



FOR ACTION

Question 9/2: Identify study group Questions in the ITU-T and ITU-R Sectors which are of particular interest to developing countries and systematically, by way of annual progress reports, inform them of the progress of work on the Questions to facilitate their contributions to the work on those Questions as well as, ultimately, to benefit from their outputs in a timely manner

STUDY GROUP 2

SOURCE: RAPPORTEUR'S GROUP ON QUESTION 9/2

TITLE: DRAFT NEW RECOMMENDATION¹: EFFECTIVE UTILISATION OF THE AMATEUR SERVICES IN DISASTER MITIGATION AND RELIEF OPERATIONS

Action required: Approval

ITU-D Study Group 2,
considering,

- a) that the amateur services continue to provide communications for disaster mitigation and relief operations in some countries;
- b) that some countries having natural calamities may not take advantage of disaster communications capabilities of the amateur services;
- c) that effective amateur services disaster communications depend largely on the availability of amateur operators located throughout a country;
- d) that after the occurrence of a natural disaster it has been necessary to bring amateur operators and equipment into a country from other countries;
- e) that barriers to operating permission and to movement of equipment have occurred;

¹ After adoption this Recommendation should be sent to the ITU-R Study Groups for information.

- f) that the Tampere Convention on the Provision of Telecommunications Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations adopted by the Intergovernmental Conference on Emergency Telecommunications (Tampere, 1998) established a framework for the reduction and/or removal of these barriers;
- g) that some countries do not have a national framework for the effective utilization of the amateur services for provision of disaster mitigation and relief operations;
- h) that some countries have restrictions applied to the amateur services that impede disaster preparedness, such as prohibitions against transmission of message traffic for a third party during training exercises;
- j) Resolution 19 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (Valletta, 1998), Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, resolves to invite the ITU-D to ensure that proper consideration be given to emergency telecommunications as an element of telecommunication development, including, in close co-ordination and collaboration with the ITU-R, by facilitating and encouraging the use of decentralised means of communications that are appropriate and generally available, including those provided by the amateur radio services;
- k) Resolution 644 of the World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 1997), Telecommunication Resources for Disaster Mitigation and Relief Operations, resolves to invite the ITU-R to continue to study, as a matter of urgency, those aspects of radiocommunications that are relevant to disaster mitigation and relief operations, such as decentralised means of communications that are appropriate and generally available, including amateur radio facilities;
- l) Recommendation ITU-R M.1042-1 (1998), Disaster Communications in the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Services encourages the development of such services and of making such networks robust, flexible and independent of other telecommunication services and capable of operating from emergency power;
- m) Resolution 36 of the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Minneapolis, 1998) "Telecommunication in the service of humanitarian assistance" urges Member States to take all practical steps for the application of the Tampere Convention,

recommends

- 1** that administrations are encouraged to include the amateur services in their national disaster plans and telecommunication assistance information inventories;
- 2** that administrations are encouraged to reduce and, where possible, remove, barriers to the effective utilization of the amateur services for disaster communications;
- 3** that amateur and disaster relief organizations are encouraged to develop memoranda of understanding (MoU) between themselves and with Administrations as well as to co-operate, together with other concerned parties, in developing and making available model agreements and best practices in disaster telecommunications².

² Illustrative examples of such agreements are available on request at ITU/BDT.

ANNEX 1

Civil Aviation Authority of New Zealand
Aviation House
1 Market Grove
PO Box 31441
Lower Hutt

29 June 1997

**Provision of Search and Rescue Services
Amateur Radio Emergency Communications**

Dear Sir/Madam

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) group acknowledges your request for confirmation of the groups continued role and provision of resources for search and rescue.

I wish to advise you that AREC's Sections around the country will continue to provide those communications resources as may be within their capability at the time of any requests being made.

The method of tasking the AREC by the NRCC [National Rescue Coordination Centre] should be through NZ Police channels. AREC will at all times work in close cooperation with the NZ Police and NZLSAR [New Zealand Land Search and Rescue].

Although not under direct control of the AREC, three Amateur Radio Service operators run a scheduled net for small vessels within the South Pacific. They are in daily contact with those who use the Amateur Radio bands. These operators are a resource known to NRCC but access to this network may also be gained through National Director, AREC.

It is confirmed that this agreement shall continue in force until the AREC requests any changes or its abrogation on three months notice in writing.

