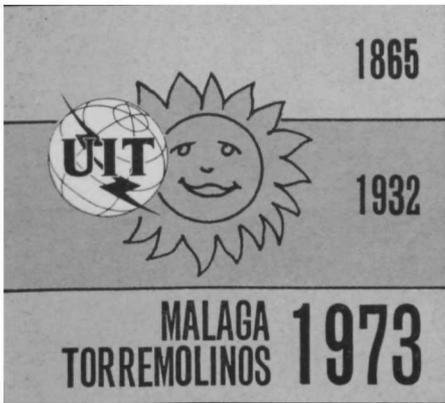
- requested the Union to continue its full participation in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) within the framework of the Convention;

- invited UNDP to consider favourably an increase in its allocations to inter-country technical assistance projects in the telecommunication sector, in those regions in particular where present allocations are relatively low;
- instructed the CCIR to pursue as a matter of urgency its studies of the technical and operational aspects leading up to the establishment of low-capacity earth stations and associated satellite systems;
- instructed the Administrative Council to contribute to the greatest extent possible to expediting the transfer to, and assimilation in the developing countries of the scientific knowledge and technological experience in telecommunications which are available in technically more advanced countries;
- dealt with training standards and the provision of training for refugees;
- urged administrations to continue and intensify their efforts to organize seminars;
- instructed the Administrative Council to take appropriate action so that the Union may continue to display its active interest and co-operation in the development of telecommunication services in the least developed countries;
- decided to maintain the group of engineers established by the Plenipotentiary Conference (Montreux, 1965) to render short-term assistance to developing countries, and authorized the recruitment of specialists as needed, for periods not exceeding six months;
- lastly, the Conference established a *Special Fund for Technical Co-operation* based on voluntary contributions in any currency or in some other form, designed to meet the needs of the developing countries which submit urgent requests to the Union. These contributions may come from countries, recognized private operating agencies or scientific and industrial organizations.

Conferences

The Plenipotentiary Conference examined the calendar of future Administrative Radio Conferences and decided:

Malaga-Torremolinos Conference Photographs



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1. *The Congress Palace, Torremolinos*
2. *Throughout the Conference the information media covered the event*
3. *World Telecommunication Day stamps issued by Member countries . . .*
4. *. . . and an exhibition of ITU technical co-operation efforts from 1965 to 1972*
5. *Mr. M. Mili being sworn in after his election as Secretary-General of the ITU . . .*
6. *. . . and Mr. Richard E. Butler as Deputy Secretary-General*

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Election of the Members of the Administrative Council: Argentina votes



Scrutineers counting the vote



The host government of the Conference, Spain, elected a Member of the Administrative Council: Members of the Spanish delegation



Malaysia, one of the newly elected Members of the Administrative Council



Mr. D. Elias signing the Final Acts for the Federal Republic of Germany



Mr. Maurice Ghazal of Lebanon elected Vice-Chairman of the new Administrative Council



Mr. L. Herrera Esteban, President of the Plenipotentiary Conference introduces Mr. Victor A. Haffner (third from right) as Chairman of the new Administrative Council. Far right: Mr. A. Ponsiglione, the retiring Chairman of the Council



Mr. Hervé Pedrosa, Brazil, handing the signed document to the Executive Secretary of the Conference



Kenya has invited the ITU to hold its next Plenipotentiary Conference in Nairobi

- that a World Administrative Radio Conference for the planning of the Satellite Broadcasting Service in the frequency band 11.7-12.2 GHz (2.5 GHz in the Europe—Africa Region) shall be convened not later than April 1977;
- that a World Administrative Radio Conference to revise, as necessary, the Radio Regulations and the Additional Radio Regulations shall be convened in 1979.

The Conference recommended that the Administrative Council should make the necessary arrangements to convene a World Administrative Radio Conference for the aeronautical mobile service when a sufficient number of requests had been received by the Secretary-General.

As already announced the Union is to hold in 1974 a World Administrative Radio Conference for Maritime Mobile Telecommunications from 22 April to 7 June and the first session of the Regional Administrative Conference for LF/MF Broadcasting (Europe—Africa, Asia—Australia). The latter is scheduled to begin on 7 October and to last three weeks. The second session will be held towards the end of 1975.

In various clauses of the new Convention, the Conference laid stress on the importance of the development of space radio-communications. For example, the article

hitherto entitled "Rational use of the radio frequency spectrum" is now entitled "Rational use of the radio frequency spectrum and of the geostationary satellite orbit".

The Conference also adopted a resolution inviting the Union to collaborate with the international organizations concerned with space radiocommunications.

Composition of the Union

The Conference examined the terms of admission to Membership of the ITU. It deleted the reference to "groups of territories" contained in the preceding Convention and abolished the status of "Associate Member" given to territories or groups of territories not fully responsible for their international relations.

Rhodesia, listed as a Member in the Montreux Convention, was deleted from the list of Members in the new Convention.

Languages used at Union Conferences

The Conference decided that Arabic should be a language of interpretation at future Plenipotentiary Conferences and world administrative conferences. It also instructed the Administrative Council to make a detailed study of the question of the Union's official and working languages.

Public Information

The Conference decided:

- that 17 May the anniversary of the founding of the Union, should henceforth be "World Telecommunication Day", and
- that the studies with a view to the creation of a telecommunication documentation centre at ITU headquarters should be pursued.

Finally the Conference expressed the opinion that telecommunication exhibitions should in future be organized under the auspices of the Union in collaboration with its Members.

Attendance of liberation organizations recognized by the United Nations as observers at meetings of the ITU

Having regard to the United Nations resolutions dealing with the problem of liberation movements the Conference decided that the organizations recognized by the United Nations could attend ITU meetings as observers.

Next Plenipotentiary Conference

The delegation of Kenya invited the Union to hold its next Plenipotentiary Conference in Nairobi. In principle the Plenipotentiary Conference is held every five years.