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Action programme in favour of developing island countries

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

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INFORMATION RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Specialized agencies

International Telecommunication Union

Within the framework of the United Nations Development Programme, ITU is providing technical assistance in matters relating to the development of telecommunications in various developing island countries. The ITU has very limited resources for direct assistance in addition to UNDP financed projects. However funded, ITU assistance encompasses various activities including the establishment of training centres, assistance in the development of telecommunications, assistance in the operation and maintenance of services and planning and feasibility studies. Some examples of the assistance provided by ITU are mentioned below.

Action in favour of developing island countries
in Asia and the Pacific region

1. Assistance under regional projects

Particularly for the developing island countries of the South Pacific (Cook Islands, Fiji, Gilbert Islands, Nauru, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu, Samoa), ITU is executing a regional project which concerns the feasibility of network development in that area. Feasibility studies were completed in 1978 after about three years of detailed work by a team of specialists. On completion of the feasibility studies the implementation of the programme commenced in early 1979. It is expected that the implementation of the important recommendations of the feasibility studies will be completed by the end of 1980. The major constituents of the implementation programme are the establishment of a satellite earth station for Samoa, establishment of a telex exchange for Fiji, provision of an international exchange for Tonga, establishment of a reliable telecommunication link between Tuvalu and Fiji, and upgrading of telecommunication services in other island countries of the area.

A second regional project deals with the important matter of training the telecommunication and broadcasting technicians and supervisors of the various participating countries in this project (Cook Islands, Fiji, Gilbert Islands, Nauru, New Hebrides, Niue, Tonga, Tokelau Islands, Tuvalu and Samoa). The Regional Training Centre has been established in temporary premises and the permanent building for the training centre is now under construction in Suva, Fiji. In addition to substantive UNDP/ITU contributions, the training centre project is being assisted by the European Economic Community, the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation, and the Governments of Australia and New Zealand. It is expected that the training centre will be fully established by the end of 1980. However, it is also expected that additional assistance will be required for the efficient operation of the training centre after 1980.

Three UNDP/ITU regional projects which benefit all the developing countries in the Region are especially useful to the small island countries which have limited Country Programme resources. These are:

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(a) RAS/72/134 - Radio Frequency Management and Monitoring

Through fellowships and visits of the Project Manager and Experts, this project is assisting the various telecommunication Administrations to establish and run frequency management and monitoring units, which have become essential elements in any telecommunication organization with the rapid expansion in the use of radio frequencies on a world-wide basis.

(b) RAS/75/051 - Development of the Asian Telecommunication Network

(Asia only). Regional experts and consultants are available to assist the small island countries (Sri Lanka and the Maldives, in this case) in formulating long-term plans, solving immediate technical problems, and arranging for longer-term assistance, when required.

(c) RAS/78/050 - Course Development for Telecommunications

A Regional Training Development Expert is provided under this project to co-ordinate training development and course preparation activities related to the Interregional CODEVTEL project. The ultimate availability of substantial course resources from many telecommunication training centres throughout the world will be especially beneficial to small countries.

2. Country projects for developing island countries

(a) Indonesia

Within the framework of UNDP, ITU provided substantial assistance to the Government of Indonesia in various fields of telecommunications; of importance in this respect is the establishment of a telecommunication training centre in Bandung. This project was completed in mid-1979. Another project that has reached the implementation stage is the establishment of a test and development centre, the objective of which is to make the telecommunication engineers self-reliant in the design and specification of equipment for installation in the country. An important aspect of this project will be the utilization of Indonesia's domestic satellite (Palapa) for data transmission between various places.

(b) Maldives

The Republic of the Maldives joined ITU in 1967. That year, ITU sent a regional expert to Malé, the capital, to study the telecommunication situation and to formulate a long-term development plan.

Major recommendations resulted from this expert's mission with regard to:

(a) Provision of international telecommunication services via an HF Link, Malé-Colombo;

(b) Connexion of the international airport to the capital using a VHF Link;

/...

(c) Expansion of maritime communication services; and

(d) Development of the local network.

Subsequently, a UNDP/ITU project (MDV/72/001) provided expertise and equipment to establish the HF and VHF Links, which were immediately superseded by a commercially-operated satellite earth station and associated inter-island communication links for tourism development.

