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Journal Title: Telecommunication journal

Journal Issue: Vol. 50, no. 1(1983)

Article Title : The plenipotentiary Conference

Page number(s): p. 6-8

Union Activities

The Plenipotentiary Conference

We continue this month our report of the Union's Plenipotentiary Conference which was held in Nairobi (Kenya) from 28 September to 6 November 1982 under the chairmanship of Mr. H. K. Kosgey, Minister for Transport and Communications of Kenya.*

It is recalled that Mr. Richard E. Butler (Australia) was elected Secretary-General, and Mr. Jean Jiguet (Cameroon) was elected Deputy Secretary-General. They both took up their duties on 1 January 1983.

The following candidates were elected or re-elected as Members of the International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB):

- Mr. G. C. Brooks (Canada) — elected
- Mr. W. H. Bellchambers (United Kingdom) — elected
- Mr. P. S. Kurakov (USSR) — re-elected
- Mr. A. Berrada (Morocco) — re-elected
- Mr. Y. Kurihara (Japan) — re-elected

Revision of the Convention

In revising the Convention (its Basic Provisions and General Regulations), the Plenipotentiaries emphasized the principles of the universality of the Union, rotation and geographical distribution for high-level posts, both at conferences and at Union headquarters, and the problems of technical co-operation and assistance.

Each chapter of the Convention was reviewed:

• *First part: Basic Provisions*

- Preamble
- Composition, purposes and structure of the Union
- General provisions relating to telecommunications
- Special provisions for radio
- Relations with the United Nations and with international organizations
- Application of the Convention and the Regulations¹
- Definitions
- Final Provisions concerning the effective date and registration of the Convention.

• *Second part: General Regulations*

- Functioning of the Union
- General provisions regarding conferences

- General provisions regarding International Consultative Committees (CCIR and CCITT)
- Rules of Procedure of conferences and other meetings
- Other provisions (languages, finances, accounts, arbitration)
- Administrative Regulations.²

Among the important changes introduced, the following are particularly noteworthy:

- the adoption of Arabic as an official language of the Union, the other official languages being English, Chinese, Spanish, French and Russian;
- the election of the Directors of the International Consultative Committees by the Plenipotentiary Conference instead of their Plenary Assemblies as in the past.

The Conference also extended the table of classes of Members' contributory units both upwards and downwards, as follows:

- the maximum unit class was increased from 30 to 40, the Members being free to choose a higher number of contributory units;
- the minimum unit class was reduced from 1/2 to 1/4 of a unit, and a class of 1/8 of a unit was introduced for the least developed countries identified by the United Nations and for such other countries as may be determined by the Administrative Council of the Union.

All Members are free to choose their class of contribution to defraying the expenses of the Union.

Among the Additional Protocols adopted, attention is drawn to those referring to the Union's expenditure ceilings for the years 1983 to 1989 and to the provisional arrangements whereby the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General will take up their duties and the first meeting of the newly elected Administrative Council (see page 8).

World and regional administrative conferences

The Conference adopted the following timetable for world and regional administrative conferences:

1983

- 1) World Administrative Radio Conference for mobile services

(Geneva, 28 February–18 March 1983);

- 2) Regional Administrative Radio Conference for the planning of the broadcasting-satellite service in Region 2 (Geneva, 13 June–15 July 1983);

1984

- 3) First Session of the World Administrative Radio Conference for the planning of HF bands allocated to the broadcasting service (January 1984, for 5 weeks);
- 4) Second Session of the Regional Administrative Conference for FM Sound Broadcasting in the VHF band (Region 1 and certain countries concerned in Region 3) (end of October 1984 for 6 weeks);

1985

- 5) First Session of the World Administrative Radio Conference on the use of the geostationary-satellite orbit and the planning of the space services utilizing it (end of June to mid-August 1985, for 6 weeks);

1986

- 6) First Session of the Regional Administrative Planning Conference for the broadcasting service in the band 1605–1705 kHz in Region 2 (first half of 1986, for 3 weeks);
- 7) Second Session of the World Administrative Radio Conference for the planning of HF bands allocated to the broadcasting service (October–November 1986, for 7 weeks);

1987

- 8) First Session of the Regional Administrative Conference to review and revise the Provisions of the Final Acts of the African VHF/UHF Broadcasting Conference (Geneva, 1963) (first half of 1987, for 3 weeks);
- 9) World Administrative Radio Conference for the mobile services (mid-August to end of September 1987, for 6 weeks);
- 10) Regional Administrative Conference to establish criteria for the shared use of the VHF and UHF

* See *Telecommunication Journal*, November (pages 740–742) and December 1982 (page 804).

¹ Radio Regulations, Telegraph Regulations and Telephone Regulations.

² For the purpose of radiocommunications, the world is divided into three Regions:

- Region 1: Europe, Africa and the entire territory of the USSR
- Region 2: the Americas
- Region 3: Asia and Australasia

bands allocated to fixed, broadcasting and mobile services in Region 3 (end of November 1987, for 4 weeks);

1988

- 11) Second Session of the World Administrative Radio Conference on the use of the geostationary-satellite orbit and the planning of space services utilizing it (end of June-beginning of August 1988, for 6 weeks);
- 12) Second Session of the Regional Administrative Planning Conference for the broadcasting service in the band 1605-1705 kHz in Region 2 (third quarter of 1988, for 4 weeks);
- 13) World Administrative Telegraph and Telephone Conference (beginning of December 1988, for 2 weeks);

1989

- 14) Plenipotentiary Conference (beginning of 1989, for 6 weeks);
- 15) Second Session of the Regional Administrative Conference to review and revise the Provisions of the Final Acts of the African VHF/UHF Broadcasting Conference (Geneva, 1963) (September 1989, for 4 weeks).

