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WORLD COMMUNICATIONS YEAR

Development of Communications Infrastructures



1983

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the fundamental importance of communications infrastructures as an essential element in the economic and social development of all countries,

Convinced that a World Communications Year would provide the opportunity for all countries to undertake an in-depth review and analysis of their policies on communications development and stimulate the accelerated development of communications infrastructures,

1. Endorses the proposal made by the Economic and Social Council in paragraph 1 of its resolution 1981/60 and proclaims the year 1983 World Communications Year: Development of Communications Infrastructures, with the International Telecommunication Union serving as the lead agency for the Year and having responsibility for co-ordinating the interorganizational aspects of the programmes and activities of other agencies;

2. Requests all States to participate actively in the attainment of the objectives of the World Communications Year;

Extract from United Nations General Assembly resolution 36/40 adopted on 19 November 1981

The Plenipotentiary Conference having examined the report of the Secretary-General on the preparation of the World Communications Year, adopted a resolution in which it recognized the basic objectives of WCY as defined in the United Nations General Assembly resolution 36/40 and invites the Secretary-General of the ITU to assure the fullest possible contribution to the programme of the Year in accordance with the requirements of the developing countries.

In addition to adopting this resolution on World Communications Year, the Conference decided to set up, during WCY, an "Independent International Commission for World-Wide Telecommunications Development". This Commission will be composed of representatives of the highest decision-making level, selected on as good a geographical basis as possible and will be financed from independent non-commercial sources. The main objective of this Commission is to examine ways to stimulate the development of telecommunications in the developing world.

The full text of both resolutions is reproduced herewith.

Resolution No. PLEN/8

World Communications Year: Development of Communications Infrastructures

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Nairobi, 1982),

recalling

a) United Nations General Assembly resolution 32/160 of 19 December 1977 on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;

b) ECOSOC Resolution 1980/69 on World Communications Year;

c) United Nations General Assembly resolution 36/40 (1981) proclaiming 1983 "World Communications Year: Development of Communications Infrastructures", with the International Telecommunication Union as the lead agency having responsibility for co-ordinating the interorganizational aspects of the programmes and activities of other agencies.

d) ITU Administrative Council Resolutions Nos. 820 (1978) and 872 (1982);

recognizing

that the basic objectives of the World Communications Year laid down by the United Nations General Assembly are:

- to provide the opportunity for all countries to undertake an in-depth review and analysis of their policies on communications development;
- to facilitate the accelerated development of communications infrastructures;

having noted

a) the report of the Secretary-General on the preparation of the World Communications Year (Document No. 52);

b) that a programme of infrastructure-oriented activities for the Year has been prepared by the Secretary-General in close co-operation with the Members of the Union, the United Nations and the specialized agencies;

requests the Secretary-General

to assure the fullest possible contribution to the programme for the Year in accordance with the requirements of the developing countries and in close co-operation with the organizations of the United Nations system;

urges

Members of the Union, post and telecommunication administrations, private telecommunication operating agencies, non-governmental organizations, manufacturers, telecommunication users and broadcasting organizations, universities and educational institutions, to co-operate with the Secretary-General in the implementation of the programme for the Year;

Resolution No. COM6/15

Establishment of the Independent International Commission for World-Wide Telecommunications Development

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Nairobi, 1982),

recognizing

the fundamental importance of communications infrastructures as an essential element in the economic and social development of all countries as recalled by United Nations General Assembly resolution 36/40;

convinced

that the proclamation of 1983 as "World Communications Year: Development of Communications Infrastructures" provides the opportunity for all countries to undertake a comprehensive review and analysis of their policies on communications development and stimulate the development of telecommunications infrastructures;

recalling

the significant contribution made by the Independent Brandt Commission on International Development Questions to the dialogue on world economic issues;

noting

the broad consensus of the International Commission for the Study of Communication Problems (the McBride Commission) on the common interest in accelerated development of telecommunications infrastructures;

noting with concern

that notwithstanding the importance of communications and information transfer dependent on telecommunications infrastructure for social, economic and cultural development, a relatively low level of resources has so far been allocated to telecommunications development by international aid and investment organizations;

resolves

1. that an International Commission for World-Wide Telecommunications Development shall be established;
2. that this Commission shall be completely independent and constituted of members of the highest international reputation serving on a voluntary basis;
3. that the expenses of the Commission shall be financed from independent non-commercial sources;

instructs the Secretary-General

1. after prior consultation and in co-operation with Member governments to propose a list of 15 to 20

appeals

to governments, the private sector and the media to assist the Secretary-General in meeting the requirements of the developing countries as defined in the programme for the Year by donations of funds, equipments and services;

instructs the Secretary-General

1. in discharging his responsibilities as co-ordinator in the preparation of the Year, to take all necessary measures to support its programme within the limit of the resources made available to him for this purpose;
2. to submit for the approval of the Administrative Council the report which he is requested to prepare for the 38th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

representatives of the highest decision-makers from administrations, operating agencies, and industry in the developing and developed countries as well as the major financial institutions (including the development banks and the UNDP) and other appropriate entities, also seeking as good a representation of all the regions of the world as possible;

