

bodies which since 1865 have been concerned with the regulation of these services throughout the world. Canada was a party to the 1906 Convention signed at Berlin, and since then has been associated with the international bodies operating in this field.

The purpose of the ITU is to maintain and extend international co-operation for the improvement and rational use of telecommunication of all kinds, and to promote the development and efficient operation of technical facilities with a view to improving telecommunication services.

The supreme authority for the ITU is the Plenipotentiary Conference which normally meets once every five years. The last Conference took place at Buenos Aires in 1952. The previous Conference (Atlantic City, 1947) entered into an agreement with the United Nations recognizing ITU as the United Nations Specialized Agency in the field of telecommunications, and providing for co-operation between the United Nations and ITU; the Atlantic City Conference also established an Administrative Council composed of 18 elected member countries, and since its beginning in 1947 Canada has been a member of ITU's Administrative Council. The Council normally meets annually and is responsible for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, including annexed telegraph, telephone and radio regulations; the decisions of ITU conferences and meetings; the efficient co-ordination of the work of the ITU; and co-ordination with the United Nations.

The structure of the ITU includes four technical permanent organs—the International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB) which deals with the international registration of radio frequencies, and three consultative committees—Telegraph (CCIT), Telephone (CCIF), and Radio (CCIR)—which conduct studies of technical and operational problems on a world-wide basis. The Plenipotentiary Conference of 1952 made provision for the possible amalgamation of the first two committees (Telegraph and Telephone) which was accomplished in December 1956, with the establishment of the International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT). The VIIIth Plenary Assembly of the CCIR, in which Canada participated, took place in Warsaw in August and September 1956. These consultative committees make a valuable contribution to telecommunication services throughout the world by recommending technical standards and their uniform application.

During 1956 excellent progress was made in carrying out the ITU programme for the implementation of international radio frequency allocation plans, through the co-operation of member countries and the IFRB. This programme is based on the new table of frequency allocations adopted by the Atlantic City Conference which recognized that major changes were necessary to meet the essential requirements of aeronautical and maritime safety services. The implementation of this long-term project, which involves thousands of changes in the use of radio frequencies, is already reflected in the improvement in international and national radiocommunications, especially those necessary to safety services. No improvement, however, has yet been effected in high frequency (shortwave) broadcasting.

The ITU continued to take an active though small part in the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (ETAP) in co-operation with the