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The Administrative Radio Conference

(Geneva, 17 August — 21 December, 1959)

by A. HENRY

(Translation)

1. Opening ceremony

The Administrative Radio Conference opened on Monday, 17 August, 1959, at 3 p.m. in the main conference room of the *Bâtiment Electoral*, Geneva.

In accordance with Chapter 9, Article 1, of the General Regulations attached to the International Telecommunication Convention, Mr. A. LANGENBERGER (Switzerland), speaking as Chairman of the Administrative Council, opened the Conference. Having indicated the tasks before the Conference, Mr. Langenberger concluded:

“In the presence of sixty-five delegations of Members and Associate Members of the Union, and referring to Chapter 1 of the General Regulations annexed to the International Telecommunication Convention, I now declare open the seventh Administrative Radio Conference of the International Telecommunication Union. The Administrative Council wishes the Conference complete success in its work, and hopes that it may attain its objectives for the good of international radiocommunications and for international telecommunications in general.”

The delegate of the United States, Commissioner T. A. M. CRAVEN, the senior delegate, thanked Mr. Langenberger for his warm welcome, and Mr. Gerald C. GROSS, Acting Secretary-General of the Union, recalled the activities of the Union since the Atlantic City Conference in 1947, and mentioned the arrangements that had been made to assist delegates in their work during their four months' stay. Finally, Mr. Gross proposed a minute's silence in honour of deceased colleagues and in particular in memory of the late Dr. Marco Aurelio Andrada, Secretary-General, who had died suddenly on 18 June, 1958, in the service of the Union.

Mr. Charles J. ACTON, Head of the Delegation of Canada, was then unanimously elected Chairman of the Conference by acclamation.

After Mr. Acton had thanked the assembly, Mr. J. A. AUTELLI (Argentine Republic) and Dr. M. B. SARWATE (India) were unanimously elected, by acclamation, first and second Vice-Chairmen of the Conference.

2. Organization of the Conference

According to the provisions of Article 10 of the Buenos Aires Convention, the Ordinary Administrative Radio Conference:

revises the Radio Regulations and the Additional Radio Regulations,

deals with all other matters deemed necessary within the terms of the Convention and the General Regulations and any directives given by the Plenipotentiary Conference,

elects the members of the International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB),

reviews the activities of the Board.

A document had been prepared by the General Secretariat of the Union and the IFRB to acquaint delegates, in detail, with the problems with which they would be faced. On the basis of that document, the Conference approved the following organization chart (*see page 41e*) at its second plenary meeting.

3. Work accomplished in Plenary Meetings

The Administrative Radio Conference held thirty-one plenary meetings. Apart from organizational problems, the Plenary Assembly dealt with a number of matters and considered, in first and second reading, the documents submitted by the Drafting Committee which later became the new Radio Regulations.

The following were some of the specific matters dealt with in plenary meetings:

3.1 Inclusion of Iraq in the European Area

In Resolution No. 31, the Plenipotentiary Conference held in Buenos Aires (1952) had invited the following Administrative Radio Conference to examine the possibility of including Iraq in the European Area as defined in the Radio Regulations.

Committee 4 having studied the matter, the plenary meeting decided that the new Radio Regulations should include a definition of the “European Broadcasting Area” including Iraq, on the understanding that such a decision would not entail the revision at that Conference of either the Copenhagen or Stockholm plans, or any other regional plans, including those of the maritime mobile service.

3.2 Telecommunications and the use of outer space

At the fourth plenary meeting held on 23 September, 1959, Mr. Acton, Chairman of the Conference, drew attention to a report prepared for the General Assembly of the United Nations by the Special Committee of the United Nations on the use of outer space; one of the problems covered in the

Committee	Name of Committee
1	Steering
2	Credentials
3	Finance control
4	Frequency allocation
5	Frequency registration procedure and International Frequency List
6	Technical
7	Operations
8	Drafting

report was naturally that of communication with space vehicles.

A few delegations had submitted proposals relating to frequency allocations for space research purposes, based on an appreciation of immediate requirements. Also the International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR) had emphasized the wish of Members of the Union to consider the new problems without delay by creating Study Group IV for "Systems used in space telecommunication" at the IXth Plenary Assembly held at Los Angeles in April, 1959.

He was sure that all delegates present recognized that it was essential for the ITU, as the specialized telecommunication agency, to arrange for adequate frequency bands to be provided for the expanding research requirements associated with the peaceful uses of outer space.

