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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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## Address delivered by the Secretary-General of the ITU at the inaugural meeting of the XIIth Plenary Assembly of the CCIR

New Delhi, 21 January 1970

Sir,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is the second time that, on the kind invitation of the Government of India, New Delhi is acting as host to an important International Telecommunication Union Conference.

The first occasion was in 1960, when the CCITT, on this very spot, in this beautiful Palace of Culture, held its IIInd Plenary Assembly, which was without any doubt a historic landmark in the development of world telecommunications.

It was historic because it conferred on the CCITT once and for all a world mission which was further confirmed at its IIIrd and IVth Plenary Assemblies.

New Delhi indeed marked the start of broader CCITT interest in the new and developing countries which, as we all know, have highly specific problems. This interest subsequently led to the creation of the Autonomous

Working Parties, GAS 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, whose work soon showed itself to be of vital importance.

Even more recently the Administrative Council decided to establish a post of engineer economist, who will take up duty in Geneva early this year. Furthermore, the present organization of the World Plan Committee and its Regional Committees is the logical outcome of the new ideas put forward in New Delhi at the time.

President Nehru, that great humanist who has made an indelible impression on the history not only of his country but of the entire post-war world, and who was not mistaken, at that time honoured with his presence the formal opening meeting of the IIInd Plenary Assembly of the CCITT, thus giving it an entirely new impetus which has never faltered.

The honour has now fallen to the CCIR to ensure the continuity of a very fine tradition which finds concrete expression in a wider approach to world problems and in renewal.

The wide participation of a large number of delegates



from the four corners of the earth is proof of the importance attached to this conference by the 137 Member countries of the ITU and is an indication of the hopes they pin on it.

I am convinced that the XIIth Plenary Assembly of the CCIR will be the occasion for a wide exchange of views and, at least I hope, will result in very many ideas taking root during our discussions which will promise a rich harvest for the future.

Accordingly, in a spirit of both pride and humility, I express our most sincere thanks to His Excellency S. N. Sinha, Minister of Information, Broadcasting and Communications, on behalf of the ITU, for the great interest he has taken in this conference. I should also like to thank the Indian Administration in general and, in particular, its head, Mr. N. C. Shrivastava, Secretary of State for Communications, for the splendid way in which they have organized this conference with a view to ensuring its complete success.

The words of welcome to which we have just listened touched us deeply and our feelings today are commensurate with the honour paid us.

We are all the more intensely moved since we are in a great country which was one of the cradles of human wisdom and which has so often given proof of that wisdom since the Second World War. This great country has made a most effective contribution both towards fostering the brotherhood of mankind and reinforcing world peace. It has also contributed to the development of science through outstanding scholars such as Dr. C. C. Bose, Sir C. V. Raman, Professor S. K. Mitra and Dr. H. J. Bhabha, who was lost to the international scientific community while still in the prime of life.

India's international vocation, so familiar to everyone, is one of the basic features of this great country's policy. This vocation is reflected in its very special interest in everything related to international co-operation, and particularly in those aspects that might contribute to the maintenance of peace and to closer friendship among peoples. India has given positive evidence of its international vocation in the ITU since 1868 when it became a Member of the Union. And its active participation at the various meetings held by the Union has continued to increase with time. For example, India has traditionally provided a

President for the Study Group concerned with problems of broadcasting in tropical countries. It also provided the ITU with a Secretary-General, the late Dr. M. B. Sarwate, who was suddenly taken from us at the height of his activities which were entirely devoted to the service of the Union. His untimely death was deeply felt not only by all Members of the Union, who valued his extreme competence, intellectual honesty and moral integrity, but also by the many friends he had made thanks to his strong personality and warm courtesy.

\* \* \*

Ladies and Gentlemen, in addresses to an Assembly such as yours, it is a time-honoured custom to stress the special importance of the items on its agenda. However, I do so, not out of deference to custom, but because I sincerely believe that they are of major importance and that this Assembly will have to shoulder great responsibilities about which I should like to say a few words.

Naturally, I have no intention of making a complete survey of the conclusions already prepared by your Study Groups and now before you for approval. These conclusions represent a comprehensive synthesis of all the studies made until now, which touch every field of the very complex subject of radio and are part of that sustained effort towards increasing standardization of the characteristics of the various systems involved in radiocommunication.

Through lack of time, I shall touch only on a few aspects. The first and certainly the most important concerns space communication. You are certainly well aware that the ITU Administrative Council, at its 24th Session last May, decided, after consultation with the Members of the Union, to convene a World Administrative Radio Conference for Space Telecommunications to be held in Geneva for a period of from six to seven weeks starting on 7 June 1971. The agenda for this conference states that its principal purpose will be:

“to consider, revise and supplement as necessary, existing administrative and technical provisions of the Radio Regulations and adopt, as necessary, new provisions for radiocommunication services, in



so far as they use space radio techniques, including those for manned space vehicles, and for the radio-astronomy service, so as to ensure the efficient use of the spectrum."