Yours Sincerely

Brian Purdie, ZL2TPS/ZL2EX
National Director AREC

ANNEX 2

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between The Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. and The Canadian Red Cross Society

The Canadian Red Cross Society recognizes that the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc., because of its excellent geographical coverage, can render valuable aid in maintaining the continuity of communications during disasters and emergencies when normal communications facilities are disrupted or overloaded.

The Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. recognizes The Canadian Red Cross Society as an agency that provides assistance to individuals and families affected by disasters in Canada and around the world through the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Whenever there is a disaster or an emergency requiring the use of radio communications facilities, the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. agrees to provide, whenever and wherever possible:

1. The alerting and mobilization of volunteer emergency communications personnel and equipment in accordance with a pre-determined plan.
2. The establishment and maintenance of fixed, mobile and portable emergency communications facilities for local radio coverage and point-to-point contact between Red Cross and various locations, as required; and
3. Adequate provision of service for the duration of the emergency or until substantial regular communications are restored and stand down is ordered by Red Cross Emergency Services.

This Memorandum of Understanding will remain in effect provided that either party may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding by giving the other party three months notice in writing of its intention to so terminate.

Further details concerning the method of cooperation are outlined in Appendix A. Information on the organization of The Canadian Red Cross Society and the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. is attached as Appendix B.

Signed by:

President
Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.

National Director, Field Operations
The Canadian Red Cross Society

APRIL 28, 1994

APPENDIX A

Guidelines for Cooperation

1. Through its executive level, Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. will maintain liaison with The Canadian Red Cross Society's Emergency Services in order that there may be the closest possible cooperation in emergency communications planning and the coordination of radio communication facilities for disaster relief operations.
2. Red Cross Divisions, Regions and Branches are encouraged to invite one or more members of the amateur radio community to serve as Red Cross volunteers for emergency preparedness and relief.
3. Personnel of the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. are eligible for reimbursement by Red Cross for reasonable out-of-pocket and travelling expenses while conducting approved business on behalf of the Society.
4. Detailed operating plans for the full utilization of the communications facilities of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service should be developed by the local Red Cross in cooperation with the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.'s local Emergency Coordinator.
5. The Canadian Red Cross Society will recommend to its Divisions that membership on disaster preparedness and relief committees include representation from the appropriate officials of the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.
6. The Canadian Red Cross Society will furnish Divisions with copies of this statement of understanding and the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. will similarly furnish copies to its Field Officials.

OCTOBER 25, 1993

APPENDIX B

Organization of The Canadian Red Cross Society

1. The National Headquarters of The Canadian Red Cross Society is located in Ottawa. For administrative purposes, Canada is divided into ten Divisions with each Division having jurisdiction within its own Province. Divisional Offices are located in the following cities: Burnaby, B.C.; Calgary, Alberta; Regina, Saskatchewan; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Mississauga, Ontario; Verdun, Quebec; Saint John, New Brunswick; Halifax, Nova Scotia; Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; and St. John's, Newfoundland. The B.C./Yukon Division and the Alberta/NWT Divisions are responsible for Red Cross operations in their respective Territory.
2. Regions and Branches are the local units within each Division of The Canadian Red Cross Society. These units are responsible for all local activities of the Red Cross within its territory, subject to the policies and regulations of the divisional and national organization.
3. Each Region and Branch is responsible for developing an Emergency Services Committee of the best qualified volunteers available. This Committee studies the disaster hazards of the territory and surveys local resources for personnel, equipment and supplies, including transportation and emergency communication facilities, that are available for disaster relief. It also formulates co-operative plans and procedures with local governmental agencies, private and other volunteer organizations for carrying on relief operations should a disaster occur.

Organization of the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.

4. The American Radio Relay League Inc., (ARRL) was founded in 1914 to encourage and support every aspect of amateur radio. The ARRL became a bi-national organization in 1920 with the formation of the Canadian Division and Canadian membership.
5. The Canadian Division was known in Canada as the Canadian Radio Relay League Inc., (CRRL) giving it a distinctly national entity. The CRRL elected officers were charged with policy administration as established by their Executive Committees and Board of Directors. On May 2, 1993 the Canadian Amateur Radio Federation and the Canadian Radio Relay League Inc. ceased operation and merged together on that day to form the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. This agreement will then continue in force with Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. who will carry on with the Field Services Organization.
6. The Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.'s Field Services Organization operations are administered by the Field Services Manager through elected Section Managers (SM). Canada is divided into seven sections: British Columbia-Yukon, Alberta and the North-West Territories, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland forming the Maritime/Newfoundland Section.