In order to assist Committee 4 in its work, the Plenary Assembly created a special group under the chairmanship of Mr. Acton, composed of delegates of the following five countries:

United States, France, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Czechoslovakia and USSR.

The special group prepared several reports for the Plenary Assembly and Committee 4. The main problem in discussions within the group, and examination of reports, was the allocation to the "Space" and "Earth-Space" services of frequency bands in different parts of the radio frequency spectrum without interfering with the

Chairman	Vice-Chairmen
Mr. C. J. ACTON (Canada)	Mr. J. A. AUTELLI (Argentine Republic)
	Dr. M. B. SARWATE (India)
Dr. F. NICOTERA (Italy)	Dr. L. O. DE MIRANDA (Brazil)
	Mr. I. M. TRIFONOV (Bulgaria)
Mr. G. SEARLE (New Zealand)	Mr. G. E. ENRIGHT (Ireland)
Mr. G. PEDERSEN (Denmark)	Mr. E. J. STEWART (Australia)
	Mr. E. OLTUSKI Y OZAKI (Cuba)
Dr. M. JOACHIM (Czechoslovakia)	Mr. M. A. VIEIRA (Portugal)
Mr. M. N. MIRZA (Pakistan)	Mr. L. BARAJAS GUTIERREZ (Mexico)
Mr. A. J. EHNLE (Netherlands)	Mr. Y. NOMURA (Japan)
Mr. A. HENRY (France)	Mr. E. CUBERO later Mr. V. QUINTAS (Spain)

operation of other radio services at present in use or planned for future operation.

Due to the collaboration of all delegations, it was possible to make a number of allocations for research purposes to the "Space" and "Earth-Space" services.

Furthermore, in view of the rapid development in communications with space vehicles, the plenary meeting adopted a Recommendation (No. 35) relating to the convening of an Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference during the latter part of 1963, with an agenda including the following basic items:

to examine the technical progress in the use of radiocommunication for space research and the results of technical studies by the International Radio Consultative Committee and other interested organizations;

to decide, in the light of such an examination, on the allocation of frequency bands essential for the various categories of space radiocommunication;

to consider whether there is a continuing need for the allocation of certain frequencies for space research purposes and, if so, to take appropriate action in this regard;

to adopt, if such action is considered desirable, new provisions revising the Radio Regulations to provide for the identification and control of radio emissions from space vehicles, taking into account possible Recommendations of the International Radio Consultative Committee.

The Recommendation also invites Members and Associate Members of the Union, which launch satellites during the period of space research before the convening of the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference referred to above, to keep the Administrative Council, and the relevant technical organs of the Union, informed of the frequencies used and the technical progress achieved in the use of radiocommunication for space research purposes.

It is therefore clear that the Administrative Radio Conference, Geneva, 1959, took all appropriate steps relating to the important problem of space telecommunication to enable the ITU closely to follow the development and operation of new techniques, the appearance of which in the near future appears most probable.

3.3 Congestion in the bands between 4 and 27.5 Mc/s

The Chairman of Committee 4, Mr. PEDERSEN, drew up a memorandum dated 19 October, 1959, entitled "Future policy relating to radio frequency band allocation." The basic ideas contained in the memorandum were the following :

the part of the frequency spectrum between 4 and 27.5 Mc/s is becoming increasingly congested because of increasing requirements and the characteristics of long-distance high-frequency propagation ;

the new techniques in operation in other parts of the spectrum might enable the bands between 4 and 27.5 Mc/s to be decongested ;

the evolution of the Table of Frequency Allocations should be more progressive to take account of technical progress and new working methods.

With this memorandum before them, and a report by the Chairman of Committee 4 on the use of the 4—27.5 Mc/s band, the plenary meeting formed a special group under the chairmanship of Mr. TEDROS (Ethiopia) to examine the matter. The report by the group was approved on 8 December, 1959, at the 16th plenary meeting. The decisions of the Conference are contained in a Resolution and Recommendation relating to the study by a panel of experts of the steps to be taken in order to reduce congestion in the bands between 4 and 27.5 Mc/s.

The following decisions were taken by the Conference :

creation of a panel of experts, seven of whom will be chosen from a list of candidates submitted by Administrations,

preliminary study to be undertaken by the IFRB prior to the meeting of the panel of experts,

meetings of the panel of experts to last approximately one month and take place in 1961 and in 1962,

drawing up of a report to the Administrative Council by the panel of experts, and Recommendations relating to the action to be taken to reduce congestion in the bands between 4 and 27.5 Mc/s.