2. to report on the action taken to the 1983 session of the Administrative Council;

instructs the Administrative Council

1. to consider the report of the Secretary-General and to take action to constitute the Commission, as well as any steps it considers necessary to enable the Commission to discharge its functions;

2. to transmit to the Commission the following broad mandate:

2.1 to examine the totality of existing and possible future relationships between countries in the field of telecommunications involving technical co-operation and a transfer of resources in order to identify the most successful methods of such transfer;

2.2 to recommend a range of methods including novel ones for stimulating telecommunication development in the developing world using appropriate and proven technologies in ways which:

- a) serve the mutual interest of governments, operating companies, the public and specialized user groups in the developing world and of the public and private sector in the developed countries, and
- b) lead to progressive achievement of self-reliance in the developing world and the narrowing of the gap between the developing and developed countries;

2.3 to consider the most cost-effective way in which the Union could stimulate and support the range of activities that might be necessary to achieve a more balanced expansion of telecommunication networks;

2.4 to complete its work in about a year's time;

2.5 to submit its report to the ITU Secretary-General;

resolves further

that the Administrative Council review the report and, as far as matters necessitating action by the Union are concerned, initiate any action that it considers appropriate.

News about the National Committees

Argentina

(Source: *Ministerio de Obras y Servicios Públicos*)

The Argentine Administration recently adopted a resolution establishing the National WCY Committee. Presided by Brigadier-General Angel Alejandro Barbieri, Secretary of Communication; the Committee brings together representatives of National and General Directorates of the Secretariat of Communications, the National Postal, Telegraph and Telecommunication Corporations and the Argentine Colour Television Administration. The resolution also invites official and private bodies and institutions operating in the communications field to join the National Committee. In addition, the resolution stipulates for the terms of reference, namely:

- to prepare and implement the national and international programme of activities that will help to achieve the Year's objectives;
- to publicize the importance of national communications infrastructure and its interconnection into the international network, emphasizing relevant projects to be started, implemented or financed in 1983;
- to promote meetings for the review and analysis of the national communications policy including development problems relating to the sectoral infrastructures and to human resources. This assessment of national communications policies will also consider the socio-economic repercussions of introducing modern communications networks and systems.

Gambia

(Source: Telecommunications Department)

A fifteen-member national co-ordination committee has been set up in the Gambia. Mr. B. K. N'Jie, Director of Telecommunications, has been nominated Chairman of the Committee. He will be assisted by Mr. J. T. N. Roberts, Chief Telecommunications Engineer, who has been appointed correspondent for liaison. Information on the Committee's meetings that were held subsequent to its creation will be published in a future issue of the *Telecommunication Journal*.

Kuwait

(Source: Ministry of Communications)

The Chairman of the newly established Kuwaiti WCY Committee has made known its membership. It consists of senior officials of the Ministry of Communications (Posts and Telecommunications), the Ministry of Information (Broadcasting and Television), the Ministry of Education and of Interior, the Ministry of Social Affairs and the National Commission for UNESCO. Mr. Namir Ahmed Al-Nakib, Director of External Relations of the

Under-Secretary's Office in the Ministry of Communications, will be co-ordinator of the National Committee. Progress reports on the work of the Committee will be published periodically in the *Telecommunication Journal*.

Malawi

(Source: Post Office Headquarters)

The Government of Malawi has informed the WCY Secretariat of the setting up of its National Committee for implementing the World Communications Year programme.

Mr. J. A. Mbekeani, Postmaster General in the Department of Posts and Telecommunications, has been appointed Chairman of the Committee. The 25 Committee members represent a cross-section of governmental authorities and other bodies interested in improving the national communications infrastructure, namely: agriculture, civil aviation and meteorology, education, transport and communications, health, broadcasting industries, banks, the university and the press.

Thailand

(Source: Post and Telegraph Department)

The Government of Thailand, realizing the vital importance of communications as an integral part of socio-economic development, has established its National Committee for World Communications Year. This important step was made in response to the invitation extended to all countries by the International Telecommunication Union and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 36/40 which officially proclaimed 1983 World Communications Year. The Committee consists of 29 representatives of governmental agencies, state enterprises and the private sector responsible for developing communications infrastructures or who are major users of communications systems.

