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WARC 79 A meeting of Committee 5 of the conference



WARC 79

by R. F. STEVENS, G2BVN

The largest telecommunications conference yet held finished its work on 6 December 1979. The story of 74 days of meetings, many lasting from 9am until past midnight, is probably of little interest to the average member. However, some basic facts should be put on record.

Duration of WARC: 24 September-6 December 1979.

2,000 delegates/observers from 142 countries and 30 international organizations; 894 plenary meetings or meetings of committees and working groups, plus many smaller meetings.

The frequency allocation table now covers 9kHz to 400GHz, to which there are 487 footnotes.

Committee 5 [frequency allocation] and its seven working groups considered 12,832 proposals for alteration to the frequency table.

The new Radio Regulations comprise 1,150 pages and come into effect on 1 January 1982.

Of the new hf bands at 10.1, 18.068 and 24.890MHz, the latter two are subject to the transfer procedures and availability will be delayed beyond 1982. This applies to all services, not only amateur.

The IARU WARC team was present during the entire conference, and its members attended every meeting at which amateur radio matters might be discussed.

The IARU WARC team comprised: R. L. Baldwin, W1RU; T. R. Clarkson, ZL2AZ; N. B. Eaton, VE3CJ; E. Godsmark, G5CO; B. A. Johnson, WA6IDN; S. Morimoto, JA1NET*; W. Netyksza, SP5FM; D. Rankin, 9V1RH*; P. Seidemann, YV5BPG*; A. Shaio, HK3DEU*; C. L. Smith, W0BWJ; R. F. Stevens, G2BVN, and D. Sumner, K1ZZ.

(* Indicates attendance for part of conference)

In addition there were 154 radio amateurs serving on delegations; a small number of them were present specifically as advisers on amateur radio matters.

Conference comment

Considering the political undertones, the response of WARC to the amateur service was gratifying. Support from the Arab group of countries was most welcome, but continual hostility was encountered from France, Japan, Kenya and Nigeria. Norway was outstanding in support of the amateur service.

The frequency above which administrations may issue licences without a cw test is now 30MHz. This was a decision of particular importance.

A disappointment was the failure by six votes to obtain reference to a 50MHz allocation in Region 1.

A strong resolution was adopted with the intention of removing broadcast stations from 7 to 7.1MHz.

Red Cross emergency communications shall be conducted outside amateur bands. A proposal to allocate specific segments of hf amateur bands for use during natural disasters was replaced by a general resolution on the subject.

There are now amateur satellite segments in bands between 7MHz and 240GHz.

A simplified procedure was adopted for the registration of amateur satellites.

There was no support to allocate a definition and frequencies to a personal radio service (cb). This will therefore be a matter for national administrations.

In view of the complexity and probable cost of the 1979 Radio Regulations, it is intended to compile a booklet which will contain all the items relevant to the amateur service.

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The author would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr D. E. Baptiste and members of the UK WARC delegation for their co-operation and understanding during a difficult and tiring conference. □

The UK delegation at a plenary meeting. Right to left: Messrs J. L. Bantock, D. E. Baptiste, W. H. Bellchambers, M. Goddard and R. J. Dunn. At rear: Dr F. Horner and Mr S. G. Hicks

