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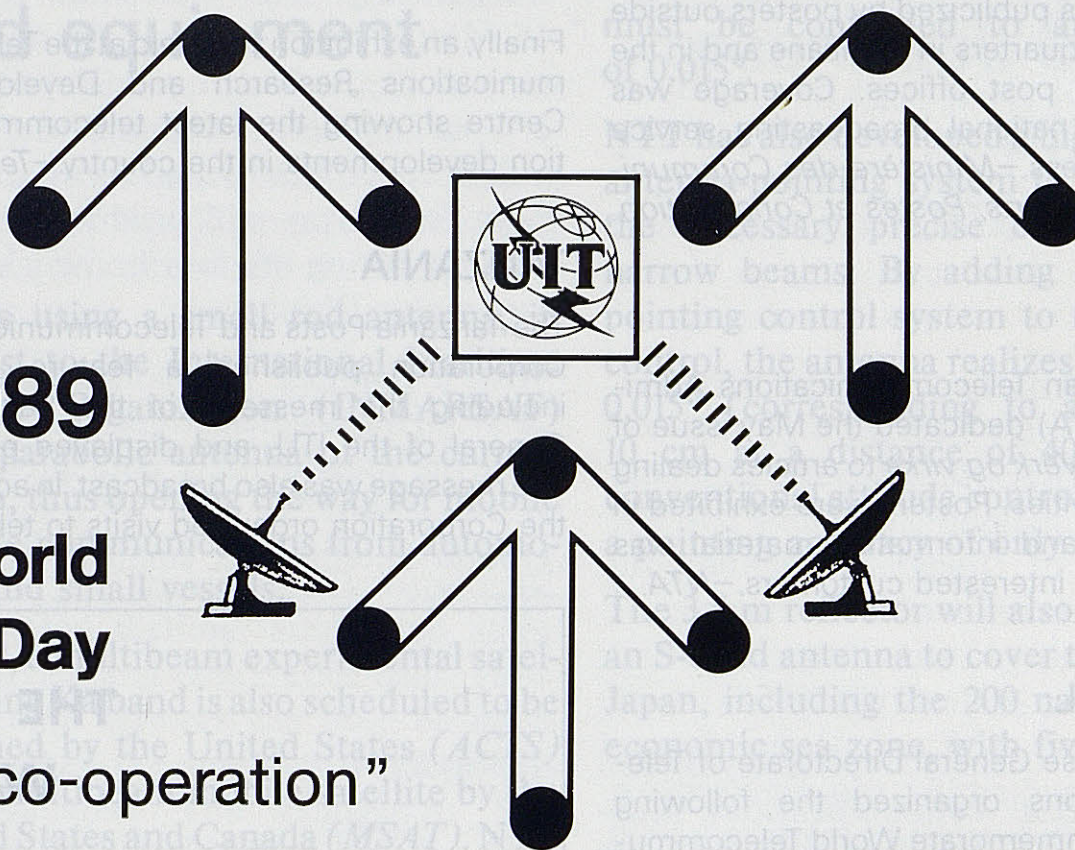
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17 May 1989

World Telecommunication Day

"International co-operation"

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



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

ALGERIA

The Algerian Posts and Telecommunications Administration organized a series of lectures and exhibitions of instructional material. It also screened two films.—*Ministère des Postes et Télécommunications.*

ANGOLA

The Telecommunication Training Centre in Luanda organized a lecture, given by ITU expert Mr E. J. Murillas, on *Components of a national distance call.*

BANGLADESH

The Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board arranged a television discussion programme and a radio talk highlighting the World Telecommunication Day theme.—*Bangladesh T&T Board.*

BURUNDI

Papers were given on international co-operation and the ITU; in particular, the RASCOM project was presented to the public as an example of regional co-operation in the field of telecommunications and films lent by the ITU were shown. The theme for the Day being "International co-operation", sporting events were also organized between telecommunication staff and a team from the diplomatic corps.—*Office nationale des télécommunications.*

CHILE

Under the aegis of the Office of the Under-Secretary for Telecommunications, the University of Santiago de Chile organized a national telecommunication symposium on the theme "International co-operation and the projection of telecommunications towards the 21st century". The event was attended by Mr D. Westendörpf, Executive Director of the Centre for Telecommunications Development, as well as by specialists from Japan, Spain and Brazil.—*Chilean Telecommunication Administration.*

IRAN

The Minister of Posts, Telegraph and Telephone and high officials gave broadcast talks on this year's theme. In addition, the Iranian media covered the ITU, its activities and its history. A number of articles were published on the social, political and technical aspects of telecommunications together with information on development programmes.