Under the chairmanship of the Minister of Communications, Admiral Amorn Sirikaya, the Committee has set up four sectoral working groups; a sub-committee will be responsible for all the questions relating to the communications infrastructure, a second sub-committee will handle technical matters and will co-ordinate the exhibitions organized within the framework of the WCY 83 whereas information and publicity as well as the organization of competitions will devolve upon two other sub-committees.

In addition to participating in the "Youth in the Electronic Age" competition, two exhibitions will be organized in conjunction with the Year. These are *Electronics '82*, an electronics technology exhibition to be held in Bangkok from 15 to 19 December 1982, at the time of the International Technical Forum on Optical Fiber Communications and Controls Systems and *Bangkok 1983*, an international stamp show taking place during WCY from 4 to 13 August 1983. The Thai programme of activities will be reported more comprehensively in the "Journal" at a later date.

Tunisia

(Source: *Ministère des Transports et des Communications*)

The Tunisian Committee for World Communications Year has been formed on 1 October 1982, during a meeting presided by the Secretary of State for Posts and Telecommunications. After an introductory speech by the Secretary of State, where the objectives of the Year were explained, Mr. Zouhir Ben Lakhal, of the Directorate General of Telecommunications, has been appointed Chairman of the Committee; the overall co-ordination within the Committee as well as the liaison work with the WCY Secretariat in Geneva will be ensured by Mr. Mohamed Chamakh and Mr. Azzabi Tijani will be responsible for the relations with the press. In addition to the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the membership includes representatives from 10 ministries: Interior, National Defence, Equipment, Information, Agriculture, Foreign Affairs, National Economy, Planning and Finance, Higher Education and Scientific Research.

Viet Nam

(Source: *Direction générale des postes et télécommunications*)

Eight governmental agencies have constituted a National Steering Committee in Viet Nam. Recently set up under the chairmanship of Dr. Pham Nien, Director-General of Posts and Telecommunications, the Committee brings together the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Transport and Communications, and Culture and Information. Three committees (Planning, Science and Technology, Broadcasting and Television) are also participating in the work of the WCY Steering Committee together with the Communications Department of the Armed Forces and the Vietnamese Press Agency. The members are at present formulating a plan of action which will be made known at a later date.

Information from...

...Botswana

(Source: Office of the UNDP Resident Representative)

Mr. Manzur Zaidi, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Botswana, has transmitted to the Secretary-General of the ITU, Co-ordinator of WCY, an information note from the Botswana WCY Committee. The note contained a brief outline of the programme of activities proposed by the Committee further to the two meetings it had since its creation last June.

After an inaugural ceremony held on 23 June, the National Committee, led by its Chairman, Dr. Busang, Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Works and Communications, decided that monthly co-ordination meetings would be necessary to plan and carry out a programme that would help achieving the objectives set forth in the United Nations resolution. The Committee is currently defining various activities to that end.

In addition to creating an awareness in the general public of the availability of communications systems and the benefits that can be derived from them, particular emphasis will be placed on the possibilities offered by domestic broadcast receivers and telephones. It is also envisaged to carry out a telecommunications pilot project as part of the Botswana national programme. More information will be published in a future issue of the *Telecommunication Journal*.

WCY News

Television documentary produced by Radio Nederland Television for world-wide distribution during World Communications Year

Radio Nederland Television in collaboration with *Radio-télévision malgache* (RTM) is producing a half-four television documentary film entitled "Communications and Development", as part of the series "People in Development". This co-production will be distributed world-wide in 1983, in time for World Communications Year.

The setting will take place in Madagascar, the fourth largest island in the world and a country striving for progress while strongly wishing to preserve its culture and way of life. In this regard, it offers many characteristics common to several developing countries that face the challenge of the rapid changes brought about by the growing use of technology for development.

The variety of the country's geography imposes tremendous obstacles to the transport infrastructure (road and rail) and to the traditional wire telecommunications facilities. Its most effective way of travelling is by air, but its high cost prohibits the majority of its population from making full use of this form of transport. At present, radio communications constitute the most important communication media as they do not require electricity and enable illiteracy problems to be overcome. According to a survey carried out by RTM, one out of every three inhabitants listens to the radio and four million people own radio sets. It has proved to be an effective means of combatting isolation extending the provision of essential services such as education and health care in rural and remote areas and at carrying out massive rural development programmes aimed at preventing vast migration movements to cities.