The precise dates of the conferences for which only a period is indicated will be fixed by the Administrative Council of the Union after consultation with Member States. The agendas of conferences 1), 2) and 3) have already been established by the Administrative Council of the Union at its 1982 Session and will remain as they stand. The agendas of conferences 5) to 15) will be drawn up by the Administrative Council and submitted for approval by Member States.

Technical co-operation and assistance

The Conference devoted considerable attention to increasing the scope and effectiveness of the ITU's technical co-operation and assistance activities.

To that end, it:

- instructed the Administrative Council and the Secretary-General to carry out the necessary studies with a view to strengthening the ITU's regional presence and, hence, improving the effectiveness of its assistance to Member countries, in particular the developing countries;
- decided to set up a special voluntary programme for technical co-operation based on financial contributions, training services or any other form of assistance designed to meet the telecommunication needs of

developing countries to the greatest possible extent;

- recognized the need for action to be taken to give higher priority in investment and aid programmes for telecommunications because of the importance of telecommunications to socio-economic development;
- invited the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to give favourable consideration to increasing funds for inter-country technical co-operation projects and for sectoral support activities in telecommunications;
- issued guidelines concerning: training fellowship programmes; the recruitment of experts for technical co-operation projects; special facilities for the least developed countries; the ITU's participation in the UNDP, the improvement of Union facilities for providing technical assistance to developing countries; the application of science and telecommunication technology in the interest of developing countries; training standards for telecommunication staff; the training of refugees; the organization of seminars; research by the Union on the interrelation between telecommunication infrastructure and development; and assistance to the people of Chad.

The Conference decided also to set up an "Independent International Commission for World-Wide Telecommunications Development" (see text of Resolution No. COM6/15 on page 20). This Commission will be composed of representatives of the highest decision-making authorities of administrations, operating agencies and industry in developing and developed countries as well as major financial institutions and other bodies.

World Communications Year: Development of Communications Infrastructures

The Plenipotentiary Conference considered the report on the preparations for World Communications Year: Development of Communications Infrastructures 1983. This World Year was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly with the ITU as lead agency having responsibility for co-ordinating the inter-organizational aspects of the programmes and activities of other agencies. The Conference adopted a Resolution on the Year recognizing that the basic objectives laid down by the United Nations General Assembly were "to provide the opportunity for all countries to undertake an in-depth review and analysis of their policies on communications development" and "to facili-

tate the accelerated development of communications infrastructures" (see full text of Resolution No. PLEN./8 on page 18).

Other Resolutions and Recommendations

The Conference also adopted a number of other Resolutions, Recommendations and Opinions relating to:

- extended use of the computer by the IFRB which provides for a considerable enhancement of computing facilities enabling the Board to carry out its work;
- a thorough review of the long-term future of the IFRB in the light of the change in circumstances since 1977;
- continued collaboration between the ITU and international organizations interested in space radiocommunications;
- the strengthening of co-operation between the ITU and UNESCO and the Union's participation in the International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC);
- the annual celebration of World Telecommunication Day on 17 May, the anniversary of the founding of the Union in 1865, which had already been decided upon by the previous Plenipotentiary Conference;
- provisions regarding post classification standards and the recruitment of Union staff in accordance with the principle of equitable geographical distribution;
- financial provisions;
- the role of the ITU in the development of world telecommunications;
- drafting of a basic instrument enabling the Union to achieve its purposes in an appropriate manner and at the same time maintain the stability required for the organization, whereby the Convention would be separated into two instruments, a constitution of a fundamental character and a Convention subject to periodic revision;
- unrestricted transmission of news;
- the holding of world telecommunication exhibitions.

In addition, the Plenipotentiaries adopted a Resolution condemning "without appeal the continuing violation by Israel of international law" and "the massacres of Palestinian and Lebanese civilians", and instructing "the Secretary-General of the ITU to study measures to assist Lebanon in re-establishing those telecommunication facilities destroyed during Israel's invasion...".

They further confirmed the decision taken by the previous Plenipotentiary

Conference at Malaga-Torremolinos (1973) to exclude the Government of the Republic of South Africa from the Plenipotentiary Conference and from all other conferences and meetings of the Union.

They acceded to the official request submitted by the United Nations Council for Namibia to admit Namibia in the list of ITU Member countries shown in the new International Telecommunication Convention.

The new International Telecommunication Convention (Nairobi, 1982) will enter into force on 1 January 1984.

Date and place of the next Plenipotentiary Conference

At the invitation of the Government of the French Republic, accepted by the Conference, the next Plenipotentiary Conference of the Union will be held in France. The date will be fixed in agreement with the ITU in the light of the programme of conferences and meetings. The period from January to April 1989 has been indicated as likely to be the most convenient.

Opening meeting of the 38th Session of the Administrative Council

The Administrative Council of the ITU, newly elected by the Plenipotentiary Conference in Nairobi, held its opening meeting at 14h00 on 2 November 1982 at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) in Nairobi.

The Plenipotentiary Conference, after increasing the membership of the Council from 36 to 41, decided that the new body should take up its duties at once.

At its first meeting, the Council elected: Mr. F. Molina Negro (Spain) as Chairman, and Mr. N. Bouhired (Algeria) as Vice-Chairman.



Mr. F. Molina Negro



Mr. N. Bouhired

It also considered the preliminary draft agenda of the 38th Session of the Council, which it decided to hold in Geneva from 2 to 20 May 1983.

Lastly, it approved the Resolution on the World Administrative Radio Conference for the planning of HF bands allocated to the broadcasting service, after the agenda of the Conference had been approved by the Members of the Union.