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GAZETTE DU GRAND PALAIS

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

N° 1. (E)

NOTICE :

This journal, which will appear from time to time in three languages, is not an official Conference document. It will contain only observations, information, reflections and suggestions, outside the work of Committees or of the Plenary Assembly.

The Editor will welcome both criticism and congratulations, although he expects neither to merit the one nor deserve the other.

The GAZETTE will endeavour to provide a fare somewhat less arid than that to be found in Conference documents, resolutions and minutes.

It is hoped to issue something which, on a different scale, may play a part similar to the modest role taken by the "Morning Electron" during those memorable days in Atlantic City. It will endeavour to remind delegates that although their work may give little scope for fantasy, their lot is nevertheless cast in pleasant places (particularly at this time of year) and that Paris is a city where a little wit is never looked at askance.

OVERTURE:

From the first meeting of the Heads of Delegations, when the singing and hammering of workmen could still be heard behind the burlap, it was quite apparent that the French Administration had done everything to give the conference a setting of gaiety, comfort, taste, and even luxury. Work in ancient, dusty rooms or in hotel vestibules is always best avoided.

It also very quickly became apparent that, in accordance with a habit which is tending to become a tradition, the most specialised technicians must either touch upon, or delve into, political matters in spite of themselves. After the receptions in the grand auditorium of the Sorbonne, which has witnessed the passage of so many scholars, philosophers and historians, in the Palais Matignon, home of the Head of the Government, in the Hotel de Ville de Paris, where everything evokes the long and glorious history of a city which is also one of the great capitals of the world, in the Palais de Chaillot, before which the Grandes Eaux were playing, it was necessary, as soon as it had been decided to set to work to take up the question of the S.C.A.P. and Japan.

Thus were we given the opportunity to see the veterans of the I.T.U. oratorical tournaments enter the lists without further delay: The doyen GNEME, about whom one is finally led to wonder - so much has it become a habit to think of him as a bird of passage - when he is ever able to alight in Italy; Mr. TOWNSHEND and his pipe, vigilant to defend, in the best King's English, the charters and institutions of the Union; ABAZA BEY, expressing himself as easily in English as in French, who watches no less jealously over the orthodoxy and independence of the Union; the pugnacious Mr. LAFAY, as firmly attached to the law as a peasant from the heart of France is attached to his soil; Mr. COLT DE WOLF, surrounded by an imposing phalanx of Delegates from the New World, who has not yet spread before him the pile of documents upon which, without consulting them, he customarily leans to support his arguments; Mr. SCIE-TON-FA, Delegate of China, who speaks with the shrewdness of an Oriental jurist in that perfect French used by the inhabitants of the Loire valley; Mr. Jan BUSAK, of Czechoslovakia, whose first recollections of international conferences go back to 1934; and Mr. GRIGOROV, Head of the Delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, who has proved that he is still as alert and tenacious in debate as at the Copenhagen Conference; and many others.

The veterans of the Paris Conference of 1925 have met again: Mr. GNEME and Mr. SCIE-TON-FA, already mentioned; Mr. NICOLIS, Delegate of Greece; Mr. CASSAGNA,

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who formerly protected the interests of Senegal; Mr. RUSILLON, former Secretary of the Berne Office and now Senior Counsellor of the I.T.U.; Mr. OULEVEY, once of the Swiss Delegation, now Secretary of the I.T.U.; Mr. HOCHE, of the Compagnie Radio Air France; Mr. CARBOUX and Mr. SMYTH of Western Union; Mr. WEBB of the Commercial Cable Company. And it was with pleasure that we recognized the blonde and smiling Mrs. DOUNAIEVA, of the Delegation of the U.S.S.R., who has never failed to lend very useful aid to the interpreters in difficult moments.

PROFILE :

Albert Möckli, Head of the Swiss Delegation, Chairman of Committee 2 (Telephone Committee).

Born on December 26th, 1886, worked for the development of telephony since 1909. After serving as services' inspector at the telephone exchange section of the General P.T.T. Administration and then as head of this section after 1925, he was appointed Head of the Telegraph and Telephone Division of this Administration in 1943. When the General P.T.T. Administration was re-organized, Mr. Möckli was first appointed Director of the Telegraph and Telephone Division and later deputy to the General Director of the Swiss P.T.T. Administration. On February 4th, 1949, he celebrated 40 years of service in the Swiss Administration.

Mr. Möckli is one of the pioneers of international telephony. An expert on telephone operation matters, he was one of the founder members of the C.C.I.F. when this organ was set up in Paris in 1923. He acted there as delegate of Switzerland with regard to all questions dealt with by the 6th and 7th Committees of Reporters, which were responsible for the study of telephone working and tariff questions. The Plenary Assembly of 1938 nominated Mr. Möckli Chairman of these 6th and 7th Committees. The heavy responsibilities with which he was entrusted obliged Mr. Möckli to resign the chairmanship of the 7th Committee at the time of the Plenary Assembly of London in 1945, and to assume the chairmanship of the Committee for the Auditing of Accounts.

As delegate of the Swiss Government, Mr. Möckli took part in the Administrative Conferences at Madrid in 1932 and at Cairo in 1938. He was a member of the Swiss Delegation at the Plenipotentiary Conference of Atlantic City (1947), where he was entrusted with the chairmanship of one of the principal committees, the General Regulations Committee. At the Plenary Assembly of the C.C.I.F. in 1947, at Montreux, this Assembly nominated Mr. Möckli Chairman of the XIVth session.

The Swiss Government has appointed Mr. Möckli Head of the Swiss Delegation to the present Administrative Conference.

PLEASURES OF PARIS.

Mr. TOWNSHEND, Head of the United Kingdom Delegation, speaking in French and English, at the Palais de Chaillot, extolled the "pleasures of Paris":

Monsieur le Ministre, Mesdames, Messieurs,

Je ne me suis pas attendu à avoir à prendre la parole, mais puisqu'on m'a fait l'honneur de m'inviter à dire quelques mots, je n'ai pas pu le refuser. J'ai la consolation de savoir que j'aurai l'aide de l'excellent service linguistique de notre Union, dirigé par M. Bardoux, qui traduira en français ce que je vais dire en anglais. Je vous prie donc de m'excuser, Monsieur le Ministre, si après avoir commencé de parler en français, la langue de référence de notre Union - une langue que j'ai étudiée pendant toute ma vie sans avoir pu la maîtriser - je continue en anglais.

Ever since we learned, a long time ago now, that the Government of France had been good enough to invite the Union to hold its Administrative Telegraph and Telephone Conference at Paris, those of us in all the countries of the world who are occupied in the administration of international telegraph and telephone services have been looking forward with keen pleasure to this conference - indeed I know that in some countries there was much anxiety not to be left out of the delegation.

Speaking in this magnificent hall, and looking at the splendid view through the window opposite - and after the excellent dinner which you have given us - it is unnecessary for me to dilate on the pleasure afforded by a visit to Paris. As my friends from North America know, we have a saying in England that all good Americans come to Paris - sooner or later, and certainly all Englishmen, good or not, go there whenever they can.

I am sure that this is equally true of many other countries and we are all conscious of our good fortune in being able to visit Paris under such favourable auspices.

This is not the occasion to speak of serious matters, but as one who is old enough to have taken part in international telecommunication conferences not long after the first world war, there is one thing which I do want to say to you. We then looked forward with lively hope to the future, and much good work in reconstructing and improving our telegraph and telephone service was in fact done. But it was destroyed.

I know that it is the deepest hope of all of us that this can never happen again. Our own sphere of international collaboration is a limited technical one, but we know that great efforts are being made - here and now - by those with wider responsibilities to secure the world against another disaster, and we can at least within our technical field, try to show how well international collaboration can work, given that there is patience and good will.

Je continue en français. Je suis sûr, Monsieur le Ministre, d'être l'interprète de tous, en vous exprimant nos sentiments de reconnaissance pour le chaleureux et gracieux accueil que vous nous avez accordé ici, à Paris. Nous vous remercions, Monsieur le Ministre.

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Getting to know one another.

Speaking in the Palais de Chaillot, Mr. GNEME (Dean of the Conference), thanking the French Government and the Reception Committee for all that had been done on behalf of the delegates, said:

"This meeting, and others for which we shall be indebted to our Reception Committee, help delegates to get to know one another and make for friendlier relationships between them. By helping us to understand our neighbour's needs and aspirations, they make it easier to reach the agreements needed to bring our work to a satisfactory conclusion."

