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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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# editorial

## Message from Mr. M. MILI, Secretary-General of the ITU, on the occasion of the Second World Telecommunication Day

17 May 1970

With the development of modern telecommunication media, a remarkable tool is now available to those whose noble task it is to train future generations and educate the people.

It is for this reason that, following the decision by the United Nations General Assembly to declare 1970 "Education Year", the Administrative Council of the International Telecommunication Union selected as the theme for the Second World Telecommunication Day:

"Telecommunications and Education"

You are, of course, aware that the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations will be duly celebrated this year. It is no mere coincidence that the same year is devoted to education since there is no doubt that this subject is a major concern of the era of progress in which we are living.

In fact, vocational education, the fight against illiteracy, and basic and mass education demand the greatest efforts from our sister organization, UNESCO. Vocational training occupies a special place in the normal activities of most of the other specialized agencies of the United Nations family, including the ITU.

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I mentioned at the beginning of this message that modern telecommunications represent an invaluable tool which is available to all countries of the world in the efforts they are making to provide better training for young people and to ensure the widest possible dissemination of human knowledge. This tool—which, of course, will continue to be improved—must be used as effectively as possible so that maximum benefit may be derived from it.

If this wonderful instrument is to be put to the best possible use, international co-operation is absolutely essential. In evidence of this assertion, allow me to refer to a specific example which now holds the eager attention of the public and from which people are entitled to expect a great deal: I refer to communication satellites.

For many countries and even entire continents, the use of communication satellites for educational purposes may signify a veritable revolution in education in the broadest sense of the term.

But in view of the enormous possibilities offered by communication satellites and the fact that these satel-

lites can cover vast geographical areas simultaneously and at any time, it is necessary, first of all, from the purely technical standpoint that their use should be co-ordinated, planned and regulated.

These problems indeed constitute the major concern of the countries Members of the ITU which have agreed—among other practical decisions—to convene a world conference on space telecommunications in order to examine these questions thoroughly.

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The finest techniques and the best conceived regulations are unavailing, however, without the dynamic activity of those whose job it is to place them at the service of the public, that is, without the activities of the "backroom boys". Essentially, therefore, the Second World Telecommunications Day should belong to them. In other words, it must be used to enable both student and adult to understand better how one becomes a telecommunication technician or engineer. For this reason, when it selected the theme "Telecommunications and Education", the ITU Administrative Council also included the question of the technical training of specialists in telecommunications.

Many schools and institutes exist for this purpose practically all over the world and, year after year, teach those techniques which are evolving so rapidly in order to answer the public's expectations as fully as possible.

The International Telecommunication Union, which has been actively engaged in the United Nations Development Programme for a quarter of a century and especially in the last decade, participates in the work of technical training carried on by all of its Member countries. It has assisted in the creation of a very large number of technical training centres and in bringing teaching methods up to date.

But in this field, as well as in regard to the use of telecommunications for educational purposes, we must recognize that nothing lasting will be achieved unless governments are firmly determined to co-operate actively in all circumstances.

So far as telecommunications are concerned, the international co-operation which has been practised by the ITU for a century provides sufficient assurance and proof, if any were needed, that this resolve exists and will continue to grow stronger.

M. MILI