

NEWS RELEASE
International Amateur Radio Union
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7 April 2003

For immediate release

Three New Members Admitted to IARU

By vote of the present member-societies of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), three new members -- National Association Radioamateurs of Georgia (NARG), Federation of Radiosport of the Republic of Armenia (FRRA), and Vietnam Amateur Radio Club (VARC) -- have been admitted to the IARU effective 4 April 2003.

NARG was founded on 21 September 2000. It has 156 licensed radio amateurs as members out of a total of 485 in the country. Its mailing address is Agamashenebeli Av. 70, Tbilisi, Georgia. The President of NARG is Mamuka Kordzakhia, 4L2M.

FRRA was founded on 14 January 1999 and has 84 of Armenia's 128 licensed radio amateurs as members. The President is George Badalian, EK6GB, and the mailing address is 87 Arshakuniats Ave., Yerevan 375005, Armenia.

VARC was founded as a national organization in July 2002 under the Vietnam Radio-Electronics Association. From February 1996 to July 2002 the VARC was chartered in the Ho Chi Minh City area. Five of its members participated as observers in the 1997 Region 3 Conference in Beijing. The President of VARC is Eng. Nguyen Bac Ai, XV2A/3W6AR, and the mailing address is 49 Ben Chuong Str., District I. Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

The IARU, founded in 1925, is a worldwide federation of national amateur radio societies with members in 156 countries and separate territories. In addition to joining the worldwide IARU, NARG and FRRA become members of IARU Region 1 and VARC becomes a member of IARU Region 3.

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18 April 2003

For immediate release

IARU Celebrates World Amateur Radio Day

Each year on the anniversary of its founding, 18 April, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) marks World Amateur Radio Day. On this, the 78th anniversary of its inaugural meeting in Paris, the IARU dedicates World Amateur Radio Day to the radio amateurs, educators, and administrators who use Amateur Radio to support technology education in the classroom.

Such programs are not confined to the developed countries. They are even more valuable in countries where telecommunications technology is not yet commonplace, and where natural disasters and other disruptions can cause the overloading or even the loss of regular communications circuits.

Radio technology offers a wide array of tools for teachers to use as they integrate technology into the curriculum. In schools without an Internet connection, Amateur Radio can fill that void through interactive communications and shortwave reception. Elementary school teachers, using AM radios, can interject fun while helping students learn basic electricity and regional geography. Social Studies teachers can use Amateur Radio and shortwave receivers to teach about different cultures the world over, as well as advancing deeper into geopolitics and geography. Earth science and physics teachers can use radio to teach electricity and electronics, radio wave propagation, weather and atmospheric science. Language arts teachers may use radio to supplement writing, speaking and listening skills while providing access to numerous foreign languages from the lips of native speakers.

With almost three million licensees in nearly every country on Earth, the amateur service provides an ample reservoir of expertise for use in classrooms throughout the world.

The IARU is the worldwide federation of national Amateur Radio organizations representing radio amateurs in 158 countries. It is a Sector Member of the International Telecommunication Union and is the recognized representative of the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services at the ITU.

NEWS RELEASE
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11 June 2003

For immediate release

IARU Team on the Job as WRC-03 Opens in Geneva

Geneva, 11 June - The International Telecommunication Union's World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 got underway on Monday morning, 9 June, at the Geneva International Conference Center next to ITU Headquarters. More than 2,600 delegates and other participants are expected to attend the four-week conference. As the first order of business, Dr. Veena Rawat of Canada was elected Chairman of the Conference by acclamation.

There are several items on the conference agenda that are of great importance to radio amateurs, so the International Amateur Radio Union has fielded its largest team of observers at an ITU conference in more than a decade. The core IARU team consists of IARU President Larry Price, W4RA, Wojciech Nietyksza, SP5FM, Michael Owen, VK3KI, Ken Pulfer, VE3PU, and David Sumner, K1ZZ. Past ITU Radiocommunication Bureau Director Robert W. Jones, VE7RWJ, is serving as a consultant to the IARU. Also present on national delegations are approximately a dozen other radio amateurs who are representing their national IARU member- societies along with members of IARU regional executive committees serving in this and other capacities. Among the latter are IARU Vice President David Wardlaw, VK3ADW, who is on the Australian delegation; Region 1 Chairman Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, who is on the Norwegian delegation; Region 1 Vice Chairman Tafa Diop, 6W1KI, observing for the African Telecommunications Union; Region 2 Vice President Dario Jurado, HP1DJ, observing for the IARU; Region 3 Chairman Fred Johnson, ZL2AMJ, who is on the New Zealand delegation; Region 3 Secretary Keigo Komuro, JA1KAB, who is on the delegation of Japan; and Region 3 Director Y. S. Park, HL1IFM, who is on the delegation of the Republic of Korea. We will list the other national delegates, who are playing important roles on behalf of Amateur Radio, in a future release. In addition there are literally dozens of radio amateurs who are present in a wide range of professional capacities.

Amateur Radio is but a small part of the conference, which is trying to complete work on more than 40 agenda items. Three are especially important to us: realignment of 7 MHz allocations (agenda item 1.23), revision of the regulations governing the amateur and amateur-satellite services (agenda item 1.7), and consideration of an allocation for satellite-borne synthetic aperture radars (SARs) in the 70-cm band (agenda item 1.38). Two other agenda items that could potentially have a great impact are the drafting of an agenda for the next WRC scheduled for 2007 (agenda item 7.2) and the revision of footnotes to the Table of Frequency Allocations (agenda item 1.1). A member of the IARU core team has been assigned to follow each of these five items, with the most focus being on 7 MHz.