A plan for improving the maritime service was prepared by ITU in 1974 within the framework of a proposed interregional UNDP project (INT/74/035).

ITU funded a mission in 1978 that recommended means for improving the broadcasting service in the MF and HF bands in order to achieve reliable reception in all the far-flung and populated islands in the country.

Further ITU assistance has been proposed to formulate a Master Plan for inter-atoll communications.

(c) Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea is receiving considerable assistance from UNDP/ITU for the establishment of a large-scale telecommunication training centre. The project has been in operation for the last three years and is expected to be fully established in 1982. The trained manpower of the training institute will be able to efficiently operate and maintain the telecommunications services which are continuously being developed in the country.

(d) Philippines

ITU does not have an ongoing technical assistance project in the Philippines. Nevertheless, assistance in upgrading the Telecommunication Training Institute has been sought and is likely to be made available under the UNDP/ITU framework in the near future.

(e) Samoa and Tonga

For the Governments of Samoa and Tonga, UNDP/ITU are providing assistance in the form of expertise and in training fellowships in the planning and installation of various telecommunication links and networks as well as in their operation and maintenance.

(f) Sri Lanka

UNDP/ITU assistance under project SRL/71/527 was instrumental in establishing a Telecommunication Training Centre in Sri Lanka. UNDP/ITU-sponsored fellowships covering a number of specialized telecommunication areas have also been an important factor in updating and improving the technical and management capabilities of the engineering staff.

Sri Lanka has approached ITU for continuing assistance in a number of areas:

Expansion of the Telecommunication Training Centre;

Frequency management and monitoring;

Telecommunication laws and regulations;

Message switching-centre planning;

Traffic engineering;

Maritime communications project;

Test and development centre.

Action taken during 1978 in favour of developing
island countries in Africa

(Cape Verde, Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius,
Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles)

1. Regional co-operation

(a) Integration in the Pan African Telecommunication Network

Assistance was given to prepare technical data and obtain financial resources to carry out feasibility and pre-investment studies of telecommunication links between developing island countries and coastal countries so as to integrate them in the PANAFTEL network. Based on the requests thus formulated by the countries concerned, funds-in-trust were made available to ITU by the Arab Bank for Economic Development (BADEA) to survey the following links as at 1979:

Praia (Cape Verde)	- Dakar (Senegal);
Praia (Cape Verde)	- Bissau (Guinea-Bissau);
Sao Tome (Sao Tome and Principe)	- Douala (United Republic of Cameroon);
Sao Tome (Sao Tome and Principe)	- Libreville (Gabon);
Antananarivo (Madagascar)	- Dar-es-Salaam (United Republic of Tanzania).

(b) UNDP/ITU Telecommunication Training Survey for Eastern and
Southern Africa (RAF/78/019)

Mauritius and Seychelles participated in this project and were provided with detailed recommendations for future developments of their national training facilities and their participation in subregional training schemes for medium and advance levels.

2. Direct assistance

The ITU has very limited resources for direct assistance in addition to UNDP-financed projects which were basically oriented towards other sectors in the country programmes of the following developing island countries. As a result the assistance provided during 1978 was restricted to the following projects:

(a) Cape Verde

One fellowship in Frequency Management (provided under the ITU Special Fund for Technical Co-operation).

(b) Comoros (provided under ITU Special Fund for Technical Co-operation)

One fellowship in Frequency Management, and

Spare parts for the rehabilitation and maintenance of radio-broadcasting installations (\$11,500).

(c) Madagascar (UNDP/ITU project MAG/77/013)

A survey of the Telephone Cable Network of Antananarivo was carried out to determine technical and financial requirements for its improvement and expansion.

(d) Mauritius

Final arrangements were made to undertake a Telecommunication Training Project with UNDP/ITU assistance as of 1979.

(e) Sao Tome and Principe

A one-month mission was jointly financed by UNDP and ITU to assist the authorities in Telecommunication Management and Statistics.

The ITU subregional adviser also provided direct assistance and advice to telecommunication and broadcasting officials and services.

(f) Seychelles (UNDP/ITU project SEY/78/003)

Short-term Consultancy Services to Radio Seychelles were provided by two specialists in radio-broadcasting for a period of two months to advise on the new site and accommodation for the new headquarters of Radio Seychelles, the equipment required for radio reception by Outer Islands and the feasibility of establishing a television service.
