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Union Activities

Regional Administrative Conference for FM sound broadcasting

The First Session of the Regional Administrative Conference for FM sound broadcasting in the VHF band (Region 1* and certain countries concerned in Region 3) opened at 14h30 on Monday 23 August in the Geneva International Conference Centre. The Conference completed its work on Friday 17 September.**

The Conference was convened by the ITU in response to Resolution No. 510 of the World Administrative Radio Conference, 1979 (WARC-79).

At its first plenary meeting the FM Sound Broadcasting Conference elected Miss M. Huet (France) as its Chairman and Messrs. A. L. Badalov (USSR), S. A. Albidnah (Saudi Arabia) and A. Ndiongue (Senegal) as Vice-Chairmen.

The Conference set up the following Committees:

□ Committee 1 Steering Committee

Chairman:

the Chairman of the Conference

Vice-Chairmen:

the Vice-Chairmen of the Conference

Terms of reference:

To co-ordinate the work of the Committees, fix the timetable of meetings, etc.

□ Committee 2 Credentials Committee

Chairman:

Mr. J. G. De Matos (Angola)

Vice-Chairman:

Mrs. F. W. Grodzicka (Poland)

Terms of reference:

To verify the credentials of delegations and to report on its conclusions to the plenary meeting within the time specified by the latter (No. 369 of the International Telecommunication Convention, Malaga-Torremolinos, 1973).

□ Committee 3 Budget Control Committee

Chairman:

Mr. K. Olms
(Federal Republic of Germany)

Vice-Chairman:

Mr. K. Gnonsoa (Ivory Coast)

Terms of reference:

To determine the organization and the facilities available to the delegates, and to examine and approve the accounts for expenditure incurred throughout the duration of the First Session of the Conference (No. 442 of the International Telecommunication Convention, Malaga-Torremolinos, 1973).

□ Committee 4 Technical Criteria Committee

Chairman:

Mr. H. Götze
(German Democratic Republic)

Vice-Chairman:

Mr. R. Bounab (Algeria)

Terms of reference:

To establish the technical criteria for the basis of the preparation, by the Second Session of the Conference, of the Frequency Assignment Plan for FM sound broadcasting in the VHF band (87.5-108 MHz) in Region 1 and in the parts of Afghanistan and Iran adjacent to that Region, taking into account the following non-exhaustive list of items (items 1.1 to 1.9 of the Agenda):

- propagation characteristics and methods used to forecast field strength values in the VHF band and to calculate the service areas of sound broadcasting stations;
 - optimum channel spacing, channel distribution;
 - modulation standards, emitting bandwidths (including stereophony and other systems having additional sub-carriers);
 - radio frequency protection ratios;
 - minimum wanted field strength values; field strengths to be protected;
 - maximum radiated power;
 - basic characteristics of transmitting and receiving antennas, polarization;
 - receiver sensitivity and selectivity;
 - criteria for the compatibility of the FM sound broadcasting service with:
 - the television broadcasting service,
 - the fixed service,
 - the aeronautical radionavigation service,
 - the mobile service,
- in the same frequency band or in adjacent bands, taking into account the results of CCIR studies.***



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From left to right: Messrs. R.E. Butler ITU Deputy Secretary-General; J. Francis, Secretary of the Conference; M. Mili, Secretary-General of the ITU; Miss M. Huet, Chairman of the Conference; Messrs. F.G. Perrin, Chairman of the IFRB and C.W. Sowton, Vice-Chairman of the IFRB

* Region 1 includes Europe and Africa and the whole of the USSR; Region 3 includes Asia and Australasia.

** A report on the results of the First Session will be published in our next issue.

*** Note: In accordance with the Administrative Council Resolution No. 852, the CCIR prepared a report to the Conference, in regard to technical bases in conformity with Resolution No. 510 of the WARC-79.

□ Committee 5

Planning Methods Committee

Chairman:

Mr. K. Arasteh (Iran)

Vice-Chairman:

Mr. P. Pettersson (Sweden)

Terms of reference

To establish the planning principles and methods for the basis for the preparation, by the Second Session of the Conference, of the Frequency Assignment Plan for FM sound broadcasting in the VHF band (87.5-108 MHz) in Region 1 and in the parts of Afghanistan and Iran adjacent to that Region (item 1.10 of the Agenda);

to specify the form in which requirements for inclusion in the Frequency Assignment Plan should be submitted to the IFRB, and to fix a date by which they should be submitted (item 2 of the Agenda);

to adopt any recommendation which the First Session of the Conference may consider useful for the Second Session of the Conference.