Except for SARs (Committee 5) and future conference agendas (Committee 7) the critical agenda items for Amateur Radio are all in Committee 4. The committee chairman is Eberhard George of Germany. Mr. George is a licensed amateur, DL7IH, but of course his selection to chair a key committee was based on his years of experience in ITU affairs and not on his holding of an amateur license.

Committees 4 and 5 held their organizational meetings on Monday afternoon and set up Working Groups that met on Tuesday and Wednesday. Working Group 4C chaired by Alan Ashman of Australia has agenda items 1.23 and 1.7, among others. Sub-Working Groups of 4C have been established but have not yet met. These include 4C1 chaired by Don Messer of the United States (agenda item 1.23 and two other agenda items related to HF broadcasting, 1.2 and 1.36) and 4C3 chaired by Keigo Komuro, JA1KAB (Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations, agenda item 1.7.1).

After just the first three days there are, of course, no final decisions on any issues and there has not even been formal discussion of the major issues although there has been plenty of informal discussion in the hallways and over coffee.

It is the intention of the IARU core team to send timely and accurate reports of final decisions reached on Amateur Radio issues. It is important to remember that nothing is final until the second reading of a document in the Plenary, which in the case of controversial issues will not take place until the final week of the conference, 30 June - 4 July.

David Sumner, K1ZZ
IARU Secretary
For the IARU WRC-03 Team

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16 June 2003

For immediate release

IARU Report: Week One of WRC-03

Here is a recap of where things stand with regard to the major Amateur Radio issues at the start of the second week of the four-week-long 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference. This report is prepared on behalf of the IARU team in Geneva. It is our intention to report at the start of the third and fourth weeks (around 23 and 30 June) as well as toward the end of the conference, around 4 July. The last report will be made after all of the text regarding our major issues has made its way through the second reading in the Plenary. That is the only point where a conference decision can be regarded as "final." The IARU news release distributed on 11 June is a necessary starting point for understanding this and future reports.

Agenda item 1.23 (7 MHz realignment): The proposals relating to AI 1.23 were introduced in Working Group 4C and referred to Sub-Working Group 4C1 for discussion and possible decision. As of the end of the week, 4C1 was still working on AI 1.2 and had not taken up 1.23.

Agenda item 1.7.1 (Article 25): The proposals relating to 1.7.1 were introduced in Working Group 4C and referred to Sub-Working Group 4C3 for discussion and possible decision. On Friday afternoon the proposals were introduced in 4C3, along with the information paper containing the views of the IARU. The USA withdrew its proposals on 1.7.1 in favor of the Inter-American Proposals, which is favorable for us because the IAPs include incorporation by reference of Recommendation ITU-R M.1544 whereas the USA proposals did not. The other differences between the various proposals under 1.7.1 were identified, but no effort as yet has been made to resolve them.

Agenda item 1.7.2 (Article 19): Revisions to Article 19 to provide greater flexibility for administrations to assign call signs to amateur stations were among the first decisions to make their way through Working Group 4C and Committee 4. The output has now gone to the Editorial Committee and should be offered to the next Plenary, now scheduled for Thursday afternoon, for consideration. The revisions would allow administrations to assign amateur stations call signs with suffixes containing up to four characters, the last of which shall be a letter, following the national identifier and the single numeral (the "call area" in some countries) specified in the Radio Regulations. There is also a provision for even more than four characters on special occasions, for temporary use.

Agenda item 1.7.3 (Article 1): Because any changes here would be as a consequence of decisions taken under AI 1.7.1, no decisions can be made until action on 1.7.1 is completed.

However, an "NOC" (no change) document has already been prepared by the WG 4C secretariat for introduction at the appropriate time.

Agenda item 1.38 (70 cm SARs): The proposals under AI 1.38 were introduced in WG 5E. They range from NOC to a primary allocation, although there seems to be a general preference for a secondary rather than a primary allocation. India has proposed the band 435-441 MHz instead of 432-438 MHz. Another issue is how to ensure that SARs are subject to the limits contained in Recommendation ITU-R SA.1260. Discussions are underway to accommodate the concerns of those opposed to an allocation.

Agenda item 1.1 (footnotes): Friday afternoon's Plenary became somewhat contentious when the subject of new "country" footnotes came up. At this point in recent conferences, a procedure has been agreed whereby countries can add their country names to existing footnotes or to propose new footnotes for their countries, by an agreed deadline and subject to there being no objection from potentially affected countries. The chairman of Committee 4 proposed such a procedure, but the Plenary would not agree to the introduction of new footnotes. This was good news for us inasmuch as there were several such footnotes proposed by Uzbekistan for amateur HF bands. There are a couple of other proposals from countries to add themselves to existing footnotes affecting the 40 and 20 meter bands, and we are requesting friendly administrations to raise objections at the appropriate time.

