

World Administrative Radio Conference on Maritime Mobile Telecommunications

Canada is participating in a World Administrative Radio Conference on Maritime Mobile Telecommunications, which opened in Geneva in the last week of April, under the auspices of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Maxwell Yalden, Deputy Minister of Communications, is leading the Canadian delegation, with F.G. Perrin of the Department's International Telecommunications Branch serving as alternate head of delegation. The Canadian team is composed of senior officials of the Departments of Communications, Transport and National Defence.

Before the conference are such topics as redistribution of radiotelegraphy frequencies, revision of spectrum allotments for high-frequency voice communications and discussion of possible standards for selective calling systems. Provisions for distress and safety communications are also on the agenda.

The meeting, which continues until

June 7, will elect five members to the ITU's International Frequency Registration Board (IFRB). The IFRB evaluates and records frequency assignments throughout the world and offers advice to ITU member states on control and prevention of harmful interference between radio stations.

In Canada, the Department of Communications has the responsibility of ensuring that the best use is made of the electromagnetic spectrum. To that end, it sets technical standards for equipment, assigns frequencies, licenses users of the resource, monitors the air waves, and investigates incidents of interference.

The World Administrative Conferences of the ITU, which deal with radiocommunication, are called from time to time to revise international radio regulations. These revisions, consequently, have an impact on domestic regulations. The last world administrative radio conference on maritime mobile telecommunications was held in 1967.

Federal-provincial bilingualism plan

James Faulkner, Secretary of State, recently announced to the House of Commons that arrangements had been completed with provincial ministers of education for renewal of the federal-provincial program on bilingualism in education. Under this program, effective April 1, the Federal Government will give funds to assist the provinces with the supplementary costs of providing minority language education and second-language instruction for a five-year period.

The objectives of the program, Mr. Faulkner said, were twofold: "To ensure that, insofar as it is feasible, Canadians of either official language have the opportunity to educate their children in their own language, and that Canadian students have the opportunity to learn, as a second language, the other official language of Canada."

Mr. Faulkner continued:

... "As under the existing program, the bulk of federal financial support after April 1, 1974, will take the form of payments made to the provinces based on the number of students enrolled in second-language programs and the time spent on these activities. In addition, a federal contribution of 1.5 per cent of the annual per student cost will be paid to the provincial governments for administrative purposes and will be based on the total number of school children in each province belonging to the minority language group.

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"I expect federal funding to continue at much the same annual level as at present for most elements of the program. Cost of the over-all program during the past four years has averaged some \$70 million annually.

"...I feel that the real answer to recognizing the bilingual reality of Canada is through the school system. If bilingualism is to work, the base must be established within our schools...."

Discontinuance of quarterly index

The subject index, which appeared quarterly in Canada Weekly, has been discontinued. For your convenience, the editor will be pleased to answer any enquiries regarding articles.



One of the efforts by the University of Sherbrooke, Quebec, made with the object of abolishing architectural barriers, is this public telephone for persons in wheelchairs, installed in the

entrance of the university's central pavilion. An entrance at ground level and a wash-room, have also been specially built for the handicapped.

(University of Sherbrooke photo)