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XIIIth Plenary Assembly of the CCIR

Election of the new Director of the Committee

The XIIIth Plenary Assembly of the International Radio Consultative Committee was held from 15 to 26 July 1974 at the International Conference Centre, Geneva. Three hundred and twenty-two delegates from 72 countries attended this meeting.

The Assembly elected Mr. Gunnar Pedersen, Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs of Denmark, as its Chairman, and Mr. A. Badalov, Deputy Minister of Telecommunications (USSR), Mr. K. Basu (India), Mr. G. L. Huffcutt (United States) and Mr. P. Ratovondrahona (Madagascar) as Vice-Chairmen.

After thanking the participants in the XIIIth Plenary Assembly for appointing him Chairman, Mr. Gunnar Pedersen defined the objectives of the CCIR as follows:

“According to the Montreux Convention, which is still in force, it is the sole duty of the CCIR to study technical and operating questions in connection with

radiocommunication—as defined in the Convention—and to issue recommendations on them.

“This has been the task of the CCIR ever since it was born in Washington in 1927, and the recent Plenipotentiary Conference in Torremolinos did not make any change in this basic principle. I consider this to be very important. It means that the specialists in the CCIR give the results of their studies on a purely technical basis. And as the recommendations have been formulated by the best experts from all over the world, they should automatically represent the most valuable advice given to the telecommunication administrations. And, I may add that as no other body inside the ITU—or outside—has the authority to change a single word in these technical recommendations, they cannot be coloured by secondary considerations of a non-technical nature.

“The administrations are of course free to apply these recommendations and in

most cases they do so. The advice of wise men should never be neglected! But in some cases, they find it necessary to introduce other factors in their decisions such as economy or industrial and political considerations. That is clearly the responsibility of each administration, but not of the CCIR.

"This principle also serves to give a clear line of separation between the CCI work and the tasks performed by the administrative conferences in which each administration separately must take the responsibility on how they wish to mix their cocktail made up from various bottles with technical and non-technical drinks.

"I feel that the success—not only of the CCIR, but of the ITU itself—is due to this clear separation of responsibility on substantive matters between the various bodies and conferences of the Union.

"The importance of the work done by the CCIR has increased steadily during the last years. Without the sound technical background as supplied by the CCIR, the IFRB would not be able to perform its work, and the important space conferences and other administrative radio conferences would no doubt have failed.

"I believe that the technology used by radiocommunication is developing faster than ever and that the importance of our work will continue to increase. The information explosion and the growing use of electronic mass communication represent a real challenge to all types of

radiocommunication, and perhaps most of all to our colleagues from developing countries."

In his address, Mr. M. Mili, Secretary-General of the ITU, paid a tribute to Mr. Jack Herbstreit (United States) who, after Professor van der Pol of the Netherlands and the late Dr. Metzler of Switzerland, had been the third elected Director of the CCIR and had decided of his own accord not to stand for re-election.

In this connection Mr. Mili said:

"Our friend Jack Herbstreit has decided to leave us to return to his laboratory and his beloved Colorado, after having directed the CCIR for the past eight years with outstanding ability and an acute sense of responsibility.

"On numerous occasions, he has displayed his exemplary devotion to duty together with indisputable authority. He has always steadfastly defended the interests of the CCIR before the highest instances of the Union. Before the Administrative Council and in the Co-ordination Committee, he has never hesitated to shoulder his responsibilities, and has always safeguarded the interests of the CCIR and the prerogatives of its specialized Secretariat. He leaves the staff of the Union with the memory of a man of wide understanding and an advocate of great eloquence.

"In spite of his forthright disposition, Jack Herbstreit has always proved a highly amiable and very co-operative colleague in the Co-ordination Committee.

"His fellow elected officials, as well as all the staff of the ITU, will long preserve their memory of a man of great uprightness, honesty, delicacy and amiability."

As a token of appreciation of all the services that Mr. Herbstreit had rendered to the ITU, the Secretary-General presented him with the silver medal of the Union Centenary and with a scroll similar to the one he had given less than two months previously to Mr. Mulatier and Mr. Valensi.

At its afternoon meeting on Tuesday, 16 July, the XIIIth Plenary Assembly elected as the Director of the CCIR Mr. Richard C. Kirby (United States), to succeed Mr. Jack Herbstreit, who had been Director since 1966.

After Mr. Kirby had been elected, the Secretary-General of the ITU made the following statement:

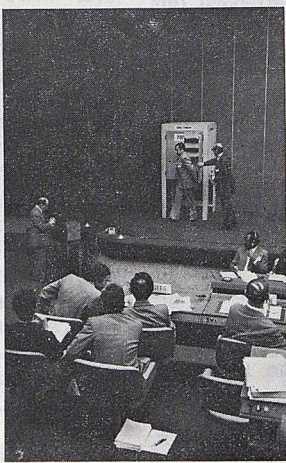
"On behalf of the ITU as a whole, I should like to proffer my sincere congratulations to Mr. Kirby, who has just been brilliantly elected to the post of Director of the CCIR.

"As the Chairman of the Plenary Assembly has just pointed out, Mr. Kirby has for over 20 years participated very actively and consistently in the work of this permanent organ of the Union.