GAZETTE DU GRAND PALAIS

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

No. 2.-E.

BACK TO WORK:

After the long Whitsun holiday, with visits to the old quarters and the delightful cafés of Paris and excursions to the gorges of Apremont and Franchard, the delegates have resumed their work in spite of a great temptation to prolong their time in the open air and glorious weather. After the Forest of Fontainebleau, the chestnut trees of the Champs Elysées and the quays! After the Robbers' Cave, the conference rooms of the Grand Palais.

On Friday there is to be a performance of the Damnation of Faust at the opera, and very shortly a visit to the Chateaux de la Loire in the garden of France.

Another welcome piece of news is the reduction of the price of meals in the restaurant to 450 francs. It must be acknowledged in all fairness that much is being done in France to reduce prices and re-establish normal conditions where eating, or even over-eating, is concerned.

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PROFILES:

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Mr. Eugène Thomas

Allow us to introduce to you the Honorary Chairman of the Conference, Mr. Eugène THOMAS, Secrétaire d'Etat à la Présidence du Conseil (Postes, Télégraphes et Téléphones).

Not that we can expect to narrate, in these few lines, all the achievements of a life which is already so full; we can only hope to offer you a few glimpses of this engaging personality, so devoted to public service and the common good.

Born on the 23rd of July 1903 at Vieux Condé, in the Département du Nord, Mr. Eugène THOMAS was one of the six children of a modest Customs official.

He entered the teaching profession, but his need for activity led him at an early age into trade unionism, where his militant leadership soon earned him important positions:

- Secretary of the Northern Section of the Syndicat National des Instituteurs;
- Personnel Representative in the Conseil Départemental and the Commission de Réforme;

In 1936, he was elected deputy of the Département du Nord for the first time, on the ticket of the socialist party S.F.I.O.

After the war and the armistice, he was among those who did not abandon the struggle against the enemy and was one of the most courageous in the early days of the resistance. He accepted the heaviest of responsibilities as member of the underground Directing Committee of his Party responsible for the newspaper "Le Populaire clandestin".

Arrested by the army of occupation, he was first imprisoned at Fresnes and later deported to the Buchenwald concentration camp in May 1943.

After two long years of suffering, best left to the imagination, the Allied victory finally brought liberation in 1945.

For his action during the war and later in the Resistance, Eugène THOMAS received the Croix de Guerre, the Légion d'Honneur and the Rosette de la Résistance.

Just liberated and his health scarcely restored, Mr. THOMAS resumed active political roles as Minister or Secretary of State for the P.T.T., in various governments, almost without interruption since 27 June 1945, with the exception of the period from 26 January 1946 to 18 December 1946.

It is largely due to the inspiring energy of this unrivalled leader that the P.T.T. Administration has been able to make good the devastation of the war and to return to full operation, the traffic rapidly climbing to its pre-war level and finally surpassing it.

This accomplishment, made possible by the ceaseless efforts of the services, was helped to no small degree by the understanding of the Secrétaire d'Etat whose chief concern was to smooth away the obstacles encountered in their task by officials of all grades and to improve the lot of the personnel in the years following the occupation.

Thus, it was possible to put the whole underground and overhead network back into service and its output was constantly increased by the introduction of carrier current systems.

Radio installations and telegraph and telephone exchanges destroyed or damaged have been reinstalled and the fleet of cable-ships built up again.

While tackling this important effort of reconstruction, the P.T.T. Administration has carried on with research under the direction of its Secrétaire d'Etat; so as to be able to offer new facilities to the users, especially in telecommunication matters:

- perfection of a teleprinter type and of devices for a national and international telegraph switching network;
- automatic calling of Paris subscribers by operators of big provincial cities and of the subscribers of some cities from Paris;
- study of new transmission methods, such as the Hertzian Cable which, thanks to high frequency waves, will allow the use of beams of circuits without material conductors;
- in radiotelegraphy, operation by teleprinter, study of a general system of automatic retransmission to eliminate certain precarious long distance connections;
- establishment of radiotelephone relations with Overseas Territories.

This gigantic task did not prevent the Secretary of State for Postes, Télégraphes et Téléphones from balancing the P.T.T. Budget, thus giving proof of great financial ability and demonstrating that it was possible to achieve healthy management for an extensive national service like the P.T.T., at the same time financing large equipment projects.

In closing, we wish to make special mention, in this man who has known the horrors of the Deportation,

of an admirable youthfulness of heart and character. To be convinced of this one has only to recall the speech of our Honorary Chairman at the banquet in the Palais de Chaillot, and the humorous phrases in which he recounted some of the circumstances of his arrest and the annoyances that the absence of a telephone can cause.

II

Mr. Wayne Coy, Head of the U.S. Delegation

The Honourable Wayne COY, Chairman of the United States Delegation, is the Chairman of the United States Federal Communications Commission. He was appointed to this post in 1947. Mr. COY was born on November 23, 1903, in Shelby County, Indiana. He was graduated from Franklin College in 1926. Since that time, he has engaged in newspaper work, notably as City Editor of the Franklin (Indiana) Star, Editor and Publisher of the Delphi (Indiana) Citizen, and, finally, just before becoming Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, he was assistant to the publisher of the Washington Post.

He has held various public posts, first as secretary to the Governor of Indiana, then as State Relief Administrator in Indiana. He then became Administrative Assistant to the United States High Commissioner to the Philippines. He served in Washington as Assistant Administrator of the Federal Security Agency and later as Special Assistant to President Roosevelt.

He has been married for more than 20 years and has two children, Stephen COY and Wayne COY, Jr.

He has received honorary degrees from two colleges, namely, Honorary Doctor of Letters from Franklin College and Honorary Doctor of Music from the College of Music, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. COY has spent some time in the Far East, but this is his first trip to Europe.

III

Doctor Jan Busak, Chairman of Committee No. 1

Born in Prague in 1904, Doctor Jan BUSAK, Chairman of Committee No. 1, whose father was a telegraphist at the central telegraph office, started to work for the Czechoslovak P.T.T. at the age of 18 as a simple telegraphist in the Central Office of the capital, whilst still pursuing his studies at the University where he became Doctor of Law in 1930.

When, from 1929 to 1933, he worked in the Administrative Service of the Post and Telegraph Direction in Prague, he soon became interested in telephony and broadcasting. From 1933 he was a member of the staff of the Postal Ministry and in 1937 was appointed Assistant Head for telegraph operation, becoming Head of the Office of National and International Telecommunication Control in 1948.

Doctor Jan BUSAK's first contact with international conferences was in 1934 when he was a member of the Reception Committee at the Fourth Meeting of the C.C.I.T. at Prague. Today in Paris he has reached his thirteenth international conference; previous conferences worthy of note have been the C.C.I.R. Conference in Bucharest in 1937, the Cairo Telegraph and Radio Conference in 1938, the Atlantic City Conferences in 1947, the Sixth Meeting of the C.C.I.T. in Brussels in 1948 - at which he was Chairman of the R.E. Committee - and the European Broadcasting Conference in Copenhagen in 1948 - at which he was Chairman of the Working Group of the Organization Committee.

As Head of the Czechoslovak Delegation in Paris, Rapporteur of the work of the C.C.I.T. since 1937 and Principal Rapporteur of the Eighth Study Group of the C.C.I.T. in 1948 (European Public Telegraph Network), he has always been known for the clarity and pertinence of his remarks, based on good sense and experience. That is perhaps the reason why he has been chosen to direct the work of Committee No. 1 of the Paris Conference in 1949.

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DO NOT FORGET TO TELEPHONE.

As Mr. Farat, Secretary General at the P.T.T. Administration, remarked to his Minister, it always is a good thing for those speaking at banquets to recount some personal experience connected with the cause in whose honour the banquet is being held. Mr. Eugène THOMAS found just such a story among his own experiences and told it to the delegates of the International Conference on the occasion of the gala banquet given to celebrate the official opening of the Conference, in the following words:

"Well, in May 1943 - I repeat, 1943 - I arrived in Paris on my monthly visit to a group of friends who were occupied with certain things ... how shall I put it ... things which were at that time forbidden. On former occasions I had usually telephoned to the friend who collected these things, before going to his apartment, but this time, in May 1943, I forgot to telephone. If I had done so, I would soon have realized that the voice which answered me was not the one I had expected to hear and I should immediately have gone elsewhere. But I did not telephone, and on arrival at the meeting-place, I was greeted by three gentlemen of the Gestapo

who, to extract certain explanations from me, used arguments of a kind that admits of no reply. This cost me a stay of 9 months in a place near Paris, which I would not advise you to visit, called Fresnes prison, and another 15 months' holiday in a place a little further away - which I would not recommend you to visit either - called Buchenwald.

