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OPENING OF THE WORLD MARITIME CONFERENCE

The World Administrative Radio Conference to deal with matters relating to the Maritime Mobile Service, which was convened by the ITU, held its 1st Plenary Meeting at 3 p.m. on Monday, 18 September 1967, at the « Maison des Congrès », Geneva. The meeting was attended by about 250 delegates from more than 50 countries.

At the inaugural meeting, which was opened under the chairmanship of Mr. A. Bigi (Italy), the doyen of those present, Mr. Mohamed Mili, Secretary-General a.i. of the ITU, delivered a welcoming address.

After reviewing the history of the development of maritime radio communications and pointing out that the changes in maritime radio communications, which were already taking form when the 1959 Radio Regulations and the Additional Radio Regulations were drawn up, had been clearly confirmed since then, he continued:

“For example, in the sphere of merchant shipping, as a result of competition from air travel, we have seen a reduction in the number of passenger liners (high traffic ships).

“On the other hand, the number and tonnage of cargo ships have increased and they have become much more specialized (petrol tankers, ore ships, methane-tankers and container-carriers), while there has been a spectacular expansion of fishing fleets.



(ITU)

From right to left: Mr. R. M. Billington, Chairman of the Conference; Mr. M. Mili, Secretary-General a.i. of the ITU

“One of the consequences of these developments is that the number of ship stations appearing in the list published by the General Secretariat of the ITU

rose from 33 209 in 1960 to 39 467 in 1966, an increase of nearly 20% in seven years.

“Side by side with this development, the use of radiotelephony has greatly increased, as ship and coast stations have benefited from technical progress.



(ITU)

At the opening of the first Plenary Meeting, from left to right: Messrs C. Sleat, M. Mili, A. Bigi, A. Berrada, J. W. Herbstreit, J. Rouvière

“Finally, the number of countries which have achieved independence during this period is such that there may be justification for adjusting some of the provisions of the present Regulations.

“For all these reasons which I have rapidly recalled . . . and a few others, we have a particularly heavy agenda, merely because the provisions to be considered represent more than three-quarters of the 1959 Radio Regulations. This situation is unavoidable, for when regulations as well-ordered as those of 1959 have to be altered, there is bound to be a chain reaction! . . . and that is in fact what you are requested to produce, according to the agenda prepared by the Administrative Council, since it asks the Conference ‘to consider, and revise as necessary, the provisions of the Radio Regulations and of the Additional Radio Regulations pertaining to the maritime mobile service’!”

After reviewing the numerous problems confronting the Conference, the Secretary-General a.i. concluded:

“I should like to stress how the mat-

ters to be considered by you ultimately go far beyond a mere technical or juridical context, for telecommunications, too, have to serve mankind and be operated by men. There is no doubt that the decisions which will be taken in the coming weeks will sooner or later affect the work of operators in the maritime mobile service. This is a human aspect of the question which should not be overlooked.

“But I must no longer take advan-

tage of your kind attention. I know, Mr. Chairman and delegates, that your time is limited and that you will certainly need all of the seven weeks ahead of you to complete the weighty task before you.

“Ladies and gentlemen, the forthcoming weeks will be a period of intense activity for you. We are all ready to make the necessary efforts to ensure that this Conference produces constructive results and is crowned with complete success.”

The Chairman's address

Then, by acclamation, the delegates elected the Chairman of the Conference, Mr. R. M. Billington, Head of the United Kingdom Delegation, who thanked the delegates in the following terms:

“I am deeply conscious of the great honour you have conferred not only on me personally but on my country in electing me Chairman of this very important Conference and I thank you for the confidence you have shown in me”

Congratulating the Secretary-General

Participating countries (as of 12 October 1967):

ALGERIA (ALGERIAN DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC)	GREECE	NORWAY
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC	GROUP OF TERRITORIES REPRESENTED BY THE FRENCH OVERSEAS POST AND TELECOMMUNICATION AGENCY	PAKISTAN
AUSTRALIA (COMMONWEALTH OF)	GUYANA	POLAND (PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF)
AUSTRIA	HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC	PORTUGAL
BELGIUM	ICELAND	PORTUGUESE OVERSEA PROVINCES
BRAZIL	INDIA (REPUBLIC OF)	ROUMANIA (SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF)
BULGARIA (PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF)	INDONESIA (REPUBLIC OF)	SINGAPORE (REPUBLIC OF)
CAMEROON (FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF)	IRELAND	SOUTH AFRICA (REPUBLIC OF)
CANADA	ISRAEL (STATE OF)	SPAIN
CEYLON	ITALY	SWEDEN
CHILE	IVORY COAST (REPUBLIC OF THE)	SWITZERLAND (CONFEDERATION OF)
CHINA	JAMAICA	TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
COLOMBIA (REPUBLIC OF)	JAPAN	TUNISIA
CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE)	KOREA	TURKEY
CUBA	KUWAIT (STATE OF)	UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
CYPRUS (REPUBLIC OF)	LIBERIA (REPUBLIC OF)	UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, THE CHANNEL ISLANDS, AND THE ISLE OF MAN
CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC	MALAYSIA	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DENMARK	MALTA	VENEZUELA (REPUBLIC OF)
ETHIOPIA	MEXICO	VIET-NAM (REPUBLIC OF)
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY	MONACO	YUGOSLAVIA (FEDERAL SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF)
FINLAND	MOROCCO (KINGDOM OF)	
FRANCE	NETHERLANDS (KINGDOM OF THE)	
GHANA	NEW ZEALAND	







on his masterly review of the background history and the tasks of the Conference, the Chairman continued:

"I think I am right in saying that this is the first World Administrative Radio Conference to deal with matters pertaining exclusively to the maritime mobile service. We have in the past had several regional conferences to deal with specific matters but not a world one. This is indicative of the importance of the maritime mobile service and of the many developments that are taking place in that service to-day.