IAP for 135 kHz footnote: Exceptionally, WG 4C was given the task of considering a CITELE IAP proposed by Canada, for a footnote for an amateur secondary allocation at 135.7-137.8 kHz even though it did not fit under any specific item of the conference agenda. Several administrations objected on the grounds that there were no ITU-R studies of the interference potential. Instead, at Canada's request, Committee 4 is sending a note to Committee 7 offering it as a draft item for possible inclusion in the WRC-07 agenda.

Future agenda items: Committee 7 has begun its work but has not begun substantive discussions of future agenda items.

National amateur radio delegates: On Friday evening the IARU hosted a reception for national amateur radio delegates, i.e., those who are on their national delegations specifically to represent the amateur and amateur-satellite services, at the IARU office. We are pleased to acknowledge the involvement and assistance of the following national delegates: Oyekunle B. Ajayi, 5N0OBA, Nigeria
Jim Dean, VE3IQ, Canada
Arie Dogterom, PA0EZ, Netherlands
Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, Norway
Fred Johnson, ZL2AMJ, New Zealand
Keigo Komuro, JA1KAB, Japan
Keith Malcolm, VK1ZKM, Australia
Jay Oka, JA1TRC, Japan
Y. S. Park, HL1IFM, Republic of Korea
Dr. Rhee Joong Guen, HL1AQQ, Republic of Korea
Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, USA

Jon Siverling, WB3ERA, USA
Colin Thomas, G3PSM, United Kingdom
Roman Tomas, RZ3AA, Russian Federation
David Wardlaw, VK3ADW, Australia

There many other amateurs on national delegations, of course, including John Breen, EI7BV, who is head of delegation for Ireland.

Comings and Goings: We were sorry to bid adieu to IARU Region 1 Vice Chairman Tafa Diop, 6W1KI, who attended the first week of the conference as an observer for the African Telecommunications Union. Tafa helped greatly in providing liaison with French-speaking African delegates. He also translated the IARU information paper, Document 98, into French for distribution to them. We miss him already!

Coming up: In Week Two we expect the real battles to begin on 7 MHz, Article 25, and 70 cm SARs. To help build support the IARU is hosting a reception on Wednesday evening for about 150 of the key delegates. The participants' list was reviewed and invitations addressed over the weekend with assistance from Linda Sumner, KA1ZD. Of course, we could not invite everyone we would have liked to; the room where are holding the reception, on the top floor of the ITU Tower, will not hold them all. We hope those we could not accommodate will understand our difficulty.

We also hope to see a change in the unusually warm weather here in Geneva!

David Sumner, K1ZZ
Secretary, IARU
For the IARU WRC-03 Team

16 June 2003

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23 June 2003

For immediate release

IARU Report: Week Two of WRC-03

The second week of WRC-03 was an eventful one for the amateur service representatives. At the close of business on Friday, 20 June, there was great uncertainty hanging over two of our most important agenda items. These items were still at the Sub-Working Group level with just one more business day, Monday, 23 June, remaining for the Sub-Working Groups to complete their tasks before submitting their final reports to the Working Groups. According to the Conference Steering Committee the Working Groups must be finished on Wednesday and the Committees must be finished by noon Friday, 27 June. Clearly, the third week is shaping up to be extremely important.

Here is where things stand on the key Amateur Radio issues at the end of Week Two. For background see the previous releases dated 11 June and 16 June. They are available on the IARU Web site.

Agenda item 1.23 (7 MHz realignment): The proposals relating to AI 1.23 were taken up in Sub-Working Group 4C1 for the first time on Tuesday morning, 17 June, with more than 100 delegates and other participants present. The initial discussions were spirited and reflected sharp differences of opinion between those advocating realignment and those who felt that the disruptions to the broadcasting and fixed services outweighed the benefits to anyone and who therefore favored no change. On Wednesday afternoon a drafting group was set up under the chairmanship of Fred Johnson of New Zealand in an effort to distill the disparate views into a manageable set of alternatives. The drafting group reported back with four alternatives.

The largest group favored realignment in two stages, by 100 kHz in 2007 and an additional 100 kHz in 2015, ultimately providing a worldwide 300-kHz amateur allocation of 7000-7300 kHz with broadcasters moved above 7300 kHz. However, there were internal differences within the group over a number of important details, such as whether realignment should include expansion of the broadcasting band in Region 2 from its present 50 kHz (7300-7350 kHz, effective in 2007 as agreed at WARC-92). This group included CEPT, CITEL, the African Telecommunications Union, and the USA.

A second group consisting of Australia, India, and a regional group including the Russian Federation offered a partial realignment spread out over a very long time frame: an additional 50 kHz of access for amateurs in the year 2018 with an additional 50 kHz in 2033. A 30-year

implementation period seemed rather excessive to nearly everyone, and some members of the group indicated a willingness to negotiate a shorter period.

A third group consisting of Japan and Korea maintained their proposal submitted to the conference: an additional 100 kHz for amateurs in Regions 1 and 3 in one stage, 2015.

The fourth group, consisting mainly of the Arab Group and Iran, offered no compromise on their no-change position in this first round.

The drafting group's report was received by Sub-Working Group 4C1 on Thursday. Two new drafting groups were set up to work overnight, the first (again chaired by Fred Johnson) to try and resolve the differences between the members of the first group and the second to develop the implementation details of the second group's proposal.