It would seem that, if the panel of experts is able to recommend solutions which prove acceptable to Administrations, an improved utilization of the spectrum would result, thus facilitating the work of future administrative radio conferences.

3.4 The International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB)

Since the Administrative Radio Conference held in Atlantic City in 1947, the International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB) had numerous tasks to accomplish ; following the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference (Geneva, 1951) furthermore, the Board, in collaboration with Administrations, had taken the necessary steps to enable the Table of Frequency Allocations to be implemented.

The work of the Board was summarized in a very comprehensive report which the IFRB prepared for delegates ; it also contained some suggestions as to the future Radio Regulations. This report was studied in general in Plenary Assembly and in detail within the various committees.

Practically all the delegations attending the Conference expressed their appreciation of the Board's work over the previous eleven years. A large majority of these delegations pointed out the usefulness and importance of the work accomplished by the IFRB and the competent assistance the Board had given to Administrations.

Throughout the Conference, Board members, assisted by the staff of the specialized secretariat, actively participated in the work of the various committees ; this participation proved extremely valuable to delegations in view of the complex nature of the problems to be solved, particularly in the field of frequency assignment notifications.

The plenary meeting had to answer questions put by the Plenipotentiary Conference regarding the functions of the IFRB and the scope of the resources to be put at its disposal. The Plenary Assembly formed a special group at its seventh meeting held on 10 November, 1959, and approved its report by 47 to 9 with 9 abstentions.

The main ideas contained in the report, which served as a basis for the answers to the questions put by the Plenipotentiary Conference, were :

- a) the duties of the International Frequency Registration Board should be extended to enable the Board :
 - more efficiently to determine actual use of the radio frequency spectrum ;

to assist Administrations, and particularly those in need of special assistance, in the operation of their radio services ;

to undertake preparatory technical work for radio conferences, to make such conferences shorter.

- b) the basic structure of the IFRB should be retained ;
- c) the specialized secretariat of the Board should enable the Board efficiently to accomplish all its tasks and duties laid down in the Convention and the Radio Regulations (Geneva, 1959) ;
- d) the Administrative Council should be given the necessary authority to ensure that the specialized secretariat is maintained at an adequate level.

The report clearly took into account the evolution of the work of the Conference and the tasks which it appeared necessary to entrust to the IFRB in the future.

The Plenipotentiary Conference adopted the document containing the answers to its questions by 53 votes to 9 with 11 abstentions.

Finally, the Administrative Radio Conference had to elect the members of the future International Frequency Registration Board. In consultation with the Plenipotentiary Conference, it was decided that the Conference would elect persons sponsored by their countries of origin.

The election of the eleven members of the Board took place on 11 December, 1959, with the following results :

Region A (Americas)

Mr. J. H. GAYER (United States)
Mr. F. DELLAMULA (Argentina)
Mr. A. H. CATÁ (Cuba)

Region B (Western Europe)

Mr. J. A. GRACIE (United Kingdom)
Mr. R. PETIT (France)

Region C (Eastern Europe and Northern Asia)

Mr. M. FLIŠAK (PR of Poland)
Mr. N. KRASNOSSELSKI (USSR)

Region D (Africa)

Mr. N. H. ROBERTS (Union of South Africa)

Region E (Asia and Australasia)

Mr. M. N. MIRZA (Pakistan)
Mr. S. I. HASE (Japan)
Mr. T. K. WANG (China)

The new Board will take office on 1st October, 1960.

3.5 Name of the frequency unit in the three working languages

The Plenary Assembly decided to adopt the following frequency unit :

the hertz (Hz) in French texts,
the cycle per second (c/s) in English and Spanish texts.

The prefixes kilo (10^3), mega (10^6) and giga (10^9) are applicable to both terms.

3.6 Consideration of the texts submitted by the Drafting Committee

The Drafting Committee prepared 23 series of blue texts for the future Radio Regulations, for first reading.

The first series was examined by the Plenary Assembly on 17 November and Series No. 23 on 15 December.

The first series (A) of pink documents was adopted in second reading on 16 December, and the last series (G) on the evening of 18 December.

The white texts of the future Radio Regulations were available for delegates on the morning of 21 December, and approved by the thirty-first plenary meeting on the same day at 3 p.m.

(To be continued)

A. Henry