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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

WCY News

Conference of Community-oriented Broadcasters

The city of Montreal has been selected to host the first ever World Conference of Community-oriented Radio Broadcasters from 7 to 12 August 1983. Plans for the Conference, expected to attract up to 500 delegates from around the world, were finalized early in 1983.

The Conference aims at broadening communications among community radio workers, studying common preoccupations and proposing measures which would promote the development of community radio. Since its beginning in 1949, community radio has blossomed into one of the fastest growing means of global communications and has proven to be an extremely useful tool for development support communications.

Origins of the Conference

It was in the summer of 1982 that the idea was put forward by the Secretary of the *Association des radiodiffuseurs communautaires du Québec* (ARCO) at the annual meeting of the National Federation of Community Broadcasters (NFCB) in Minneapolis (United States). The idea was given unanimous support.

"Over the years, we have made contacts with groups from all over the world" said Mr. Michel Delorme, father of the Conference, "but the opportunity to bring all those radio activists together at one time just never occurred. When it became known to us that 1983 had been declared World Communications Year by the United Nations, we thought it was time to give a united voice to the workers of this third element in modern radio" (the other two elements being State- and privately-owned radio). In the months that followed, letters and questionnaires were sent out, regional and local meetings were held and preliminary planning began with the establishment of a World Conference Director's Committee based in Montreal.

Scope and theme

The principal objectives of the week-long Conference are:

- a) to bring together the greatest number of people who, despite strong geopolitical differences, pursue a common goal—the democratization of global community radio services;
- b) to study common problems in order to arrive at practical solutions and develop a

permanent programme of international exchange and co-operation among community radio workers;

- c) to propose measures that would intensify the development of global community radio and continue to promote and protect the inalienable right of listener participation.

A research team from the University of Quebec (Montreal) has been commissioned by the Director's Committee to conduct a comprehensive study of all facets of global community radio. Their preliminary report will constitute the major base for discussions during the Conference. Among the various topics they will cover are the following:

- the various forms of global community radio, the diversity of the communities in question, an overview of the global situation with regard to community radio development;
- communication rights: the obstacles and application of broadcast legislation in the various countries serviced by community radio systems;
- community radio as an instrument of cultural and social development;

- community radio organization: various models of organization, public ownership, application of legal statutes, the process of implementation from planning to programming, various methods of financing community radio.

The Conference will also devote considerable time and energy to the technical dimensions of community radio work. Through experimental workshops and exhibits, delegates will familiarize themselves with the various technical developments realized for community-oriented radio broadcasters. The following aspects will be covered:

- Production equipment—microphones, magnetophones, mixers, etc.
- Conventional and mobile studios and hook-ups
- Broadcasting equipment—AM, FM, short-wave, etc.
- Technical information, new technologies: cable, satellite, laser, etc.
- Training and research.

This portion of the Conference is made possible with the assistance of various private and government agencies.

Additional information may be obtained from: "Mr. Charlie McKenzie, Co-ordinator of the Conference Communications, World Conference of Community-oriented Radio Broadcasters, ARCO, 938, rue Rachel Est, Montréal, Québec (Canada)". Tel.: (514) 844-0896/524-7831.

World Communications Year seminars/meetings

The ITU Plenipotentiary Conference decided that the Union should organize three WCY regional seminars one in each of the Americas, Africa and Asia-Pacific regions.

The general theme for all three seminars/meetings will be the development of communications infrastructures with particular emphasis on the impact of telecommunications development on the socio-economic growth of developing countries.

In addressing the question of telecommunications development, the seminars/meetings will consider the availability of resources for development and their distribution within the national economy with particular emphasis on the desirable level of investment in the telecommunication field. Parallel sessions will analyze the impact of information technology on economic and social development.

All three seminars/meetings will focus on the overall importance of telecommunications in national and international development including indirect benefits which may be readily apparent but difficult to quantify. These

benefits would include, but not be limited to, improved efficiency and productivity resulting from adequate communications, energy savings, enhanced social, administrative and political contacts and activities.