"By this practical example, I want to prove to the people you represent that by neglecting to use the telephone, they may expose themselves to mortal danger. The telephone is, indeed, an instrument of salvation. In fact, the moral of my story, which I offer for propaganda purposes, is really this: "If you telephone, you'll stay free; if you don't, you'll go to gaol", or alternatively, I might suggest something even more salient: "Non-use of the telephone leads to torture".

"If such slogans don't increase your revenue, there's no hope. That's my telephone story."

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GAZETTE DU GRAND PALAIS

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

No.3.E

"PANAME"

In spite of their exacting conference work and the sultry weather, the Heads of Delegations, Delegates, Experts, Observers and Technical Assistants are still finding time to get to know France. We do not intend to give a full account here of all the daytime and nocturnal wanderings by which they may have become better acquainted with Paris, or rather, "Paname", so dear to all true admirers, but all the same, it is interesting to have had the opportunity, in such a short time, to learn of the benefits derived from discoveries, to meet the President of the Republic, and to occupy a seat in the National Theatre to hear the "Damnation of Faust" rendered by artists of no mean proportions.

Before offering his guests the almost traditional champagne, the President of the Republic, with his usual good humour, observed that it was both a pleasure and an honour for France to receive so many distinguished foreigners and that Paris might justly be proud to see these experts, uninfluenced by political considerations, meeting in order to reach technical solutions, independent of the ideologies of the countries they represent.

It is gratifying to think that the great experts of telephone and telegraph matters are able, from time to time, to forget the provisions, proposals, recommendations, suggestions and formulae of official Conference documents and, attaching no more importance than necessary to official ceremonies, to devote a little time to Paris and all that Paris represents, not only for France and Europe, but for the whole world.

Instead of the deep and abstract reflections of the late Paul Valéry, inscribed on the façade of the Palais de Chaillot, we venture to bring to their notice these simple lines by Guillaume Apollinaire:

Je passais au bord de la Seine
Un livre ancien sous le bras
Le fleuve est pareil à ma peine
Il s'écoule et ne tarit pas.
Quand donc finira la semaine?

On our return from the banks of the Loire we shall be able to speak of Ronsard, the gentle and immortal poet of love and of the charms of the garden of France, so that if Committee 3 finishes its work in good time, it may perhaps take up the question of poetical tariffs for the transmission of telegrams.

PROFILES :

I

Mr. Athanase GRIGOROV, Head of the Delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The Head of the Delegation of the People's Republic of Bulgaria was born in July 1910 at Targovitché, a little town of workmen and peasants in the North East of Bulgaria. One of a family of 6 children and son of a forester, he realised at a very early age the hardships that must be borne by those who aspire to freedom, instruction and education. Having been taught by his family from early childhood of the significance of the French Revolution and its influence on the development of ideas and social upheavals, his one ambition was to work one day in France, the country of the first great revolution.

When only a modest employee of the P.T.T. in Sofia, he was sent to Paris, from 1935 to 1937, to study at the P.T.T. Ecole Supérieure. He then returned to his country to live as an ordinary clerk until 1944, still remaining faithful to his ideals.

From September 1944 he began to play an important role in his Administration as President of the P.T.T. Union at Sofia, and from then onwards he participated in the work of various international conferences - at Bucharest, Moscow, Brussels (C.C.I.T. and Committee of Eight Countries), Copenhagen and Stockholm.

As Head of his national delegation to the International Conference of Paris, Mr. Athanase Grigorov has never missed an opportunity to stress the fact that, by its instruction and its nature, the French P.T.T. Ecole Supérieure has enabled not only Frenchmen like Mr. Lange, Mr. Laffay and Mr. Mulatier but also many foreign students, to gain an extensive and intimate knowledge of the major problems caused by questions affecting communication between nations in general and telecommunication in particular, in a world where international relations are of such primary importance.

II

The Doyen - G. GNEME, Chairman of Committee 3.

One sometimes wonders what an International Telecommunication Conference could possibly be without the Doyen, Grand Officier Giuseppe Gneme, who is more than familiar with all the stipulations, provisions, chapters, sections, paragraphs, sub-paragraphs, reservations, notes

and suppléments to the Regulations, and with all the resources, possibilities and subtleties of debating procedure.

Mr. Gnome was for a long time director of the telegraph and radio-telegraph administrative services of the Italian Administration, where he has worked for 50 years; he is not only an administrator but an innovator and his country owes to him new services and important reforms. Starting in 1904 he prepared the Regulations for the first international radiotelegraph link between Bari and Antivari, and since then his interest in international telecommunication services has never waned. Since 1908 he has taken part in every International Conference, either as a Delegate or as Head of the Delegation of Italy.

Count can no longer be kept either of the number of proposals submitted by Mr. Gnome - proposals which have for the most part been productive - or of the number of Committees of which he has been Chairman during the course of the Conferences of Lisbonne (1908), London (1912), Paris (1925), Washington (1927), Brussels (1928), London (1929), Madrid (1932), Lucerne (1933), Bucharest (1937), Cairo (1938), Montreux (1939), Atlantic City (1947), Copenhagen (1948), etc... It would be easy to establish an impressive honours list in a single summary of the activities of the Doyen of International Telecommunication Conferences.

It should however be noted that he took an important part in all the discussions and debates which led to the creation of the C.C.I.T. (1925) and C.C.I.R. (1927) and that he has always found work to do in the Study Groups and General Assemblies of those Committees.

He is justly proud of having toiled without respite for the reform of code language which resulted in the five letter maximum per word, and of having contributed to the provisional establishment of the CDE telegram tariff, with a view to the application of the reform. He watched with great satisfaction the efforts made by the Cairo Conference in 1938 for tariff unification for telegrams in all languages in the European system. Now, in Paris, he hopes that the work of the present Conference will complete the reform of tariffs by definitely adopting tariff unification for telegrams in all languages in the extra-European system, thus simplifying all services in the interest of users, Administrations and recognized private operating agencies.

To those who still doubt the urgency of international co-operation in the field of technical accomplishment, the achievements and hopes of Grand Officier G. Gnome should be a convincing answer.

III

Shri Hotu R. Thadhani

The Head of the Delegation of India is one of the Conference's most experienced speakers in legal discussions and international techniques. As early as Atlantic City it was obvious that he could never be caught napping when there was a text to be interpreted and that he was always ready to shed the light of common sense when the clouds of confusion thickened during prolonged debates.

Born in August, 1901 in Hyderabad, Sind, which is now in Pakistan, Mr. Thadhani took his preliminary studies at the D.J. Sind College in Karachi. He proceeded to England where he entered the College of Technology, Manchester, in 1921. Graduated with honours in Electrical Engineering, he was granted a research scholarship and received his degree of M. Sc. (Tech.) in 1925.

In 1927 he entered the Indian Posts and Telegraph Department of which he is now Deputy Director-General. He has been responsible for a number of important telecommunication development projects in India.

As a Colonel in the Defence of India Corps from 1942 to 1945, he was in charge of the telecommunication network on the Burma front in the Bengal and Assam area, which was an operating base for the American air lift to China over the Hump as well as a base for operations in Burma.

Mr. Hotu Thadhani played an important part in the work of the Atlantic City Conference in 1947. He is known and esteemed by all his colleagues for his extreme modesty and his constant desire to seek an equitable solution, always calling upon logic and reason.

When he returns to India from the Paris Conference, he will not be short of work, for he is to install a 50,000 lines automatic exchange network in Calcutta to replace the existing manual system.

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La Gazette

du GRAND-PALAIS

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

No. 4-E

"THE ANGEL OF THE CHURCH-SPIRE"

In France, many things can be felt in a short time. Those who never had the opportunity of beholding, either in the haze or sunshine, the pure, high masts of arrows, towers, arches and buttresses of the cathedral nave of Notre-Dame de Chartres, rising like some stately ship above the immense plain of Beauce and the iridescent swell of green or golden corn, can hardly claim to know the soul of France.