On Friday Fred Johnson delivered an interim report that showed agreement in the first group on all but one of the issues. The remaining issue was how much worldwide realignment of the broadcasting band there should be. CEPT favored complete realignment, which would have given broadcasters in Region 2 (and broadcasters outside of Region 2 who are targeting Region 2 audiences) an additional 200 kHz at the expense of fixed and mobile. CEPT was willing to make it 100 kHz in order to reach agreement. CITEL favored none at all, with the USA somewhere in the middle. From a USA proposal, the impact of broadcasting expansion on fixed and mobile in Region 2 would be offset by sharing of 7200-7300 kHz between amateur, fixed, and mobile services (as previously proposed for Regions 1 and 3 by CEPT). As the week ended, CITEL was considering whether to budge from its position in the interests of reaching agreement. Note that "agreement" as used here refers *only* to internal agreement within the group that favors realignment, and should *not* be read as an indication that the conference as a whole or even the Sub-Working Group is in agreement. We still have a long way to go, and little time to get there, to reach that happy state of affairs. It appears unavoidable that when 4C1 finishes on Monday, there will be at least three options that will be passed up to Working Group 4C for further consideration.

Agenda item 1.36 (HF broadcasting expansion around 4 to 10 MHz): Most delegations came to the conference with positions opposing additional HF spectrum for broadcasting at WRC-03, except (as discussed above) possibly in Region 2 as a result of realignment under agenda item 1.23. However, there was considerable support for a resolution inviting the next conference to take up the issue. The USA was alone in advocating additional allocations for HF broadcasting at WRC-03. When the USA proposal was presented in Sub-Working Group 4C1 there was no support, so attention has now shifted to coming to agreement on a suitable resolution.

Agenda item 1.7.1 (Article 25): The proposals relating to Article 25 have occupied several hours of discussion in Sub-Working Group 4C3. It has been difficult going, with the Arab Group showing great reluctance to accept simplification and streamlining of some of the international regulations governing the amateur service. One matter on which there appears to be no disagreement is the Morse requirement. It is clear that the outcome will be to leave it to administrations' discretion whether or not to have a Morse receiving and sending requirement.

No administration participating in the Sub-Working Group spoke in favor of retaining the Morse code treaty requirement.

Agenda item 1.7.2 (Article 19): Revisions to Article 19 to provide greater flexibility for administrations to assign call signs to amateur stations were among the first decisions to make their way through first reading in the Plenary. As reported last week, administrations will be able to assign amateur stations call signs with suffixes containing up to four characters, the last of which shall be a letter, following the national identifier and the single numeral (the "call area" in some countries) specified in the Radio Regulations. There is also a provision for even more than four characters on special occasions, for temporary use. When the text passes its second reading in Plenary it will be adopted, but still will be subject to final editorial review to make sure, for example, that the English, French, and Spanish versions all agree with one another. The IARU team is relieved that this minor issue was resolved early and without using up too many conference resources, which are very limited owing to the ITU's budget crisis.

Agenda item 1.38 (70 cm SARs): Another issue that seems well on its way to being resolved is satellite-borne synthetic aperture radars (SARs) at 432-438 MHz. While it appears very likely that there will be an allocation, it will be secondary and will also be subject to limitations spelled out in Recommendation ITU-R SA.1260-1 that are designed to provide protection to, among others, the amateur and amateur-satellite services. The IARU has maintained its opposition, but the tide is running against us. Even so, the IARU has achieved a lot through six years of work on the issue, mainly by Ken Pulfer, VE3PU. If the allocation is secondary and the limits in SA.1260-1 are mandatory the potential for interference to amateurs (particularly in Region 1, where the amateur service is primary) should not be too great.

Agenda item 1.1 (footnotes): The proposals for the addition of country names to footnotes that were submitted by the deadline of 18 June do not appear to include any that pose a serious risk to the amateur service. Some European countries are proposing to improve the situation for their amateurs in the 160-meter band, either by deleting their names from one footnote or by adding their names to another. We will monitor the progress of this item through Working Group 4A and beyond to make sure there are no surprises.

Future agenda items: Owing to the budget crisis referred to above, Committee 7 is under great pressure to limit agenda items for future conferences. It is too early to tell the extent of agenda items that may be of interest or concern to the IARU at the next WRC, which is now scheduled for the first half of 2007 but may not be held until 2008.

IARU Reception: On Wednesday evening the IARU hosted a very successful reception for more than 150 conference attendees. We had a great view of Geneva and Mont Blanc from the 15th floor of the ITU Tower, but of course most of our attention was devoted to our guests, who included Conference Chairman Veena Rawat, Deputy Secretary-General Roberto Blois, and Radiocommunication Bureau Director Valery Timofeev. The special-issue IARU WRC-03 lapel pins were a popular item.

Comings and Goings: At the beginning of the week, Sergiy Bunin, UR5UN, arrived in Geneva to join the delegation of Ukraine. SRR President Roman Tomas, RZ3AA, left Geneva on

Saturday, 21 June, after two weeks as a member of the delegation of the Russian Federation. On Sunday, IARU Region 2 President Pedro Seidemann, YV5BPG, arrived to join the Venezuelan delegation.

Coming up: Week Three will be critically important to the issues that remain unresolved, including 7 MHz. Conference Chairman Veena Rawat has warned the delegates that if compromises are not made and agreements reached before issues come up to the Plenary, schedule pressures will require "quick decisions" in Plenary.

The unusually warm and sunny weather continued for another week, not that it matters when most of the day is spent in the Conference Center and the ITU buildings.