Two-day exhibitions and seminars on telecommunications were held at Tehran and Shiraz Universities.—*Directorate General of Telecommunications.*

ITALY

The Italian P&T Administration took the following initiatives to celebrate World Telecommunication Day: a special stamp cancellation was used in Rome post offices from 1 to 17 May; World Telecommunication Day posters were exhibited in provincial PT Directorates, public and private telephone offices and press releases were issued. The State radio and television service featured the World Telecommunication Day in its newscasts.—*P&T Administration.*

THE OSCAR

of international telecommunications events

LAO (P.D.R.)

The event was publicized by posters outside the PTT headquarters in Vientiane and in the 17 provincial post offices. Coverage was given in the national broadcasting service and in the press.—*Ministère des Communications, Transports, Postes et Construction.*

NORWAY

The Norwegian Telecommunications Administration (NTA) dedicated the May issue of its magazine *Verk og virke* to articles dealing with ITU activities. Posters were exhibited in NTA offices and information material was distributed to interested customers.—*NTA.*

PORTUGAL

The Portuguese General Directorate of Telecommunications organized the following events to commemorate World Telecommunication Day.

A local digital network was officially opened on 17 May in Portimão in the presence of the Secretary of State for Communications, Mr Correia de Matos and Mr Viana Baptista, Chairman of the *Conselho de Administração de Correios e Telecomunicações de Portugal* (CTT)/*Telefones de Lisboa e Porto* (TLP). On 22 May in Braga, a local digital network and a local mobile telephone service were inaugurated in the presence of the Prime Minister of Portugal, Mr Cavaco Silva and the Minister of Communications, Mr Oliveira Martins.

An exhibition of new telecommunication services (mobile telephony, paging, video-conferencing, telefax, text and message, videotex) was opened in Braga on 17 May.—*CTT.*

SURINAME

A series of activities was organized by the *Telecommunicatiebedrijf Suriname* (Telesur). In order to have the greatest number of Telesur employees involved in the celebration of the Day, a Sports Day was organized in the western-frontier district of Nickerie with Telesur teams competing in various sports and games against teams from the Energy Utility Company.

A special edition of the television programme *Telesur Magazine* was broadcast bringing into focus this year's theme of "International co-operation" and highlighting the ITU Pleni-

potentiary Conference (Nice, 1989) and Telesur's participation therein.

Finally, an exhibition was held at the Telecommunications Research and Development Centre showing the latest telecommunication developments in the country.—*Telesur.*

TANZANIA

The Tanzania Posts and Telecommunications Corporation published a feature article, including the message of the Secretary-General of the ITU, and displayed posters. The message was also broadcast. In addition, the Corporation organized visits to telecom-

munication installations.—*Tanzania Posts and Telecommunications Corporation.*

TURKEY

World Telecommunication Day posters were exhibited in Turkish PTT offices and an article was published in the May issue of the PTT magazine. A special postal cancellation was used.—*Directorate General of PTT.*

UNITED STATES

The President of the United States issued a message from the White House (see box).

THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

May 11, 1989

The United States is pleased to join with other member nations of the International Telecommunication Union in celebrating the twenty-first World Telecommunication Day on May 17, 1989. In so doing, we commemorate the founding in 1865 of one of the first inter-governmental organizations. At that time, the International Telecommunication Union was known as the International Telegraph Union.

During its 124 years of existence, the ITU has achieved deserved recognition as a unique forum for promoting interconnection of the world's telecommunication networks. In large part, our ability to reach instantaneously almost any other point on the globe is a result of the pioneering efforts of the ITU. The ITU has been especially valuable in recommending effective international telecommunications standards and in promoting the rational, efficient use of the international radio spectrum.

However, the accelerating pace of technological change and a growing trend toward regulatory liberalization during the past decade have created complex new challenges and opportunities for the ITU and its member countries. Efficient and effective telecommunications systems, the "central nervous system" of today's global economy, have become vital to most countries' strategic and economic well-being. Today, more and more countries are discovering that an open and competitive telecommunications environment, coupled with the free flow of information, is a key to success in our increasingly competitive world.

In this rapidly evolving international telecommunications environment, the ITU has a pivotal role to play. The supreme policy organ of the ITU, the Plenipotentiary Conference, will review this role from May 23 to June 29, 1989, in Nice, France. I wish the delegates to this year's Plenipotentiary Conference great success in finding innovative ways to strengthen the organization for the challenges of the "Information Age". At the same time, on behalf of the American people, I salute the ITU on its one hundred and twenty-fourth birthday.

George H. W. Bush