For centuries, countless pilgrims have come and are still coming from the provinces, from remote countries and continents, even from the confines of the world, bringing to this masterpiece of architecture their penitence, their despair, their sins and sufferings, their hopes or their curiosity. Under the thickets and groves, in the copses and the shadows of this immense nave, at the foot of slender pillars, under the vault of arches and outstretched ogives, one finds not only an extraordinary penetrating atmosphere, but also the signs of a rich history and an inexhaustible spiritual fecundity. All the exploits of the Middle Ages and the subsequent centuries were engraved forever in the Cathedral, a whole directory and almanach of the common people, with their earthy good humour, the innumerable members of crafts

and corporations: butchers, tanners, vintagers, blacksmiths, cobblers, masons, bakers, money-changers, furriers, image-makers, live side by side or under the protection of the prophets of the Old Testament and Saints of the New Testament. Nowhere in the whole world is there a more expressive piece of sculpture to be found than the "angel of the spire", that delicate, almost ethereal figure, which, smiling enigmatically, from its sun dial mellowed by time, wind and rain, points with a slender shadow finger, to the passing hours, days, months and years which pass into eternity, outside the sphere of human passions.

THE FAULTLESS SPIRE

Much could be said of course about the influence exerted on the life of a people by the presence of such a testimony of faith in the destinies of man, nations and mankind in general. Whatever the origins and beliefs of those who visit Chartres the apostrophe of one of the greatest fighting poets of France could hardly be suppressed:

"Tour de David, voici votre tour beauceronne.
C'est l'épi le plus dur qui soit jamais monté
Vers un ciel de clémence et de sérénité...
Un homme de chez vous nous a fait ici jaillir,
Depuis le ras du sol jusqu'au pied de la croix,
Plus haut que tous les saints, plus haut que
tous les rois,
La flèche irréprochable et qui ne peut faillir."

Even a quick walk under the vaults of Chartres engenders meditation in those who saunter for a few minutes, like pilgrims of old, in the strange environment created by the light filtering through stained-glass windows representing four thousand figures - windows like iridescent, sunlit tapestries, the designs of which are full of symbols and metaphor, the blue of the sky and of the cornflower, the flaxen gold of the corn in the fields, the red of poppies and of martyrs' blood.

THE BROKEN SWORD

It should also be noted -- and this confirms once more the eternal spirit of France -- that it was the young Préfet of Chartres, Jean Moulin, who was the first during the German occupation, to conceive the idea of a group of men sacrificing their lives for the resistance movement an "army of shadows" that has helped so much to keep alive the inveterate spirit of freedom. Those who free from all ambition and vainglory, had either to commit suicide in order to escape torture, or to accept the supreme sacrifice of death by a firing squad in the wan light of dawn, were the worthy followers of the builders and pilgrims of Notre-Dame de Chartres. To honour their memory, a hillock bears a broken sword.

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THE GARDEN OF FRANCE

It is not without reason that the Valley of the Loire has so often been called the Garden of France. As early as the XVIth Century, Rabelais said: "I was born and bred in the Garden of France : Tourraine".

The most striking feature of this riparian land with its languid river is the delicate mildness and the attenuated luminosity in landscapes where everything seems perfectly regular and neatly proportioned.

Those sandy islands; those verdant coppices; those drowsy, opaline pools whose surface is unruffled save by the flight of the screaming gulls and rapid, hunting perch; those tremulous, silver poplars; those osier-beds and gnarled willows which murmur continuously along the banks, those clumps of blackberry bushes, those great groaning wagons which return in the evening loaded with sweet hay, the misty outline of woods and forests scarcely discernible on the blue horizon, those luxuriant vineyards where the September vintage ripens, those chalk caves of troglodytes, those villages and hamlets of white stone and slate, cool and sunny, nestling in the hollows and vales: this is the Garden of France. Those ethereal pastel shades convey more than anything else what life and art mean to a people, in a country where from time immemorial man has laboured and left his influence. When twilight throws a shadow over the landscape, and the belated workmen, wine-gatherers, huntsmen and fishermen wend their way towards the smoking chimneys of the villages, one expects at any moment that cloven-footed creatures and young satyrs will appear among the squirrels, rabbits and deer.

WINE AND LOVE

This is also the land of pitchers of cool wine, the "pineaux" of Vouvray and Montlouis, the "gris meunier", the "gascon", the "breton" which smells of raspberries, the stolid peasants, smiling and ironical, who have seen the passage of many armies and countless tourists. It is burial place of Villon, the poet, and of Leonardo da Vinci, the haunt of Ronsard and Rabelais.

Of Rabelais, Ronsard said:

"Jamais le soleil ne l'a veu
Tant fust-il matin, qu'il n'eust beu,
Et jamais au soir la nuit noire
Tant fust tard, ne l'a veu sans boire.
Car altéré, sans nul séjour,
Le galant buvait nuit et jour".

Ronsard, the poet of jasmin and carnations, of roses and love, of wine and beautiful women, of doves and nightingales, may well be called the poet of the Garden of France, the country which gave birth to the Renaissance, where turrets were succeeded by towers and loop-holes by the great bay windows of large mansions, ornamented and embellished in the newly discovered Italian style.

While a visit to this country proves to us that man has changed little, and that we are not the first to believe that, the *raison d'état* justifies many things, one cannot help thinking that it must have been very pleasant to live in the times of tournaments and jousts and the festivities of the knights and ladies of the court, when castles re-echoed to the voices of hunters and artists and nights were spent in balls, banquets and masquerades in a setting of luxury and magnificence on the banks of a river bathed in moonlight and humming with activity. Times have changed indeed, and today when approaching Chenonceau one is no longer welcomed by young girls dressed as sirens or nymphs, or young men representing satyrs, lining the drive to the chateau, but reminders of the glorious past may still be found.

The wounded swan of Louise of Savoy, the salamander of Francis I, and the ermine of Anne of Brittany and Claude of France call to mind countless intrigues, plots and celebrations, as well as countless disappointments. This is not a dead past which everywhere confronts us, and one almost expects to catch a glimpse of extravagant philandering Francis I; Catherine, with her horses, her astronomers, her poisons, her pages and her fair and gracious ladies-in-waiting; Diana of Poitiers, truly a royal mistress; Joan of Arc, saviour of the king and of France itself; the indomitable Queen Margot; and all that pageant of sovereigns, warriors and poets who did not waste time on philosophical reflection, but who, nevertheless, may have been conscious of the tragedy and futility of life. Thus, for some people the epigram of Francis I is worth all the works of Spinoza and Descartes; "Woman is fickle, unwise is the man who trusts in her".

It was unnecessary, then as now, to take every precaution, as testified by the Amboise executions, the quarrels between Catherine and Diana, the assassinations of the Duke of Guise and the Cardinal of Lorraine, which after all are not so far removed from the bombardments and destruction of recent years, the traces of which are evident in the devastated quarters surrounding towns and bridges.

Chenonceau, Azay-le-Rideau, Blois, Langeais, Amboise, and the noble pile of Chambord, standing in 5,500 hectares of game forests, with its 74 stairways, 440 rooms, 365 chimneys (which some think would afford excellent temporary quarters for the International Telecommunication Union during these rather overcrowded days, when the Secretariat required a holiday, or for political and technical discussions, which might be held privately on the terrace) - all this, too, is essentially France.

"GATHER YE ROSEBUDS WHILE YE MAY...."

The charm, hospitality and wit of an indomitable and warlike people cannot be better expressed than in these lines of Ronsard:

"Verson ces roses près ce vin,
Près de ce vin verson ces roses,
Et boivon l'un à l'autre, à fin
Qu'au coeur nos tristesses encloses
Prennent en boivant quelque fin."

.....

"Quand vous serez bien vieille, au soir à la chandelle,
Assise auprès du feu, dévidant et filant,
Direz, chantant mes vers, en vous esmerveillant,
Ronsard me célébrait du temps que j'estois belle.

Lors vous n'aurez servante oyant telle nouvelle,
Desja sous le labeur a demy sommeillant,
Qui au bruit de mon nom ne s'aïlle resveillant,
Benissant vostre nom de louange immortelle.

Je seray sous la terre et fantome sans os:
Par les ombres myrtheux je prendray mon repos:
Vous serey au foyer une vieille accroupie,

Regrettant mon amour, et vostre fier desdain.
Vivez, si m'en croyez, n'attendez a demain:
Cueillez des aujourd'huy les roses de la vie"

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To reread and repeat these lines is the best tribute
one can pay to the Reception Committee which enabled us to
visit these splendours, and to the hostesses who spared
neither time nor trouble on our behalf.

