

C. S. O.

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TEL/GEN/2#5

S/16/44.

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(Formerly)

SUBJECT :

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY.

Commonwealth Telecommunications Conference.

CONNECTED FILES.

NUMBER AND YEAR.

S/16/44

Commonwealth Communications Council.

EX. CO. MINUTE.

22883/6/49



CIRCULAR DESPATCH

THE CHURCH HOUSE
GREAT SMITH STREET
LONDON, S.W.1

9th December, 1949.

0118/17



SECRET

Sir,

COMMONWEALTH COMMUNICATIONS COUNCIL

Report to Governments,
August, 1949.

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With reference to my Confidential circular of the 23rd September, 1948, I have the honour to enclose, for your information, a copy of the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Commonwealth Communications Council which was held in London during the period from the 21st April to the 16th August, 1949. The Council has since been dissolved and replaced by the Commonwealth Telecommunications Board.

2. Among the matters discussed by the Council were several which are of concern to the Colonies and I wish to draw your attention to the following sections of the Report:-

VI. Financial arrangements under the Third Schedule to the Overall Agreement.

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In paragraph 3 of my Confidential circular despatch of the 23rd September, 1948, I mentioned that the Council had suggested a new Clause 7 of the Third Schedule to the Overall Agreement providing for the substitution of a wayleave scheme for the original Central Fund arrangements. This wayleave scheme proved unacceptable to Australia who tabled proposals for an amended basis of the calculation of the contribution to "common-user" costs. These were considered firstly by the Council and subsequently by a Working Party. The Working Party were, however, unable to arrive at a satisfactory formula affording a reasonably equitable basis acceptable to all concerned, and it was agreed to defer consideration of the problem until the figures for the year 1948, which it was considered might provide more up-to-date and reliable data on which the results of any scheme could be computed, were available.

The Officer Administering
the Government of

/The

FALKLAND ISLANDS

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The basis of computing contributions to "common-user" costs affects only those Partner Governments having financial interest in the successful operation of the Cable and Wireless system and for the time being would not directly affect any Colonial territory. In the event of any Colonial Territory attaining Partner Government status, however, the basis of contribution to "common-user" costs would become of direct concern. In such circumstances the more advanced territories which may in due course become Partner Governments may be said to have an interest in the matter at this stage.

VII. Standard Terminal Charges.

No final conclusions on this subject were possible in the absence of (a) an agreed basis between National Bodies on "common-user" costs contributions and, (b) full consideration of the effects of the decisions reached at the Paris Conference of the International Telegraph Union. The matter is to be further considered when all Partner Governments have furnished their views.

If a satisfactory formula can be devised for both telegraph and telephone charges, standardization would be a valuable step forward and would open up possibilities of simplification of accounting and even elimination of accounting bilaterally or multilaterally where the flow of traffic is reasonably equal. The expansion of radiotelephone services renders early standardization of such charges very desirable. Any observations which Colonial governments have to make on this subject would be appreciated and would be of value to the Representative of the Colonies when this subject next comes up for discussion by the Commonwealth Telecommunications Board.

IX. Direct Wireless Circuits.

This refers more particularly to direct wireless circuits operated between Commonwealth Territories and the United States of America. In this category there are direct wireless circuits between Jamaica (one) and Bermuda (two) and the United States of America. The recommendation in the Report in the case of the New Zealand - United States of America circuit "that in general Partner Governments should resist a diversion of traffic outward from Commonwealth countries to the United States of America on the direct radio-telegraph circuits" is one to be borne in mind, inasmuch as such diversion would react detrimentally on the revenues of the "common-user" system, where that system provides a satisfactory alternative routing

to the direct wireless service and without detriment to the revenues of the Colonial territory.

X. Development of Cable and Wireless network.

An important consideration of the Development programme is that traffic which should normally be carried on the circuits of the "common-user" system should not be allowed over circuits operated for special purposes such as defence or civil aviation. The full co-operation of administrations is sought in this matter and unless there is a noticeable disregard of this requirement it is not proposed to take any other action than that of drawing attention to its importance.

XII. Automatic Telegraphy Policy.

It is not known which, if any, of the Colonial Territories is concerned at present or in the foreseeable future in the development of Automatic Telegraphy or whose systems contain equipment for automatic signalling. Considerable importance is attached to the subject by the Defence Services and where a territory has already installed or contemplates installing automatic telegraphy equipment particulars should be furnished in due course for transmission to the Commonwealth Telecommunications Board.

XIII. South Africa Transit Rates.

The increase in the South African transit rate by a halfpenny a word will be of interest to Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland in respect of traffic transiting South Africa either by land-line or by wireless.

XVI. International Telegraph and Telephone Conference. Paris, May, 1949.

I shall be addressing you separately on the question of intra-Commonwealth rates in the light of the decisions relating to the rate structure for telegrams, reached at the Paris Conference.

XVII. Bermuda Telegraph Agreement 1945.

The revision of the Bermuda Telecommunications Agreement formed the subject of my circular despatch of the 2nd December, 1949.

25 m 0118

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient, humble servant,

A. CREECH JONES.

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S.P.T.

11-114 for your comments, pc

L.H. Jones
27/1/50

Houcs

B.

Ref to Red 11 para XII The Govt. W/T Station in the Falklands is already has an auto-matic morse transmitter in use and has ordered automatic receiving equipment for morse from Messrs Creed & Co. through the C/A.

2. The Govt. W/T Station at S. Georgia is already fitted with an automatic morse transmitter. by Messrs Creed & Co.

3. The S of S will I think require to know of the opening of any new radio circuit. and before they are put into operation. In this connection, you may not be aware of it, but the Met Station here acquired a 350 watt HF transmitter and intend working the bases direct. This will constitute a new circuit.

ALL S.P.T.
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A.C.S.

Savinham & S/S, ref red 11 para XII informing him of the position as indicated in para 1 & 2 of S.P.T.'s minute above
Hear.

7 FEB 1950

F. I. ref:
C. O. ref: 0118/A
22883/6/49

16

SAVING TELEGRAM.

From: The Officer Administering the Government of the Falkland Islands.

To: The Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date: 10th February, 1950.
SAVING.

No. 3. COLONY. SECRET.

// Your Secret Circular Despatch of 9th December, 1949.
Commonwealth Communications Council.

2. Paragraph 2. Section XII. The Government W/T Station in this Colony already has an automatic morse transmitter in use and automatic receiving equipment is on order from the Crown Agents.

3. The Government W/T Station at South Georgia is already fitted with an automatic morse transmitter.

GOVERNOR'S DEPUTY.

Handwritten signature and date: 23/2/50