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Opening of the 12th ITU Plenipotentiary Conference

The 12th Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union was opened on Tuesday 28 September 1982 in the Kenyatta International Conference Centre (KICC) by His Excellency Daniel T. Arap Moi, President of the Republic of Kenya.

Escorted by the Nairobi Provincial Commissioner Mr. Fred Waiganjo, President Moi was met at the KICC by the Minister for Transport and Communications, Mr. H. K. Kosgey, and the Secretary-General of the ITU, Mr. M. Mili.

President Moi's address is reproduced as the Editorial to the present issue of the *Journal* (page 737).

During its first week, the Conference, which is being attended by some 900 delegates from 147 ITU Member countries, adopted its structure and the terms of reference of its committees, and listened to general declarations by Heads of delegations.

During the second week, the work of the committees began and the elections to the posts of Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General took place.

Election of the Secretary-General

On 6 October, Mr. Richard E. Butler (Australia), the present Deputy Secretary-General of the ITU, was elected Secretary-General by 74 votes out of 133. Following his election, Mr. Butler took the floor to thank the delegates for the confidence they had shown in him and said:

"Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

"Forgive me if I am a little emotional at this point in time but I do wish to thank you warmly for the honour which you have extended to me, my family, my country and the Australian Government in your decision to choose me to lead the ITU Secretariat in the years until the next Plenipotentiary Conference.

...

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

"Today, you have elected me not merely to lead the ITU General Secretariat for the substantial part of the 1980s, but also to act as your legal representative for the necessary co-ordination of ITU activities with the other institutions in the United

Nations system; included, too, is the representation of your telecommunication interests and the desirable inputs to achieve those broader policy objectives established by Governments in the United Nations bodies for the urgent social and economic development requirements of Member Governments organized through the United Nations family. The ITU is designated a specialized agency and our participation is, of course, subject to the guidance, which you will give me from the Plenipotentiary Conference, as well as of the new Administrative Council which you will shortly elect in order to see that the necessary requirements, as seem by you and the Administrative Council from the policy point of view, are observed. Many of you know that I have always been sensitive to the Union's obligations to respond appropriately to the needs for such co-ordination and collaboration, more so now that we have witnessed the "communications" debate in the last two years and the development of the undefined concepts of a New World Information and Communication Order.

"It is heavily dependent upon telecommunication infrastructures.

"Hence, the importance of the future work of the Union in providing the technical and related regulatory frameworks and standards to enable the objectives of balanced and equitable communication flows between and within all countries to be met. These are, of course, matters for the Members to resolve in their own relationships between one another.

"For the Secretariat, there are the contributions for the promotion and assistance for the realization of development efforts, that is, the translation of national plans into action to assist in the setting up of appropriate telecommunications and the desirable co-operation between Members and their authorities, and indeed all of their telecommunication entities.

"In the United Nations family there are now some twenty organizations with an interest in communications. Many have user interests, while others have specific and dedicated responsibilities such as the Universal Postal Union (UPU) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). I look forward to an even closer relationship in the future with Dr. Sobhi, Director-General of the UPU and Mr. M'Bow, Director-General of UNESCO, especially in our contribution to the work of the newly-established International Programme for the Development of Communications.

"I wish to express my special thanks for the encouragement which I have received from the regional telecommunications organizations, some of whom are with us today. We serve the same administrations and countries and I look forward to close collaboration with their many joint endeavours to serve our joint Members by appropriate complementarity of action.

"Already our meeting has been described here as the African Plenipotentiary Conference. In addition to my own feelings, I know that your decision, here, that I should lead the General Secretariat of your Union will bring great satisfaction to many Australians and the Australian Government. Australia, with its relatively small economic base, and still developing, has tried hard over the last decade or so to understand African difficulties and its development problems. The Australian authorities will be gratified, I am sure, by the confidence, friendship and recognition which has been bestowed on me and our country here today...

"Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank you for the assistance and guidance of our meeting and the fact that this event has taken place in your lovely country...

"Once again, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you deeply for the honour that you have paid to me and I trust that I shall fully justify the confidence that has been expressed."

Election of the Deputy Secretary-General

On 11 October, the Conference elected Mr. Jean Jipguep (Cameroon) as the new Deputy Secretary-General. Following his election, Mr. Jipguep made the following statement:

"The result of this election is an honour for all of Africa, which is acting as host to an ITU Plenipotentiary Conference for the first time. It is also an honour for my country, Cameroon, and for my humble self. So, before yielding the floor to

others better authorized to address you, allow me to express to you my sincere, heartfelt and respectful thanks.

"The confidence you have placed in me will enable me to make my contribution to the work of the Union and to strive towards the attainment of its objectives, particularly towards the strict application of the decisions that you will take here in Nairobi—yes, Nairobi 1982, which for me will remain as much of a landmark as Paris 1865 was for the establishment of our Union.