La Gazette

du GRAND-PALAIS

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

No.5 - E

"BLUE SHEETS"

In spite of the heat, excursions, receptions and diversions, in spite also of the attraction that Paris holds for all foreign visitors in its belle saison, the rhythm of the International Telegraph and Telephone Conference is - if only by comparison with that of other international conferences - extremely satisfactory and encouraging.

The major work of ground-clearing, research, preparation, and of confronting points of view has now been done, and now at the beginning of July are already appearing the "blue sheets" of the Telephone Regulations, heralding the "pink sheets" and "white sheets", heralding also concrete understanding on certain points. Debate on the very critical and thorny question of unification of rates is well under way, and once more the Delegates showed, last Friday, that they were prepared to defend jealously the autonomy of the Union vis-a-vis the United Nations, particularly in the matter of privileges and immunities.

AT THE EIFFEL TOWER

One experiences a most agreeable sensation in taking a glass - or even several glasses - of champagne on the first floor of the Eiffel Tower when, down below, the world of mortals gasps and pants in the heat and the dust.

The reception given by the T.S.F. and Cable Companies offered visitors to France a view more elevated, so to speak, and more profound, of what that immense agglomeration called Paris represents, with its cathedrals and domes, its groves and gardens, its river, its bridges, and the jumble of streets and avenues in the mass of varied and picturesque districts.

AT THE CHAMPS-ELYSEES

The French Telecommunication Companies had arranged things well for the evening in honour of the Delegations at the Champs-Elysees Theatre on June 28.

It is certainly not every evening that one can enjoy the luxury of hearing the musicians of the Pasdeloup Concerts conducted by Albert Wolff, Henriette Renie's harp sextette, without equal in the world, Paganini's concertos played by Rene Benedetti; the luxury of seeing Yvette Chauvire and Serge Lifar dance, of following the poetic and lively subtleties of the "Princesse des Ondes"; the luxury, in other words, of understanding in a few hours all that the Comedie Francaise, the Academie Nationale de Musique et de Danse, the Concerts Pasdeloup and the Theatre National de l'Opera represent for France and for the world.

Add to all this the fact that it would be hard to find for a select public and an elegant audience a more appropriate setting than that of the Champs-Elysees Theatre, in a district near the heart of the Grand'Ville whose avenues and chestnut trees lend to the belle saison something of remoteness, even freshness, and one is bound to think that the memory of such an evening will not quickly fade from the minds of those who were invited.

P R O F I L E

Mr. Carlos Ribeiro

About the time when the Doyen, Mr. Gneme, was attending his first international conference in Lisbon, in 1908, Mr. Carlos Ribeiro, the youngest of the Heads of the Delegations, was an infant, aged one, just learning to walk, in the little village of Pinheiro de Bemposta in the North of Portugal.

Son of a railway official, the present Head of the Portuguese Delegation distinguished himself at an early age, graduating in mathematics at the Faculty of Science of the University of Porto in 1932 and becoming "Assistant Professor" in the mathematics section of this Faculty the same year. After obtaining his electrical engineer's diploma, he was attached to the P.T.T. as engineer, and then spent some time with the Ministry of Posts in Germany and the Siemens Company at Halski in order to gain experience. At the age of 35 he was chief of the telephone equipment division of the P.T.T., and in his own country, he took an active part in the installation and planning of new telephone and telegraph networks, which, after 1938, were built on extremely modern lines. In 1937, while still directing the installation of telecommunication networks, he was appointed Assistant Administrator of the P.T.T., and in 1948 was chosen by his Government to serve on the Administrative Council of the Zezere Company, the most important hydro-electrical company in Portugal. (The Zezere is a tributary of the Tagus.) This company is engaged in building operations on a vast scale, and their largest dam should be finished by 1952.

Mr. Carlos Ribeiro has become well known to international telecommunication experts, since he has acted as delegate to the meetings of the C.C.I.T. (1936) and the C.C.I.F. (1936, 1938 and 1946) and as Head of the Delegation to the European Broadcasting Conference (1939), the Plenary Assemblies of the C.C.I.F. (1945 and 1946) and the International Telecommunication Conference at Atlantic City (1947). He has earned the reputation of being able to analyze the most complicated of problems, and, with a logic essentially Latin, to find a solution to what may appear to many an enigma. His clear reasoning, combined with invariable courtesy, gained him the Chairmanship of Committee 4 at the Paris Conference, where he directs with authority the most varied and often tortuous discussions.

These, we believe, are the principal characteristics of the young scientist and administrator, who, in addition to the important posts which he holds in his own country, also represents Portugal in the Administrative Council of the International Telecommunication Union.

La Gazette

du GRAND-PALAIS

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

N° 6 - E

THE PLEASANT PLENARY

Those who knew Mr. Laffay, the semi-scrumbulant, semi-phantom Chairman of the Drafting Committee of Atlantic City, who, in the hours of anguish and supreme triumph of this Conference, worked long after dawn on the texts which now form the "Bible" and the Charter of the International Telecommunication Union, were not surprised to see the Head of the French Delegation conduct the fourth meeting of the Plenary Assembly with frankness, perspicacity, good humour and efficiency. The absence of the Chairman, Mr. Lange, due to illness, was regretted by everyone.

Although the matters under discussion were, by nature, exceedingly dry, there were moments when the exchanges of wit were guaranteed to rouse, if necessary, the participants and onlookers of an Assembly which had to contend with the overwhelming heat and pedantic discussion, argument and quibbling.

The Chairman found time to refer to the necessity of good food and good digestion, the importance of unanimity, or at least, the illusion of unanimity, the bigamous position of those who are married to both telegraphy and telephony, the celebrated eloquence of the French, which although well-known, should be imitated as seldom as possible, the art of eliminating difficulties as the best way of solving them, and of the need in the final instance to refer thorny problems of syntax in the French and English languages to the constitutionally bilingual Canadians.

Mr. Colt de Wolf, expert linguist and Master of Drafting, who seems able to juggle at will with words, full-stops, commas, expressions, idioms, articles, paragraphs and sub-paragraphs, said that where questions of purism in the English language were concerned it was best to remain neutral (in this connection, he might have quoted the famous remark of Bernard Shaw: "The English and the Americans are two great peoples widely separated by a common language").

He predicted that some day it might be necessary at conferences to call upon Anglo-English interpreters, and illustrating things untranslatable, he referred to the French expression "le vol d'oiseau" which was translated into English by "as the crow flies", while the American expression "to eat crow" was translated into French by "ne pas avaler de couleuvres". It was pointed out here that perhaps there were no crows in New Zealand, although this was an English-speaking country.

The Delegate of Portugal, adding a pinch of salt to the discussion (cum grano salis), emphasized that grammar was as essential to the Regulations as salt was to food.

During the discussion of the relative merits of "lettres-télégrammes" and "télégrammes-lettres", Shoukry Abaza Bey, the well known polyglot, went so far as to say that there was quite a difference between "une femme maîtresse" and "une maîtresse femme", although he would refrain from discussing the relative merits of either, since this would probably call forth a reprimand from the benevolent Chairman of the meeting, who never confused "gallicisme" and "gauloiserie".

PROFILE : Shoukry ABAZA Bey

An audience listening to Shoukry Abaza Bey, whether he be speaking in English, French or Arabic, is inevitably struck by the speaker's meticulous concern for logic. He is, as is well known, a stubborn defender of the independence - one might almost say the virginity - of the International Telecommunication Union.

It is always a pleasure to find that the high officials of important administrations include within their ranks such a forthright personality as the Director-General of the Egyptian Telegraph and Telephone Administration, a man who has learned much as a result of his extensive studies and travels.

Chairman of the International Broadcasting Organization (O.I.R.) from January, 1948 - June, 1949, Egyptian Delegate to the Transport and Communication Commission of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, Member of the Higher Council of Broadcasting of the Egyptian Government, Member of the Electricity Committee of the Fouad 1st National Research Institute, examiner at the Universities of Cairo and Alexandria, Member of the Royal Egyptian Society of Engineers, Member of the Administrative Council of the I.T.U., Shoukry Abaza Bey was born in 1901 on his family estate in the province of Charkieh, through which passes the Suez Canal, the scene of the revolt against French occupation during the Egyptian campaign and of the battle of Tel-El-Kébir between the Egyptian and English armies. After graduating from the Polytechnic School of Gizeh in 1922, he entered the P.T.T. Administration as an engineer and was immediately sent to study in Europe. In 1938, he was appointed chief engineer of his Administration. During the war, he was responsible for carrying out the provisions of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of 1936, so far as concerned telecommunications. He put into effect his own scheme of telephone communication by carrier waves between Cairo and Khartoum, a distance of 2,200 km.