David Sumner, K1ZZ
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For the IARU WRC-03 Team

23 June 2003

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30 June 2003

For immediate release

IARU Report: Week Three of WRC-03

The third week of WRC-03 had some exciting moments, but led to no final conclusions on the key Amateur Radio issues. We may not know for certain until sometime Thursday, 3 July, how the 7-MHz issue will turn out. Readers should refer to the previous IARU releases dated 11, 26 and 23 June for necessary background to understand this report. They are available on the IARU Web site at <http://www.iaru.org/rel030611.html>, <http://www.iaru.org/rel030616.html>, and <http://www.iaru.org/rel030623.html> respectively.

Agenda item 1.23 (7 MHz realignment): Before reading what happened during the week on our most important agenda item, it is worth recalling that there is strong pressure for the conference to reach its decisions by consensus. Votes are not taken except as an absolute last resort. This gives a determined minority considerable leverage to influence the result.

Lengthy discussions and off-line negotiations between delegates and regional coordinators resulted in agreement among the supporters of a 300-kHz worldwide amateur allocation on a common formula to achieve that result. This compromise called for a two-stage implementation leading in the year 2015 to 7000-7200 kHz being exclusively amateur, worldwide, with 7200-7300 kHz shared between the amateur, fixed, and mobile services. The final sticking point that had to be overcome was agreement on an additional 50 kHz for broadcasting in Region 2, at 7350-7400 kHz. In Regions 1 and 3, broadcasting would have been shifted up in frequency from 7100-7300 to 7350-7550 kHz. This was one of three options for addressing the agenda item that was reported to Working Group 4C by Sub-Working Group 4C1 when the Sub-Working Group finished its work on Monday. The second option was an additional 100 kHz for the amateur service shared with the fixed and mobile services in Regions 1 and 3 with no change in Region 2, effective far in the future (the possibility suggested was 2018). The third option was "no change."

Working Group 4C was unable to resolve the differences between the three options. On Wednesday a last-ditch effort was made by a drafting group to merge the two options calling for change. This effort failed, and it appeared that we were headed for a showdown in Committee 4 between the proponents of the three options.

However, on Thursday evening the conference chairman brought together a number of delegates and regional coordinators to try to reach agreement on several outstanding issues, including 7 MHz. The outcome of that meeting was a proposed compromise that was brought to Committee

4 on Friday. Committee 4 did not have time to consider the matter on Friday, despite a meeting that went on until 10 PM. Thus, we ended the week with no agreement and with a final meeting of Committee 4 called for Monday afternoon, 30 June.

The compromise proposal calls for a one-stage implementation of an additional 100 kHz for the amateur service in Regions 1 and 3, 7100-7200 kHz, made available by an upward shift of broadcasting to 7350-7450 kHz. In Region 2 the only change would be an additional 50 kHz for broadcasting, 7350-7400 kHz, with no change below 7300 kHz. Thus, amateurs in Region 2 would be relieved of the incompatibility with broadcasting in half of the band, but the incompatibility would continue in the other half. The effective date would be in either 2007 or 2009, but administrations in Regions 1 and 3 would be permitted to authorize amateurs to use 7100-7200 kHz with limited power and on a secondary basis as of the effective date of the Final Acts of the conference (probably 1 January 2005). Additional adjustment in the allocations above 7200 kHz could be considered at the next conference, but the 7000-7200 kHz band would be excluded from consideration under any future agenda item.

Corridor discussions on Friday revealed that several administrations in Region 3 were not satisfied with the compromise proposal and wanted at least country footnotes permitting them to allocate 7100-7200 kHz on a national basis to fixed and mobile, shared with amateur. There was also some unhappiness over the effective date from the same part of the world. Thus, we go toward the final meeting of Committee 4 with considerable uncertainty as to what will happen. Of course, the arm-twisting in the corridors is continuing unabated.

Agenda item 1.36 (HF broadcasting expansion around 4 to 10 MHz): Final action on a resolution inviting the next WRC to consider additional spectrum requirements for broadcasting between 4 and 10 MHz is awaiting final action until consideration of agenda item 1.23 is completed.

Agenda item 1.7.1 (Article 25): After lengthy negotiations, a complete text for Article 25 was finally agreed in Committee 4 on Friday morning. Some of the wording is the result of delicate compromises. It will be brought to Plenary sometime in the final week of the conference. The text as agreed requires no consequential changes to the definitions of the amateur and amateur-satellite services, so those provisions will remain unchanged.

Agenda item 1.7.2 (Article 19): This text has not yet made it through second reading in Plenary, but there is no reason to believe that any problems will arise.

Agenda item 1.38 (70 cm SARs): The 432-438 MHz secondary allocation for satellite-borne synthetic aperture radars cleared Committee 5 in the form previously described and on Friday cleared the Plenary on first reading.

Agenda item 1.1 (footnotes): Some footnotes that provide exceptions to the table of frequency allocations on a national basis that affect the amateur bands have cleared the Plenary on first reading. The changes are relatively minor and may still be subject to change because the chairman is permitting changes to these so-called "country footnotes" in Plenary as long as there are no objections.

Future agenda items: Committee 7 has not yet finished its work, but a draft agenda for the next conference -- referred to as WRC-07 but not firm for that year -- is taking shape. Of necessity, the future conference agenda will be among the last items of business because it is contingent on WRC-03 decisions that are still pending.

