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(ITU) للاتصالات الدولي الاتحاد في والمحفوظات المكتبة قسم أجراه الضوئي بالمسح تصوير نتاج (PDF) الإلكترونية النسخة هذه والمحفوظات المكتبة قسم في المتوفرة الوثائق ضمن أصلية ورقية وثيقة من نقلاً

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## MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE ITU

## ON THE OCCASION OF THE 5th WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DAY

Today, 17 May 1973, the Member countries of the International Telecommunication Union are celebrating World Telecommunication Day for the fifth year in succession.

As in previous years, telecommunication Administrations and scientific and industrial organizations in telecommunication sector have taken special pains to prepare this great Day which, this time, is devoted to the theme of "International Co-operation".

No one can fail to be aware that we are witnessing a veritable "explosion" in telecommunication media. Since the end of the Second World War, the total number of telephones in service in the world has risen from 40 million to about 300 million and during the last ten years the number of radio and television sets has trebled. All this makes international co-operation of vital importance, since in many new or developing countries it is essential to quicken the pace of development of telecommunications if the gap between the highly-developed and the insufficiently developed lands is not to widen still further.

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For us 1973 is indeed international co-operation year, for the Plenipotentiary Conference - the supreme organ of the ITU - is to meet in the autumn.

At this important conference, the delegates of the 145 Members of the ITU will consider the Union's future and determine for its activities during the next six years, guidelines, that will take account of developments in the world of telecommunications.

But this world of telecommunications could not exist without the fruitful co-operation which, for over one hundred years, has reigned among all the countries of the Union.

After all, was not the foundation of the ITU the step that made it possible for all the nations of the world to communicate one with another? Thanks to this co-operation, distances have been abolished and the peoples have come to understand each other better.

## INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

To desire world peace is to believe in communication - by which men get to know one another, see themselves in others and accept each other despite their differences.

At a time when technology is developing at a bewildering tempo and when the demand for new means of telecommunication is growing throughout the world, such co-operation is more essential than ever, if this marvellous instrument of telecommunications is to render the services expected of it. For without co-operation on a global scale, there will merely be waste of effort and chaos.

Mankind is right to place great hopes in the space age; but those hopes will be vain unless all countries succeed in agreeing to exploit altogether this common asset we know as "space". And the same applies to all techniques employed to enable men to communicate at a distance.

We have vast and powerful means at our command, means which we know can ensure the harmonious economic and social development of the world as a whole. It is for us to make the best possible use of them. It is for us to appeal to all men of good will to join together in turning them to best advantage.

The past history of the ITU provides the happy assurance that good sense will prevail and our hopes be crowned with success.