Promoted Director-General of his Administration in 1947, he represented his government at numerous international conferences, taking an active part in the work of the Atlantic City Conferences, where he was chairman of the Finance Committee of the Plenipotentiary Conference.

The manner in which the Head of the Egyptian Delegation to this Conference has discharged his heavy responsibilities explains why His Majesty the King of Egypt has conferred upon him the title of Bey, and why he has been made a C.B.E. and Member of the Istihkak Order of the Syrian Republic.

It may, indeed, be surprising that a technician as busy as he is should still find time to belong to motoring and hunting clubs, and should miss no opportunity of visiting the museums, castles and antique shops of old Europe. That, surely, amply disproves the fallacy that all technical experts are oblivious to everything but their technical interests, figures and reports.

PROFILE : Mr. L. Bedin

The Europe-Africa office of the International Civil Aviation Organization is responsible for implementation of air navigation procedures throughout the whole of this region and in the North Atlantic (meteorological services, met. ships, the Loran chain, operated conjointly by the United States, the United Kingdom, France and other countries, etc.). The amount of flying done is steadily increasing, with the result that ancillary ground services are expanding. Furthermore, the technical and legal complexity of modern air navigation is leading to a growing volume of bilateral and multilateral agreements. Hence the Representative of I.C.A.O. in this area occupies a position which is becoming more and more important.

The International Civil Aviation Organization has chosen as its Observer at the Paris Conference one of the most outstanding personalities in the world of aviation. Mr. L. Bedin is an ex-pupil of the French Naval College with a diploma in aeronautical studies; as a Captain in the French Navy, he was Naval Attaché at the French Embassy in London. He is 47 years of age. During the war he served in England as a volunteer ferry pilot, and from 1942 to 1944 put in a good many hours ferrying Spitfires, Typhoons and Mosquitoes. From 1944 to 1945 he was in charge of French naval aviation in the United States, serving in Washington. Since November, 1946, he has been Director of the Europe-Africa office of the International Civil Aviation Organization, a specialized agency of the United Nations. Not only an experienced technician but the blandist of diplomats, Major Bedin is an Officer of the French Legion of Honour.

The Ile-de-France

It is a matter for regret that a time limit has been set for this Conference. There is no doubt that given six months or so to play with, our indefatigable Reception Committee would have succeeded in acquainting us with all that is worth seeing in the realm of France.

The best means of recovering from the heat and from the mental convolutions induced by drafting the Regulations is to switch on the wireless and listen to something by Inghelbrecht, Franck, Saint-Saens, Moussorgsky, Rimsky-Korsakov or Beethoven, and then to go for a ramble in the country.

Last Sunday took place a drive through the Ile-de-France, designed to show us the attractions of the historic area surrounding Paris, an area where carp of immemorial age disport themselves in pools, silently, as befits the heat of summer.

The famous house of Condé spent much time and many francs (gold) collecting furniture, drawings, sketches, Chinese curios, tapestry, miniatures and books of priceless value. And how could one possibly forget the Madonna and the Three Graces of Raffaello Santi, or the Molière by Mignard?

To visit the Abbey of Chailly, and Ermenonville, traversing en route the forests in which Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Gerard de Nerval once sought solitude and melancholy, is not only an act of pilgrimage. The traveller gets to know a country which is still a source of inspiration for artists and writers. If the Gazette were an anthology, we could cite a good deal in support of this statement. Suffice it to say that the great writer Louis Bromfield liked to visit Chailly, home of his old friend Louis Gillet, of the French Academy. Here it was, Bromfield once wrote, that he had come to understand why France should be loved and defended.

La Gazette

du GRAND-PALAIS

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

No.7 - E

"MANON" or the delights and dangers of Paris

Those who will soon be returning to their countries, near or far, can hardly deny that they have had an opportunity of gleaming a great number of images, souvenirs and impressions during their sojourn in Paris.

After the parade along the Champs-Elysees in the presence of the President of the French Republic, the presidents of parliamentary assemblies, the white-gloved cadets of St. Cyr, with their epaulettes, red trousers and shakos adorned with cassowary feathers, after the popular dances, songs, lanterns, accordion music and the fire-works of the 14th of July, it was, whatever one might think, a play with a moral that the honourable Delegates were offered at the Opéra Comique.

Most charming, the delightful Manon, so fair and slim, especially in the monastery scene. But this famous story, which has brought such bitter tears to so many pretty eyes, points no other moral than the dangers Paris holds for those who arrive without being duly warned.

Of course, armoured and steel-clad by years of experience in the services of Post, Telegraph and Telephone, one can withstand, more readily than the Chevalier des Grieux' sweetheart, the temptations which sometimes lead the most charming creatures to perdition. And who can aver that the destiny of Manon might have been quite different had she had the opportunity of using the telephone, telegraph or "letter telegrams"?

PROFILES

I

Mr. Jozsef BENKO. Head of the Hungarian Delegation

One of the most striking things about the Head of the Hungarian Delegation is his eagerness to know and to understand, not only what is happening in the Conference, but also the daily life of the country in which the Conference is taking place.

Mr. Benko was born in Oroshaza in 1906, in the heart of the great Hungarian plain. He received an elementary education and for no less than 17 years worked as a mechanic in various automatic exchanges; working not only by the day but sometimes even by the hour. This did not prevent him from studying French in his spare time; he soon came to feel and appreciate the logical force and elegance of the language. As soon as he could manage to do so, he began to follow the courses given in Budapest under the auspices of the French Legation by Professor Louis Renoult, a native of Dijon, who was destined to be shot by the Germans during their occupation. In 1940, Mr. Benko was authorized to continue his studies, whereupon he passed his baccalaureat, got a job as a civil servant, and became Doctor-at-Law after legal studies lasting from 1942 to 1946. He now has a permanent job at the General Directorate of Communications, with the rank of Postal Councillor. His knowledge of all the ins and outs of the telephone service is all the more thorough in that he started from the very bottom; at a pinch, he would be able to take over from the humblest workman.

This is his first journey abroad. As soon as he arrived in Paris he tried to see for himself what was happening in a country which, like his own, is recovering from the grievous hurt inflicted on it during the war. Mr. Benko speaks with deep emotion of what he has seen in the libraries of Paris. "You could read in the students' faces," he says, "their thirst for knowledge and the satisfaction they feel in obtaining it."

II

Mr. Henry William CURTIS. Head of the Delegation of New Zealand

Born in New Zealand in the year 1897, the Head of the Delegation of New Zealand, who is in every way a self-made man, is one of the two Deputy Directors General of the Post and Telegraph Department in that country. For a number of years prior to being promoted to his present position he was the Director in charge of telecommunications.

Mr. Curtis's knowledge of telecommunication matters, both from the point of view of the network in his own country and in the international sphere, is an extensive

one. He joined the Post and Telegraph Department as a message-boy in 1910 and was promoted cadet in 1913, receiving all-round Post Office training. In 1928 he became a telegraph Supervising Officer in Auckland - the largest city in New Zealand. For the last 15 years he has played an important part in the administrative and day-to-day operations of the telegraph, telephone and radio systems in use in New Zealand.

During the past 5 years Mr. Curtis has found that his duties in the field of international telecommunications have taken him away from his country for quite lengthy and frequent intervals. He has attended a number of telecommunications conferences held within the British Commonwealth and represented his country at the Bermuda Conference in 1945. He participated in the International Meeting on Marine Radio Aids to Navigation (I.M.M.R.A.N.) in the United States in 1947 and was the head of the New Zealand Delegation at the series of conferences held in Atlantic City, i.e. the Plenipotentiary Conference, the Radio and High Frequency Broadcasting Conferences. At the Radio Administrative Conference of Atlantic City, Mr. Curtis was elected Vice-Chairman of the Credentials Committee and Chairman of the Committee which dealt with accounting and the Additional Radio Regulations.

This is not Mr. Curtis's first visit to this country as he served in France as a member of the New Zealand Forces during the 1914-18 war. He is accompanied by his wife who spent some of her early years in Dinan, Brittany.

III

Mr. Karl LOMHOLDT, Head of the Delegation of Denmark

When the debates in one of the Committees or in a meeting of the Plenary Assembly begin to drag, or when they wander from the straight and narrow way of common sense and logic, there is always someone to ask - often tardily - "What does Mr. LOMHOLDT think?"