□ Committee 6

Editorial Committee

Chairman:

Mr. H. Berthod (France)

Vice-Chairmen:

Mr. W. H. Bellchambers
(United Kingdom)

Mr. I. Moreno Peral (Spain)

Terms of reference:

To perfect the form of the approved texts of the First Session of the Conference without altering the sense (No. 527 of the International Telecommunication Convention, Malaga-Torremolinos, 1973).

ITU Centenary Prize

The ITU Centenary Prize was established in 1978 by the Union's Administrative Council (Resolution No. 816) in order to further the efforts made by Members of the Union for the advancement of telecommunications, to foster greater world-wide awareness of the Union's aims and ideals and to commemorate the first centenary of the ITU, the oldest intergovernmental organization, having been established in 1865.

The prize, which is awarded once every four years, is intended to reward an individual or group of individuals whose international activities have earned recognition for the development of international telecommunications.

The prize was first awarded in 1979 to Georges Valensi, a French engineer and scientist, for his exceptional contribution to the development of international telecommunications.

The 2nd Centenary Prize will be bestowed in 1983 at a ceremony which will probably take place during the TELECOM 83 World Telecommunication Exhibition (26 October-1 November 1983).

The Secretary-General of the ITU has invited ITU Member administrations to present candidates for the 2nd Centenary Prize. Submissions should reach ITU headquarters by 15 March 1983.

CCITT News

Meeting of Study Group XVIII



Study Group XVIII (Digital networks) met in Geneva from 10 to 22 June 1982 under the chairmanship of Mr. T. Irmer (Federal Republic of Germany) assisted by Messrs. M. Dècina (Italy), V. I. Johannes (American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T), United States), K. Okimi (Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Public Corporation (NTT), Japan), H. K. Pfyffer (Switzerland) and A. Roche (France), Vice-Chairmen.

The growing interest in the work performed by Study Group XVIII, in particular in the studies addressed to the establishment of the integrated services digital network (ISDN), is clearly demonstrated by the active participation of a greater number of organizations, coming also from developing countries.

The present meeting was attended by about 200 experts (representing 30 administrations, 13 recognized private operating agencies, 35 industrial or scientific organizations and 2 international organizations) and achieved good results due to the very well-documented proposals (the meeting examined more than 220 documents) and to the spirit of international co-operation maintained during the discussion.

The following Working Parties held sessions during the meeting of Study Group XVIII:

- XVIII/2 (speech processing)

Chairman: Mr. Dècina

- XVIII/3 (Network performance objectives)

Chairman: Mr. Johannes

- XVIII/4 (Switching and signalling) only to examine Question 3/XVIII (Synchronization in digital networks) under the chairmanship of the Special Rapporteur for that Question, Mr. R. Smith (Australia)

- XVIII/5 (Digital equipments)

Chairman: Mr. Okimi

- an *ad hoc* group met in order to examine Question 6/XVIII (Definition for digital networks), assigned to Working Party XVIII/1 (ISDN).

Study Group XVIII endorsed the report of the meeting of experts on ISDN matters which took place in Munich from 17 to 25 February 1982 (see the June 1982 issue of the *Telecommunication Journal*, pages 320-321). In doing so, Study Group XVIII recognized the importance of the two draft Recommendations Ixxx (ISDN user/network interfaces—reference configurations) and Ixxy (ISDN user/network interfaces—channel structures and access capabilities). These two draft Recommendations have already been submitted for preliminary examination to the specialized Study Groups and will constitute a basic step towards the progressive implementation of the integrated services digital networks. Study Group XVIII has thus confirmed its leading role in the digital studies and has allowed further progress by adopting a compromising solution between the exigences of the various services, while recognizing the primary importance of the basic telephone service.

The detailed report is reproduced in COM XVIII-R9.

The main results obtained are the following:

Working Party XVIII/2

A major step forward has been made by Working Party XVIII/2 in the studies of Question 7/XVIII (Encoding of speech and voice-band signals using methods other than PCM, in accordance with Recommendation G.711) and 8/XVIII (Digital speech interpolation systems).

The meeting agreed on the target to reach a single world-wide standard for 32 kbit/s codecs by the end of the present study period. For this purpose an *ad hoc* expert group has to define, prior to the next meeting, the choice between the four proposed codecs, all employing the ADPCM algorithms with adaptive prediction. It was confirmed that such kind of algorithms are suitable to satisfy the requirements of operation in mixed analog/digital networks. Such requirements should be considered in choosing the relative test conditions to verify the performance of speech and non-speech voice-band signals.

These studies should be performed in close co-operation with Study Groups XII (Telephone transmission performance and local telephone networks) and XVI (Telephone