Comings and Goings: Sergiy Bunin, UR5UN, was in Geneva for just one week and has now returned to Kiev. IARU Region 2 Vice President Dario Jurado, HP1DJ, also left during the week after serving on the IARU team. Region 1 Executive Committee member Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PA7BT, is in Geneva for the last half of the conference on behalf of his employer. Region 1 Chairman Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, left Geneva on Saturday after serving on the Norwegian delegation for the first three weeks.

Coming up: Committee 4 is scheduled to hold its final meeting on Monday afternoon. We will then know whether agreement has been reached at committee level on the 7-MHz realignment issue. If not, it will go to Plenary. The second reading of all Conference decisions in Plenary is scheduled to be completed by Thursday noon. The ceremonial signing of the Final Acts of the Conference is scheduled for Friday afternoon, 4 July.

David Sumner, K1ZZ
Secretary, IARU
For the IARU WRC-03 Team
30 June 2003

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3 July 2003

For immediate release

IARU WRC-03 Final Report from Geneva

The 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference concluded its discussions of the issues on its agenda on Thursday afternoon, 3 July, after marathon Plenary sessions that tested the patience and stamina of the conferees. The previous day's deliberations did not end until 3:30 AM; Thursday's business began at 9:00 AM and finally concluded at 3:30 PM without a break, 3-1/2 hours behind the original conference schedule.

Now that the final reading of texts submitted to the Plenary is finished, the Final Acts are being duplicated in print and on CD-ROM for distribution on Friday, 4 July. Delegations that wish to do so will be submitting declarations and reservations. The signing ceremony will take place on Friday afternoon, 4 July. Thus the four-week conference draws to a close. Please refer to IARU releases dated 11, 26 and 23 June for reports on the previous weeks' activities related to Amateur Radio. They are available on the IARU Web site at <http://www.iaru.org/re1030611.html>, <http://www.iaru.org/re1030616.html>, and <http://www.iaru.org/re1030623.html> respectively.

The big news for radio amateurs is that there will be a **dramatic improvement in the 40-meter band!** After weeks of debate and efforts to resolve great differences between numerous proposals, including strong positions for no change, the conference agreed to shift broadcasting stations in Regions 1 and 3 out of the 7100-7200 kHz band and to reallocate the band to the amateur service in those two regions. The allocation in Region 2 of 7000-7300 kHz remains exclusively amateur. The broadcasting band in Regions 1 and 3 will become 7200-7450 kHz and in Region 2, 7300-7400 kHz. The change will take effect on 29 March 2009, less than six years from now -- a relatively short time by ITU standards.

In Regions 1 and 3 the 7100-7200 kHz band will become exclusively amateur on that date. A footnote containing the names of countries that are mainly in Region 3 and the Arab States makes the band also available to the fixed and mobile services in those countries on a primary basis.

It was not easy to achieve such a positive outcome on this issue. As late as Thursday evening, 26 June, it had not been possible for the delegates to reach agreement on a broad outline for 7-MHz realignment. While those favoring change had been able to merge their differing proposals to some extent, there were still three schools of thought: 200 kHz for amateurs in Regions 1 and 3 (to align with the amateur allocation in Region 2), 100 kHz (partial alignment), and no change. In the meetings addressing the issue, those advocating 200 kHz were the most numerous and

active. Still, it was apparent that the no-change advocates were also numerous. The no-change administrations and those that wanted to do something for the amateur service, but could not support the full 200 kHz we were seeking, tended to be inflexible. Some of the latter envisioned very long transition periods -- in one case, 30 years!

The time-honored way in which decisions are made in the ITU is by reaching consensus in a way that makes everyone equally unhappy. Since the discussions in drafting groups, Sub-Working Group 4C1, and Working Group 4C had not made progress toward a consensus, and since the same was true of several other issues, on Thursday evening the conference chairman, Dr. Veena Rawat of Canada, brought together a number of delegates and regional coordinators to solve these problems. In the case of 7 MHz, the outcome was a proposed compromise that was brought to Committee 4 the following day, Friday, 27 June. The key elements of the compromise were described in last week's report. It provided 100 kHz for amateurs in one stage, with the possibility of trying for the additional 100 kHz at the next conference. Still, many differences remained as to the timetable, how to mitigate the impact on other services, how much (if any) broadcasting should be expanded in Region 2, and so on.

Unfortunately, the workload of Committee 4 was such that the proposed compromise could not be discussed in the committee. A last-ditch effort to bridge the differences was undertaken on Monday evening, 30 June, in an Ad Hoc Group of the Plenary chaired by Alan Ashman of Australia. The initial results were not very encouraging; there was some convergence, but a few administrations refused to go along. It was not until the following day that real progress was made toward a comprehensive agreement on a formula that all of the advocates of change, along with some of those favoring no change, could live with. This was accomplished by almost constant communication among the regional and national coordinators who were handling the issue, and as a result of their willingness to give ground in order to package an agreement.

The agreement was presented to the Plenary at 11:00 PM Tuesday. The discussion consumed an hour and ten minutes of precious meeting time and included expressions of great unhappiness from the Arab Group and Iran, who continued to advocate no change. Still, the conference chairman was able to guide the Plenary to a very tentative and fragile agreement, subject to the completion of a couple of details.

