CENTRAL OFFICE OF INFORMATION

Notes of Meeting of the Hollschreiber Working Committee held in Room One, (Conference Room) Central Office of Information, Wednesday 30th June, 1948, to consider the latest reception reports from the Americas, India and Pakistan, and to consider recommendations to the full committee of Central Office of Information and the Overseas Departments.

RESOLVET

H. W. LOVELL

(Central Office of Information)

(Chairman)

Mr. D. St. John Jones, E.C.,  
Mr. O. J. Whitely, C.O.,  
Mr. C. F. Oradley, C.O.,  
Mr. H. A. Perkins, G.F.C.  
G.C.O.

Mr. W. Williamson,  
Mr. H. J. Thwaites,  
Mr. R. Bell.

Apologies for absence, owing to a prior engagement, were received from Mrs. Preston.

The Chairman said that since the last meeting a number of items requiring action had received attention and reports on two Holl tests to the Americas would be made to the Committee.

Mr. Perkins furnished the following statement with regard to the supply of equipment by the manufacturers:

(Statement)
Cypriot was ready to accept Bell equipment; but had indicated that the C2 100 receiver was unsuitable. His Post was asking for a much more expensive receiver on the recommendation of the local office of Cable and Wireless Ltd. The Committee felt that the additional expense was unnecessary as the C2 100 had given good service in more difficult and more difficult areas. Mr. Perkins suggested that the correspondence on the matter be referred to him and he would have the technical position discussed with Cable and Wireless in London. It was agreed that Mr. McLoughlin should supply information as suggested.

Mr. Whitwell said that Malta was ready to accept Bell equipment. Reports on tests would give valuable and interesting data.

Mr. Jones said the relay supplied by Marconi's was designed for general purposes and there was evidence that it put up a very good performance. It was more elaborate in some respects than the relay provided by Messrs Pye and it might prove a better instrument for their purposes. Mr. Themites said that Marconi had provided that general purposes type partly because it did its job and partly because it was the standard type for high-speed telegraph work. Otherwise they might have had to design a Bridge specially for Bell. It was more luxurious and costly than the Pye Relay which was built to Post Office specification specially for Bell reception and which, according to specimen tapes received from America, did an equally good job.

Mr. Lovell informed the Committee that he had tentatively discussed the installation of Bell equipment at certain W. European posts with Mr. Woolrych and indicated that the matter was still under consideration in the Foreign Office in the light of the discussions of the C.O.I. - F.O. Overseas Production Conference (Working Party) Mr. Perkins said that communication by Telex was now available to Brussels and The Hague and the charge was 3/6 d for 3 minutes. A similar service would be available shortly for Oslo and suggested that the service might be useful in connection with the LPS. The Chairman undertook to mention this fact to the Department concerned.

Mr. McLoughlin reported that the booklet had been sent to the Colonial, Commonwealth Relations and Foreign Office, Posts in the Americas, the Officers and Heads of Departments concerned and the 7 European Foreign Office Posts to which equipment had been sent.

Since the despatch of the booklet to the above Posts, which had received Bell equipment or to which equipment was in transit, a letter containing three proposed alterations had been received from the Foreign Office. The letter was considered by the Committee. It was noted that the amendments were not material, in the sense that anything more than an opinion was involved, although the Post Office representatives maintained the recorded view. Since, however, the Chairman ruled that the Foreign Office must retain the right to determine the wording of communications to Foreign Office personnel in the field in a document which was not entirely technical, the Committee agreed that the amendments be carried into copies to be distributed to Foreign Office Posts and suggested that the following sentence should also be included: "A service to
India and Pakistan has already begun on an experimental basis". Note was taken of the suggestion that the booklet should be sent to the Posts only just before the equipment was despatched.

Mr. McLoughlin reported that the data concerning the Posts in the Far East which could receive the Postonco service had been obtained. The time of transmission of Postonco II had since been altered from 1030 - 1230 to 1330 - 1430 and reception seemed to be satisfactory. There did not therefore, appear to be any need to consider the relay of the service at this time. The data however, would be kept available in case it should be needed later.

