

International Telecommunication Union

The International Telecommunication Union, which was organized in its present form by the Atlantic City Convention of October 2, 1947, is the direct successor of the various international bodies which have been concerned since 1865 with the regulation of telegraph, telephone and radio services throughout the world. Its purpose is to maintain and extend international co-operation in the improvement and rational use of telecommunications; to promote the development and efficient operation of technical facilities; to allocate the radio frequency spectrum and register radio frequency assignments with a view to avoiding harmful interference between the radio stations of different countries; to encourage the establishment of as low rates for telecommunications service as possible; and to promote the adoption of measures for ensuring the safety of life through the co-operation of such services.

The supreme body of the Union is the Plenipotentiary Conference, which meets once every five years for the purpose, among other things, of studying the report of the Administrative Council on the activities of the Union, electing members of the Council for the next five years, establishing the limitations of expenditures, and considering whether any revision of the Convention of the Union is necessary. The last Plenipotentiary Conference, at which 90 countries and territories were represented,¹ was held in Buenos Aires in 1952, and carried out an extensive revision of the Atlantic City Convention. The Buenos Aires Convention came into force on January 1, 1954 for those countries ratifying it. Canada ratified the Convention on June 23, 1954.²

Between Conferences the affairs of the Union are supervised by the Administrative Council, which meets annually. Canada has been represented on the Council since 1947, and at the last meeting at Geneva in May 1954, Mr. C. J. Acton, the Representative of Canada, was unanimously elected Chairman of the Administrative Council until the 1955 session. Subordinate to the Council are the Secretariat and the International Frequency Registration Board, both of which are permanently established at Geneva, and three International Consultative Committees on Telegraph, Telephone and Radio, which meet usually every three years.

No general international conferences have been held within the last 12 months, but the International Frequency Registration Board and the three Consultative Committees have all been active. Substantial progress has been made in the application of the Extraordinary Administrative Radio Conference Agreement of 1952, particularly in the adoption of the technical examination and recording procedure laid down and in implementation of the plan for the Aeronautical Mobile and Maritime Mobile Services. As a result a large number of assignments have been brought into the appropriate bands and an important step taken towards the implementation of the Atlantic City Table of Frequency Allocations. The

¹According to the ITU method of listing, which differs somewhat from that of the United Nations.

²See *Canada and the United Nations 1952-53*, pp. 68-69.