This decision of the Administrative Council is without any doubt of vital importance for the future development of telecommunications and consequently for that of the ITU. It follows that the prospect of this conference gives a quite extraordinary significance to this XIIth Plenary Assembly, especially as it is the last to be held before that conference meets.

Your Assembly, as the culminating point of the manifold and complex activities in which you have been engaged for the last ten years with regard to space communications, thus marks a vital stage in the preparation of this second Space Conference.

In this connexion, I feel it might be of some value to recall the powers of Plenary Assemblies as defined in the International Telecommunication Convention.

Number 191 of the Convention states: "the Plenary Assemblies of the International Consultative Committees are authorized to submit to Administrative Conferences proposals arising directly from their recommendations or from findings on questions under their study".

Furthermore, Numbers 809 and 810 of the Convention state that these Consultative Committees may make proposals for modification of the Regulations and that such proposals should be sent to the Secretary-General in good time for their appropriate assembly, co-ordination and communication.

It is therefore for your Assembly to decide which proposals, arising out of the recommendations it adopts or the conclusions of current studies, it wishes to transmit to the Space Conference in 1971.

It should be noted, moreover, that this conference will be preceded by a meeting of experts early in 1971, to which the CCIR specialists will undoubtedly once more make a most valuable contribution.

It is for you to determine the terms of reference of this meeting of experts and to work out the most appropriate procedures to ensure that it will be fully successful.

But we would be underestimating the importance of the CCIR in space activities if we mentioned only

the responsibilities, vital as they are, it has to discharge in preparing for the next Space Conference. The reason for the extensive role of the ITU in space matters is not only the fact that satellites offer wonderful possibilities in the most diverse branches of telecommunications but also that any satellite, whatever its purpose, is first and foremost a radio station. The CCIR therefore bears heavy responsibility for all the applications of satellites.

It is, of course, the prerogative of the United Nations to fix general policy governing the peaceful uses of outer space and this has been done by the General Assembly since its session in 1959. We have only to remember the manifold activities of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the "*Space Treaty*" which was approved in 1966 and annexed to Resolution N° 2222 of the General Assembly. This Treaty enunciates very clearly the essential principles which must form the basis of international co-operation in space matters.

Several specialized agencies of the United Nations, such as UNESCO, WMO and ICAO, as well as a large number of intergovernmental or even non-governmental organizations of a scientific or industrial nature also play an important part in space matters within their respective fields of competence. A basic characteristic of space, however, is that man cannot do anything in that element without the active assistance of telecommunications. The ITU is thus very much concerned in the space activities of these numerous organizations since it is at the very centre of all of them.

Two extremely important applications are illustrative of this role, particularly that of the CCIR: I refer to the uses of satellites in the mobile services, on the one hand, and to direct satellite broadcasting, on the other.

With regard to the latter in particular, you will recall that the United Nations set up a Working Party to study the various implications of this new means of disseminating information.

The technical part of this Working Party's report was derived mainly from the work of the CCIR and the Union's competence in this field is clearly recognized. But it is the United Nations and, so far as programmes are concerned, UNESCO which must establish the general framework within which this new broadcasting medium can develop.



Following these few comments on space questions, I should like to mention a second point which should claim your close attention; it was widely debated at the IVth Plenary Assembly of the CCITT in 1968 and is unquestionably of interest for the whole of the ITU. I refer to the creation, without delay, of a proper statistical service at Union headquarters.

The IVth Plenary Assembly of the CCITT tackled this delicate problem boldly and realistically and drew our attention to the utility of setting up in the ITU a modern statistical service comparable to those which already exist in other specialized agencies of the United Nations.

You will agree with me that, as many delegations to the IVth Plenary Assembly of the CCITT pointed out in 1968, it is regrettable that our Union does not yet have a modern statistical service covering telecommunications as a whole. You will wish to discuss this problem thoroughly and, like the IVth Plenary Assembly of the CCITT, to give the Secretary-General of the Union the most appropriate directives to expedite the work required to prepare up-to-date statistics that can be of appreciable help to administrations.

The third point I wish to bring up is important for the future of the CCIR in as much as it concerns the organization of its work.

In Resolution N° 633, adopted in May 1968, the ITU Administrative Council decided that the XIIth Plenary Assembly of the CCIR should be held at New Delhi in January/February 1970 and that the CCIR Study Groups should meet beforehand in Geneva in the second half of 1969. This decision is a great innovation since, for the first time, the final meetings of Study Groups are not being held at the same time as the Plenary Assembly. But the experiment is worth trying and it is for you to weigh up the advantages and disadvantages objectively. May I, however, mention briefly the major reasons for the innovation: the desire to stagger the work devolving upon the different Secretariats of the ITU is one. Financial considerations are another.