Mr. McLoughlin reported that the Post Office Engineers had examined a 0,000 reconditioned by the Palace Electrical Company and had expressed the view that it was satisfactory. Mr. Jones said the line-up was as near accurate as possible and that one could not get perfect calibration. Mr. Teesites agreed that calibration exactly like a new set could not be expected and Mr. Williams said that operators would very soon become accustomed to the reading which gave the best results.

Mr. Craulley reported that transmission by wireless director to India and Pakistan had commenced on 28th June. The service, which was regional in character, had been given the name of "Pakino". An analysis of the first two days transmissions - shown in appendix "A" attached to these notes - was given. Reports from Karachi indicate good reception. The report on the second day says "material was typed as received and completed within 30 minutes of finish of transmission. With present timings all material would have been duplicated and ready for distribution by 1500 hours local time" (transmission ended 12.30 local time)

Mr. Jones said that equipment for taking notes had been received in Kajonon. Owing to difficulty of accommodation a hut was being built for the wireless operator and no reports of reception had come in yet. Nothing could be said at this stage about reception by Kelschreiber.

Mr. McLoughlin reported that the Foreign Office had shown interest in reception of Transmission Five at Kabul and Kathmandu. This transmission was carried in "Pakino" together with much other topical material. Mr. Williams said that reception of Pakino at Kabul should be satisfactory technically but he would like to consider Kathmandu more closely.

Mr. McLoughlin said there were two tests on which to report. (a) for the period 10th to 15th May and (b) 7th to 12th June.

The test on 10th to 15th May had been from 14.45 to 15.45 GMT and reception was nil at hourly all Posts. Since this was a time listed for regular transmission it had to be tested and the result proved it to be useless. Tapes covered with transparent adhesive tape soon after reception, were provided by the Posts for examination by the Post Office Chemists in order that the spreading of the ink might be examined.
The test for the period 10th - 15th May showed progress - 100% reception being recorded at Caracas, Bogota, Panama, Rio de Janeiro, Lima, Buenos Aires and Ottawa. The tapes from Guatemala showed 100% readability though the Information Officer recorded only 40% equipment was on the way to Mexico which recorded 40% to 50%. The Thomson relay had failed at Panama but a new one was in transit. The Committee thought the difficulties at these Posts could be overcome mainly when the fresh equipment was installed and the only Post which would experience serious difficulty would be Santiago. The Committee considered this Post for some time recognising that Reuters could get no better reception. It was thought that the 100% recorded reception tended to be misleading since Reuters had to go outside the town to get better reception specially on Hall and it was decided to obtain further information regarding results obtained on Morse.

Mr. Jones indicated that the result of the tests so far were not considered satisfactory by the Foreign Office. He maintained that 100% reception at all Posts was required and whilst good reception at some places was no doubt correctly recorded at this time of the year, there was no technical guarantee that it would remain so during all seasons.

The summary of reports on all tests, which had been circulated, was examined and it was agreed that (a) good reception could be obtained in the Americas between 1700 and 0500 GMT (b) when the equipment in transit was installed good reception would probably be recorded at all Posts except Santiago de Chile which Post required special technical consideration. (c) the following table of proposed Transmissions would probably prove satisfactory:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Slot</th>
<th>Transmission</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1945-2115</td>
<td>1 1/2 hours 3750 words. Transmission 5-3-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2215-2315</td>
<td>1 hour 2500 words. Barton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(d) This would give a total span of 6 1/2 hours - the last reception ending at 21 hours local time at Bogota, for example (c) in constructing this table the following points were considered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1) technical suitability of time (2) topicality of material</td>
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Mr. McLoughlin said and Mr. Williamson agreed, that a large part, if not all, of the proposed American schedule could be used for Europe and the Middle East since transmitters - which are now used for Morse - would be available. A chart illustrating the time of reception in (1) West Europe, (2) Middle Europe (3) East Europe and (4) Tehran and Baghdad is attached. (Appendix "D")