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17 May 1990

125th anniversary of the ITU and World Telecommunication Day

"Telecommunications and industrial development"

On the 125th anniversary of the ITU and World Telecommunication Day, a number of countries and organizations sent congratulatory messages to the Secretary-General of the ITU.

ALBANIA

It is with great joy that we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union, in view of the role it has constantly played as a means of furthering communications between men and between different countries.

Basing itself on scientific discoveries in telecommunications, the ITU has followed the progress of the different media, their application and their dissemination.

Thanks to the possibilities made available by telecommunication services, people have been able to exchange messages in such a way as to leave themselves time for reflection.

I am very glad to have this opportunity to stress the good relations between the Albanian PTT Administration and the ITU, the aid we receive from the Union and our desire to see these relations strengthened still further.

Allow me, Sir, to transmit to you and all your staff best wishes from myself and from our Administration, in the hope that our fruitful co-operation will continue to justify our common goals.

Toli Halili
Director-General

BOLIVIA

As we bear witness to the rapid development of telecommunications and the important part they play in the life of our societies with their need for intercommunication and information on what is going on in the world, I wish to send to yourself and to all your staff on this "World Telecommunication Day" a fraternal greeting from myself and from all the staff at our Institute which is responsible for training in this area.

Jorge Sánchez Valda
Director ICAPTEL

BRAZIL

On this occasion, when we commemorate the World Telecommunication Day, EMBRATEL has the pleasure to associate with your organization personnel and Members in this important event.

In the name of the Board of Directors and in my own, would you please accept our compliments and best wishes for the continued success of that renowned organization which through improvement of telecommunications, co-operate for a better understanding among peoples all over the world.

Carlos de Paiva Lopes
President of EMBRATEL

FRANCE

It is exactly 125 years since, on 17 May 1865, in the Salon de l'Horloge at the

Palais d'Orsay, in Paris, the Plenipotentiaries of 20 States founded the International Telegraph Union, which has since become the International Telecommunication Union.

While your Union is one of the oldest international organizations, it has succeeded in remaining one of the most youthful, by constantly adapting to the progress of technology. It now counts the States of the whole world among its Members. The Union does not confine itself to sharing out telecommunication frequencies and beam position; it also does a great deal to help bring modern communication facilities to many Third World countries, thus making it easier for them to play their part in the world economy.

This outward-looking approach and this ability to adapt are the keys to your organization's success.

Let me therefore wish a happy anniversary to your Union, which makes such a contribution to the dialogue among men and thus helps to bring them closer together.

François Mitterand

LAO P.D.R.

On behalf of the staff of the Lao P and T, I should like to convey our congratulations on the 125th anniversary of the establishment of the ITU. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, we are solemnly celebrating this major world event by disseminating a text on the progress of telecommunications and economic development in the newspapers and over the radio. Streamers have been hung outside the P and T offices in the larger towns of the country. Details will be sent to you by mail. We take this opportunity of wishing the ITU Secretary-General and his staff every success in their work. Existing links of co-operation will be strengthened in future.

Thongsavath Praseuth
Deputy-Minister for Communications,
Transports, Posts and Constructions

PARAGUAY

On the occasion of World Telecommunication Day, I take pleasure in sending you my sincerest congratulations. Please accept my best wishes for the continued success of your organization in the accomplishment of its important and noble mission to place national telecommunications on a more modern footing. Let us continue strengthening the links of friendship and co-operation between the ITU and ANTELCO in view of the contribution of these major organizations towards strengthening the social and economic development of the country.

Miguel Cirilo Guanes
President of the Council of ANTELCO

POLAND

On the 125th anniversary of the establishment of the International Telecommunication Union, I am pleased to wish you great success while conducting the organization's activities.

Since 1865, the ITU has been giving facilities for developing telecommunications all over the world which appears to be necessary for the evolution of many fields of economy.

In the future, ITU can play a role of vital importance in the world process of standardization, of which symptoms are noticeable in extending European Common Market of 1990.

Taking the opportunity of this special occasion, I would like to express my sincere satisfaction as to the hitherto existing mutual co-operation between Poland and the ITU.

Additionally, I would like to assure you that we will spare no efforts to make our co-operation more fruitful.

Marek Kucharski
Minister of Posts and Telecommunications

USSR

On behalf of the Soviet Government, I send you greetings and heartiest congratulations on the solemn occasion

of the 125th anniversary of the establishment of the International Telecommunication Union.

The invention of the electric telegraph meant a genuine transformation in people's relations with each other, and subsequent progress in this field has reflected the most outstanding achievements of the scientific and technological revolution. There does not seem to be any sphere of human activity that can get by today without telecommunications. As we bend our endeavours to the task of maintaining peace and promoting co-operation and mutual understanding between peoples, we also make wide use of modern means of communication, including those that travel via outer space. With their assistance, people can come to each other's aid, provide relief in cases of natural disaster and share good tidings.

I wish the International Telecommunication Union further success in its work, which is so essential for all mankind.

M. Ryzhkov, Chairman
Council of Ministers of the USSR

UNITED NATIONS

I am pleased to join in this commemoration of the 125th anniversary of the International Telecommunication Union on World Telecommunication Day.

The precursor of the ITU, the International Telegraph Union, was founded on 17 May 1865 by 20 Member countries. That ITU now comprises some 166 Members is a reflection of the crucial importance of communications for human endeavours. ITU has made an invaluable contribution in establishing rules and standards for telecommunications which are valid and recognized throughout the world.

The so-called "communications revolution" is one of the outstanding features of our times. It has made possible a truly global market not only for goods and finance, but also for ideas. It has contributed to and is also a product of the growing interdependence of nations and

peoples. In this context, I wish to emphasize the vital importance of communications, including telecommunications, in the development process. There is a clear and direct correlation between the telecommunications infrastructure of a country and its level of economic prosperity. We now face a critical challenge to make available to all countries the benefits of the advances achieved.

The international community is turning increasingly to the United Nations system as we enter a new era where certain animosities that have riven the world are disappearing and there are improved prospects for peace. Telecommunications and the free flow of information will make a significant contribution to this process. I am confident that, under the distinguished leadership of Dr Pekka Tarjanne, the International Telecommunication Union will respond effectively to the immense challenges ahead.

My best wishes to all the participants at ITU's anniversary celebrations.

Javier Pérez de Cuellar
Secretary-General

IARU

It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings, on behalf of the world-wide amateur radio fraternity, on the occasion of World Telecommunication Day and the 125th anniversary of the founding of the ITU.

In particular, the Administrative Council of the International Amateur Radio Union has asked me to express their deep appreciation for your having travelled to Torremolinos last month to open the IARU Region 1 Conference. Your presence there was most gratifying to the Conference participants, who had themselves journeyed from more than 50 countries to attend this triennial event.

The officers and the member-societies of IARU look forward to a continued close association with the ITU during your tenure.

Larry E. Price, W4RA
Secretary