The coordinators worked hard on Wednesday morning to complete the details and a document was available to the delegates that evening. Finally, on Thursday morning it was presented to the Plenary and, with a few on-line edits and the addition of some country names to footnotes, it was approved. Even the Arab Group and Iran accepted the final package, which included footnotes giving them some flexibility with regard to their fixed services.

And so, at 10:27 AM Geneva time Thursday, 3 July, the compromise package was given final approval.

Perhaps the magnitude of what has been accomplished for radio amateurs can best be explained this way: Never before in the history of radiocommunication has an HF broadcasting band been shifted to accommodate the needs of another service. Of course, this is not simply an accomplishment of the IARU. It would not have been possible without the cooperation of a

number of broadcasters and many, many others. The people who worked with us who are not radio amateurs -- including some who were strongly opposed at the start but who acceded to the compromise -- deserve much of the credit. For example, Australia came to the conference with a strong "no change" position and had to shift its position dramatically in order to embrace the compromise. The Russian Federation announced it was for no change at the beginning of the conference, but in the end fully accepted the formula for change. The Republic of Korea and Japan supported 100 kHz for amateurs in Regions 1 and 3, but on a shared basis with fixed and mobile and with an implementation date of 2015; accepting a much earlier date and with just a footnote for fixed and mobile represented major concessions for them.

Of course, it was our friends who had to compromise the most and it wasn't easy for them to do so, either. CITEL had opposed broadcasting expansion in Region 2 but in the end accepted 50 kHz more for broadcasting to reach agreement with CEPT. The proposal of the United States, which contained elements of the CEPT proposal, was a useful bridge that helped bring CITEL and CEPT together. One part of the U.S. proposal that the IARU did not particularly care for, sharing of 7200-7300 kHz between amateur, fixed, and mobile in Region 2, became moot when that band segment was not realigned.

Attached is what is believed to be an [accurate, but unofficial, Table](#) (16,950 bytes, PDF file with all footnotes that were changed or added) as adopted. The reason it is unofficial is because there were some edits of the footnotes made during the course of presentation of the document and are not yet reflected in the official conference documentation.

This result falls short of our goal of a 300-kHz worldwide, exclusive band for amateurs at 7 MHz. We knew that it would. ITU decisions are made by consensus. Building consensus requires give and take. The conference could easily have concluded that the cost to other services of even a partial realignment outweighed the benefits to amateurs. Yet when the dust settled, we had gained a significant improvement in the 7-MHz amateur allocation -- and on a reasonable schedule. The incompatibility between amateur and broadcasting use of the 7-MHz band will be cut in half; the spectrum available to amateurs in Regions 1 and 3 will double; and the useful spectrum for Region 2 amateurs at night will double. Amateurs in the three regions will be able to harmonize their operating patterns to a greater extent than has been possible in the past, leading to greater efficiency in our use of the band.

Several members of the IARU team have been working on the 7-MHz issue since the 1970s. Twice, in 1979 and 1992, we were unable to get a Conference result that improved the lot of the radio amateur. Given how precious spectrum access has become, even a partial solution is a major achievement for Amateur Radio and the IARU.

While it would be impossible to name everyone who helped, we would be remiss if we did not credit the extraordinary efforts of the CEPT Coordinator for Agenda Item 1.23, Jan Verduijn of the Radiocommunications Agency, The Netherlands. Jan was totally committed to finding a solution, not only for radio amateurs but for broadcasters and the fixed and mobile services as well. The CITEL Coordinator for the agenda item, Barry Isherwood of Industry Canada, was equally dedicated and just as effective in protecting the interests of his "constituents." Neither Jan nor Barry is a radio amateur, but they certainly deserve all the honorary status we can offer.

Agenda item 1.7.1 (Article 25): A package of revisions to the international Radio Regulations that are specific to the amateur and amateur-satellite services has been adopted. The revised Article 25 takes effect on Saturday, 5 July 2003. The [complete Article 25](#) is attached, along with an [explanation authored by Michael Owen, VK3KI](#), who has guided the work of the IARU on this issue since 1996.

Agenda item 1.7.2 (Article 19): The previously reported changes sailed through Plenary on second reading and are approved.

Agenda item 1.38 (70 cm SARs): The 432-438 MHz secondary allocation for satellite-borne synthetic aperture radars was approved in Plenary.

Agenda item 1.1 (footnotes): "Footnote fever" seized some administrations in the closing hours of the conference as they clamored to get their country names into footnotes that had previously cleared the committees in which the footnotes had been considered. This is a recurring problem at WRCs; not only do such footnotes dilute the consistency of the Table of Frequency Allocations, they also cause the conference to bog down in minutiae at precisely the point at which it should be completing its work. Fortunately, the amateur service escaped serious damage from "footnote fever" at this conference, although it may be a problem in the future if countries want to climb into the footnote for fixed and mobile at 7100-7200 kHz.

Future agenda items: There are two items of great significance to the amateur service on the WRC-07 agenda that is being recommended by the Conference to the ITU Council.

The first calls for a review of "the allocations to all services in the HF bands between 4 MHz and 10 MHz" with a number of exclusions, including the band 7000-7200 kHz that was just reviewed at WRC-03. The spectrum requirements for HF broadcasting are among the factors to be taken into account. This could present a threat to 7200-7300 kHz, or it could provide an opportunity for further realignment; for both reasons it merits our close attention. Unfortunately, the agenda item does not include a clear "pointer" toward the desirability of trying to complete the realignment.