"We have a very full agenda and many important items to consider. Among them, the introduction of single side bands working in the medium and long distance radiotelephone services, so that we may provide more channels to meet the expanding needs of shipping; the introduction of selective calling; modifications to the very high frequency allocation table, again to meet increasing demands. These allocations were only introduced on a world-wide basis at the Administrative Radio Conference in 1959 and already they are inadequate to meet

the requirements in certain parts of the world. We also have to consider developments in the radio telegraph services and among our tasks are the need to make provision for a teleprinter service to ships and the collection of oceanographic data. This is sufficient to indicate the importance of this Conference.

"We have only seven weeks in which to accomplish our tasks. This means that we will have to proceed expeditiously with our work to complete it in the time allocated. I am confident that we will do this.

COMMITTEE 2 (Credentials)	COMMITTEE 3 (Budget Control)	COMMITTEE 4 (Radiotelegraphy)
 <p>◀ Chairman</p> <p>Mr. A. Pelli (Italy)</p>	 <p>◀ Chairman</p> <p>Mr. José de Jesus Hernandez Gonzalez (Mexico)</p>	 <p>◀ Chairman</p> <p>Mr. F. Gerard Perrin (Canada)</p>
<p>Vice-Chairman ▶</p>  <p>Mr. Tesfatsion Sebhatu (Ethiopia)</p>	<p>Vice-Chairman ▶</p>  <p>Mr. V. V. Rao (India)</p>	<p>Vice-Chairman ▶</p>  <p>Mr. Milan Zahradnicek (Czechoslovakia)</p>

"It only remains now for me to wish you all a very successful sojourn in Geneva and I feel sure we shall all be able to look back upon this Conference as a landmark in the expansion and development of the Maritime Mobile Services."



Mr. R. T. Bartley

The Chairman of the Conference then proposed that the delegates should elect the Vice-Chairmen. Mr. Robert T. Bartley (United States of America), Mr. Yves Place (France) and Mr. A. Badalov (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) were elected Vice-Chairmen by acclamation.

The Committees were set up and their Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen elected by acclamation (see list at the bottom of page), **Commission 1 (Steering)** being composed of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Conference and Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Committees.

The Conference appointed Mr. Clifford Stead, of the General Secretariat, to act as Secretary of the Conference and Mr. J. Millot of the IFRB to act as Technical Secretary.

Mr. Abderrazak Berrada, Acting Chairman of the IFRB said that the Board had studied all the proposals submitted to the Conference and prepared documents for the information and assistance of delegations. In addition to Mr. Millot, who would act as Technical

Secretary of the Conference, two members of the IFRB, including Mr. R. Petit, would always be available to give delegations any advice or assistance they might require.

Representatives of the following specialized agencies of the United Nations will also attend the Conference: the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Intergovernmental Maritime Con-



Mr. Y. Place

sultative Organization (IMCO); it was agreed that representatives of the following international organizations should be permitted to participate: the International Radio—Maritime Committee (CIRM), the International Chambre of Shipping, the International Federation of Radio Officers and the International Shipping Federation.

The work of the Conference continues until 4 November.



Mr. A. Badalov

FIRST MEETING OF WORKING PARTY II/1 OF STUDY GROUP II



Mr. O. Huber

Following preparatory discussion at the Study Group II (Telephone operation and tariffs) meeting in December 1966 in Geneva, Working Party II/1 held its first main meeting from 5 to 16 June 1967 at Karlsruhe (Federal Republic of Germany). Twenty-eight delegates, representing six of the nine telephone continents (world numbering zones), which have been defined, took part in the discussions.

Under the terms of reference assigned to it by Study Group II, the Working Party had the general task of determining,

after thorough examination, whether it will be possible for present methods of international accounting between administrations and recognized private operating agencies to be used when telephone traffic is routed via the world telephone network. Study Group XIII (Automatic and semi-automatic telephone networks) (Working Party XIII/3) has in the meantime prepared a detailed routing plan for this network.

The structure of the world network is such that, in international telephone communications, it is no longer essential for the outgoing switching centre to set up a direct link with the incoming switching centre; on the contrary, the automatic transit switching centres existing at the various "hierarchical" levels

COMMITTEE 5 (Radiotelephony)



Mr. P. Mortensen
(Norway)

◀ Chairman



Mr. Alvaro de
Souza Coelho
(Brazil)

Vice-Chairman ▶

COMMITTEE 6 (Operation)



Mr. Konstantin
Comic
(Yougoslavia)

◀ Chairman

Vice-Chairman ▶ (Mr. André Althnard)
(Togo)

COMMITTEE 7 (Editorial)



Mr. Habib Ben Cheikh
(Tunisia)

◀ Chairman

Vice-Chairmen



Mr. J. D. Campbell
(Australia)



Mr. F. Benito
Mestre
(Spain)