The Head of the Danish Delegation, who is an old conference hand, always knows how to guide the debate back to its own province, to bring out the salient points of the problem under discussion and to advance a reasonable solution. It does not necessarily follow that his advice is taken, but it remains to be proved that the majority is always on the side of logic and reason.

Born in 1891 in Fredericia, which was already an important telecommunication centre and an important link in the chain of the Great Northern Telegraph Company, Mr. Lomholdt joined the telecommunication service in 1907 and worked in all the departments, both telegraph and telephone.

When he was promoted to the central administration in 1920, he held various posts and took part in numerous regional and international conferences.

Perhaps we may be permitted to remark that before he became an important official in his country and a highly esteemed expert in meetings and international conferences, Mr. Karl Lomholdt learned the rudiments of his profession as an employee of the Great Northern Telegraph Company in 1910 and as a wireless operator from 1912 to 1914. It is gratifying to know that one who speaks learnedly of principles did not shrink, once upon a time, from taking a hand at the oar - if we may so express ourselves.

IV

W.E. CONNELLY, Head of the Delegation of Canada.

W.E. Connelly entered the Canadian Federal Government service in January 1916 as a junior Account Clerk. During the succeeding years he worked his way up through the ranks until in 1937 he was promoted to Chief of the International Traffic Accounting section of the Radio Division, Department of Transport, and in 1946 to Superintendent of Telecommunications in the same Department.

He has taken part in the British Commonwealth - United States of America Telecommunications Conference in Bermuda in 1945; the Plenipotentiary and Administrative Radio Conferences, Atlantic City, 1947; Commonwealth "Financial Experts" Conference, London, 1947; C.C.I.T., Brussels, 1948; Commonwealth Communications Council meetings, London, in 1948, and in 1949; and last, but not least, the International Telegraph and Telephone Conference, Paris, 1949.

The Black Rat

The fauna of the Conference is steadily increasing. We have already had cats slithering round the gutters like wandering spirits of the Grand Palais, and Willy, the golden cocker of the Gazette. At the last Plenary Assembly a white butterfly was to be seen fluttering from delegation to delegation, blithely oblivious to what was being said.

But there is more to it than that. Quite recently, one particularly hot night, a member of the Secretariat was bent over his work. Suddenly, at half-past eleven precisely, he saw a large black rat enter the room; the animal made its way across the floor into the neighbouring office.

The gentleman concerned got up, went out, and drank two good glasses of cold water. We learn that he has been favoured with no further visits of a similar nature.

In Sylvia's country

Those who have not forgotten their visits to the Forest of Chantilly, to Chablis, Loisy and Ermenonville, might like to know that Francis Carco, of the Académie Goncourt, author of "La Bohème de mon coeur" and "Mortifontaine", has been prompted to write the following verses by a pilgrimage to Sylvia's country:

" pays de Gérard de Nerval
Avec ses bois, ses sources, ses prairies,
Ses horizons chargés de rêveries,
Où le cerf brame et fait, de val en val
Comme un caillou ricoche au clair de lune
Sur l'eau qui dort, retentir tantôt l'une
Tantôt l'autre des voix que l'écho multiplie.

Don't forget to look out for the next issue of the Gazette.

Articles: Have we two doyens ?

Telegraph, Telephone and Confounded Poetry.

La Gazette

du GRAND-PALAIS

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CONFERENCE.

No. 8-E

Have We Two "Doyens"?

Nobody would have the temerity to suggest that Mr. Guiseppe GNAME was not doyen of the delegates to the International Telegraph and Telephone Conference of Paris. But it so happens that we have another doyen, a doyen by right of age, in the alert person of Mr. Julien CASSAGNAC, Honorary Director of the P.T.T. and ex-member both of the Supreme Council for the Colonies and of the Supreme Council of the French P.T.T.

Bright and spry in spite of his 81 years, Mr. CASSAGNAC, here representing the International Chamber of Commerce, still maintains a lively interest in all that affects the French P.T.T. Administration. His name is one to be treated with respect in telecommunication circles.

No doubt the energy of this lively and quick-witted old man explains why he had been so remarkably successful in everything he has undertaken- and he has undertaken a great deal. As delegate of the French colonies, he fought and wrangled in no less than seven telecommunication congresses or conferences, as rapporteur or chairman of committees. Those who took part in the conferences of Paris in 1925, of Washington in 1927, of Buenos Aires in 1928, of London in 1929, of Madrid in 1932, and of Cairo in 1934, will have lively memories of his forthrightness and tenacity in debate.

Mr. CASSAGNAC has spent nearly 30 years of his life overseas, in Tunisia, Madagascar, Martinique, and in French West Africa, and still carries with him the constructive spirit of the pioneer.

Called to Madagascar in 1900 by those remarkable colonisers General GALLIENI and Colonel LYAUTEY, later to be Marshals of France, he put up telegraph lines in areas still unpacified - lines which have already achieved mention in history books.

These exploits in colonial fields did not pass unobserved by the authorities at home, and he was requested to put into effect his own schemes of rationalization and reorganization; these were destined to bear fruit later.

Mr. CASSAGNAC has always been a stout defender of the idea that users and Administrations are better advised to collaborate than to bicker, so that after his retirement in 1918 he was called upon to take his seat in the Supreme Council of the French P.T.T., where he remained from 1923 to 1939. He was responsible for certain reforms which are mentioned in the General Report of the P.T.T. Congress, held during the Colonial Exhibition of 1931. He showed a particular interest in the organization and development of mail delivery by motor transport in rural areas.

As a member for the Supreme Council for the Colonies since 1931, he waged a vigorous campaign in favour of broadcasting the voice of France to French territories overseas. This was finally brought about by an agreement between the Ministry of Colonies and that of the P.T.T.

In 1929 he did much towards the setting up of a Committee for Colonial Broadcasting, and then, in 1930, was entrusted with the task of maintaining liaison between the two ministries concerned in the erection of a special station for colonial broadcasting at Pontoise, which was duly inaugurated on the 1st of April, 1931, the date on which the International Colonial Exhibition was opened in Paris.

This important development gave an impetus to the broadcasting of the news bulletins which are today considered an indispensable ingredient in the life of even the most backward peoples.

There must be many young men, richer in theory than in practical experience who could learn a thing or two from this pleasant, unpretentious old hand at the game. Mr. CASSAGNAC is a gentleman in the real sense of the word, and one who has done much for science, for his country and for its dependent peoples.

Telegraph, Telephone and Confounded Poetry

Mr. Charles KNAF, Head of the Delegation of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and supervisor of the telecommunication section of the General P.T.T. Administration of that country, proves that even the most expert technician may still find a few leisure hours to devote not only to literature but to the most modern poetry. Quite recently, he entertained his colleagues from the various delegations with his knowledge, his experience and his talent when he gave a succinct talk on the French language in Luxembourg and the curse of Paul VERLAINE.

There must be many who have only heard of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg as a result of the Benelux Treaty or the triumph of the Luxembourggeois Goldschmitt at one stage of the Tour de France. This small free, independent and indivisible state, whose area of 2,586 square kilometres is less than the smallest departments of France, has 291,000 inhabitants and three languages: French, German and the Luxembourg dialect which is called "Franco-Mosellan". Since the 12th century, French has been the official language of the country, which explains the natural affinity and literary bonds between the Grand Duchy and France. Here, perhaps, more than anywhere else, one feels this "tremendous thirst for France", of which Jean COCTEAU has spoken. Mr. KNAF said the other day: "In our country we have faith in the immortality of France... for we know that justice, right and beauty will never disappear from the world, and for us, as for many other countries, France is the living symbol of a well-balanced and happy humanity."

The Delegate of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg succeeded admirably in portraying the personality and character of the man who, on the death of Leconte de Lisle, became the prince of poets, the pathetic Lelian, the child-like old man, dressed in rags, whose features were ravaged by alcohol and suffering yet bright with a strange light in eyes the colour of forget-me-nots, wandering from café to café - simple, melancholy, gloomily imaginative.

It was no easy matter, in one brief lecture, to explain the importance of a poet who was a believer in Art for Art's sake, the rejuvenation of Matter by Form, who wanted verse to be at one and the same time sculpture painting, eloquence, and above all music - "de la musique avant toute chose".

Mr. KNAF outlined with enthusiasm the figure of the man who wrote "La belle Chanson", the man in whose life love and absinth played so great a role, the poet of incomparable charm who said:

"Ne croyant à rien, croyant à tout,
Son goût était dans le dégoût".