In this context, the telecommunications infrastructure as a carrier of information complementary to transport and other infrastructure services and its importance in commercial sectors will be analyzed. Also, telecommunications in rural areas with an analysis of the traditional investment patterns will be examined together with a number of case studies.

Finally, planning considerations will concentrate on identifying telecommunications needs in relation to benefits with a view to reaching conclusions on desirable investment levels in telecommunications infrastructures in relation to economic and social priorities and the stage of development.

Action has also been taken to organize concurrently discussions on appropriate telecommunication and related technology considerations, particularly on matters presently relevant to the individual regions. In the Americas, these discussions will concentrate on the impact of telecommunications and information technology on social and economic development and on technological options in the field of telecommunications. Questions concerning the maintenance and operation of the pan-African telecommunication network, PANAFTTEL, and radio-propagation studies in Africa will be considered during the seminar/meeting to be held in Lomé, Togo and the transfer of telecommunications technology will be the subject of debate during the seminar/meeting for Asia and the Pacific.

It is anticipated that these seminars/meetings will provide valuable opportunities for policy-makers to exchange views on national experiences and, in particular, on the possibilities for telecommunications as a support for development in the national planning context. It will also provide guidelines which could be incorporated in a "National Development Strategy for Communications".

These seminars will be held in:

- San José (Costa Rica), 8-13 August 1983, for the Americas region;
- Lomé (Togo), 22-31 August 1983, for the Africa region;
- December 1983, for the Asia-Pacific region. The location and exact dates for this seminar are still subject to confirmation.

Seminar on radio monitoring services held in Ecuador

From 29 to 30 November 1982, the Federal Republic of Germany held in Guayaquil (Ecuador) a seminar on radio monitoring ser-

vices. The seminar, co-sponsored by the *Deutsche Bundespost* and *Rohde & Schwarz* of Germany, was organized as an advanced contribution to WCY.

The seminar was attended by 15 participants representing six countries. The discussions focussed on the organization of radio monitoring services and the role of frequency management. Regulations and development of national standards in the field of interference, frequency management with high speed and accuracy as well as direction finders for operation in fixed and mobile situations were also analyzed.

The papers presented at the seminar are available in English and Spanish and may be obtained from: "Mr. V. Nedelchev, Rohde & Schwarz, Mühldorfstrasse 15, D-8000 München 80 (Federal Republic of Germany)". Telex: 523 703.

News about the National Committees

Cyprus

(Source: National Communications Committee)

The Cyprus Government, responding to Resolution 36/40 of the United Nations General Assembly, set up a National Communications Committee with a view to promoting communications in general and the objectives of the World Communications Year in particular.

The Committee is chaired by the Director-General of the Ministry to the President, Mr. Linos Shacallis, and has a tripartite composition consisting of members of governmental departments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector. The Committee is responsible for considering all communications-related problems that may exist and for submitting proposals to the government for obviating them. After 1983, the Committee will continue to function as an Advisory Communications Committee of the Ministry to the President.

The long-term objectives of the Committee are three-fold:

- a) to put forward proposals to the government for consideration and, when appropriate, include them in national communications policies;
- b) to consider the establishment of new mechanisms, either institutional or legislative, to ensure the smooth functioning of the media in Cyprus;

c) to ensure the more active participation of Cyprus in international meetings, conferences and seminars where communications issues are discussed.

The Cyprus National Communications Committee therefore aims at making an in-depth study of the prospects for further development in the field of communications and creating the appropriate infrastructure leading to the unobstructed flow of information. The Committee will co-operate with all the organizations concerned so as to lay the foundations of more effective communication between public entities, the public and the various social groups and communities of Cyprus on the one hand, and other peoples and countries on the other, thus establishing bridges of mutual understanding and co-operation for a better future.

To mark World Communications Year and to announce the establishment of the Committee, a press conference was organized on 6 April 1983, where Mr. Shacallis explained the aims and objectives of the Committee within the framework of WCY.