The second is "to consider a secondary allocation to the amateur service in the frequency band 135.7-137.8 kHz." Note that this is kHz, not MHz or GHz. Such a low-frequency allocation is in the common table of frequency allocations used by European administrations, and Canada has been pressing for such an allocation in the international Table.

It's Over! Well, the work is over; the ceremonial closing of the Conference will occur on Friday afternoon, 4 July. Then we will all be heading home, except for those who are staying for a two-day meeting to plan the preparatory work for WRC-07. Yes, it's all beginning again....

73,

David Sumner, K1ZZ
Secretary, IARU
For the IARU WRC-03 Team
3 July 2003

NEWS RELEASE
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For immediate release

IARU Council Addresses Strategic Issues

The Administrative Council of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) held its annual meeting on 6-8 September 2003 in Amsterdam. The meeting was to be held in Taipei in conjunction with the IARU Region 3 Conference but was moved to Amsterdam when the Region 3 Conference had to be postponed to next year as a result of travel restrictions arising from concerns about SARS. The Council took the following actions:

1. Four hours of the meeting were devoted to a strategic planning session with a planning horizon of the year 2010. Several key issues that are likely to influence the future of the IARU were identified. A report is to be drafted and circulated for further consideration by the Council early in 2004.
2. The results of the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference concerning the amateur and amateur-satellite services were reviewed in detail. The Council congratulated and thanked all individuals and organizations who contributed to the satisfactory outcome. IARU member-societies were urged to bring to the attention of their administrations the desirability of adopting specific changes in their domestic regulations for the amateur and amateur-satellite services, so that they will be consistent with the revised Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations.
3. The Council revised an existing Resolution concerning the Morse code in the light of the WRC-03 decision to leave to each administration the question of whether or not to require a demonstration of Morse skill to operate below 30 MHz. Under the revised Resolution, IARU policy is to support the removal of Morse code testing requirements.
4. A working document describing the spectrum requirements for radio spectrum allocations to the amateur and amateur-satellite services was reviewed and updated, particularly to reflect the results of WRC-03. One result of WRC-03 was the adoption of a recommended agenda for the next WRC presently scheduled for 2007. The agenda includes two items of interest to the amateur service: a review of allocations between 4 and 10 MHz and a possible secondary low-frequency amateur allocation at 136 kHz. While considerable progress was made at WRC-03 toward fulfilling amateur service spectrum requirements at 7 MHz, the requirements were not fully satisfied and there may be an opportunity to revisit the issue at WRC-07.
5. The ITU meetings at which IARU representation will be required for the coming year were identified, and plans for representation were reviewed. The IARU will participate in meetings

within Study Group 1 of the ITU Radiocommunication Sector concerning the interference potential of high data rate telecommunication systems using power lines (variously referred to as PLC, PLT, and BPL).

6. The budget for 2004-2006 was presented by the International Secretariat (ARRL). The budget includes provision for financial contributions from the three regional organizations to defray a portion of the expenses, in accordance with previously adopted policy. The Council thanked the International Secretariat for its continuing financial support of the IARU.

7. Council reaffirmed the importance of World Amateur Radio Day, celebrated each year on 18 April, as an opportunity to present a positive image of Amateur Radio to the general public. World Amateur Radio Day marks the anniversary of the founding of the IARU in 1925.

8. Preparations for the IARU exhibit at the upcoming ITU TELECOM World 2003 (Geneva) were reviewed. TELECOM World 2003 is the world's largest telecommunications exhibition and is visited by many telecommunications administrators and other important officials.

9. Reports of volunteer IARU international coordinators and advisers were received. At the request of the IARU Satellite Adviser, policies concerning frequency coordination of satellites operating in the amateur-satellite service bands were clarified. In response to the increased emphasis placed on emergency and disaster relief communications in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations, the new volunteer position of IARU Disaster Communications Adviser was created.

10. The International Secretariat presented nominations of candidates for President and Vice President for the 2004-2009 term, and the nominations were unanimously endorsed by the Council. Larry E. Price, W4RA, was nominated for a second term as President. Timothy S. Ellam, VE6SH/G4HUA, was nominated as Vice President. The nominations will be submitted to the IARU member-societies for ratification.

11. Retiring Vice President David A. Wardlaw, VK3ADW, was recognized for his long and devoted service to the IARU.

12. The Council requested that the ARRL, as the contest organizer, have its Contest Advisory Committee consider the merits of proposals for changes in the rules of the IARU HF World Championship.

13. The next scheduled meeting of the Council will be held in Trinidad & Tobago on 2-4 October 2004, following the Conference of IARU Region 2.

Attending the Amsterdam meeting were IARU President Larry Price, W4RA; Vice President David Wardlaw, VK3ADW; Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ; regional representatives Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, Don Beattie, G3BJ, Hans Blondeel Timmerman, PB2T, Pedro Seidemann, YV5BPG, Rod Stafford, W6ROD, Tim Ellam, VE6SH, Fred Johnson, ZL2AMJ, K. C. Selvadurai, 9V1UV, and Yoshiji Sekido, JJ1OEY; and recording secretary Paul Rinaldo, W4RI.