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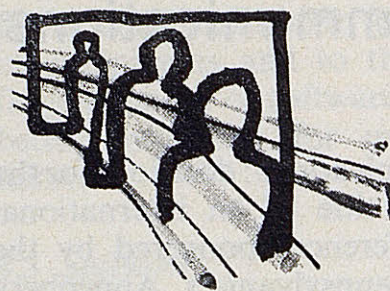
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17 May 1979

World Telecommunication Day

"Telecommunications for all"



Ghana

A dance at which a Miss ITU was crowned rounded off the 11th observance in Ghana of World Telecommunication Day, 17 May 1979. Other planned activities which marked the Day included a news conference, a symposium, open days, talks and panel discussions on radio and television, dissemination of information materials.

Planning

A national planning committee for the observance of the 11th World Telecommunication Day held several meetings to draw up the celebrations programme. The members of the planning committee included the representatives of the Posts and Telecommunication Corporation (P&T), the New Times Corporation, publishers of the *Ghanaian Times*, one of the two leading Accra dailies, the Black Star Line, the Ghana Broadcasting Corporation (GBC), the Ghana Frequency Registration and Control Board, and the Ghana Sanyo, all of which are State-owned companies.

News conference

On 17 May, World Telecommunication Day, the Director-General of P&T, Mr. P. T. Debrah, addressed a news conference at which he outlined the week-long celebration programme. After a short briefing on the significance of the occasion and the theme "Telecommunications for all", Mr. Debrah gave the newsmen an insight into the activities of the various sectors of the telecommunication system in Ghana. He said the Corporation would undertake a rehabilitation of and extensions to the existing telecommunication network with the 23-million US dollar loan from the World Bank. The Director-General informed the conference of the modernization of the system with the commissioning, next year, of the satellite earth station currently under construction at Nkutunse near Accra.

Open days

Open days by the above-mentioned establishments to acquaint the general public of activities at their sites were held during the observance period.

Talks and discussions

The activities of the ITU with special reference to the celebrations theme "Telecommunications for all", Ghana's membership of and benefit from ITU, and the role of P&T were discussed in "Focus", a GBC weekly radio

programme. The programme was broadcast twice during the week. Similar programmes in the six main Ghanaian languages (Akan, Dagbani, Ewe, Ga, Hausa, Nzima) were also broadcast during celebration week.

The other programmes under this heading were a symposium on "Expectations in the field of telecommunication during the year 2000" and a spot entitled "Telecommunication and national development" in another GBC weekly radio series known as "Nation building in Africa".

Dance

The highlight of the observance was a dance held at the Accra Arts Centre on Saturday 26 May, during which a Miss ITU was crowned. Prizes in cash and in kind comprising radio sets, cassette recorders, etc. donated by electronics houses were distributed to the contestants.

Participation of the United Nations Information Centre

This Centre participated in the observance in collaborating with the national committee, the representatives of the various mass media and individual panel members for both the English and Ghanaian language programmes, where necessary. The Centre also prepared and distributed background releases to the media agencies and contributors to the various programmes mentioned above.

On Sunday, 20 May, Information Assistant Michael K. K. Tuvi participated in "Nusi Mebu", a special radio panel discussion in Ewe on the respective roles of the ITU and the Corporation in general and the theme for World Telecommunication Day in particular.

Press coverage

The press gave a comparatively encouraging coverage to the observance in spite of their preoccupation with the electionary exercise for the return of the country's present military government to a civilian administration.

In addition to reporting on the organized activities the *Daily Graphic* on 17 May published a supplement on telecommunication devices, while the *Ghanaian Times* devoted its editorial comment to the celebration theme and the task facing the Corporation in rehabilitating and modernizing the telecommunication system in Ghana with the 23-million dollar loan from the World Bank.

Guinea

In Guinea, official functions to celebrate World Telecommunication Day were held on 19 May 1979 in the 28 September Hall of the Palace of the People in Conakry. The President of Honour was Comrade Dr. Kékoura Camara, Minister of Health, and the following comrades were present: Saïkou Barry, Minister of Foreign Trade and Mamadou Bah, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, workers from the P&T, students and teachers from the electrical engineering faculties of the IPGAN and the P&T at Kaporé, and representatives of the government Ministries and national services, and members of the National Telecommunications Co-ordination Committee (CNCT).