Ireland

(Source: WCY National Committee)

A 13-member National Committee for World Communications Year was established earlier this year under the chairmanship of Mr. T. J. Byrnes, Chief Executive Officer of An Bord Telecom.

Further information concerning planned or scheduled activities may be obtained from the correspondent of the Committee: "Mrs. Deirdre Lyden, An Bord Telecom, Merrion House, Merrion Road, Dublin 4 (Ireland)".

Kenya

(Source: WCY National Committee)

The National WCY Committee of Kenya which was formed in April 1982 brings together 13 governmental and non-governmental organizations representing a good cross-section of the national community. The work of the Committee, which meets at least once a month, hinges mainly on the review and analysis of the national transport and communications infrastructures. This effort of reflection is complemented by public relations activities aimed at increasing public awareness of the importance of transport and communications for improved living conditions, now and in the future. "We place great importance upon the activities of WCY 1983", declared Mr. C. C. Musundi, Chairman of the Committee, "and we have to date reviewed and analyzed five major communications sectors, namely civil aviation, meteorology, postal services, telecommunications and national standards".

Civil aviation

The Directorate of Civil Aviation has decided to improve the aeronautical telecommunica-

tion network by replacing on a systematic basis all old non-directional beacons with more versatile and precise terminal VOR systems. 1983 will also witness the opening of a calibration and maintenance centre, where major repairs of cards and modules can be performed, so as to ensure a continuing supply of parts. The Directorate is also planning to replace all existing radars by 1986 with new, more performant equipment to ensure the widest radar coverage possible. Parallel to the implementation of these activities, the aeronautical ground support services will be improved to cope with the increasing demand.

Meteorology

The semi-automatic message switching equipment used for re-routing weather messages in and out as well as within the country will be replaced in 1983 by a fully automatic system. The Meteorology Department is increasingly using satellite channels for linking the regional telecommunication hub in Nairobi to other world centres. High frequency band was previously used. It is also planning to make use of the PANAFTEL network for its inter-African communications in replacement of high frequency circuits. A fully computerized data processing centre will be established for meteorological data analysis with a view to improving weather forecasts. The scope of the training programme will be extended to meet the training needs created by the introduction of new technologies.

Postal services

The Kenya Posts and Telecommunications Corporation has planned to establish sub-post offices in remote areas of the country and to upgrade existing ones to the level of post offices. An express mail service will also be introduced at the national level for the exchange of mail between Kenya and the United Kingdom, and the parcel post service will be improved with the addition of several delivery vans used exclusively for this purpose.

Telecommunications

Several projects are envisaged during 1983. Local timing will be introduced to reduce congestion in the local network and to improve the traffic flow for a more rational use of the existing system. Public call offices should more than double and the number of public booths for international calls should cover all major centres. Three hundred rural centres will be provided for the first time with a telephone service, with a view to everyone having access to a telephone within an hour's walk from any point in the country. A data base access service will also become operational in 1983, thus assisting the tourism industry to handle more efficiently the very high number of tourists coming to Kenya. Travel agents and airline companies will have, at the tip of their fingers, all the information their customers require with regard to flights, hotel reservations, or car rentals.

National standards

Improvement will be brought into the frequency standard to meet internationally recognized standards. Finally, a mobile calibration service will be established to service equipments on site.

Several other activities are in the process of being implemented and further information will be published when progress reports are made available.

Zambia

(Source: WCY National Committee)

The Zambian WCY National Committee has produced, in the form of a booklet, an excellent analysis of the existing communications infrastructure by sector, taking into account past development trends and current development plans. The Committee initiated this in-depth review of the communications network from the point of view of civil aviation, meteorology, posts and telecommunications, and railways.