In short, this was a demonstration as convincing as it was elegant that export knowledge of matters appertaining to telegraph and telephone does not prevent a postman with a tincture of the humanities from appreciating the tragic fate of those who have been called the "accursed" poets: Tristan Corbière, Rimbaud, Mallarmé, Verlaine, Villiers de l'Isle Adam - whom Verlaine himself apostrophized in the following terms:

"Donc, allez, vagabonds sans trêves,
Errez, funestes et maudits,
Le long des gouffres et des grèves,
Sous l'oeil fermé des paradis".

SKETCH

1. Mr. Georges DENIKER - "Dean" of the Linguistic Service -

Sinologue and scholar in many different fields, his vast knowledge of which is astonishing without being offensive, the jovial Mr. Georges Deniker, who is rarely without his ever-burning pipe, wanders about the corridors of the Grand Palais like an English squire of ancient family who has strayed far from his domains and peaceful, bucolic life. This former French diplomat, whose light step and alert mind belie his sixty-odd years, spends the leisure years of a well-deserved retirement in eliminating the obscurities, verbosity and disconcerting controversy - which, Mr. Deniker would be the first to agree, are inappropriate to a technical conference - and **replacing** them by the elegance, and lucidity of the beautiful language used in our discussions.

Much could be said concerning the eminent doyen of the Secretariat. One could discourse at length on the eventful career of Mr. Deniker, and his amazing erudition which is as much in evidence when he discusses the history of Japanese stamps as when he recounts an amusing anecdote apropos of nothing at all which, nevertheless, sparkles out with wit and good humour.

In conclusion we should like to recall the remark made by a certain American Delegate, a well-known personality at our Conference: "He is like someone pouring a stream of light into an impenetrable, swampy jungle," he said. "When I saw Mr. Deniker at work, I understood why France should be loved and defended."

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La Gazette

du GRAND-PALAIS

INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE CONFERENCE

No. 9 - E

C U R T A I N

Well, it's all over. The piece is played out.
The curtain falls.

Now is the time of farewells, of a last re-shuffle of full-stops, commas and sub-paragraphs, of minutes written, translated and distributed with the utmost haste, of proofs coming hot and still wet from the presses.

Now for the thanks; thanks to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Conference, to the Chairmen of Committees, to the Reception Committee, the Rapporteurs, secretaries and shorthand-typists and so on and so forth. When one comes to think of it, it is rather sad and touching. Even the weather seems to be in sympathy and the rain makes us think, one and all, that it is good to go home.

"Il pleut. C'est délicieux; je t'aime.
Nous resterons à la maison.
Rien ne nous plaît plus que nous-mêmes
Par ce temps d'arrière-saison."

As Mr. Eugene Thomas, Secretary of State for Post, Telegraph and Telephone, and Mr. Thadhani, Mr. Gneme, and Mr. Wayne Coy have already said, this Conference has proved that it is possible to work together, in a truly international community, and the Delegates to Paris have had ample proof of the perennial qualities of the French people, for whom liberty is the dearest of possessions.

Now that the heavy task is finished, may that salaried loafer, the editor of the "Gazette", who has seen a few international conferences in his time and might say with the best of them: "I'm an old campaigner who's picked up some wrinkles" - may he be permitted to say that there has rarely been an international assembly that has worked with such a will to achieve practical results and to reach them in such a spirit of understanding and good humour.

But the "Gazette" has some apologies to make to its indulgent readers.

We have been guilty of a serious error of judgment. We presumed that, in the best traditions of telecommunication conferences, it would be necessary to prolong the work by several days, if not weeks. We have not, therefore, been able to draw the profiles of all the Heads of Delegations at Paris; but we are ready with our files for another opportunity. However, we have included below a few biographical notes on three members who have come to the fore in the last meetings of the Assembly.

In conclusion, let us say: Goodbye, good luck, and bon voyage to all!

May we meet safe and sound at Buenos Aires, where we shall probably be trying again to follow the wise advice that our revered doyen, Grand Officer Giuseppe Gneme, will not fail to offer us.

Farewell!

P R O F I L E S

I. Mr. Louis DELANNEY

The United Nations Representative at the Paris Conference, who, in Committee 2 and in the Plenary Assembly, intervened energetically in defence of the interests of the Organization whose primary aim is the maintenance of world peace and security, is especially entrusted by the section of the United Nations at Lake Success which deals with questions concerning aviation, maritime navigation and communications, with all matters relating to the specialized agencies of the I.C.A.O., the I.T.U. and the U.P.U.

Born on March 30th, 1902 at Foix, in the department of Ariège, and son of Mr. Marcel DELANNEY, former Prefect of the Seine and French Ambassador, doctor of laws and bachelor of philosophy, the United Nations Representative was Director of the Transport and Communications section of the International Chamber of Commerce from 1934 to 1947. He took up his present post in the United Nations in June 1947.

He has already distinguished himself by his statements during the Atlantic City Conference, the C.C.I.T. Assembly in 1948, the I.C.A.O. Assembly in Geneva in 1948 and, quite recently, during the Conference for the Safety of Human Life at Sea, in London.

II. Mr. Huibert Johan SCHIPPERS

As we have recently had an opportunity of observing, the Head of the Delegation of Indonesia is most certainly a tenacious person, fervent in the defence of his ideals. He is never at a loss for words and is quick to take advantage of every opportunity.

Born in 1901 at Maasluis in the Netherlands, Mr. Huibert SCHIPPERS became a member of the Indonesian P.T.T. Administration in May 1922, after graduating from the Indonesian P.T.T. College. He was appointed Inspector of P.T.T. services of Indonesia in 1938, and took part that year in the Cairo Telegraph and Telephone Conference. It is perhaps worthwhile mentioning that Mr. Huibert SCHIPPER was interned by the Japanese during the war, and on regaining his freedom, was appointed Chief of Telegraph Communications in Indonesia.

In 1947, at the Atlantic City Conference, in 1948-49 at the discussions of the High Frequency Conference of Mexico City and in 1949, while working in the Conference at the Grand Palais, he has at the same time been present as an observer at meetings of the Technical Planning Committee of the High Frequency Broadcasting Conference which is continuing in Paris the work undertaken by the Mexico Conference.

III. Mr. Stanislas DEBICKI

Of all the countries which suffered during the last war, Poland was undoubtedly one of the most afflicted. Long after the armistice and the end of hostilities, Warsaw was no more than a mass of crumbling ruins. Only with the greatest difficulty could its inhabitants obtain water, gas and electricity. Since all the bridges and tunnels had been destroyed, it took from 24 to 30 hours travelling by circuitous routes to reach Warsaw from Cracow, a distance of 320 kilometres. The buildings of the central post office in Warsaw were completely destroyed, as were its six automatic exchanges (serving 60,000 subscribers). The cables of the network had been uprooted and cut into pieces and no stations remained for the underground and overhead trunk network. Hours were needed to establish a communication between the Polish capital and any other town on Polish territory. All radio installations, had of course been entirely demolished by the invaders and occupation forces. The personnel had been sadly reduced and there was a complete lack of materials for reconstruction. Without the aid of U.N.R.R.A. and the Soviet Army it would have been impossible to re-establish the rudiments of any sort of organization.

The Delegate of Poland to the Paris Conference, Mr. Stanislas DEBICKI, was born in 1896 at Oswiecim. Mechanical and electrical engineer, and P.T.T. engineer in charge of the various exchanges, and the setting up and maintenance of networks, he has also been Vice-Director of the P.T.T. at Lodz and Poznan, Head of a section of the P.T.T. at Warsaw and has participated in meetings of the C.C.I.T. and the C.C.I.F. at Prague, Budapest, Copenhagen, Paris and Cairo. He also acted as rapporteur in the operations Committees of the C.C.I.T. and the C.C.I.F. The 1939 disaster obliged him to go to Roumania, where he lived until 1945. During this

time he worked for social and refugee organizations, and as professor of physics and mathematics at the school for Polish children in Roumania. Since the liberation of his country he has taken a very active part in the reconstruction of its technical services. Three exchanges in the local network have been re-established in Warsaw, and at Wroclaw and Szczecin new automatic exchanges have been installed. Nardly a month passes without some notable improvement being made in the complete reorganization of an efficient telecommunication network in Poland.

It was for all these reasons, and because, in spite of the ebb and flow of events, no one has forgotten the sufferings of the Polish people during the last world conflict, that when Mr. Stanislas DEBICKI spoke in the Plenary Assembly of the martyrdom of his country, delegates from all parts of the world meeting at Paris wished to pay sincere homage to his country.

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