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Stockholm City Hall (Photo: Telestyrelsens Fotoateljé)

After four gruelling weeks, the European VHF/UHF Broadcasting Conference drew to a successful conclusion at 3.15 a.m. on 23 June, 1961, with the signature by thirty-five countries of a Regional Agreement for the European Broadcasting Area. Thus ended what was one of the most hard-working conferences in the history of the Union. It had originally been thought that a minimum of five weeks would be necessary, but for various reasons this had to be reduced to four weeks. This situation was aggravated by the submission to the IFRB, for presentation to the Conference, of frequency requirements, which were not only far beyond expectations, but a large number of which were only received immediately prior to the opening of the Conference or even during the early stages of the Conference itself.

The Conference was opened in the Hotel Malmen, Stockholm, on 26 May, by Mr. Gösta Skoglund, Swedish Minister of Communications. It was attended by delegates of thirty-eight of the forty-one Members of the Union in the European Broadcasting Area, by observers from the European Broadcasting Union, the International Broadcasting and Television Organization, the International Radio Maritime Commission, and the Inter-Union Committee for Frequency Allocations for Radio Astronomy and Space Science, and by

representatives of the General Secretariat, the IFRB and the CCIR.

At the First Plenary Meeting, Dr. Håkan Sterky, Director-General of the Swedish Telecommunications Administration, was elected Honorary Chairman, Mr. Erik Esping (Sweden), Chairman of the Conference, and Captain C. F. Booth (UK) and Mr. A. Badalov (USSR) Vice-Chairmen.

The Agenda for the Conference was in two parts:

THE STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE

NEW PLANS
AGREED
FOR
EUROPEAN
BROADCASTING

by
CLIFFORD STEAD

1. VHF broadcasting

- a) To examine the present situation in the European Broadcasting Area;
- b) to take any steps which, in the light of such examination, proved to be essential, or which were necessary as a result of the entry into force of the Radio Regulations, Geneva, 1959.

2. UHF broadcasting

To establish agreements and associated plans for the use of UHF broadcasting in the European Area.

In addition to the usual Steering, Credentials, Budget Control and Editorial Committees, three main committees were set up to cope with this agenda—a Technical Committee, a VHF Broadcasting Committee and a UHF Broadcasting Committee. The complete committee structure was as follows:

Committee 1 (Steering)	Chairman Vice-Chairmen	Mr. Erik ESPING (Sweden) Capt. C. F. BOOTH (UK) Mr. A. BADALOV (USSR)
Committee 2 (Credentials)	Chairman Vice-Chairman	Dr. F. NICOTERA (Italy) Mr. B. IONITA (Roumanian PR)
Committee 3 (Budget Control)	Chairman Vice-Chairman	Mr. M. DAKIĆ (FPR of Yugoslavia) Mr. J. O'DROMA (Ireland)
Committee 4 (Technical)	Chairman Vice-Chairman	Mr. B. NIELSEN (Denmark) Mr. H. KALITA (PR of Poland)
Committee 5 (VHF)	Chairman Vice-Chairman	Dr. H. JOACHIM (Czechoslovak SR) Mr. T. DJEDIDI (Tunisia)
Committee 6 (UHF)	Chairman Vice-Chairman	Mr. W. KLEIN (Switzerland) Mr. P. BOUCHIER (Belgium)
Committee 7 (Editorial)	Chairman Vice-Chairman	Mr. G. CHEDEVILLE (France) Mr. E. GAVILÁN (Spain)

The Technical Committee immediately set to work to establish the technical bases for the planning to be carried out by Committees 5 and 6. It first examined the report of the CCIR Meeting of Experts which had been held in Cannes earlier in the year to prepare for the Stockholm Conference. Most of this report was adopted by the Technical Committee; however, certain modifications were introduced in connection with propagation over mixed paths in the light of studies made by the Administrations of the United Kingdom and France.

VHF Committee

The VHF Committee then proceeded with the task of bringing up-to-date the plans for VHF Broadcasting established at Stockholm in 1952, using traditional methods. This proved to be a considerable undertaking owing to the very large increase in requirements, particularly for sound broadcasting services. During the course of the Conference, it was decided that, in view of the limited time available and to avoid over-loading the plans, only sta-

tions with a maximum effective radiated power of 1kW or more should be included therein. In spite of this, the evolution of the plans gave rise to long evening and night sessions of Committee 5 and its Working Groups, and it was necessary to have recourse to a punch-card system to cope with the task of sorting, tabulating, and publishing the final plans which consisted of:

- a) a plan for television stations in the frequency band 41 to 68 Mc/s;
- b) a plan for sound broadcasting stations in the frequency band 41 to 68 Mc/s;
- c) a plan for sound broadcasting stations in the frequency band 87.5 to 100 Mc/s;
- d) a plan for television stations in the frequency band 87.5 to 100 Mc/s;
- e) a plan for television stations in the frequency band 162 to 230 Mc/s.

