

I will not attempt to outline progress in all of these special fields, but there are two in which I know you will be interested--Aviation and Marine, both of which may be classed as safety services.

Recent departmental activity in the field of aeronautical telecommunications includes Airway VOR and radar--improved air traffic control displays and data processing systems, meteorological facsimile and high speed data transfer and computation. We must also work towards improved air/ground communications in Northern Canada and on the longer overseas routes.

In the field of marine telecommunications, the Department is continuing its improvement of marine radio services and is studying the possibility of expanding radio traffic control to include certain canals, locks and other confined waters. The matter of authorizing operation of radiotelephone equipment by ships officers for bridge-to-bridge communication is also under consideration.

So far, I have outlined some comparisons between present day telecommunications and telecommunications of fifty years ago. During that fifty years Canada has come to full nationhood and her industrial growth has been phenomenal. Unquestionably telecommunications played an essential part in this growth and in many ways in the unprecedented expansion of our mining, lumbering, fishing and transportation industries.

Statistics show that the growth of telecommunications in Canada in recent years has exceeded that of most other industries. The designers and manufacturers of telecommunications equipment have reason to be proud of their part in this development and its aid to the growth of Canada.

Throughout this growth it has been necessary to relate the developments within our country with other countries of the world. International co-ordination of telecommunications is accomplished through the medium of the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Specialized Agency in the field of telecommunications. The International Telecommunication Union is one of the oldest international organization of governments and dates back to 1865 when it started as the Telegraph Union. Subsequently, its activities were broadened to cover the field of telephone communications and the field of radio.

Basically, the functions of the International Telecommunication Union are founded on the essential need for international co-operation in the field of telecommunications. Ninety-five countries including Canada hold membership in the Union and the decisions adopted by these countries set the pattern for the use of telecommunications throughout the world, while recognizing the sovereign right of each country to regulate its own telecommunications.