"Mr. Chairman, I should like to thank you most sincerely for the very kind words you have said about me. I should also like most particularly to assure our Secretary-General elect, Mr. Butler, that I shall be entirely at his service to offer him my unreserved and loyal co-operation. I am sure that his extensive knowledge of the Union and his valuable advice will help me to carry out the duties henceforth assigned to me."

Richard E. Butler



Mr. Richard Edmund Butler (Australia) was born on 25 March 1926. He has been Deputy Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union since 1968.*

Prior to this, Mr. Butler occupied various senior posts in the Australian telecommunication Administration in the fields of:

- corporate planning and investment of international communication facilities and associated economic, service, revenue sharing and general bilateral and multilateral partnership arrangements;
- co-ordination of domestic and international public telecommunication service policies, including application of intergovernmental multilateral agreements and treaties in telecommunications;
- co-ordination of bilateral and multilateral telecommunication technical co-operation arrangements, and acted as policy adviser for planning, regulation and development of Australian broadcasting and television services—for public- and privately owned sectors and associated legislative frameworks.

Mr. Butler's assignments related to:

- international telecommunication partnership and associated service issues, which involved active participation in negotiations leading up to the establishment of INTELSAT and participation in activities of INTELSAT in its formative years and the arrangements for submarine cable and other international telecommunication agreements;

- participation in various national committees (1959-1968) in matters concerning the ITU (CCIR, CCITT and radiocommunication Conferences);
- space application, satellite launching and submarine operational service matters;
- related United Nations and specialized agencies activities, including peaceful uses of outer space.

Mr. Butler was a deputy leader of Australian delegations to major United Nations and ITU conferences, as well as a participant in the work of the Administrative Council and various study groups.

Since joining the ITU in 1968, Mr. Butler has been active in:

- contributing to the promotion of co-operation between Member States, particularly in the organization of administrative radio conferences of the ITU;
- participating in co-ordination with other organizations in the United Nations family, taking account of the growing importance of telecommunications in social and economic development for Member governments;
- management of the ITU, including organization of modern methods for the treatment and processing of information and data exchanged by Member administrations through the ITU within the resources available to the Union.

* Mr. Butler was elected Deputy Secretary-General Ad Interim in 1968. He was elected for a further term by the Plenipotentiary Conference of Malaga-Torremolinos in 1973.

Jean Jipguep



Born in 1937 at Batoufam, Mifi Department (United Republic of Cameroon), Mr. Jean Jipguep attended the Lycée of Yaoundé from 1950 to 1957 and obtained the BEPC as well as the Baccalauréat (mathematics). From 1957 to 1962, he studied at the Faculty of Sciences of Paris and Strasbourg, obtaining degrees in physics and applied mathematics, and at the Institute

of Geophysics of Strasbourg (1959-1961). From 1962 to 1964, he attended the *Ecole nationale supérieure des télécommunications* (ENST) in Paris where he received the diploma of telecommunications engineer. During that same period, he took some practical courses in French telecommunications, particularly at the *Centre des lignes à grandes distances* (LGD) in Nice and at the *Centre national d'études des télécommunications* (CNET), and followed a course at the *Institut d'administration des entreprises* in Paris.

Service career

Mr. Jipguep joined the Posts and Telecommunications Administration of the United Republic of Cameroon on 24 December 1964. Until February 1965, he acted as engineer in the Federal Posts and Telecommunications Department in Yaoundé. From 15 February 1965 to 19 August 1969, he headed the Federal Telecommunication Service in Douala. He then became Deputy Director of Telecommunications and Assistant Director of Technical Services (1969-1972). From 19 April 1972 to 25 Sep-

tember 1978, he was Director of Telecommunications and since that last date he held the post of technical counsellor to the Minister of State for Posts and Telecommunications.

It was between 1965 and 1979 that Cameroon planned and installed its modern and comprehensive telecommunication network, of which it is justly proud.

Mr. Jipguep, who was technically responsible for this network, was the prime mover of the design and implementation of the vast project for the development of telecommunications in Cameroon. His activity and his role were particularly significant during the second and third five-year plans, a period during which the present infrastructure was installed, comprising 34 automatic telephone exchanges, five national and regional transit centres, one international transit centre, 3200 km of radio relays and a space centre equipped with three antennas, one 30 m in diameter and two standard B antennas.

Activities at the international level

Mr. Jipguep has participated as delegate for his country in most ITU conferences and has taken an active part in the work of African telecommunication organizations.

Since October 1973, Mr. Jipguep has been a member of the ITU Administrative Council representing the United Republic of Cameroon and has carried out the following duties in the Administrative Council:

- Vice-Chairman of the Technical Co-operation Committee from 1975 to 1978 (30th, 31st and 32nd sessions);
- Vice-Chairman of the Council (1978/1979: 33rd session);
- Chairman of the Council (1979/1980: 34th session).