We should also consider the following questions: do the delegations of the new or developing countries gain from dissociating the Study Group meetings from the Plenary Assembly? Will the new system enable some of them to be represented at the Plenary Assembly

and to benefit from its rich discussions, something they would not have been able to do had the Assembly been accompanied by meetings of the Study Groups?

Lastly, is a period of four months necessary before ratification of the texts, which have already been prepared and approved by Study Groups that comprise the most outstanding specialists of the world in each of the fields concerned?

These are some of the questions which will claim your full attention and which will assist you in making a comprehensive review and drawing the necessary conclusions. I would therefore counsel you to have an unrestricted discussion and not to be afraid of making an extremely thorough analysis, for our technical world is now in a state of constant and rapid evolution which affects radiocommunications more than any other technique: the organizational methods adopted twenty years ago may no longer be suitable.

We must remember that the next Plenipotentiary Conference will be held in 1972 and that one of its concerns will be to submit the structures of the Union to thorough scrutiny. The lessons to be drawn from this experiment will be most useful to it.

It should be noted, moreover, with considerable satisfaction, that this continual adaptation of administrative structures to the demands of technical progress was already begun with the measures proposed by Mr. Bigi's Working Party. These proposals clearly show a determination to attain maximum efficiency within the terms of the present Convention.

Similarly, without presuming to comment on the future duties of the Study Groups, I imagine that they will be part of a logical development whereby the Study Groups will assume wider responsibilities, leaving an increasing amount of technical work to smaller Working Parties. This new division of tasks no doubt will have the advantage of partly mitigating the effects of the three-year cycle to which the work of the CCIR is subject.

The fourth and last point relates to technical co-operation, which is singularly apt since it was in this Palace of Culture in 1960 that the ITU decided to orientate its activities more broadly in favour of the new or developing countries. I have no intention of making a general report on what the ITU has done in the technical co-operation sector; I shall simply mention



two projects which are of special interest to our host country.

First of all, I would mention the space station at Ahmedabad, which was built in close co-operation with the UNDP and has already trained several classes of engineers and specialized technicians who operate and maintain earth stations. This station will become even more useful to the new or developing countries once the second phase of this important project has been completed.

Secondly, there is the Indian broadcasting satellite project. Undertaken by UNESCO, by whom it was originated, and with the active collaboration of the ITU, this project is proceeding satisfactorily. Its preparation will receive every attention from the Union, which will act in its capacity as United Nations specialized agency for telecommunications.

It is remarkable that both of these Indian projects are concerned with the use of space for the benefit of the new or developing countries. It was unquestionably an example of farsightedness on the part of the leaders of this country that at the start of the space era they were able to grasp the benefits which a new technique could bring to the new or developing countries.

But what part can be played by the CCIR in the complex ensemble represented by all the means deployed by the ITU in providing technical assistance?

The work of the CCIs in the sphere of studies and standardization certainly constitutes a source of information that is unique in the world. The technically advanced countries pool their knowledge and experience in telecommunications from which many countries can profit immediately. This is both an effective and an original form of international co-operation which is peculiar to the ITU and is of interest to all Members: in this way, the transfer of the scientific knowledge of the advanced countries to those which are still developing is automatically ensured.

Nevertheless, the CCIR texts, despite their great value, are not always a ready source of information. Hence, the value of the handbooks which the CCIs have prepared and will prepare in increasing numbers. Another procedure, followed by the CCITT, is worthy of mention, first, because it was conceived here in this

beautiful Palace of Culture in 1960 and, second, because it has already produced impressive results. I refer to certain problems of special interest to the new or developing countries which were entrusted to the Special Autonomous Working Parties.

Similar Working Parties of course exist in the CCIR, namely, the International Working Parties. One of these, for example, deals with the utilization of the geostationary satellite orbit.

Another valuable form of assistance is afforded by the studies undertaken by the CCIs on questions raised by the Regional Plan Committees. These problems may have more direct economic implications than those normally entrusted to the CCIs; I feel that these implications should be considered to be an inherent part of these studies. A significant example which illustrates the aid to be given by the CCIR in this respect are the studies it is conducting on low-price radio and television receivers.

In conclusion, may I again remind you that the Montreux Plenipotentiary Conference in 1965 stressed the importance of CCI activities on behalf of the new or developing countries. Resolution N° 32 of that conference requested that "the permanent organs of the Union by the publication of appropriate documents, such as monographs and selected bibliographies, contribute to the greatest extent possible to expediting the transfer to, and assimilation in, the developing countries of the scientific knowledge and technological experience in telecommunications which are available in the more developed countries".

In short, an important task of this Assembly will be to approve the texts prepared by the Study Groups, but I am sure that, given the progress of technique and the fact that the Assembly is meeting at the start of the Second United Nations Development Decade, you will wish to consider organizational questions most carefully and to direct future work towards more dynamic action on behalf of the new or developing countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have no doubt that, under the wise and competent direction of its Chairman, this Assembly will prove equal to its task and I wish you every success in your efforts.

M. MILI