As a result of this analysis and in order to meet the requirements of World Communications Year, projects of the Posts and Telecommunications Corporation programmed to be implemented in 1984 under its five-year plan, were granted priority and designated WCY projects. As such, their execution will start in 1983 and every effort is being made to complete them before the end of the year. Financing has been secured for eight of the nine projects and the last one has been submitted to the ITU for inclusion in the list of pilot projects for financing at the international level. The proposed pilot project which is described further on concerns the feasibility study for the establishment of an electronic workshop in Zambia.

Another objective of WCY is to stimulate an awareness of the general public to the role played by communications infrastructures in the economic and social development. Activities planned in Zambia for achieving this objective will include the organization of symposia and competitions. In this connection, two competitions aimed at young people are scheduled to take place in 1983 on the following themes:

- "The importance of telecommunications in national and international understanding and co-operation", for people over 16 years old, and
- "What the children of the world think of the telephone", for children below the age of 16.

Prizes will be offered for the winners in each category.

It may be added that throughout 1983, the media (press, radio and television) will devote special attention to WCY and will be involved in publicizing the Year.

For further information, please contact: "Mr. B. A. Sakala, Assistant Director, Operations, Telecommunications Division, Posts and Telecommunications Corporation, PO Box 1660, Ndola (Zambia)".

Pilot projects

Gambia

The Gambian Administration has submitted for financing and/or technical sponsorship four pilot projects covering a wide range of activities. The projects relate to the provision of telephone services to suburban areas and long motor highways, the provision of adequate radiocommunications for governmental entities and the establishment of a frequency monitoring and management station. The realization of these projects would greatly enhance the telecommunication system of the country and would undoubtedly contribute both directly and indirectly to the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the population.

Project descriptions may be obtained, on request, from: "WCY Secretariat, ITU, Place des Nations, CH-1211 Genève 20 (Switzerland)".

Kenya

To provide telecommunication facilities for the heavy road traffic along the Nairobi—Mombasa highway and for communities along this road which are not yet served by the national network, the Kenyan Posts and Telecommunications Corporation is requesting the installation of some 34 public call offices.

There are at present no telecommunication facilities along this road and in case of accidents or breakdowns, lives and valuable time are lost due to lack of communications. The 34 public call offices would be connected to the public network via the existing or planned UHF medium capacity radio systems and extended to individual call offices by single channel VHF radio. Stations falling within an exchange area would be connected via cable pairs.

The required inputs consist of the provision of basic plans and estimates of equipment and installation cost requirements. The total cost is estimated at 456 000 US dollars including 290 000 dollars worth of equipment.

Companies and other entities may obtain additional information from the WCY Secretariat if possible financing, partial or total, is envisaged.

Zambia

The WCY National Committee of Zambia has proposed that an electronic workshop be established in the country to carry out locally the repair of faulty integrated circuit cards found in modules of electronic equipment such as telephone exchanges, teleprinters, multi-channel carrier systems and microwave systems.

Electronic circuits are increasingly in use today and have replaced mechanical or electromechanical parts in most telecommunication equipment. One of the main advantages of electronic equipment is its easy maintenance due to its modular construction. Each module consists of pluggable integrated circuit cards and faulty cards can be identified by diagnostic units. Replacement of cards is fast and simple which minimizes the time the piece of equipment or the system is not operational. However, the repair of the damaged cards is done abroad, most of the time by the supplier. This procedure is not only very lengthy but also detrimental to the foreign currency account of the balance of payment. This problem is compounded by the fact that sufficient stock of spare cards is required for maintenance to compensate for the long delays in repairs abroad, hence additional expenditure using foreign currency. A central electronic workshop to the set up in Zambia could also serve as a regional centre for such repairs. Zambia is therefore requesting that, as a WCY pilot project, a feasibility study for the establishment of such a workshop be undertaken.

Consulting firms and other telecommunications entities interested in sponsoring and undertaking this feasibility study are requested to contact the WCY Secretariat.

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** 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)
- **A list of audiovisual material** for World Communications Year. It describes all films, radio programmes and other productions which can be made available on loan or provided free of charge by the WCY Secretariat (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).