7. The Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. sponsored Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) consists of two branches: the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the National Traffic System (NTS). Both branches work together, are supported by thousands of licensed radio amateurs and are under the jurisdiction of their Section Manager.

8. ARES - Amateur Radio Emergency Service. The ARES is an organization of licensed radio amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment with the Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc. for communication duty when disaster strikes. It is supported and directed by Radio Amateur of Canada Inc. appointees. The leading provincial ARES official is the Section Emergency Coordinator (SEC) who appoints individual Emergency Coordinators (ECs) and District Emergency Coordinators (DECs) across the province to assist locally. It should be noted that membership in ARES is not restricted to members of RAC.

9. NTS - National Traffic System. The NTS compliments the ARES and functions daily in the handling of medium and long distance formal message traffic and whose network operations can be stepped up to meet the needs of an emergency situation. The leading NTS official is the Section Traffic Manager (STM) who is assisted by carefully trained and selected Net Managers (NMs). Traffic nets link with other nets throughout North America and South America, the Caribbean and Australia and operate every day and night of the year. Further-training, tests and drills for the ARES and NTS members maintain a disciplined readiness in providing emergency communications.

10. Radio Amateurs of Canada Inc.'s Section officials (SM), (SEC), (STM) work closely together daily as well as with the organization's Headquarters and/or Government officials as required during emergency situations.

Don Shropshire
February 11, 1994

ANNEX 3

Ministerial decree on the establishment and operation of radio stations by radio amateurs

The Minister of Telecommunications

In view of the Law of 30 July 1979 on radiocommunications¹, notably articles 3, 4, 7 and 8 thereof

In view of the Royal Decree of 15 October 1979 on private radiocommunications², in particular Articles 3, 4, 5, 13, 16 and 18 thereof

In view of the opinion of the State Council

Decrees

Art. 1.....

.....

Art. 30. Distress situations

1. In the event of a disaster, radioamateurs may, at the request and for the benefit of the Belgian Red Cross or other recognized Belgian relief services, establish and operate a relief radiocommunication network with their amateur stations.
2. The relief radiocommunication network may also be established during national or international exercises organized by or with the collaboration with the Belgian Red Cross or other recognised Belgian relief services.
3. The relief radiocommunication network may use the frequency bands assigned to radioamateurs between 3.5 MHz and 24.99 MHz and the bands 144 - 146 MHz, 430 - 440 MHz and 1 240 – 1 300 MHz. Relay stations and data network stations for radioamateurs may also be used for this purpose.
4. The Belgian Institute for Post and Telecommunications Services (IBPT) shall determine which relief services may be authorized to establish and operate a relief radiocommunication in the event of disaster.
5. Radioamateurs collaborating in the relief network may not receive any remuneration.

1 *Monitor belge* of 30 August 1979

2 *Monitor belge* of 30 October 1979

ANNEX 4

OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT

Between the

American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL)

and the

United Nations Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA)

WHEREAS the Amateur Radio Service is a vital element of emergency telecommunications and has continuously played a vital role in numerous emergency situations, and

WHEREAS the American Radio Relay League, represented by its Executive Vice President and hereinafter referred to as ARRL, is the principal organization representing the interests of U.S. Radio Amateurs, serving the general public, both directly and through government and relief agencies for more than 75 years and is the International Secretariat of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU), the organization of national Amateur Radio member-societies throughout the world, and

WHEREAS the Department of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations, represented by the Director, DHA Geneva, and hereinafter referred to as DHA, is the focal point for disaster management in the United Nations system entrusted with, inter-alia, the mandate of mobilizing and co-ordinating the assistance of the international community in case of natural and other disaster situations, as well as furthering disaster prevention and preparedness, and

WHEREAS the implementation of the mandate of DHA depends, inter-alia for the collection and distribution of information and for communication with and in the field, on the availability of decentralized and autonomous communications networks having a high capability to remain operational during and after a disaster with operators who have special skills in the maintenance and restoration of communications under difficult conditions, and

WHEREAS Resolution 46/182 of the General Assembly of the United Nations calls for strengthening the humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations and, inter-alia, requests additional measures for rapid response, based on appropriate arrangements to enable it to have more expeditious access, whenever necessary, to emergency relief capacities, and