"In particular, he attended the IXth Plenary Assembly in Los Angeles, the XIth Plenary Assembly in Oslo and the XIIth Plenary Assembly in New Delhi. His comprehensive knowledge of



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XIIIth Plenary Assembly of the CCIR

2.
Election of the new Director of the Committee

3.
Mr. Richard C. Kirby after his election as Director of the CCIR

the work of the CCIR, the excellent administrative capacities that he has displayed and the other personal qualities that he possesses to such a high degree fully confirm the wisdom of your choice.

"We are therefore convinced that Mr. Kirby will pursue with great skill and *savoir-faire* the noble task accomplished by his illustrious predecessors.

"As Chairman of the Co-ordination Committee, I am also certain that Mr. Kirby's dynamic action and high administrative and diplomatic skills will make an extremely positive and valuable contribution to the Co-ordination Committee.

"In my personal capacity and on behalf of the Co-ordination Committee, I congratulate our new colleague and welcome him into our midst, wishing him good luck in the performance of the onerous tasks which await him."

Mr. Richard C. Kirby was born on 22 November 1922 at Galesburg, Illinois, United States. A former student of the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, he was telecommunication engineer, chairman and member on several United States Government committees. Mr. Kirby was an engineer in the United States Army Signal Corps from 1942 to 1946. From 1946 to 1951 he worked as a junior scientist at the United States Central Radio Propagation Laboratory (CRPL) and at the University of Minnesota. From 1951 to 1965 Mr. Kirby held senior posts in the National Bureau of Standards (NBS), United States Department of Commerce. From 1965 to 1967 Mr. Kirby was Director of the Ionospheric Telecommunications Laboratory. From 1967 to 1968 he was Deputy Director and from 1968 to 1971 he was Director of the Institute of Telecommunications Sciences of the United States Department of Commerce. Since 1971 Mr. Kirby has been associate director of the Office of Telecommunications, United States Department of Commerce. From 1953 onwards Mr. Kirby participated in most CCIR meetings and in several conferences of the ITU. Mr. Kirby is a member of several international scientific associations and a fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). He is the author of a great number of technical publications on radiocommunications and particularly on propagation.

A detailed account of the work of the XIIIth Plenary Assembly will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Telecommunication Journal*.

Meeting of CCITT TEUREM Group



Mr. W. Jost

The CCITT Regional Tariff Group for Europe and the Mediterranean Basin (TEUREM Group) met at ITU headquarters, Geneva, from 1 to 5 April 1974 under the Chairmanship of Mr. W. Jost (Switzerland).

In accordance with its terms of reference, the Group's work was conducted in meetings confined to administrations and CCITT recognized private operating agencies. They were attended by 38 delegates representing 16 countries in the region; a delegate from Australia attended as an observer.

The Vice-Chairmanship of the Group being vacant since the retirement of Mr. Karel Boháč (Czechoslovakia), Mr. J. Dunin of the Administration of the People's Republic of Poland was elected by acclamation to replace Mr. Boháč.

It will be recalled that, during the preceding study period, the TEUREM Group had made a thorough study of the costs of telephone and telex services and prepared two draft recommendations concerning tariff standards for telephone and telex relations in the region. Those recommendations, which were approved by the Vth Plenary Assembly of the CCITT (Recommendations D.300 R and D.301 R in the *Green Book*, Vol. II-A) are now being applied by the administrations of all the European countries and by some countries in North Africa.

Under the terms of Questions 10/III and 11/III, the Group was given the task of making a cost study during the present study period to determine the basic tariff components for:

- sound and television programme transmissions,
- leased sound and television programme circuits, and
- the telegraph service.

To do this, the Group prepared two questionnaires to which administrations in the region are asked to reply by the end of December 1974. From the replies received the Group will calculate average costs at a meeting planned for the spring of 1975 and will draw up the necessary regional draft recommendations to be submitted to the next Plenary Assembly of the CCITT.

The accelerated rise in the cost of living and the present instability of currencies are making the work of the TEUREM Group more and more difficult and complicated. Hardly have standard rates been established before they are rendered out of date by economic developments. Tariffs will, therefore, have to be constantly under review. The TEUREM Group discussed at length the steps to be taken and the course to be followed to meet this situation; these discussions are partially reflected in some of the specific questions contained in the new questionnaires.

Certain administrations described the difficulties they will experience in applying as from 1 January 1975 the standard rates laid down for the "transmission" element in Recommendations D.300 R and D.301 R. It was not possible, however, to reach unanimity on a proposal for the extension of the current transition period. In view of this, the TEUREM Group decided that the final rates will come into force as planned, but that a new study of the costs of telephone and telex services will be undertaken immediately. A small group consisting of the Chairman of the TEUREM Group and one delegate each from the Administrations of the Federal Republic of Germany, France, Spain, and the United Kingdom was set up to make the necessary amendments as soon as possible to the questionnaire utilized during the previous study period, in order to adapt it to present requirements. It did this at a meeting at the CCITT Secretariat, Geneva, on 16 and 17 May 1974. The Administrations of the Europe and the Mediterranean Basin Region are therefore requested to reply to this questionnaire also by the end of December 1974.

W. J.