The programme was as follows:

- exhibition of photographs published by the ITU General Secretariat;
- opening address by the Minister of P&T, Mamadou Bah;
- a talk on the theme of the Day by the Secretary-General of the CNCT, Mamadou Saliou Diallo, followed by projection of the ITU film "Hungarian Postal Service", and refreshments offered by the Minister of P&T;
- closing address by the Minister of Health.

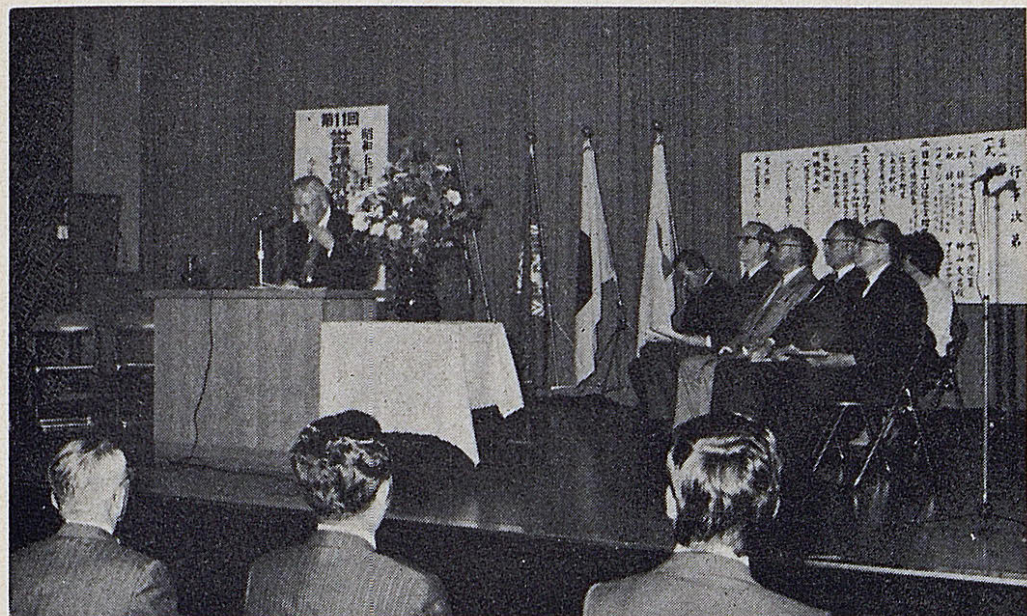
These functions were preceded by:

- a television broadcast on 16 May of the ITU Secretary-General's message and the films on telecommunications "Prelude to the 21st century" and "In signal honour";
- a radio broadcast on 17 May of the ITU Secretary-General's message and the showing on television of shots of the telecommunication installations at Conakry.

As in previous years, the public was widely informed of the part to be played by telecommunications in economic, social, cultural and political development. Special emphasis was placed on rural telecommunications.

Japan

The following events were celebrated on and around 17 May by the ITU Association of Japan, Inc. with the co-operation of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Public Corporation (NTT), *Kokusai Denshin Denwa Co. Ltd.* (KDD), *Nippon Hoso Kyokai* (NHK), National Association of Commercial Broadcasters in Japan, and other related organizations including the Telecommunications Industry Association.



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Mr. I. Koga, President of the ITU Association of Japan, addressing the meeting



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Mr. S. Hase, member of the IFRB from 1960 to 1966, speaking at the ceremony

11th World Telecommunication Day gathering

This gathering was held on 17 May at the Hall of the Posts and Telecommunications Museum at Ohte-machi, Tokyo, in the presence of Mr. Sumio Terashima, Director-General of Telecommunications, and Mr. Michael Clark, Director of the United Nations Information Centre of Tokyo.