WHEREAS, because of the organized emergency communication capability of the Amateur Radio Service, ARRL can be of valuable assistance in providing critical and essential telecommunication when normal lines of communication are disrupted due to an emergency situation, a primary responsibility of the Amateur Radio Service as established inter-alia by the Federal Communications Commission in Title 47 CFR 97.1(a) and by the International Telecommunication Union in Resolution No. 640 of the World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC-79), Geneva, 1979 and Resolution No. 7 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-94) Buenos Aires, 1994, and

WHEREAS Resolution 7 of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-94), endorsed by Resolution 36 of the Plenipotentiary Conference (PP-94) of the International Telecommunication Union (Kyoto, 1994), furthermore invites DHA to actively contribute to the further development and strengthening of disaster communications capabilities and recognizes that disaster preparedness requires the existence of de-centralized means of communications such as the Amateur Radio Service, and

WHEREAS ARRL is closely cooperating with the Working Group on Emergency Telecommunications (WGET), within which humanitarian institutions and partners from the telecommunications sector work towards the implementation of the above mentioned ITU resolutions and of which DHA maintains the secretariat,

THEREFORE ARRL and DHA have agreed on the following:

1. ARRL and DHA shall keep each other informed about their activities in the field of emergency telecommunications, shall exchange respective publications and reports and, whenever appropriate, experts from either party shall be invited to participate in related activities of the other.
2. ARRL and DHA shall closely cooperate on matters concerning the facilitation of emergency telecommunications in the sense of the Tampere Declaration of Experts (Tampere, 1991), WTDC-94 Resolution 7 to which this declaration is an annex, and PP-94 Resolution 36.
3. DHA shall ensure that, whenever possible and appropriate, the role and the needs of the Amateur Radio Service as an element of emergency telecommunications are taken into account in the preparation of international agreements and similar documents and in other activities concerning telecommunications for disaster mitigation and relief as well as humanitarian assistance in general.
4. ARRL and DHA shall establish operational procedures for the mutual sharing of information about sudden disasters.
 - 4.1 ARRL and DHA shall bring to each other's attention alert messages concerning sudden disasters and any other emergencies which come to their attention through their own channels. In order to make sure that such an exchange of information shall be carried out as rapidly as possible, the parties shall keep each other informed about their respective alert and duty procedures.
 - 4.2 In case of a sudden disaster, ARRL and DHA will continuously exchange appropriate information about telecommunications related activities under consideration or undertaken by either party as well as about action by third parties known to them. Communications procedures shall be established for the efficient exchange of such information.
 - 4.3 ARRL will assist DHA in the identification of operational Amateur Radio Stations in an affected country or region and, if appropriate, serve as or help to identify a gateway for communications through the Amateur Radio Service to and from a site of sudden disaster.
5. ARRL and DHA shall co-operate in training activities whenever appropriate and possible.

6. ARRL and DHA agree on the following general matters:
- 6.1 Telecommunications support to DHA provided by the Amateur Radio Service in any of the forms mentioned above shall be recognized in the information/situation reports and other related DHA reports and publications.
 - 6.2 Regular contacts shall be maintained at the technical level, particularly between the focal point officers to be designated by each party and between officers dealing with particular projects or related matters.
 - 6.3 Nothing in the present Operational Agreement can be interpreted as constituting a waiver of the privileges and immunities of the United Nations.
 - 6.4 Compliance with applicable international and national rules and regulations are the responsibility of the individual Amateur Radio Stations involved in emergency communications.
 - 6.5 Differences resulting from the implementation of this agreement shall be resolved by mutual consent in a spirit of trust and co-operation.
7. ARRL and DHA furthermore agree on the following:
- 7.1 This Operational Agreement shall be effective from the date of its signature by both parties and shall remain in force for five years. Unless terminated in writing by either party not later than six months before the end of the fifth year period, it shall be considered as extended for an additional five year period.
 - 7.2 This Operational Agreement may be amended by mutual agreement in the form of an exchange of letters.

For the
American Radio Relay League Inc.

Newington, Connecticut, USA

4 August 1995

/S/

David Sumner

Executive Vice President

For the

United Nations

Department of Humanitarian Affairs

Geneva, Switzerland

14 July 1995

/UN SEAL/

Martin Griffiths

Director, DHA Geneva