It is against this background that Willy Lindwer of Radio Nederland Television and Veronica Wilson of Sierra Leone have selected the village of Ankotrokotroka in Madagascar where a young carpenter and his family live. He will be the central figure as he represents a typical example of how people facing similar situations earn money, use transport and other forms of communications. In showing his daily activities within and outside his village, the communications

infrastructure will be revealed together with the problems he encounters due to its incapacity to respond to all the country's needs.

If you wish to obtain this outstanding production during 1983 for non-commercial purposes, please write to: "WCY Secretariat, Bank of audio-visual material, International Telecommunication Union, Place des Nations, CH-1211 Genève 20, Switzerland" or contact "Radio Nederland Television, PO Box 222, 1200 JG Hilversum, Netherlands".

"Women in Telecommunications" pledges its support to WCY 83

"Women in Telecommunications", an American professional organization for women working in all areas of the telecommunications industry, has pledged its full support to World Communications Year and has made it known to the United States National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) which is responsible for WCY matters, pending the establishment of the National Committee.

Women in Telecommunications (WIT) was born just over a year ago from the firm belief of four enterprising women that the "telecommunications industry needed a professional network organization to serve as a vehicle for women in the industry to meet and to share knowledge and experiences". Its primary function is to offer opportunities for professional development through seminars, workshops, panels and speakers.

During its first year of existence, WIT organized subject-orientated seminars featuring prominent leaders of the telecommunications industry. Topics discussed during these seminars ranged from the question of deregulation, basic data communications to the perspectives of satellite and lightwave communications.

Ms. Jayne M. Snook, member of WIT Board of Directors and an enthusiast supporter of the World Communications Year objectives, has informed the WCY Secretariat that the organization she represents recently held a special meeting to outline to the participants what this international event was all about and to propose the plans for participation. The many ways in which WIT intends to participate within the framework of national activities include the following:

- all monthly seminars organized by WIT during 1983 will be directed towards raising the national public consciousness of the importance of communications and related technologies; four are being planned on the following dates: 25 July, 26 September, 30 October and 28 November 1983;
- on the occasion of the 15th World Telecommunication Day and within the framework of WCY, WIT has offered to co-ordinate and implement a conference opened to all people involved in the telecommunications industry, during which various events programmed by the future United States National Committee could take place. Seminars would also be held

and keynote addresses would be delivered by selected leaders;

- WIT's expertise as a group could be used in training development programmes of executive and technical staff.

For more detailed information, please contact: "Ms. Jayne M. Snook, National Board of Directors, Women in Telecommunications, 825 Kirkham Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122 (United States)". Tel.: (415) 564-8717.

Communications programme to be introduced in a Belgian university

The Department of Information and Communication Sciences of the Institute of Advanced Economic and Social Studies at the Jean Rey university study centre in Brussels will hold a special study cycle on communications as part of its academic programme for 1983. Mr. Francis Dessart, Director of the Department, considering that WCY was providing an excellent opportunity to focus on the topics of communications, arranged for lectures to be given throughout 1983 with a view to introducing the issues raised during the discussions into the regular curriculum. Initially planned to take place in Brussels, the possibility of decentralizing the programme to other towns in the country is being studied. Within the context of this subject-orientated study cycle, specialized seminars and symposia will be held, together with supervised courses and practical work including theses. Further information may be obtained from: "Professor F. Dessart, 6, rue Moncrabeau, B-5000 Namur (Belgium)".

An anniversary colloquium marks World Communications Year

The 10th anniversary of *Development Forum** will be celebrated by a one-day colloquium in February 1983, to take place at the International Conference Centre, Avenue Kléber, Paris, at the invitation of the French Government, in collaboration with governments of other countries, formerly donors to the United Nations Division of Economic and Social Information. With the theme "Global learning and communications development at the village level", the prospects for village level of the technological equipment available today and in the year 2000 will be evaluated and the application of technology in the light of the experience acquired in the last twenty years will be analysed. In addition, the political implications and the economic factors that will determine to a large extent the implementation of these communications strategies will be the subject of discussions.

Correspondents and commentators will be invited to attend and panellists will exchange their views. Selected non-governmental organizations and editors of various official national development journals will also take the floor.

* "Development Forum" is a bi-monthly digest published by the United Nations Division of Economic and Social Information..

The papers presented at this colloquium will be reprinted, in a condensed form, in Development Forum and published *in extenso* by the United Nations University. For further details, please contact: "The Editor-in-Chief, Development Forum, Division of Economic and Social Information, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Genève 20 (Switzerland)".

Pilot projects

Sponsorship confirmed for pilot project in Asia

The Hawaiian Telephone Company (HTC) has agreed to provide the 10 000 US dollars required for the purchase of training equipment to be used in a basic training centre in the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands (TTPI)—project *WCY-PAC-1*.

