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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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Television in Africa

Broadcasting is one of the most effective means of disseminating information to the public and represents a universal vehicle vital for economic and cultural activities. Nowhere is this more true than in Africa, with its extended rural areas, where broadcasting is virtually the only medium through which most of the population living outside the metropolitan cities can be reached. Any improvement in the quality and coverage of programme transmissions holds the promise of leading the peoples of this vast continent towards speedier development and prosperity. Broadcasting, in particular television, is recognized as a key contributor to the education of rural populations and the diffusion of agricultural, economic and health care information.

Thus the adoption at the end of 1989 of a new frequency plan for television broadcasting in Africa and neighbouring countries in the Middle East was an event of great importance for all the countries concerned.

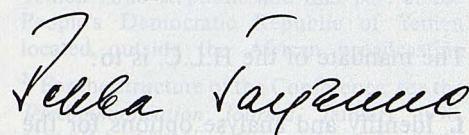
Although a frequency assignment plan already existed for African television, it had become very outdated, having been drawn up in 1963 by some 30 countries. This was a time when many countries had still not gained independence, when television broadcasting was not expected to provide coverage outside the major cities and their suburbs, when propagation data were almost non-existent, and when computerized frequency planning methods were still at an early stage of development.

The 1963 Plan was nevertheless hailed as a great technical accomplishment and an example to future planners. It made provision for 5635 television stations in addition to some 5000 sound broadcasting assignments.

In the succeeding 26 years almost all countries gained their independence and every one of them now aspires to the benefits which a nationwide television network can provide. Thus the requirements submitted by the Member countries for inclusion in the new Plan were much more numerous, which, in turn, made the associated planning process more arduous.

A good frequency assignment plan is not feasible without adequate propagation data. This is why the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC-79), which proposed the revision of the 1963 Plan for television, requested the Union's International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR) to carry out the necessary technical studies, notably of the phenomenon of super-refractivity prevalent in the region. It also recommended that administrations initiate the study of radio propagation and radio noise in those areas where an adequate system of observation stations had not yet been established. Thanks to the resulting improved technical data and the wholehearted efforts of all participants, technical difficulties, such as unfavourable propagation conditions and sharing problems with other services, were overcome and the 1989 Conference succeeded in adopting the Agreement and associated Frequency Plan for television broadcasting containing the assignments of 10 285 stations, nearly twice the number included in the 1963 Plan.

I feel confident that this new Plan responds, in as full a measure as possible, to the needs of the Members of the African Broadcasting Area and neighbouring countries.



Pekka TARJANNE