In his address, the President of the ITU Association of Japan, Mr. I. Koga, stated: "On January 29 1879, Japan formally signed the St-Petersburg International Telegraph Treaty, and on October 13 of the same year, the treaty was promulgated in Japan. Since 100 years have elapsed since we became Member of ITU, we are going to hold the centennial events on and around 13 October this year under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. This Association will plan and execute various events autonomously to support the centennial events."

A message from the Vice-Minister of Telecommunications was read in which he said: "The World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) and the various events associated with TELECOM 79 will be held in Geneva this year. Also, this year is a memorable one for us because we are going to celebrate the centennial of gaining membership in ITU."

The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications will further make efforts to promote the development of telecommunications in consideration of their prime importance in the world today".

Following a speech by Mr. Clark, a message from Mr. Mili, Secretary-General of ITU, was read in Japanese.

Subsequently, the ceremony of the presentation of the ITU Association of Japan prize was held. The certificates of merit and supplementary prizes were presented by President Koga to four persons who had contributed to ITU-related activities in Japan, and to two writers on telecommunications and broadcasting.

World Telecommunication Day commemorative exhibition

More than 100 photographs (including some provided by ITU) and illustrations associated with the theme "Telecommunications for all"

were on show at the special exhibition section on the third floor of the Posts and Telecommunications Museum.

Exhibition of works participating in the 3rd "Youth in the Electronic Age" Competition

In the same exhibition section, 66 works submitted for this ITU sponsored international competition were exhibited for 12 days, from 16 to 27 May.

Amateur radio in commemoration of World Telecommunication Day

As in previous years, the Japanese Amateur Radio League (JARL) participated in World Telecommunication Day. The commemorative radio station 8J1/ITU at "Yushu" mini-hall on the third floor of the Posts and Telecommunications Museum, 8J3/ITU in Tenri City, and 8J9/ITU in Takaoka City were opened. During a period of eight days, from 13 to 21 May, excluding 15 May, JARL members were engaged in commemorative communications as operators using elaborate QSL cards on which the symbol of this year's poster was shown. The number of contacts made reached 38 275 (of which overseas radio stations, including ITU's 4U1/ITU in Geneva, amounted to 10 753).

World Telecommunication Day commemorative lecture

Mr. Yasusada Kitahara, Executive Vice-President of NTT, gave a one-and-a-half-hour lecture entitled "Telecommunications from now on" on 21 May at the Conference room on the 10th floor of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. The lecture was highly appreciated by an audience of some 215 persons.

Peru

The World Telecommunication Day 1979, as in previous years, is a very important event in Peru. The co-operation from the Ministry of Transport and Communications has always been the most valuable support that the ITU has received for the observance of this day.

The United Nations Information Centre worked together with the Information and Press Department of the Ministry with a view to the promotion of pertinent information. The result of this joint work has been an excellent coverage by the mass media.

This year, the most outstanding aspects of the observance were as follows:

Message by the Minister of Transport and Communications

In a message addressed to the country through the radio and television network, the Minister of Transport and Communications, Major General Elvio Vanini, pointed out that "communications constitute all over the world the integrating nucleus". He also said that telecommunications in Peru are at a stage where it is possible to reach every country in the world. He also paid tribute to ITU.

Message by the Secretary-General of ITU

The message by the Secretary-General of ITU was made known on 17 May to the whole country through the radio and television network. At the same time, all the newspapers referred to this message on the occasion of the World Telecommunication Day.

Mass media coverage

As indicated, the World Telecommunication Day had a large press coverage. A long editorial was published by *El Comercio* of Lima. The editorial stressed ITU's important role in the evolution of communications and the next World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) and the World Telecommunication Exhibition (TELECOM 79). Finally, this editorial mentioned that the ITU Convention recognizes an important human right which is that "every human being should have access to communication". The editorial column of the daily *Correo* published the whole text of the message of the Secretary-General of ITU in its 18 May edition.

The emblem issued by ITU for this year appeared in the daily *La Cronica*.

Role of the United Nations Information Centre

As in previous years the Centre co-operated with the Ministry of Transport and Communications and informed mass media representatives on the importance of this World Day to get a wide coverage on the matter. All newspapers, and the radio and television network, provided full information on the celebration.