UHF Committee

The UHF Committee was faced with the problem of drawing up, for the first time, a plan for UHF broadcasting, which is developing rapidly in Europe. Members of the International Broadcasting and Television Organization (OIRT) had already prepared a coordinated plan for their own countries, but it was necessary to draw up a plan for the remainder of the European Area, taking into account the problem of potential interference between television services in the areas of contact between these two plans. In the establishment of the latter plan, use was made of a theoretical pattern of channel distribution which had been developed by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) and which was applied in the form of a lattice, adapted in size to the density of projected television stations in the various countries concerned. The technical quality of the plan which was subsequently drawn up was then, in accordance with a recommendation of the Cannes meeting, checked by the IFRB with the aid of an electronic computer, which computed for each station in the plan the degree of interference to be expected from the sixteen stations (operating on co-channel, adjacent channel, image-channel or "oscillator channel" frequencies) which were most likely to cause interference; and adjustments were made accordingly. The programme used by the computer had been prepared by the *Institut für Rundfunk Technik*, Hamburg, in collaboration with the IFRB.

Unfortunately, after the first adjustments had been made and carrier "offsets" had been worked out, there was not sufficient time to carry out further runs on the computer, which might have led to a more perfect plan.

Committee 6 finally produced a single plan for television stations in the frequency band 470 to 960 Mc/s. As in the case of the VHF bands, it was agreed that low-power stations should not be included, and the plan therefore contains only stations with a maximum effective radiated power of 10 kW or above. A second punched-card system was brought into play for the publication of this plan.

The Agreement

The Agreement, which will enter into force on 1 September, 1962, contains procedures for the modification of the characteristics of stations or the introduction of new stations, and, in annexes, technical criteria to be used in the application of those procedures and the Plans themselves.

It was signed by delegations of the following countries:

Austria, Belgium, Bielorussian SSR, PR of Bulgaria, Republic of Cyprus, Vatican City State, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Greece, Hungarian PR, Ireland, Iceland, State of Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Kingdom of Morocco, Monaco, Norway, Kingdom of the Netherlands, PR of Poland, Portugal, Federal Republic of Germany, FPR of Yugoslavia, Ukrainian SSR, Roumanian PR, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Sweden, Confederation of Switzerland, Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, Overseas Territories for the International Relations of which the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland are responsible, Turkey, USSR.

Unfortunately, the delegations of three other countries which participated in the Conference did not have credentials enabling them to sign the Final Acts.

The General Secretariat of the Union is now actively proceeding with the publication of the Final Acts and of a separate booklet containing, for information purposes, the technical bases used by the Conference in its planning work.

This brief report would not be complete without a reference to the hospitality of the host Government, which is traditional. A number of excursions and luncheons was organized, culminating in a banquet in the magnificent Golden Room of the Stockholm City Hall.

Mention must also be made of the outstanding spirit of collaboration among delegations throughout the Conference, the existence of which is witnessed by the fact that at no time was it necessary to take a vote.

VISIT OF MR. DAYAL

The Secretary-General, Mr. Gerald C. Gross, gave a luncheon party on 29 June for Mr. Rajeshwar Dayal, former Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in the Congo. The guests included Mr. D. A. Davies, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO); Mr. A. S. Mehta, the Indian Consul-General in Geneva; Mr. Georges Palthey, Deputy Director of the European Office of the United Nations; Mr. Raghunath Rao, Assistant Director General of the International Labour Office (ILO); and Dr. M. B. Sarwate, the Union's Deputy Secretary-General.

CONGO COMMUNICATIONS CHIEF IN GENEVA

Mr. Nikola Boscović, Senior Consultant to the Chief of UN Civil Operations in the Congo for communications and transport, arrived in Geneva on 6 July for consultations with some of the specialized agencies, including the ITU. He held discussions with Dr. Sarwate, Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Persin, Director of External Affairs and Information, and Mr. Corbaz, of the Technical Assistance Department, on various matters concerning assistance to the Congo, particularly the provision of experts and the training of personnel.

Mr. Boscović, who holds a high position in the People's Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as adviser to the Government on transport questions, has been in the Congo since the end of 1960.

SPECIAL IRE GENEVA MEETING

A special meeting of the Geneva Section of the Institute of Radio Engineers (IRE) was held on 7 July.

The programme consisted of a panel discussion by the five-man IRE International Activities Committee, which has been appointed by this year's President of the Institute, Dr. Berkner, and which consists of Dr. R. L. McFarlan, Consultant (1960 IRE President), Chairman; Mr. E. Finley Carter, President, Stanford Research Institute, (IRE Director at large); Dr. J. T. Henderson, Principal Scientific Officer, Canadian Research Council, Ottawa (1957 IRE President); Dr. H. Rinia, Director, Philips Research Laboratories (1956 IRE Vice-President); and Dr. E. Weber, President, Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn (1959 IRE President). The Committee was visiting IRE Sections in Europe from 19 June to 14 July.

The subject of the panel discussion was the "future of electronics." It was introduced by Dr. McFarlan, after which each member of the Committee delivered a short message on the theme of the meeting. An interesting discussion followed.