Responding to an appeal made by the ITU Secretary-General and Co-ordinator of the Year to contribute funds for the sponsorship of pilot projects proposed for implementation during WCY, the President of the Hawaiian Telephone Company, Mr. J. B. Kennedy, informed the WCY Co-ordinator of his company's decision to pledge 10 000 US dollars preferably for a training project to be carried out in the Pacific region. Following this offer, negotiations were conducted between the ITU and the authorities concerned and the proposal to provide equipment for the TTPI training centre was made to Hawaiian Telephone. "We wholeheartedly agree to

having HTC's contribution applied to a basic training centre in the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands", said Mr. Engelhardt, Director of International and Business Relations of HTC. He went on saying: "The newly emerging governments of the TTPI will need to establish operating telecommunications organizations to effectively handle their telephone and telex services, and much training in both the technical and administrative areas will be required."

A basic telecommunication training centre consists of small training units catering for the needs of lower level technical staff. Each centre organizes one or two classrooms able to accommodate up to 12 trainees called to become proficient in the routine manual skills required in some disciplines of telecommunications, mainly in outdoor plant, telephone subscribers' equipment and manual telephone exchanges. The centres are supported with instructional material from a regional centre.

It is under a project financed by the United Nations Development Programme and executed by the International Telecommunication Union, that the South Pacific region was able to set up telecommunication training facilities to meet the demand for trained professional, technical and operational staff. For that purpose, a regional training centre was set up in Fiji and three basic telecommunication training centres were established in the Cook Islands, Tonga and Samoa. The same type of facilities were also planned for Kiribati and TTPI.

The Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands are due to take over the responsibility of their own telecommunications upon their accession to independence. The Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau and the Marshall Islands which form the TTPI have a dire need of trained staff to maintain and operate their future telecommunication authorities and the basic training centre for the TTPI, planned to be operational in April 1983, is in urgent need of basic tools and other training equipment. It is in considering the high priority of this project and in view of the centre's valuable contribution to the future development of telecommunications in the TTPI that Hawaiian Telephone decided to allocate the funds pledged to WCY towards the purchase of equipment for the centre.

News in brief

International radio amateurs competition organized for World Communications Year

In support of WCY, the Potomac Valley Radio Club (United States) has decided to organize on Saturday 15 January 1983 an international radio amateur competition aimed at promoting all forms of domestic and international amateur radio communications.

Further information may be obtained from: "Mr. Fred Matos, PO Box 337, Crownsville, MD 21032 (United States)".

WCY Documentation

Documentation on World Communications Year may be obtained from the WCY Secretariat or from the National Committees. It consists of the following publications:

- **Guide to WCY**, giving information on the principles and objectives of the Year, its organization, programme and financing (separate editions in four languages: French, English, Spanish and Arabic)
- **Pilot projects proposed for World Communications Year 83**. This list was drawn up by the organizations of the United Nations system in collaboration with their member countries. The implementation of the projects is of paramount importance to a number of countries and regions (separate editions in three languages: French, English and Spanish)
- **Register of activities** (in preparation) which may be used as a reference by all those wishing to conduct activities similar to those which it describes or to establish contacts where the activities are of common interest. It will also facilitate the co-ordination of activities at the national, regional and world levels (separate editions in three languages: French, English and Spanish)
- **Calendar for WCY** (in preparation) giving the dates and a summary description of the events organized during the World Year. This calendar will be regularly updated to take account of new developments (separate editions in three languages: French, English and Spanish)

- **WCY Bulletin**. This publication is designed for the exchange of information at the international level on plans, activities and achievements in the context of WCY. The information it contains may either be distributed in its existing form or serve as a basis for other articles (separate editions in three languages: French, English and Spanish; issued in March, June, September and December 1982 and in February, April, June, August, October and December 1983)

- **World Communications Year: development of communications infrastructures** (leaflet for the general public). This leaflet is designed to promote public awareness of the fundamental role played by communications infrastructures in economic and social progress and ultimately in bringing about individual and collective well-being. It summarizes the purposes and targets of the Year and outlines its organization (separate editions in four languages: French, English, Spanish and Arabic)

- **A poster** to draw the attention of the public to the holding of WCY 83 and its objectives, available in French, English, Spanish, Arabic and German. It will also be available without text so that it can be adapted to other languages. It comes in two formats: 50/70 cm and 21/29.7 cm (A4)

- **A series of press releases** to publicize the progress made in the implementation of the programme of the Year (separate editions in three languages: French, English and Spanish).